

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.



**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5, REGARDING
MATHEMATICS, ENGINEERING, SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENT (MESA) PROGRAM**

45-Day Notice published September 10, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Chapter 2 of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors Procedures and Standing Orders, that the Board proposes to adopt the regulatory action described below after a public hearing, and consideration of all comments, objections, or recommendations received regarding the proposed regulatory action during the public comment period, which closes on October 25, 2024.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held during the next regularly scheduled Board of Governors (Board) meeting on September 23, 2024. The meeting will be held in-person in San Bernardino. Members of the public may participate in-person or virtually through the streaming platform.

In-Person Participation

San Bernardino Valley College
Business Building (Room B-100)
701 S. Mt. Vernon Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92410

[San Bernardino Valley College Maps and Directions.](#)

Virtual Participation

Information on virtual participation is available at the following link.

<https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Board-of-Governors/Meeting-schedule-minutes-and-agendas>

All Board meetings are held in locations that are open to the public and wheelchair accessible. Other disability-related accommodations, such as alternate media materials, sign language interpreters, or real-time transcription, may be provided to persons with disabilities upon request. Persons requesting such accommodations should notify the Board Liaison at ccastro@cccco.edu, (916) 323-5889, no less than five business days prior to the meeting.

Public Comments at the Board Meeting

Members of the public seeking to comment on the proposed regulatory action at the Board meeting should refer to the Board's agenda for information on how public comment on Board items will be received. The [Board's agendas](#) are available here: <https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Board-of-Governors/Meeting-schedule-minutes-and-agendas>.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Any interested person may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action. To help ensure comments are understood as they are intended, we suggest that they clearly identify the proposed regulatory action that each comment addresses, with reference to specific section and subparagraph numbers where appropriate. Please arrange comments in the same order as in the proposed regulatory action. Comments should be addressed to:

Regulations Coordinator
California Community Colleges
Chancellor's Office
1102 Q Street, Suite 4550
Sacramento, CA 95811-6549
regcomments@cccco.edu

Comments must be received by the Regulations Coordinator prior to 4:00 p.m. on October 25, 2024. All written comments received by Chancellor's Office staff during the public comment period are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act.

CHANGES OR MODIFICATIONS TO PROPOSED TITLE 5 AMENDMENTS

Following the public hearing and considering all timely and relevant comments received, the Board of Governors may adopt the proposed regulatory action substantially as described in this Notice or may modify the proposed regulatory action if the

modifications are sufficiently related to the original text. With the exception of technical or grammatical changes, the full text of any modified proposed regulatory action will be subject to a second 15-day notice period prior to its adoption at a subsequent Board meeting.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Established in 1991, the California Community College segment of Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) programs began working with the University of California Office of the President MESA statewide. This intersegmental collaboration supports underserved and underrepresented students pursuing calculus-based Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) bachelor's degrees, yielding a seamless enrollment of students into and out of postsecondary educational systems.

Senate Bill 444 (2023, Newman), Chaptered October 13, 2023, enacted California Education Code sections 88680, 88681, and 88682, and requires the California Community Colleges Board of Governors to adopt regulations for the operation of MESA programs at community colleges that align with their programmatic components of MESA programs. The proposed regulations have been discussed with the Statewide Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, the California Association of MESA Directors and Consultation Council. Their feedback and recommendations are reflected in these proposed regulations.

A breakdown of the proposed regulations is as follows:

- Section 56300 - Describes the purpose of the MESA program
- Section 56301 - Provides definitions for the MESA program
- Section 56302 - Outlines MESA program objectives
- Section 56303 - Integration of MESA program with campus culture and infrastructure
- Section 56304 - MESA program funding

ESTIMATED COST OR SAVINGS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The estimated cost or savings attributable to the proposed regulatory action are anticipated to be as follows:

Mandate on local agencies or community college districts: *None*.

Cost or savings to state agencies: *None*.

Costs to local agencies or community college districts for which reimbursement would be required pursuant to part 7 (commencing with section 17500) of division 4 title 2 of the Government Code: *None*.

Other non-discretionary cost or savings imposed on community college districts: *None*.

Cost or savings in federal funding to state agencies: *None*.

CONTACT PERSON

Inquiries concerning the content of these regulations may be directed to the Regulations Coordinator, at regcomments@cccco.edu.

TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS AND CORRESPONDING DOCUMENTS

Copies of the language of the proposed regulatory action, and all of the information upon which the proposal is based, may be obtained online at:

[Office of General Counsel - Pending Regulatory Action](#)

Those who receive the Board of Governors Agenda package for the September 23, 2024, meeting can find a further description of the proposal and the full text of the regulatory action. You may also request a copy of the proposal from the Regulations Coordinator using the contact information provided above.