

Legislative Effort Extension Activity

*Legislative Field Trip - **Optional Activity to Use with the entire MESA Club (Give credit for 1 workshop in MIMS for each student who completes)***

Our Annual Legislative Field Trip is NM MESA's opportunity to observe the legislative process and your state government in action. Attendees will act as ambassadors for NM MESA and may testify before members of the legislature. Legislative activities will help NM MESA continue its mission of preparing middle and high school students for college majors and careers in mathematics, engineering and science. The New Mexico State Legislator is a critical supporter of the NM MESA program and it's important that NM MESA is highlighted by all constituents of the NM MESA Program.

Within your MESA meeting time, please have all members write letters of support on behalf of NM MESA to all of their legislators. This includes all Senators and Representatives who serve within your area. Letters from parents, educators, administrators are also suggested.

To receive credit, students are required to create 5 letters of support for NM MESA. Attending students will bring their letters to be delivered to legislative offices the day of the trip. Other students are required to create letters and send direct or to Regional Coordinator. A sample letter is provided below. As any NM MESA legislation is introduced, NM MESA will send updates for specific bill numbers to be included in letters as possible.

- Please use the Roundhouse address for each legislator.
- Include your return address on each letter.
- Include specific information with your letter such as a one-page fact sheet about your program.
- Parents, teachers, administrators, and former MESA students all make good contacts for a letter of support.
- Have students write to all legislators in their district and diversify their letters.
- If attending, It is a good idea to call ahead and schedule a meeting time with your legislator(s). If they are able to meet at any time during the day, accommodations can be made to excuse for the meeting (except for students paging).
- If attending, Legislators may only be able to meet once during the day, so identify yourself as a NM MESA student/advisor and a group meeting may be more feasible than one-on-one time.

Submission of Letters if not attending Legislative Field Trip:

- Please get all letters to your Regional Coordinator for delivery via mail, in person, or electronically.
- If unable to get letters to RC, please submit direct and verify with your RC how/when you did.
- Email or hard copies are able to be sent. If emailing, it is best to scan letters into a complete document.
- When letters are sent, please enter activity into MIMS as an individual school workshop-“School Name-Legislative Letter Workshop”.
- Helpful Hints/Suggestions:
 - Reserve a computer lab and have each student type a letter direct and then collect all electronic files.
 - Work with students to navigate NM Legislative Website to identify addresses and contact information for all legislators prior to creating letters. Create a master handout or place on board information so that it can be reference during process. This will also help any parents, teachers, or administrators with their letters.
 - If sending home, send home with clear instructions of what to include in letters.
 - Prior to the letter writing process, explain the legislative process and why is important to write letters of support for programs like NM MESA, This will help with getting quality letters as activities like this help to ensure MESA's financial support.

Letter of Support Example

Name
Address
City State Zip

Date

The Honorable (first & last name of Legislator)
The New Mexico State Senate or House of Representatives
State Capitol
Santa Fe, NM 87503

Dear Senator or Representative (last name):

(The body of the letter should include the following)

Letters from Students: Your name, grade, where you live and go to school and what NM MESA has done for you. Some examples are: increased your interest in math or science, helped you appreciate the value of education, pushed you to excel in all your classes, helped you understand the value of helping your community through give back, has provided you with opportunities otherwise unavailable to you, etc. Some opportunities include: earn a monetary incentive award for college expenses, the opportunity to experience hands on math and science, the opportunity to visit university campuses around the state, participate in Summer Enrichment classes, etc.

Letters from Parents: Your name, your student(s) name, grade, school(s) they attend, where you live, your occupation, and what impact NM MESA has had on your child(ren) and family.

Letters from Advisors/Administrators: Your name, school, number of students, NM MESA's impact on you and your school/students/community.

Letters from Former MESA Students: Your name, the school you attended and year of graduation, where you attended or are currently attended college and your major, how NM MESA prepared you for college and impacted your choice of college and career.

Other items to include:

Please support NM MESA Bill #?????. This bill will allow.....

(Please include the following closing paragraph)

I appreciate your support of NM MESA, Inc., "THE Pre-College Program . . . That Works!" Thank you.

Sincerely,
Your Signature
Your Name Typed