

MAFSA

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2020

Opening

The regular meeting of the MAFSA was called to order at 1:00 pm on May 8, 2020, via Google Meets, by Candice Lenet (Baltimore County).

1:00 – 2:30 – General Meeting

Open Issues

1. EL Enrollment (Ilhye Yoon, MSDE)
Presentation was share don Continuity of Learning guidelines from MSDE, as a response to enrollment and assessment issues during the COVID-19 emergency. ELs cannot be assessed at this time, but districts must continue to register. Maryland will identify students as ‘provisional’ EL based on the home language surveys, and classified as Group 1 (Newcomer/Beginner) or Group 2 (Intermediate/Advanced). Testing will happen once schools re-open. At this time, parents may not refuse services, since students are being considered Provisional until testing can confirm their levels. The presentation will be posted on the MAFSA website. Suggestion was made to include a VA Department of Education representative at the next meeting to review procedures in place in the fall.

Exchange students

Can Foreign Exchange Students receive ESOL services? There are Dept of Education guidelines, but each local district can make their own decisions as to whether exchange students are eligible to receive ESOL services. It is recommended that districts that do not have a policy or procedure in place develop one that clarifies requirements for exchange student admission, enrollment, and EL support options.

How are districts evaluationg potential Els during school closure? Is anyone doing online screening? WIDA screener needs a proctor and has to be completed in-person. Online may be an option, but remote testing is not available yet. Different districts have plans in place – online registration, Google surveys, phone or video chats were some options being used.

What about residency documents? Most districts have relaxed their requirements for proof of residency. PPWs, electronic presentation of documents, including via

photos, and leniency in the documentation process help give access to education at this time. When schools re-open, then documents will be vetted.

Summary: No screening for Els, online enrollment of new students, waived or relaxed requirements.

2. Enrollment of new High School students

How is placement being determined for new HS students? Most districts are doing provisional placements, 4th quarter grades are being recorded as Pass/Fail, and counselors are creating schedules for online learning. There was a question about number of hours needed for granting of credit through virtual learning portals. Suggestions made: Maybe consider basing credit on completing material and not on hours of contact; Consider making all virtual grades P/F only, which would not impact GPA's. **This topic should be added to the agenda for the next meeting.**

3. Question from D.C. (Leidy Navarro)

How are transcripts being evaluated without face-to-face meetings with students and parents? BCPS is doing phone interviews about transcripts if available. Temporary placements allow students to access virtual learning, and credit evaluations will be done at a later date. Many districts are accepting transcripts via email/photos send by phone. Math and Science placements can be tricky. There are no Science placement tests available yet among districts, but Math tests can be done. For Falls Church City (Valerie Chesley), once students are in the system, Math testing can be done remotely, with an ESL teacher guiding the process.

4. UK Naric updates for school systems and grades (members received data before the meeting for review)

- a. Uganda – add new grading scale
- b. Oman – add school systeme and grading scale
- c. Brunei – leave it out for now. Not enough information
- d. Ghana – Changed SSCE to WASSCE as a graduation certificate
- e. Iran – add grade 12. Change in school system to reflect:
Primary (1-6), Lower Secondary (7-9), Upper Secondary (10-12)

5. **Brazil information shared by MCPS – to be discussed with the group at the next meeting**

6. **Bhutan – Was not discussed. Not yet on the Charts. We will ask for an update from UK Naric if possible. If anyone has a grading scale, please bring to the next meeting.**

7. **Australia**
Australian report cards normally have narratives instead of grades. Districts use the words provided in the narratives to determine a grade, such as A, C, or F. Some use Pass/Fail only. Howard County (Lori Miller) provided a resource: www.ozstudies.com/blog/study.australia/complete-guide-to-the-australian-grading-system

New Business

1. **Membership**

Membership will continue intact for next year. Requirement that all members attend one of three annual meetings has been waived for this year due to school closures.

2. **Website**

Website was renewed in March for another year. Silvia Hoke, website manager, is still accepting donations to cover the renewal fee. Donations can be sent to hokesilvia@gmail.com via PayPal. Thank you to all who contributed!

3. **Virtual College Fair**

Silvia will also share information on a virtual ‘college fair’ being developed by the National Hispanic College Fair, Inc. Students, parents, counselors, and teachers can access college admissions reps for free. Please share with students.

Agenda for Next Meeting

Next meeting – TBD in October.

Agenda items:

- SLIFE students (presentation by Montgomery County, MD)
- Credit for online courses
- Bhutan

- Brazil
- Brunei
- Foreign Exchange students and ESOL
- VA Dept of Education – screening during school closures

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Silvia Hoke, Secretary