

Proposed Revisions to Title 5, California Code of Regulations Relating to Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program (First Reading)

This document contains underlined and stricken text, which may require adjustments to screen reader settings. Underlined text denotes additions to existing regulations; ~~stricken~~ text denotes deletions from existing regulations.

SECTION 56300 OF SUBCHAPTER 3 OF CHAPTER 7 OF DIVISION 6 OF TITLE 5 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS IS AMENDED TO READ:

§ 56300. Purpose of MESA Programs.

Community college districts are encouraged to establish Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (“MESA”) programs to enhance opportunities for science, technology, engineering, and math (“STEM”) students, and to help prepare a diverse pool of candidates for successful transfer to four-year institutions ~~to pursue~~ and completion of baccalaureate degrees in STEM majors. MESA programs shall identify and include students affected by social, economic, and educational disadvantages, including disproportionately impacted students, increase the number of MESA-eligible students served, and increase transfer success rates for STEM majors. MESA programs shall provide students with academic, career, and personal support to help them achieve transfer success and accomplish their other academic goals.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 66700 and 70901, Education Code. Reference: Sections 70901, 70902, 78210, 78222 and 88682, Education Code.

SECTION 56301 OF SUBCHAPTER 3 OF CHAPTER 7 OF DIVISION 6 OF TITLE 5 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS IS AMENDED TO READ:

§ 56301. Definitions.

The following definitions apply to this subchapter, unless otherwise specified:

(a) Students who are “socially, economically, and educationally disadvantaged,” ~~are first generation students, whose parents do not have a baccalaureate degree or higher level of education in any country, and~~ are students who fall into one of the following categories:

(1) First generation students, whose parents do not have a baccalaureate degree or higher level of education in any country;

(2) (1) students whose high school graduation or math performance rates are red or orange on the California Department of Education’s Graduation Rate Indicator Dashboard;

(3) (2) up to 10 percent of students per college who are qualified by special circumstances and approved by the college district’s designated MESA project director and their supervising or, if no director has been assigned, the supervising administrator;

~~(4)~~ ~~(3)~~ students who are recipients of the California promise grant, PELL grant, Cal grant, California Dream Act, Federal Work Study, Cal Fresh, GI Bill or another need-based/subsidized Financial Aid;

~~(5)~~ ~~(4)~~ students who participate in the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services program, the Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education program, the CalWORKs Program, or the federal TRIO Program;

~~(6)~~ ~~(5)~~ students whose household income is at or below 150% of federal poverty guidelines; or Parent/Guardian/Student is a TANF recipient; or

~~(7)~~ ~~(6)~~ students who are current or former foster youth.

(b) “Four-year higher education institution” means a four-year baccalaureate degree offered at the University of California, the California State University, or an independent institution of higher education, as defined in Education Code section 66010.

(c) Four-year “Baccalaureate Degree Program by Board of Governors of California Community Colleges” as defined in Education Code 78043 is recognized as a degree program equivalent to baccalaureate degrees offered at four-year education institutions.

(d) “Eligible California Community Colleges baccalaureate degree program” means a California Community Colleges baccalaureate degree program in a STEM academic field that meets the eligibility requirements for participation in the MESA program under Education Code section 88682.

~~(e)~~(e) “MESA” means Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement programs established at community colleges to help underserved and underrepresented students majoring in calculus-based science, technology, engineering, and mathematics academic fields who seek to transfer to four-year higher education institutions.

~~(d)~~(f) “STEM majors” means students pursuing calculus-based science, technology, engineering, and mathematics academic fields as evidenced by their declared field of study in their education plan.

(g) MESA program eligibility for students enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs serving “STEM majors” may be determined locally. Students deemed eligible for a STEM serving baccalaureate program must meet MESA program criteria.

(h) “Project monitor” means the Chancellor’s Office staff member assigned to oversee and monitor the MESA program and to serve as the Chancellor’s Office point of contact.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 66700 and 70901, Education Code. Reference: Sections 70901, 70902, 78210, 78222 and 88682, Education Code.

SECTION 56302 OF SUBCHAPTER 3 OF CHAPTER 7 OF DIVISION 6 OF TITLE 5 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS IS AMENDED TO READ:

§ 56302. MESA Program Operations.

District governing boards shall adopt policies or procedures for MESA programs that accomplish the following:

- (a) Extend eligibility to participate to all socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged students with a declared STEM major.
- (b) Adopt strategies to increase the number of socially, economically and educationally disadvantaged students pursuing baccalaureate degrees in STEM majors who are eligible to transfer to four-year higher education institutions, including outreach to unified school districts and the promotion of dual enrollment.
- (c) Implement efficient processes, practices, strategies and partnerships to:
 - (1) decrease the time for MESA students to become transfer ready;
 - (2) increase the number of MESA program students who transfer student transfers to four-year higher education institutions and complete baccalaureate STEM degrees;
 - (3) improve the academic performance of MESA students; and
 - (4) increase the leadership skills and educational expectations of MESA students.
- (d) Develop strong relationships with educators and prospective employers in business and industry to establish, increase and improve student internships, scholarships and other career opportunities for MESA students.
- (e) Establish partnerships with University of California and California State University Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement programs and Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement College Preparatory programs, California Alliance for Minority Participation programs or similar programs in an effort to provide optimal student support services.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 66700 and 70901, Education Code. Reference: Sections 70901, 70902 and 88682, Education Code.

SECTION 56303 OF SUBCHAPTER 3 OF CHAPTER 7 OF DIVISION 6 OF TITLE 5 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS IS AMENDED TO READ:

§ 56303. Integration of MESA Program with Other District Activities.

To integrate MESA programs into campus culture and infrastructure, colleges shall integrate MESA programs with other available activities, ~~when feasible~~, including the following:

- (a) the Student Equity and Achievement Program (SEAP); ~~and the Student Success and Support Program;~~
- (b) academic, career, and personal counseling;
- (c) student leadership development;
- (d) college transfer centers and related college and transfer readiness programming, including general counseling support; and
- (e) any other activities the local governing board determines improve ~~affirms as~~ STEM transfer student success. improvements.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 66700 and 70901, Education Code. Reference: Sections 70901, 70902, 78210, 78222 and 88682, Education Code.

SECTION 56304 OF SUBCHAPTER 3 OF CHAPTER 7 OF DIVISION 6 OF TITLE 5 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS IS AMENDED TO READ:

§ 56304. MESA Program Funding.

(a) Districts accepting state funds for MESA programs shall provide sufficient staffing and administrative support to meet MESA program criteria established in this subchapter and must abide by the anti-supplantation provisions of Education Code section 88682. The Chancellor's Office may condition the receipt of ~~grant~~ funding on additional program-specific requirements to advance the purposes of this subchapter.

(b) The Chancellor's Office shall distribute state funds for MESA through the apportionment process consistent with apportionment payment schedules. The Chancellor's Office shall establish reporting requirements, and compliance with those requirements is a condition of receipt of funds by districts.

(c) Districts shall report students receiving MESA services in the Chancellor's Office Management and Information System (MIS) using Special Population Data Element SG05.

(d) ~~(b) District acceptance of~~ Districts that accept categorical funding for MESA programs through the annual Budget Act must use such funds ~~be used~~ in compliance with this subchapter to establish, expand and develop MESA programs and services to enhance California's STEM workforce and reduce equity and achievement gaps.

(e) MESA program funds shall be spent solely on allowable MESA program expenditures, including indirect costs, program personnel and benefits, instructional materials and technology, marketing and outreach, enrichment programs and activities, student events, statewide trainings and meetings, professional development, and other allowable program expenditures to advance the success of eligible MESA students.

(f) The district's designated administrator shall represent the MESA program and maintain contact with the project monitor. The Chancellor's Office may conduct site visits during the funding period.

(g) Beginning in the 2026-27 fiscal year, the Chancellor shall reserve no more than 3.5 percent of the funds appropriated for MESA programs on administrative and discretionary costs of supporting MESA programs, as authorized by Education Code section 88682(e). The Chancellor may allocate these reserved funds for statewide coordination and enhancement of MESA programs. The remaining funds shall be distributed to districts as provided in subdivision (b).

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 66700 and 70901, Education Code. Reference: Sections 70901, 70902 and 88682, Education Code.