MESA Buddies 2027 General Information

MESA Buddies is a mentor program in which a MESA high school collaborates with a local elementary classroom (grades 2-5) to provide supplemental STEAM instruction and mentorship. On our MESA website you will find all needed materials to apply for the 2027 Spring MESA Buddies Program. Please read all eligibility and course requirements carefully. It is the responsibility of the applying teacher/program to recruit a partner elementary classroom and secure administrator approval.

NM MESA will select between 5-7 sites statewide for the program. This program will run January-May, 2027.

MESA Buddies Program Requirements:

- A high school program with at least 10 participating MESA students.
- All participating high school students are required to have an A-0 completed and submitted.
- A partner elementary classroom (grades 2-5) in the same school district with at least 15 participating students.
- All participating elementary students will be required to submit an online parent authorization form through SurveyMonkey.
- Each session should have a preferred 1:2 (High School:Elementary) student ratio. High School student(s) will receive a leadership credit each session (entered by the high school advisor).
- A commitment to host 8-10 lessons (provided) and explore trades curriculum provided. Lessons may be combined to maximize travel days. Also, a commitment to participate in the required Leadership Summit.
- A commitment to coordinate any material distribution. All materials for the given lessons will be provided to you. If needed, items may need to be arranged into student packs and picked up for use during the program.
- Each course will be allowed up to $500 for additional supplies, end of year event, transportation, or any program specific needs/requests.

If accepted as a MESA Buddies Program:

- An acceptance packet will be sent with:
    - Instructor contract.
    - A roster template for both high school and elementary students.
    - A general course calendar template.
    - An optional budget form (for any transportation requests and end of program Buddy Event).
    - A final report template.
- A site visit will be conducted (virtual or in person TBD).
- Training will be provided to all accepted MESA Buddies Program Advisors.
- A full activity guide and materials ($650+ Value) will be provided.
- Each course will be allowed up to $500 for additional supplies, end of program event, or any program specific needs/requests.
- A final report will be due upon the completion of the course.
- Monthly check-ins will be required using provided template.
- A leadership summit held in Albuquerque is required for participation to include the teacher advisor and a minimum of 50% of your high school students.
- Upon fulfillment of course requirements and submittal of required paperwork, the applying advisor will receive a $1500.00 stipend (Can be split among team teachers if desired).
- Upon fulfillment of course requirements and submittal of required paperwork, each high school student that has completed the Buddies requirements will receive a stipend of $100.

MESA Buddies Selected Lessons:

All activities were selected for ease of use in different settings. All final lesson guides and needed materials will be provided to accepted programs. Lesson guides will include activity instructions, background information needed (for high school students), investigating questions, and materials needed. Advisors will have the opportunity to select the in person/live or the virtual/hybrid curriculum. In addition, there are (5) bonus lessons available that can be switched out with an existing lesson or added to the program if desired. A full activity list is available on the event website.

MESA Buddies Important Dates and Timeline:

- November 30, 2026 at 5PM: Applications Due via Email to anita@nmmesa.org
- December 4, 2026: Program Notifications Sent
- December 8, 2026 at 4:00-5:30 PM: Orientation Meeting (Required) to review activity guide and required materials.
- December 14, 2026: Acceptance Packet Information Due-Curriculum Choice, Calendar, Budget Request (B4), Contract, Updated Projected Roster with summit names.
- January 8, 2027: MESA Buddies Leadership Summit in Albuquerque
    - UNM Continuing Education Building: 1634 University Blvd. NE
    - Lodging: Home2 Suites-1660 University Blvd. NE
- January 8, 2027: Final Student Rosters and Student Forms Due, Final Receipt of Materials at School Site from NM MESA (materials will be sent upon collection of the acceptance packet information so can be sent earlier).
- May 29, 2027: All classes complete and Final Report Due along with paperwork to distribute stipends.

Instructor Application Information:

- Application must be completed in entirety or will not be considered. Please review and take time in completion.
- Grading and selection are based on:
    - Completeness, accuracy, strength, and overall quality of application
    - All requirements are met for the course: student numbers, budget, etc.
    - Support of school district and collaborating elementary program.

Projected Student Roster: Each high school must have a minimum of 10 MESA students to commit to the program. Students have to have the required paperwork on file: A-0. Final students may change, but you need a minimum commitment to apply.

Letter(s) of Support: This letter from a school administrator needs to include a commitment and the allowance of the partnership: student time, teacher time, shared classroom, etc.

Please direct any questions and submit completed application by **November 30, 2026 at 5PM** to:

Anita Gonzales, NM MESA Deputy Director
Email: anita@nmmesa.org
Cell: 505-718-9517