

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL**No. 172** Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY WASHINGTON, BOSCOLA, COSTA, ERICKSON, GREENLEAF,
TARTAGLIONE, M. WHITE, WILLIAMS, FERLO AND FARNESE,
FEBRUARY 10, 2011

SENATOR PICCOLA, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, JUNE 14, 2011

AN ACT

1 Establishing the MESA Initiative; providing for duties of the
2 Department 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 "Commission." The State MESA Commission established under
14 section 5.

15 "Department." The Department of Education of the
16 Commonwealth.

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

18 "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~~ NOT LATER THAN 18 ←
5 MONTHS FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
6 ESTABLISH THE MESA INITIATIVE as a program within the
7 department. The MESA Initiative shall seek to increase exposure,
8 educational motivation and achievement of students in science,
9 engineering and mathematics and build individual and regional
10 capacity to compete for STEM-based jobs in the global market
11 with a particular emphasis on students, parents, educators and
12 employers from urban and rural groups who have historically had
13 the lowest levels of high school degree attainment and
14 participation in college and graduate education.

15 Section 4. Administration of MESA Initiative.

16 ~~(a) Designation of administrative agency. The department~~ ←
17 ~~shall administer the MESA Initiative, including Statewide MESA~~
18 ~~funding, operations, regional groups, programs and evaluations.~~

19 ~~(b)~~ (A) Coordination.--The department shall coordinate the ←
20 efforts of ~~the~~ ALL Commonwealth agencies that relate to MESA ←
21 education from ~~the kindergarten level through the graduate level~~ ←
22 KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12 AND WITH INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER ←
23 EDUCATION to avoid unnecessary duplication of initiatives and
24 ensure adherence to established guidelines.

25 ~~(c)~~ (B) Structure of STEM regions.--The department shall ←
26 work with the TEAM PA Foundation and the five established STEM
27 regions in this Commonwealth to create in each STEM region an
28 infrastructure for the MESA Initiative ~~to support not fewer than~~ ←
29 ~~four professional staff, 20 retired industry mentors, 20~~
30 ~~certified MESA teacher coordinators and school administrators.~~

1 ~~(d) Duties. The department shall have the following duties~~ ←

2 (C) DUTIES.--IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSION, COMMONWEALTH ←
3 AGENCIES, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, THE TEAM PA
4 FOUNDATION AND THE STEM REGIONS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

5 (1) Develop annual goals and objectives for improving
6 MESA programs throughout this Commonwealth with particular
7 emphasis on regional economic and educational needs.

8 (2) No later than 30 days after developing the goals and
9 objectives under paragraph (1)+ ←

10 ~~(i) Disseminate the goals and objectives to the~~
11 ~~State MESA Commission and the MESA regions.~~

12 ~~(ii) Communicate the goals and objectives to all~~
13 ~~relevant agencies of the Commonwealth and collaborative~~
14 ~~regional entities.~~

15 ~~(iii) Make the goals and objectives available to the~~
16 ~~general public, particularly to stakeholders.,~~

17 COMMUNICATE THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES TO ALL RELEVANT AGENCIES ←
18 OF THE COMMONWEALTH, THE STEM REGIONS AND THE PUBLIC BY
19 MAKING THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S
20 PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.

21 (3) Coordinate and facilitate communication and
22 cooperation among all MESA regions and assure compliance with
23 established guidelines for the MESA Initiative.

24 (4) Conduct an ongoing inventory and assessment of the
25 effectiveness and coherence of efforts within the MESA
26 regions.

27 (5) ~~Annually~~ AFTER AN INITIAL EVALUATION, BIENNIALY ←
28 evaluate the progress and success of the MESA regions at
29 achieving the goals and objectives under paragraph (1).

30 ~~(6) Consult with Commonwealth agencies when developing~~ ←

1 ~~policies and initiatives related to MESA.~~

2 ~~(7)~~ (6) Strengthen partnerships between the national ←
3 MESA community, Federal, State and local governments and
4 relevant international partners.

5 ~~(8) Conduct an annual meeting on the status of the MESA ←~~
6 ~~Initiative, in conjunction with:~~

7 ~~(i) Relevant State agencies.~~

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

9 ~~(iii) Other state MESA Initiatives.~~

10 ~~(iv) Regional businesses and industries.~~

11 ~~(v) The State System of Higher Education.~~

12 ~~(vi) Education professionals from the kindergarten ←~~
13 ~~through graduate levels.~~

14 ~~(vii) Other relevant stakeholders.~~

15 Section 5. State MESA Commission.

16 ~~(a) Establishment. There is hereby established a State MESA ←~~
17 ~~Commission to oversee the advancement of mathematics,~~
18 ~~engineering, science and technology education.~~

19 ~~(b) Membership. The commission shall consist of the ←~~
20 ~~following members:~~

21 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.--THERE IS ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE STATE ←
22 BOARD OF EDUCATION UNDER THE COUNCIL OF BASIC EDUCATION A STATE
23 MESA COMMISSION TO OVERSEE THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE,
24 TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION.

25 (B) MEMBERSHIP.--THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF NOT MORE
26 THAN 20 MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

27 (1) ~~Not fewer than two representatives from each MESA ←~~
28 ~~region.~~ TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH STEM. ←

29 (2) Elected officials, representatives of the department
30 and stakeholders as appointed by the department.

1 (c) Study.--The commission shall evaluate and report to the
2 General Assembly ~~annually~~ BIENNIALY on the following: ←

3 (1) Efficacy of Statewide MESA Initiatives.

4 (2) Effective utilization of MESA Initiative resources.

5 (3) Influence of the MESA Initiative on:

6 (i) Student STEM aptitudes, as measured by
7 standardized testing.

8 (ii) Teacher effectiveness.

9 (iii) STEM-based employment within MESA regions.

10 ~~(d) Fiscal planning. The commission shall propose a budget ←~~
11 ~~for the MESA Initiative aligned with the goals developed under~~
12 ~~section 4(d)(1).~~

13 ~~(e)~~ (D) Meetings.--The commission shall meet no less often ←
14 than quarterly.

15 Section 6. Effective date.

16 This act shall take effect in 60 days.