



MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS

441 Page St, Troy, NC 27371

September 18th, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Maddi Lynthacum

Phone: (910) 576-6511

Email: maddison.lynthacum@montgomery.k12.nc.us

Press Release: Montgomery County Schools Awarded NSF Grant in Partnership with NC State

Montgomery County Schools is excited to announce that we have been awarded a significant grant of \$901,299 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in partnership with North Carolina State University (NC State). This grant will enable us to integrate artificial intelligence (AI) throughout our schools, enhancing teacher and student engagement as well as fostering greater community involvement in learning and technology—essential for preparing students for careers in AI and STEM fields.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Dr. Joanna Perkins and Carrie Robledo for their hard work and dedication in writing this grant proposal.

The Elementary AI Project will focus on the development of a suite of AI-integrated curricula specifically designed for elementary students and teachers. This initiative is aligned with a four-step AI thinking process, grounded in computational thinking principles and the key concepts outlined in the AI4K12 guidelines. The project utilizes a design-based implementation research (DBIR) approach, which positions teachers as co-designers and instructional leaders. This collaboration will help adapt and implement AI-integrated curricula that align with the needs of our schools and district.

Key elements of the project include:

1. Developing a professional and leadership training model for teachers focused on STEM, arts, media, and physical education.
2. Investigating best practices to improve teacher self-efficacy and willingness to teach AI.
3. Identifying barriers to AI adoption in elementary schools.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS

441 Page St, Troy, NC 27371

4. Evaluating the effectiveness of AI integration in enhancing student literacy in English Language Arts (ELA) and math.

The outcomes of this project will not only benefit our six elementary schools but also provide insights that can help other schools and districts adopt similar strategies successfully. Given that our NC State project team collaborates closely with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education, this initiative has the potential to significantly influence K-5 educational policies and programs throughout North Carolina.

Dr Karen Roseboro, **Superintendent** | Anne Evans, **Board Chair** | Lynn Epps, **Vice-Chair** | Dr. Isai Robledo | Angela Smith
Tommy Blake | Bryan Dozier | Cindy Taylor

 910.576.6511

 441 Page St, Troy, NC 27371

 montgomery.k12.nc.us