
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 110 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY ROEBUCK, LONGIETTI, O'BRIEN, CLAY, CARROLL,
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ROZZI, THOMAS, FRANKEL AND CALTAGIRONE, JANUARY 15, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 15, 2013

AN ACT

1 Establishing the MESA Initiative; providing for duties of the
2 State Board of Education; and establishing the State MESA
3 Commission.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania
8 MESA Initiative Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Board." The State Board of Education of the Commonwealth.

14 "Commission." The State MESA Commission established under
15 section 5.

16 "MESA." Mathematics, engineering and science achievement.

17 "MESA Initiative." The program established under section 3

1 to promote science, engineering and mathematics education.

2 "STEM." Science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

3 Section 3. MESA Initiative.

4 The MESA Initiative is hereby established as a program that
5 shall seek to increase exposure, educational motivation and
6 achievement of students in mathematics, engineering and science
7 and build individual and regional capacity to compete for STEM-
8 based jobs in the global market with a particular emphasis on
9 students, parents, educators and employers from urban and rural
10 groups who have historically had the lowest levels of high
11 school diploma attainment and participation in college and
12 graduate education.

13 Section 4. Administration of MESA Initiative.

14 (a) Designation of administrative agency.--The board shall
15 administer the MESA Initiative, including Statewide MESA
16 funding, operations, regional groups, programs and evaluations,
17 with particular emphasis on goals related to diversity and
18 inclusion of underrepresented and economically disadvantaged
19 groups in all operational and programmatic activities.

20 (b) Coordination.--The board shall coordinate the efforts of
21 the Commonwealth agencies that relate to MESA education from the
22 kindergarten level through the graduate level to avoid
23 unnecessary duplication of initiatives and ensure adherence to
24 established guidelines.

25 (c) Structure of MESA regions.--The board shall work with
26 the regional higher education institutions, the Pennsylvania
27 Urban STEM Strategy Group and no fewer than five established
28 MESA regions in this Commonwealth to build on existing STEM-
29 based infrastructure to support not fewer than four professional
30 staff, 20 retired industry mentor volunteers, 20 certified MESA

1 teacher-coordinators and 20 MESA-trained school administrators
2 in each MESA region.

3 (d) Duties.--The board shall have the following duties:

4 (1) In conjunction with the Pennsylvania Urban STEM
5 Strategy Group, developing annual goals and objectives for
6 implementing and ensuring fidelity of MESA programs
7 throughout this Commonwealth with particular emphasis on
8 regional economic and educational needs.

9 (2) No later than 30 days after developing the goals and
10 objectives under paragraph (1):

11 (i) Disseminating the goals and objectives to the
12 State MESA Commission and the MESA regions.

13 (ii) Communicating the goals and objectives to all
14 relevant agencies of the Commonwealth and collaborative
15 regional entities.

16 (iii) Making the goals and objectives available to
17 the general public, particularly to stakeholders.

18 (3) Coordinating and facilitating communication and
19 cooperation among all MESA regions and assuring compliance
20 with established guidelines for the MESA Initiative.

21 (4) Conducting an ongoing inventory and assessment of
22 the effectiveness and coherence of efforts within the MESA
23 regions.

24 (5) Annually evaluating the progress and success of the
25 MESA regions in achieving the goals and objectives under
26 paragraph (1).

27 (6) Consulting with the Commonwealth agencies when
28 developing policies and initiatives related to MESA.

29 (7) Strengthening partnerships between the national MESA
30 community, Federal, State and local governments and relevant

1 international partners.

2 (8) Conducting an annual meeting on the status of the
3 MESA Initiative, in conjunction with:

4 (i) Relevant State agencies.

5 (ii) The State MESA Commission, as hosting entity.

6 (iii) Other state MESA Initiatives.

7 (iv) Regional businesses and industries.

8 (v) The State System of Higher Education.

9 (vi) Education professionals from the kindergarten
10 through graduate levels.

11 (vii) Existing regional STEM groups.

12 (viii) Other relevant stakeholders.

13 Section 5. State MESA Commission.

14 (a) Establishment.--There is hereby established a State MESA
15 Commission to oversee the advancement of mathematics,
16 engineering, science and technology education.

17 (b) Membership.--The commission shall consist of no fewer
18 than 20 members representing this Commonwealth and reflecting
19 the diversity of the target audiences in each MESA region as
20 follows:

21 (1) Not fewer than two representatives from each MESA
22 region appointed by the board.

23 (2) Elected officials, representatives of the board and
24 stakeholders as appointed by the board.

25 (3) Two members of the Pennsylvania Urban STEM Strategy
26 Group.

27 (4) The chair of the Pennsylvania Urban STEM Strategy
28 Group.

29 (c) Study.--The commission shall evaluate and report to the
30 General Assembly annually on the following:

- 1 (1) Efficacy of Statewide MESA Initiatives.
- 2 (2) Effective utilization of MESA Initiative resources.
- 3 (3) Influence of the MESA Initiative on:
- 4 (i) Student STEM aptitudes, as measured by
- 5 standardized testing.
- 6 (ii) Teacher effectiveness.
- 7 (iii) STEM-based employment within MESA regions.
- 8 (d) Fiscal planning.--The commission shall propose a budget
- 9 for the MESA Initiative aligned with the goals developed under
- 10 section 4(d)(1).
- 11 (e) Meetings.--The commission shall meet no less than
- 12 quarterly.
- 13 Section 6. Effective date.
- 14 This act shall take effect in 60 days.