

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

This document contains underlined text, which may require adjustments to screen reader settings. Underlined text denotes additions to existing regulations or new language.

ADDING NEW SUBCHAPTER 3, TO CHAPTER 7, OF DIVISION 6, OF TITLE 5 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS TO READ:

Subchapter 3. Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program

ADDING NEW SECTIONS 56300, 56301, 56302, 56303 AND 56304 TO SUBCHAPTER 3, OF CHAPTER 7, OF DIVISION 6, OF TITLE 5 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS TO READ:

§ 56300. Purpose of MESA Program.

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 transfer to four-year institutions to pursue 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.

§ 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 who fall into one of the following categories:

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

(2) up to 10 percent of students per college who are qualified by special circumstances and approved by the college district MESA project director and their supervising administrator;

(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;

(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;

(5) students whose household income at or below 150% of federal poverty guidelines; or

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

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

(c) “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) “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.

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

§ 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 student transfers to four-year higher education institutions;

(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.

§ 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 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; and

(e) any other activities the local governing board affirms as STEM transfer student improvements.

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

§ 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) District acceptance of categorical funding for MESA programs through the annual Budget Act must 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.

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