

MAFSA General Meeting February 6 2026

Key takeaways

- MAFSA meeting held on February 6, 2026, with approximately 50 participants
- Districts discussed transferring native language literature credits as English credits to improve graduation rates and student placement
- A presentation on this topic will be organized for the May 8th meeting by representatives from Montgomery County, Frederick County, and Prince George's County
- The Best Practices document will be housed in the password-protected area of the MAFSA website
- Cambridge International representative Dr. Chantel Reynolds presented on CI Direct portal access for verifying IGCSE exam results
- MAFSA will be granted access to the CI Direct portal with 6 designated individuals who can verify Cambridge exam results
- The next MAFSA meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2026
- A CHARTS training session will be held on February 23rd for new members

Q & A summary

English Credit for Native Language Literature

Candice: How are different LEAs awarding English credit for literature courses taken in students' native languages versus using WIDA scores to determine English proficiency?

Norka: Montgomery County transfers literature standards as English courses because they cover the content, regardless of the language of instruction. This helps place students with their age-appropriate peers and provides equitable access to graduation. Students are still tested for English proficiency for ELD programming.

Andrea: How do districts address concerns that transferring native language literature as English credits might not prepare students for success in English-language courses?

Norka: The focus is on transferring the content standards, not the language proficiency. Schools still need to provide appropriate ELD support based on the student's English proficiency level.

Jennifer: Can Virginia districts implement similar practices given their state requirements?

Margarita: The presentation in May will include breakout rooms by state to discuss state-specific implementation considerations.

Guatemala Transcript Recovery

Sara: How can we recover transcripts for a student from Guatemala who claims to have completed 11th grade but has no documentation?

Margarita: Try contacting the school directly to request records before resorting to other options.

Jackie: Consider alternative education platforms like Plaza Comunitaria through the Mexican government, which offers Spanish-language education from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Courtney: Does your district have a test for competency protocol for students without transcripts?

Sara: Chicago does not have such a system except for English via the WIDA test.

Cambridge International Exams

Silvia: How does the CI Direct portal work for verifying Cambridge exam results?

Chantel Reynolds: The portal allows authorized users to verify Cambridge exam results using the student's center number, candidate number, date of birth, and exam session. MAFSA can have an account with 6 designated users who can access the system.

Andrea: Can we access exam results before students receive their official documents?

Chantel Reynolds: Provisional results are available in mid-August, about 6 weeks before official documents. These are rarely changed even if challenged, so they can generally be relied upon for placement decisions.

Candice: Is a mock result the same as a provisional result?

Chantel Reynolds: No. Mock exams are practice tests to help students prepare, while provisional results are actual exam results that are subject to challenge for a 6-week period.

Silvia: If a student takes the same subject twice, how should we handle credit?

Chantel Reynolds: It depends on the level. AS levels (first year) and A levels (second year) in the same subject represent different levels of achievement. AS levels are recommended for 3-4 college credits, while A levels are recommended for 6-8 college credits.

Silvia: Is there a maximum number of subjects a student can take in each exam session?

Chantel Reynolds: No maximum, though there are some combination restrictions. Students outside the US often take all four papers (AS and A level) in the same series, while US students typically spread them across two years.