

MAFSA Spring Meeting - May 17, 2019

10:30 a.m. - Welcome

10:35 a.m. - Challenging Transcript Discussion

- New Zealand - Having difficulty with the grading scale presented from Onslow College Report. Grading scale presented does not match the MAFSA chart. The team suggested that the specialist contact the school and ask for the school's grading scale in order to proceed.
- Addis Ababa transcript - concern regarding world languages credit for Amharic class taken in 8th grade.
- EB Academy (Ethiopia) transcript - concern regarding 3 credits for science per year when they (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) are listed separately on the transcript for both 9th and 10th grades. Different LEAs approach science credit differently. Some LEAs are still considering hours per course while others deem this approach unreliable.
- Google doc idea for LEAs to share respective practices - we need to continue developing this idea
- 9th grade Honduras transcript - how many classes/credits would you award for this record? Most LEAs agreed that they don't award more than 7 credits per year. In some cases, an additional credit may be considered depending on course completed. You can also combine two courses that are art related for one credit.
- Some LEAs have students who don't take a course, but take an assessment here and they show mastery of the content area. They're getting a P for that course and credit, but not a grade. This helps for credits towards graduation, but it doesn't affect the GPA. In Fairfax, students must show proof of seat hours in order to earn credit.
- 10th grade Honduras credits - only showing 1 semester grades. LEAs who use .5 credit increments will award .5 credits for these courses according to seat hours. Some LEAs award transfer credits for those who complete a partial semester. Those students can take the transfer credits to school and the school will determine final credit awards.
- Honduran transcript for technical college in hospitality - shows 11th grade and 12th grade grades, which helps when determining whether or not a student graduated after 11th grade. Also shows how many hours per week per course.
- Question regarding middle school transfer credits - can students who take language courses in middle school in another state or abroad be given credit by exam
- Saudi Arabian cohort families - placing according to age (Sept. 1 cutoff date), but families are upset because they're here for only a year, and when they return to Saudi Arabia, they're a year behind. One LEA makes a grade placement recommendation and asks the principal to make a final determination. Other LEAs look at the grade the student completed where they're coming from and place them according to grade and not age. Other LEAs will honor education completed in visiting scholar situations only and not for regular international families. Most LEAs follow the state age requirements rules.
- LEAs will move students down only one year, not more. Districts are moving away from moving students down because of the inequitable practices it fosters. Generally, SPED, ESOL and other minority groups tend to be retained, which only widens the achievement gap.

11:42 a.m. Transition to general meeting and introductions

- Uzbekistan Grading Scale - move to next meeting
- GCSE Grading Scale - Margarita recapped Keith Lucey's presentation and shared MCPS struggle with high school equivalent determinations. Margarita will keep trying to find another Cambridge contact in order to answer new grading scale question posed in the winter meeting.
- I-220A documentation is useful for immigrant families who go through immigration, but don't have other documentation
- Obtaining documentation from families who come through immigration and original documents are being retained is challenging. LEAs are not accepting the detention center IDs.
- Proof of parental relationship - I-94 (ORR docs), Official letter from resettlement agency with parents and children listed is acceptable.
- Children from Afghanistan - Only fathers are listed on the birth certificate, but LEAs ask for the marriage certificate or the hospital document that lists the mother.
- New 2019 Panama grading scale was presented and the team is asking for it to be added to the MAFSA grading charts. Google "convenio/andres/bello" and confirm with the "Dirección Nacional de Cooperación Internacional del Ministerio de Educación".

Future agenda item suggestions:

- Uzbekistan grading scale
- US Accredited Schools
- El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemalan students enrolled in classical secondary program graduating after 11th grade and those completing vocational secondary program graduating after 12th grade (how to determine when graduated)
- PG County will host October MAFSA conference - Richmond is offering to host in February - Loudon County is offering for May

General discussions:

- McKinney Vento use for immigrant students who don't have parents enrolling. Several LEAs use McKinney Vento unaccompanied homeless youth enrollment practices for ORRs whose sponsors no longer care for them.
- Loudon county is having ESOL students take an AP or complete a final project for world languages credit.
- VA county asked if an ESOL student once exited via ACCESS WIDA score can go back to getting ESOL services? VA says yes depending on academic team determinations. MD says no - once exited you don't go back to ESOL.

Specific questions:

- Add new Panama grading scale (process for adding?)
- Interest around transcript training for October meeting
- MAFSA group is asking that the meeting be moved to a Wednesday or Thursday instead of Fridays due to heavy weekend traffic and other considerations