

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2460 Session of
2010

INTRODUCED BY ROEBUCK, SHAPIRO, CLYMER, JOHNSON, THOMAS,
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FRANKEL, RAPP, WHEATLEY, CREIGHTON AND HORNAMAN,
APRIL 27, 2010

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 9, 2010

AN ACT

1 Establishing the MESA Initiative; providing for duties of
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 4.

15 "Department." The Department of Education of the

1 Commonwealth.

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

3 "MESA Initiative." The program established under section 3
4 to promote science, engineering and mathematics education.

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

6 Section 3. MESA Initiative.

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

16 Section 4. Administration of MESA Initiative.

17 (a) Designation of administrative agency.--The department
18 shall administer the MESA Initiative, including Statewide MESA
19 funding, operations, regional groups, programs and evaluations, ←
20 WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON GOALS RELATED TO DIVERSITY AND
21 INCLUSION OF UNDERREPRESENTED AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED
22 GROUPS IN ALL OPERATIONAL AND PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES.

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

28 (c) Structure of ~~STEM~~ MESA regions.--The department shall ←
29 work with the TEAM PA Foundation ~~and the~~, THE PENNSYLVANIA URBAN ←
30 STEM STRATEGY GROUP AND NO FEWER THAN five established ~~STEM~~ MESA ←

1 regions in this Commonwealth to ~~create in each STEM region an~~
2 ~~infrastructure for the MESA Initiative~~ BUILD ON EXISTING STEM-
3 BASED INFRASTRUCTURE to support not fewer than four professional
4 staff, 20 retired industry ~~mentors~~ MENTOR VOLUNTEERS, 20
5 certified MESA teacher-coordinators and 20 MESA-TRAINED school
6 administrators IN EACH MESA REGION.

7 (d) Duties.--The department shall have the following duties:

8 (1) ~~Developing~~ IN CONJUNCTION WITH TEAM PA AND THE
9 PENNSYLVANIA URBAN STEM STRATEGY GROUP, DEVELOPING annual
10 goals and objectives for ~~improving~~ IMPLEMENTING AND ENSURING
11 FIDELITY OF MESA programs throughout this Commonwealth with
12 particular emphasis on regional economic and educational
13 needs.

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

16 (i) Disseminating the goals and objectives to the
17 State MESA Commission and the MESA regions.

18 (ii) Communicating the goals and objectives to all
19 relevant agencies of the Commonwealth and collaborative
20 regional entities.

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

23 (3) Coordinating and facilitating communication and
24 cooperation among all MESA regions and assuring compliance
25 with established guidelines for the MESA Initiative.

26 (4) Conducting an ongoing inventory and assessment of
27 the effectiveness and coherence of efforts within the MESA
28 regions.

29 (5) Annually evaluating the progress and success of the
30 MESA regions at achieving the goals and objectives under

paragraph (1).

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

(7) Strengthening partnerships between the national MESA community, Federal, State and local governments and relevant international partners.

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

(i) Relevant State agencies.

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

(iii) Other state MESA Initiatives.

(iv) Regional businesses and industries.

(v) The State System of Higher Education.

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

(VII) EXISTING REGIONAL STEM GROUPS. ←

~~(vii)~~ (VIII) Other relevant stakeholders. ←

Section 5. State MESA Commission.

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

(b) Membership.--The commission shall consist of ~~the following members~~ NO FEWER THAN 20 MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE COMMONWEALTH AND REFLECTING THE DIVERSITY OF THE TARGET AUDIENCES IN EACH MESA REGION AS FOLLOWS: ←

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

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

(3) TWO MEMBERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA URBAN STEM STRATEGY ←

1 GROUP.

2 (4) THE CHAIR OF THE PENNSYLVANIA URBAN STEM STRATEGY
3 GROUP.

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

6 (1) Efficacy of Statewide MESA Initiatives.

7 (2) Effective utilization of MESA Initiative resources.

8 (3) Influence of the MESA Initiative on:

9 (i) Student STEM aptitudes, as measured by
10 standardized testing.

11 (ii) Teacher effectiveness.

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

13 (d) Fiscal planning.--The commission shall propose a budget
14 for the MESA Initiative aligned with the goals developed under
15 section 4(d)(1).

16 (e) Meetings.--The commission shall meet no less often than
17 quarterly.

18 Section 6. Effective date.

19 This act shall take effect in 60 days.