

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

Website: www.MAFSA.info

2021-2022

Date: Friday, February 18, 2022

Google Meet Link:

[Please use this one instead!!!](https://meet.google.com/bxs-awok-znz)
meet.google.com/bxs-awok-znz

Dial-in: (US) +1 904-713-2561
PIN: 286 681 620#

Topic: MAFSA General meeting
Times: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm (Eastern)

Facilitators: Candice, Margarita & Silvia
Timekeeper (reminders/agenda adjustments): Margarita
Notetaker (important reminders/next steps): Silvia

Objectives:

- Membership/Website Overview and Updates
- Review of Minutes from November 19, 2021 meeting
- 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
1:00 - 1:05	5"	Click HERE to sign in
1:05 - 1:15	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 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. https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2022/02/08/venmo-paypal-new-tax-reporting-rule/
1:15 - 1:25	10"	<p>Objective 2: Review of Minutes from November 19, 2021 meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Year designation: for countries where the school year goes from Jan - Dec, some districts will input the single year (i.e. 2019), and some will use 2019-2020, depending on how their program accepts the information. Haiti educational system (*see below) Credits for COVID related closures and use of P (Pass): Districts that allow P on a transcript will use this grade, others will convert a Pass to a C or a D - it depends on the district policy. GCSE/Cambridge update request: Margarita (MCPS) is researching and will continue to reach out to Cambridge for a new presentation on their system. However, in conjunction with WES and colleges, they are considering 7+ Passes in core subjects of the GCSE to equal a HS diploma. They have referred families that want to enroll their potentially graduated students into high school to WES for a 3rd party evaluation. There is a fee for this service that the family is responsible for if they want to challenge the placement decision made by MCPS. Here is the MCPS WES landing page that WES set up: https://knowledge.wes.org/MontgomeryCPS.html It makes it clearer for our international families since the general WES page is overwhelming

1:2
5 -
1:5
5

30"

Objective 3: New Information for Charts
[Transcript Evaluation Database](#) (Silvia)

- El Salvador (Bachillerato grades)/ Modalidad Flexible, a new alternative in El Salvador so students can continue their education (from basic education to Bachillerato)
 - See notes about Bachillerato grade of 4 meaning that the student completed 4 units in that course and was therefore given a Pass (Aprobado). This is for 2020 and 2021 so far.
 - Any questions about Modalidad Flexible can be addressed to Marissa Yzita - she's done some research and can discuss. The new system uses a combination of subject grades and scores on AVANZO tests usually taken after grade 11 (or possibly 10th). Marissa Yzita
 - <https://www.mined.gob.sv/2021/10/27/mined-y-secretaria-de-innovacion-brindan-detalles-sobre-avanzo-2021/>
 - Yes, I also found information about AVANZO and a new alternative called "Modalidad Flexible de Educacion para Jovenes y Adultos"

- Greenland
 - Add Greenland to the charts and make a note to see Denmark.
- Haiti - add changes below to the chart (now 13 years)

COUNTRY	GRADES													
UNITED STATES	Age 1st grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			1 ^a AF	2 ^a AF	3 ^a AF	4 ^a AF	5 ^a AF	6 ^a AF	7 ^a AF	8 ^a AF	9 ^a AF	3 ^e Sec.	Seconde	Rhétorique Bac 1 ^{er}
HAITI French		KG	Ecole Fondamentale									Nouveau Secondaire		
			AF = Année Fondamentale									"Certificat de Fin d'Etudes Classiques Prem. Partie" G		
												"Certificat de Fin d'Etudes Class. Deuxième Partie" G		




- Nigeria BECE - add BECE to end of JSS3, and comment at the bottom of grading scale in addition to WAEC (BECE is used in Nigeria and Ghana and is sometimes called Junior WAEC).
- Burundi - new system - secondary is now fondamentale grades 7-10 - also called I, II, III, IV; post-fundamental is grades 11-13 - also called 1^o, 2^o, 3^o (must pass state exam to earn diploma)

BURUNDI	Age 1st grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
French and Others Since 2010	6		Primary (Ages 6 - 11)						Lower Secondary (Tronc Commun) Lower Certificate du Tronc Commun (ages 12-16)			Upper Secondary Diplome des Humanités Compétes (ages 16-18)		
			Fondamental - grades 7-10, also I,II,III,IV						Enseignement Post-Fondamental - grades 11-13					

- Philippines - since 17-18, now have 12th graders graduating - must add grades 1-12 to charts
- Mozambique - hold (will send chart to Juana and present at next meeting)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indonesia grading scale - hold & present at next meeting • Peru - grading scale (Loudoun Co)- new scale for middle school now has letters instead of numbers - Marissa will verify and share with Juana & discuss at next meeting. https://elcomercio.pe/peru/como-funcionara-el-nuevo-sistema-de-calificacion-con-letras-para-alumnos-de-secundaria-noticia/ AD = Logro muy satisfactorio A= Logro satisfactorio B= Logro Basico C= Logro inicial • • UK grading system 1-5 is not reflected in the MAFSA grading charts (Frederick County) - case where grading system did not match charts - will reach out to DOD to confirm
<p>1:5 5 - 2:2 5</p>	<p>30"</p>	<p>Objective 4: Member Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral declarations and placing refugee students without transcripts/ Are members granting credit to students coming from Afghanistan without official records? If so, what is your criteria and method? (Albemarle and Loudoun Counties) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juana (Alexandria): Up to 5 credits can be granted for 9th grade. For students who cannot get records due to extreme circumstances (war, refugee, other). Student completes Oral Declaration Form, which does not need to be notarized. No verification of prior records requested. Subjects are usually Social Studies, Math (based on testing), Science, English or Native Language (based on WIDA Proficiency Level), and PE or Art. • Jackie (Henrico Co): Also using Oral Declarations. English credit could be Elective is student is in ESOL Level 1 or 2. • Taina (Howard Co): Did an oral declaration yesterday. Only for refugees. Afghan students were included because of confirmation from the International Rescue Committee. Max of 8 credits could be granted. • If anyone has samples of Oral Declaration forms they use, please forward to Silvia (hokesilvia@gmail.com to post on the website) • Afghanistan (Loudoun Co.) - We have not heard this from families in the Welcome Center, but several schools are sharing that families (from Afghanistan) are sharing the following with them: "Several of our refugee students were told by their former schools (in Afghanistan) they would be graduated from there even though they were not in school the last two years. One parent told us he will be receiving a diploma for his daughter." Has anyone else heard or experienced this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nobody has had this experience yet ○

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have received several transcripts from Brazil that show students taking multiple sciences in 1 or more years. The hours attributed to each course range from 120 to 140 hours per year. How do you award credits? 3 sciences a year? One science despite the number of hours? (Henrico Co) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Brazil for grades 10 -12, Sciences are listed separately (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) and are usually granted 0.5 credit for each course each year. 120 - 140 hours per year = ½ credit • What software application or system do school districts use to produce transcripts? We are looking to automate and digitize more of our documents to keep up with the increased demand. (DC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PGCPS uses SchoolMAX. Several districts are still using paper forms which are sent as PDF's for school registrars to upload into their systems. • What is the Math assessment we recently got an email about? (Baltimore County): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Candice requested information on which Math placement tests districts are using. Please send your comments to her at: clenet@bcps.org ○ Katherine Gull https://www.hmhco.com/programs/math-inventory#overview
2:2 5 - 2:4 5	20"	<p>Objective 5: New Business</p> <p>Enrolling and Supporting Homeless International students: Tisa Holley, PGCPS McKinney Vento Program Case Manager tisa.holley@pgcps.org</p> <p>Best Practices on how to support ELL students who are homeless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baltimore County has ESOL Family School Liaisons as well as PPWs that connect with ELL families • MCPS - new Bienvenidos initiative to connect bilingual counselors with families in need, as well as USDE toolkit for Parent Engagement (see below) • PGCPS - connection with International Student Assessment and Enrollment counselors, Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries, and PPWs. • DC - questions have been added to their intake forms in order to identify and support potential homeless or kinship care students. Also have bilingual counselors who reach out to families. • Frederick County, MD - have a McKinney Vento liaison <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newcomer Tool Kit (PDF) • https://shipfrederick.com/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tisa would like to connect with anyone interested in presenting best practices at a conference in August (date to be determined).

2:4 5 - 2:5 5	10"	<p>Closing: Date for May 2022 Meeting and Agenda Items:</p> <p>Tentative date of Friday, May 13, 2022 This meeting will be virtual. We will discuss having an in-person and/or hybrid meeting for the 2022-2023 school year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See copy of the CHAT from the meeting for additional details. 															
2:5 5 - 3:0 0	5"	<p>Review Next steps from this meeting (Action Items) and Evaluation</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="349 705 646 890"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="349 705 448 768">What:</th> <th data-bbox="448 705 537 768">Who:</th> <th data-bbox="537 705 646 768">When:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="349 768 448 800"></td> <td data-bbox="448 768 537 800"></td> <td data-bbox="537 768 646 800"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="349 800 448 831"></td> <td data-bbox="448 800 537 831"></td> <td data-bbox="537 800 646 831"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="349 831 448 863"></td> <td data-bbox="448 831 537 863"></td> <td data-bbox="537 831 646 863"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="349 863 448 890"></td> <td data-bbox="448 863 537 890"></td> <td data-bbox="537 863 646 890"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	What:	Who:	When:												
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		<p>Assess what worked well and what didn't in this meeting</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="349 953 1414 1312"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="349 953 954 1098">+ (What worked well)</th> <th data-bbox="954 953 1414 1098"> (What to change in future meetings)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="349 1098 954 1312"> Like the separate document to sign in (not in agenda) Love the transcript database. </td> <td data-bbox="954 1098 1414 1312"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	+ (What worked well)	 (What to change in future meetings)	Like the separate document to sign in (not in agenda) Love the transcript database.												
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Margarita Bohorquez

1:11 PM

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hYJR2cp3jNqF76qFr6PZ404XhBsg3nrNrhZzWJ03gNU/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hYJR2cp3jNqF76qFr6PZ404XhBsg3nrNrhZzWJ03gNU/edit?usp=sharing>

Margarita Bohorquez

1:13 PM

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hYJR2cp3jNqF76qFr6PZ404XhBsg3nrNrhZzWJ03gNU/edit?usp=sharing>

Margarita Bohorquez

1:15 PM

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hYJR2cp3jNqF76qFr6PZ404XhBsg3nrNrhZzWJ03gNU/edit?usp=sharing>

Margarita Bohorquez

1:18 PM

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hYJR2cp3jNqF76qFr6PZ404XhBsg3nrNrhZzWJ03gNU/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hYJR2cp3jNqF76qFr6PZ404XhBsg3nrNrhZzWJ03gNU/edit?usp=sharing>

Margarita Bohorquez

1:19 PM

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hYJR2cp3jNqF76qFr6PZ404XhBsg3nrNrhZzWJ03gNU/edit?usp=sharing>

Margarita Bohorquez

1:21 PM

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hYJR2cp3jNqF76qFr6PZ404XhBsg3nrNrhZzWJ03gNU/edit?usp=sharing>

Katherine Gull

1:25 PM

If you are not presenting please mute your microphone.

Margarita Bohorquez

1:26 PM

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hYJR2cp3jNqF76qFr6PZ404XhBsg3nrNrhZzWJ03gNU/edit?usp=sharing>

Margarita Bohorquez

1:29 PM

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hYJR2cp3jNqF76qFr6PZ404XhBsg3nrNrhZzWJ03gNU/edit?usp=sharing>

Norka Padilla

1:31 PM

Here is our MCPS WES landing page that WES set up for us:

<https://knowledge.wes.org/MontgomeryCPS.html>

It makes it clearer for our international families since the general WES page is overwhelming

Emily Elliott

1:32 PM

Does WES charge a fee for their evaluations?

Katherine Gull

1:33 PM

Does MCPS pay or the family?

Margarita Bohorquez

1:34 PM

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hYJR2cp3jNqF76qFr6PZ404XhBsg3nrNrhZzWJ03gNU/edit?usp=sharing>

Maria Raquel Ortiz

1:34 PM

Honduras also altered their graduation system during the Pandemic, where students are 16 years old and have finalized Bachillerato.

Norka Padilla

1:34 PM

^^ That's very helpful

That would explain why we have a huge surge in older students.

Marissa Yzita

1:37 PM

In LCPS, we wouldn't enroll a student who has graduated, even if the student is 16 years old

The can take English classes too

Michele Forman

1:38 PM

In PWCS, VA. we would not enroll a student who has graduated. We offer Adult Education programs that will meet that requirement.

Corina Coronel

1:38 PM

ThanKs!

Norka Padilla

1:40 PM

MCPS is in compliance with state law, which does not require enrollment of students in public schools if a student has obtained "an equivalent out-of-state high school diploma." (MD. Ann. Code §7-301).

Furthermore, while a student may enroll in MCPS if he or she is under 21 years of age on the first day of school, the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.02.06.02 states that age 21 means

"that the student has not received a high school diploma and is not 21 years old on the first day of the school year."

Maria Raquel Ortiz

1:41 PM

Yes, we can't enroll either so we are looking where to place the student. Our policy is clear the issue is with are Charter partners.

This is amazing Silvia!!!!

Norka Padilla

1:43 PM

Silvia! You are brilliant! Thank you.

Katherine Gull

1:43 PM

This is SO helpful!! Thank you!

Sheena Cox

1:43 PM

This is wonderful Silvia!

Miroslava Rogovich

1:43 PM

Thank you so much!!

Jane Ahlfield

1:44 PM

This is awesome! Thank you :)

Michele Forman

1:44 PM

Thank you! This is awesome!

Marissa Yzita

1:44 PM

Silvia, would you be able to add to the folders a sample transcript as well?

This is a GREAT resource, many thanks!

Juana Terrazas

1:50 PM

Thank you so much, Silvia! This is very helpful

Miroslava Rogovich

1:51 PM

Also because of Covid, El Salvador change their PAES exam to AVANZO.

Marissa Yzita

1:51 PM

<https://www.mined.gob.sv/2021/10/27/mined-y-secretaria-de-innovacion-brindan-detalles-sobre-avanzo-2021/>

Yes, I also found information about AVANZO and a new alternative called " Modalidad Flexible de Educacion para Jovenes y Adultos

Emily Elliott

1:58 PM

I think that would be helpful.

Maria Raquel Ortiz

2:03 PM

Ghana also uses it right?

Marissa Yzita

2:08 PM

<https://elcomercio.pe/peru/como-funcionara-el-nuevo-sistema-de-calificacion-con-letras-para-alumnos-de-secundaria-noticia/>

AD = Logro muy satisfactorio A= Logro satisfactorio B= Logro Basico C= Logro inicial

Raisa Lonzoy

2:09 PM

I've seen this too

Farah Rana

2:10 PM

No preview available for Peru in the folder

Victoria Rayo

2:11 PM

I have as well

Marissa Yzita

2:11 PM

Ok, I will

Taina Compagnet

2:16 PM

Hello, yes we just did one this week

Michele Forman

2:16 PM

We are not using oral declarations

Taina Compagnet

2:16 PM

sorry I can't unmute -

Margarita Bohorquez

2:16 PM

We don't use oral declarations in MCPS

Corina Coronel

2:18 PM

We are not using oral declarations.

Norka Padilla

2:18 PM

What about electives?

What about English electives?

Taina Compagnet

2:20 PM

low ESOL students get Independent Study English, for WCL we give a Native Language credit

Norka Padilla

2:22 PM

Our Afghans are all arriving with VISAs

We've only had one Afghan coming with an ORR

Andrea Beckman

2:24 PM

The school shut down

Norka Padilla

2:24 PM

Most of our Afghans don't have school records. Especially the girls.

Vanessa Koubratoff

2:25 PM

I have received records from some students who were here without records

I think that some people have family members still in Afghanistan and are able to get records. However, it's very difficult.

Jacqueline Cheaves

2:28 PM

I have another meeting at 2:30pm. Thanks everyone!

Marissa Yzita

2:32 PM

What software?

Karen Resumadero

2:32 PM

It does not directly upload to SchoolMax

Maria Raquel Ortiz

2:34 PM

appreciate it!

Michele Forman

2:35 PM

We had our math department create an Algebra 1 and Geometry assessment.

You

2:35 PM

clenet@bcps.org

Anne Z. Dillon

2:35 PM

I would love to see some examples. In Henrico ours was made by our math specialist.

Andrea Beckman

2:36 PM

Same with Anne Arundel county

Katherine Gull

2:36 PM

<https://www.hmhco.com/programs/math-inventory#overview>

Taina Compagnet

2:36 PM

yes our math and esol dept collaborated and just updated in May 21

Vanessa Koubratoff

2:37 PM

Awarding credit and placement are two different issues. Which one are we talking about?

Karen Resumadero

2:37 PM

Sure

Tisa Holley

2:40 PM

tisa.holley@pgcps.org

Margarita Bohorquez

2:43 PM

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oela/newcomers-toolkit/ncomertoolkit.pdf>

Maria Raquel Ortiz

2:45 PM

Random thought as we are discussing all of these issues @Silvia and team - DC has so many Charter LEAs - are they connected to MAFSA at all?

Katherine Gull

2:46 PM

In Frederick we have a formal partnership with a community organization who works with students one on one. We also have McKinney Vento liaisons at each school to work with students and families.

<https://shipfrederick.com/>

Karen Resumadero

2:47 PM

Tisa, the ISAE0 team would probably love to meet with you!

:)

yes!