

Grants will expand STEM education in Pontotoc, Oktibbeha and Corinth districts

The Mississippi Department of Education announced \$896,000 in grants to 15 school districts to establish or enhance Science, Technology, Engineering and Math programs in kindergarten through the eighth grade.

The GOP-led Senate and DFL-controlled House proposals for the state's next two-year transportation budget differ by more than \$800 million.

The state board of education awarded the funds as part of the K-8 STEM Initiative Enhancement Project Grant and funds can be used to provide technology upgrades and educator training for implementing the programs. The grants could prepare elementary and middle school students for college and career readiness before they enter high school.

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MDE's chief academic officer Nathan Oakley said in a press release that STEM-related professions are growing and the grants are intended to prepare school districts to meet the increased demand for high school and college graduates with skills and expertise in STEM. According to MDE, priority for the grant funding was given to schools for implementing programs in engineering, computer science, robotics and other STEM projects with the goal of expanding college and career readiness standards for students in K-8 in math and science.

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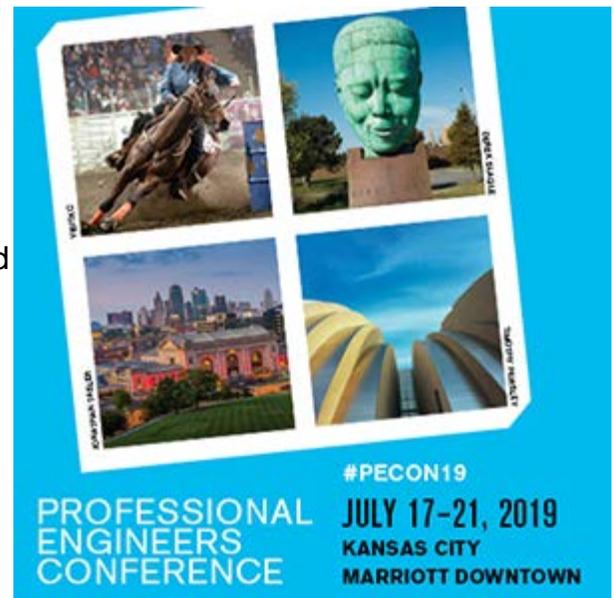
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