

**Metropolitan Area Foreign Student Advisors -
2020 - 2021 - 2022 - 2023 Meetings**

Website: www.MAFSA.info

2022-2023

Date: February 10, 2023

ZOOM meeting link

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/3247291743?pwd=S2FuT2VJZVBwTXEvcEFnQmFTdUJSdz09>

Meeting ID: 324 729 1743

Passcode: 488115

Recording - [MAFSA](#)

[Recording - 2-10-23.mp4](#)

**Topic: MAFSA General meeting
Times: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (Eastern)**

Facilitators: Candice, Margarita & Silvia

Timekeeper (reminders/agenda adjustments): Margarita

Notetaker (important reminders/next steps): Silvia

Objectives:

- Membership/Website Overview and Updates
- Secretary's Report
- New Information for Charts
- Member Questions
- New Business

Next steps from previous meeting:

- N/A

To prepare for this meeting:

- N/A

Schedule (120 minutes total)

Time	Min.	Activity
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10:00 - 10:05	5"	<p>Click HERE to sign in MEMBERS - Initial next to your name, make changes as necessary GUESTS - sign in at the bottom of the page</p>
10:05 - 10:15	10"	<p>Objective 1: Membership/Website Overview and Updates - Candice and Silvia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NOTE: A \$5 donation will be collected from every member/guest per year in order to support the MAFSA website. Please select how you wish to send your donation : Zelle (preferred), CashApp, PayPal, or check (include "Donation to MAFSA 2021-2022" in comments). P.S. This is not a membership fee, but a voluntary donation, therefore we cannot send an invoice. Make sure your payment is classified in the app as something OTHER than goods or services so it won't be mistaken for taxable income by the IRS. Silvia's email - hokesilvia@gmail.com
10:15 - 10:25	10"	<p>Objective 2: Secretary's Report - Silvia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAFSA roles: Charts Manager - Marissa Yzita and Pat Chiancone Review of Minutes from last meeting Meeting Transcript Evaluation trainings for new members - date needed - date will be set via a survey that will go out next week. Training will last about 2 hours, is for new members, current members, and guests, and will be conducted by Candice Lenet and Beverly Foster (possibly Monica Ranta). By-laws review
10:25 - 10:55	30"	<p>Objective 3: New Information for Charts Transcript Evaluation Database (Silvia) - check here for Country Profiles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Profiles database - question about the content of courses when completing evaluations, and also if the Charts can be used to grant Middle School credits. It was shared that high school credits for middle school are only granted in MD for Math (Algebra 1 or above) and World Language, and in VA for Math, World Language and possibly History (but this needs to be confirmed). Margarita (MCPS) talked about their district's creation of curriculum guides for Math, Science, and Social Studies, which have been developed in collaboration with their subject area specialists and can be used to identify specific courses instead of generic course title (i.e. Algebra 1 instead of Math, Biology instead of Natural Science, etc.). She will invite their Math content specialist to the next meeting to discuss how this resource is being developed. This has helped create consistency in their evaluations and eliminated guessing by schools when transcripts come to them. All countries need review - suggest we divide up the countries? Suggested that all members start collecting information when they run across transcripts that differ from the information on the Charts. Please bring your research results to the next meeting. Changes from last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mozambique - Silvia will send info China - need to add exams at end of grade 12 for graduation Ukraine

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ethiopia (MCPS will continue researching) ○ Afghanistan ○ Cameroon - review francophone school system ○ Peru - grading scale (Loudoun Co)- new scale now has letters instead of numbers - Marissa will make changes to Charts ○ https://elcomercio.pe/peru/como-funcionara-el-nuevo-sistema-de-calificacion-con-letras-para-alumnos-de-secundaria-noticia/ <p>AD = Logro Destacado (A) A= Logro Esperado (B) B= En proceso (C) C= Logro inicial (D)</p> <p>No Failing grades. Students with a C (Inicial) grade must receive a written report from teachers indicating how to improve. Students repeat a grade if they have a C grade in 4 or more subjects (out of 11 on curriculum). Marissa has a report card with both numeric and alphabetical grades which will be posted to the Country Profiles folder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - Silvia - will be updated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CTEB = Cycle Terminale de l'Education de Base (7th and 8th grade) ○ HB = Humanities Scientifiques - began in 2018-2019 with 7th grade to modernize curriculum in Math/Science and was implemented in phases (completed for 2021-2022): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7th Basic = 1st Secondary ■ 8th Basic = 2nd Secondary ■ 9th = 1st HB = 3rd Secondary ■ 10th = 2nd HB = 4th Secondary ■ 11th = 3rd HB = 5th Secondary ■ 12th = 4th HB = 6th Secondary ● Add - Netherlands (Candice Lenet and Monica Ranta will investigate) ● Ana Johnson (Frederick) - asked about Honduras school system. Reviewed Charts ● Marissa (Loundoun) - Australia. She received a letter from the US embassy in Australia regarding the grading system and scales, similar to one MAFSA got about 10 years ago. After discussing, the consensus was to ask family to provide a grading scale directly from the school, since the embassy letter is vague and not dated. As is our best practice, when families do not agree with our evaluations, it is on them to provide additional information, including grading scales.
10:55 - 11:25	30"	<p>Objective 4: Member Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Out-of-country graduates. For countries where grade 11 is the last grade of high school and students are considered high school graduates. How are school districts supporting these students? Are they still eligible for HS enrollment in your

		<p>district? Students who have already completed a secondary program in their countries are not eligible to continue in high school, even if the system of education is shorter (or longer) than in the U.S. These students are supported by the districts via counseling, referrals to Community College or Adult Education programs, and sharing of information and resources to meet the needs of students and families. In MCPS, students who have graduated receive a letter explaining why they are not eligible for enrollment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How do you have consistency of evaluations in your districts? Discussed earlier ● Rule 42 and current border info, Blueprint Person who asked this question not present ● Please consider inviting John Seelke of MCPS, mathematics instructional specialist, to share his math database for transferring secondary math courses required for graduation. Margarita will invite ● I would like to find out more about the new grading system being used in Peru Discussed ● What are best practices for enrolling students who cannot provide transcripts (ie. from Afghanistan, Ukraine, etc.)? Discussed at last meeting - see minutes from May 2022 ● Awarding English Credit This varies by district, as each one has to define policies for awarding English vs ESOL vs World Language credits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VA - English credit can only be awarded if the course is taught by a certified EL teacher. ○ MD - in some districts, English credit is determined based on the ESOL level of the student upon entry (students who enter in ESOL 1 are usually given Elective or World Language credit for English studied in the native country). ○ It's important to work with the DOE representative to make that decision. But students in the Beginning levels of English have a hard time graduating with their age cohorts due to graduation requirements in English. ● Are there conversion charts for credits for countries in Latin America? Yes, check the Country Profiles document (Objective 3 above) ● Students coming into high school with credits - balancing giving credits towards graduation and the need for English proficiency needed in higher level classes/SOL tests. Example - level 1 student coming in from Colombia, transcript awards credits for chemistry and biology. That checks off two course requirements towards graduation, but the student is not prepared for the Bio or Chem SOL in English and relying only on Earth Science. How do we balance what is in the student's best interest? Most students who do make it to graduation end up with far more courses than what is required, electives in particular, and many find it disheartening to hear after 3 years that they may not be able to graduate the following year, mostly due to core classes still falling behind/testing requirements in relation to their English proficiency. Promotion policy of district affects grade placement. It's important to have this discussion with the families, so there is no misunderstanding about how long it will take for students to meet all graduation requirements. In VA, students cannot be placed in grade 12 until they are able to graduate that school year, so sometimes students repeat grades several times. In MD, promotion policy determines grade placement. Also some districts have created course codes that match the graduation requirements, in order to avoid duplicating courses taken abroad. ● Transcript course titles- may be helpful to include both country course title (Ex. Guatemala course title: Matematica) AND state course titles (Ex. Virginia course title: Algebra 1). This is a transient group and it may help for anyone to be able to decipher transcripts in this way, even though it would make them longer. This would clarify exactly what credit a student is receiving here for the general titles,
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		<p>like Matematica. Yes, many districts are doing this. MCPS will bring a speaker to the May meeting to address Math/Science/S Studies. Also check the Country Profiles document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some trends that school systems are seeing now with new registrations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Howard County - seeing more students from Colombia ○ More SLIFE (Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education) ○ Enrollments have been higher for everyone ○ Refugees mainly coming from Afghanistan and some Haiti • Would like to share MELLFIN conference 18TH ANNUAL MELLFIN CONFERENCE: THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023. 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM COLLEGE PARK MARRIOTT HOTEL AND CONFERENCE EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION BY MARCH 31, 2023 \$150 / \$120 EARLYBIRD (INCLUDES CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & LUNCH) NO ON-SITE REGISTRATIONS 															
11:25 - 11:45	20"	<p>Objective 5: New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update MAFSA best practices documents (Jeff Lash will continue this process) • New resources for transcript evaluations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ibe.unesco.org/en/country (curricula for 100+ countries) ○ fs.ncaa.org • Is anyone using the WIDA online screener? Yes and no! Some districts have started, others not yet. 															
11:45 - 11:55	10"	<p>Closing: Date for May 2023 Meeting and Agenda Items:</p> <p>We will discuss having an in-person and/or hybrid meeting for the May 2023 meeting. Richmond, VA and Arlington, VA offered to host. We will look at some dates and update members. Meeting will be in-person but with virtual capabilities for those unable to travel.</p>															
11:55 - 12:00	5"	<p>Review Next steps from this meeting (Action Items) and Evaluation</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>What:</th> <th>Who:</th> <th>When:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Training Session for Charts - virtual</td> <td>Candice, Beverly, Monica</td> <td>Survey will be sent out to set date</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Updates to Charts - many countries need review</td> <td>Everyone</td> <td>May meeting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Post more recent Chart to the website</td> <td>Marissa, Silvia</td> <td>ASAP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Netherlands school system/grades</td> <td>Candice, Monica Ranta</td> <td>May meeting</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	What:	Who:	When:	Training Session for Charts - virtual	Candice, Beverly, Monica	Survey will be sent out to set date	Updates to Charts - many countries need review	Everyone	May meeting	Post more recent Chart to the website	Marissa, Silvia	ASAP	Netherlands school system/grades	Candice, Monica Ranta	May meeting
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		MAFSA best practices document - discuss	Jeff Lash	May meeting
		Assess what worked well and what didn't in this meeting		
+ (What worked well)		▲ (What to change in future meetings)		
Virtual worked well. Thank you! Second that				