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Orange schools to offer first vendor training course for small businesses

For the first time, the district's Office of Business Opportunity will be teaming up with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to offer a training class for Orange County Public Schools' small vendors. The purpose of the class is to enhance the technical and business management skills of these vendors, increasing their preparedness to compete for work with both agencies.

The classes, taught by Construction Estimating Institute, offer classroom and on-the-job training designed to enhance technical and business management skills. Experienced professionals provide classroom instruction and technical assistance. OCPS currently has more than 13,000 registered vendors. The classes are being offered in response to requests from the community and internal stakeholders.

Called the Construction Management Development Program, the classes are open to vendors who perform both construction and non-construction related services. The five sessions cover the following topics:

- Becoming an FDOT Contractor
- Plan Reading and Estimating
- Constructing and Submitting an FDOT Bid
- Project Planning and Scheduling
- Fundamental Business Operations

"As a small business owner currently working with OCPS, the class offers me and my staff a unique opportunity to gain additional knowledge, information, and contacts, which will help grow my business," said Michael Arrington, President and CEO of Provisions Construction & Development, Inc.

The program will begin April 27 and run for five weeks, with sessions held on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Orange County Public Schools' Office of Business Opportunity, 6501 Magic Way, Building 100B, in Orlando. Interested vendors must [register online](#) or by calling 800.423.7058 by April 26.

Technical assistance will be available to all companies participating. Estimating and bidding assistance will also be available for small and disadvantaged business enterprises who are struggling with developing successful bids. One free marketing audit will also be available for participants.

The small business programs support district goals of operational efficiency and community engagement.

(For more information, please contact Lauren Roth in Facilities Communications at 407.317.3700 ext. 2023774.)

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