

**Metropolitan Area Foreign Student Advisors -
2020 - 2021 - 2022 - 2023 - 2024 - 2025 Meetings**

Website: www.MAFSA.info

**2024 - 2025
May 16, 2025
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Virtual: ZOOM**

Topic: MAFSA General Meeting - May 16 2025
Time: May 16, 2025 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

RECORDING: [MAFSA MEETING MAY 16 2025](#)
(Click to watch the recording of the meeting, read the transcript or summary of the meetings, read the Chat conversations, and review the minutes created by AI Companion).

**PLEASE BE CAREFUL WHEN ADDING INFORMATION TO THE AGENDA-IT
CAN BE EDITED AND SEEN BY EVERYONE WITH THE LINK!!**

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

**Facilitator: Silvia Hoke, Margarita Bohorquez
Timekeeper (reminders/agenda adjustments):
Notetaker (important reminders/next steps):
Transcript Trainer: TBD**

Objectives:

- Membership/Website Overview and Updates
- Secretary's Report
- Member Questions
- New Information for Charts
- New Business
- Schedule next meeting for: Charts Training

Schedule:

Time	Min.	Activity
10:00 - 10:10	10"	Click here to sign in MEMBERS - Initial next to your name, make changes as necessary GUESTS - sign in at the bottom of the page
10:10 - 10:20	10"	Objective 1: Membership/Website Overview and Updates - Candice and Silvia Website was renewed for one year in April 2025. Thank you for your contributions! - NOTE: A \$5 donation will be collected from every member/guest per <u>year</u> in order to support the MAFSA website. Please select how you wish to send your donation : Zelle, CashApp, PayPal, or check (include "Donation to MAFSA 2024-2025" in comments). P.S. <u>This is not a membership fee</u>, 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 (Secretary and maintains website) - Candice - Membership Chair: Rules of membership - 3 members per school district, must attend one meeting per school year, guests are always welcome. Members will receive the password in order to access the Charts on the website. Charts training date to be determined for new members/refresh. Date for next Charts Training:
10:20 - 10:25	5"	Objective 2: Secretary's Report - Silvia - Review of Minutes from last meeting (see below and on website) By-laws can be reviewed here.
10:30 - 11:15	45"	Objective 3: Member Questions Discuss "Best Practices" committee (Jacob Smit, Chesterfield VA)

		• Determining grade placements for K-8 students who have different academic calendar years in their home country and are entering US schools for the first time - Do we place in the grade that they need to finish or by appropriate age? (Kelley Webb, Hanover County VA) • How do schools handle awarding high science credits for students coming from non US accredited international schools? (Jill Tucker, Fairfax County, VA) • I was reviewing the grade level comparisons for each country, and I noticed that one of the documents in the Cameroon country profile doesn't line up with the larger comparison chart. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c-Y-o7IDIdU3DAjnq35e6XXvyoP00G_H (Sarah Wohleb, Chicago Public Schools) • Change in On-Time Graduation and Dropout Rate for SLIFE Students in VA. How has this update changed the way SLIFE students are identified? Has there been any push to review cohort 25 students for possible SLIFE status? (Amelia Castañeda, Richmond Public Schools VA)
11:15 - 11:45	30 "	Objective 4: New Information for Charts (Marissa Yzita - Charts Manager) Transcript Evaluation Database (Silvia) - check here for Country Profiles. Updated Charts are now posted on the website for members to access via the password-protected page. • 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, and add the info to the shared database: ◦ Sign up HERE to review specific countries • From last meeting: ◦ Equatorial Guinea ◦ Serbia

		○ New Zealand ○ Aruba ● New counties to review: ○ Kyrgyzstan (Astrid Brueckner - DodEA) Notes: Looking for grade equivalencies, is K mandatory, when do they graduate, what is required for graduation, grading scales, curriculum- math, science, social studies- what do they study so we can compare with our transcripts
		Objective 5: New Business ● MAFSA Conference? Summer 2026 (Silvia will start convo in August) ● Present at MELLFIN Conference? May 2026 (Min Woo will invite us)
11:45 - 12:00	15 "	Closing: Dates for 2025-2026 Meetings: (October 2025, February 2026, May 2026) ● Date for next Charts Training (May 28 or May 30) - Silvia will send survey to identify the best date. -Notes: Please copy Silvia Hoke when exchanging information regarding MAFSA so she can update our Country Profiles Email Silvia if you are interested in being a charts trainer. MAFSA would like to develop a core group of 10 to help train. Sign up here: 1. Jackie Smith, HCPS (jcsmith1@henrico.k12.va.us) 2. 3. 4. 5. Discussing immigration supports (From previous meeting) ● https://www.cps.edu/services-and-supports/new-presidential-administration-guidance ● https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/osi/immigration-supports/

		• https://www.pgcps.org/offices/communications-and-community-engagement/newsroom/resources/immigration-resources • https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships/Resources/Files/OC_P_Relief_Haiti_Afghanistan.Pdf •																					
		Review Next steps from this meeting (Action Items) and Evaluation <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>What:</th> <th>Who:</th> <th>When:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Updates to Charts - many countries need review</td> <td>Everyone HERE</td> <td>Continuous</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Best Practices Committee</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Posting minutes and recording</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Start conference conversation</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Identify charts training date through survey</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	What:	Who:	When:				Updates to Charts - many countries need review	Everyone HERE	Continuous	Best Practices Committee			Posting minutes and recording			Start conference conversation			Identify charts training date through survey		
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		Assess what worked well and what didn't in this meeting <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>+ (What worked well)</th> <th> (What to change in future meetings)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	+ (What worked well)	 (What to change in future meetings)																			
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