MAFSA

# Meeting Minutes

# February 14, 2020

## Opening

The regular meeting of the MAFSA was called to order at 10:00 am on February 14, 2020 in Arlington County by Laura Newton.

10:00 – 11:00 – Training session was held on How to Evaluate Foreign Transcripts. Facilitated by Silvia Hoke

11:00 – 2:00 – General Meeting

## Open Issues

1. Arlington County (hosts) presentation about services provided by Global Intake Center.
2. DoDEA – Jasmine Mcleod – The mission of DoDEA is to serve military-connected families in 3 areas of the world: Americas, Pacific, and Europe. See their website: [www.dodea.edu](http://www.dodea.edu).

DoDEA operates 163 schools in 8 Districts located in 11 countries, 7 states, and 2 territories across 10 time zones.

There are 996,069 military connected children of all ages worldwide, of which more than 70,000 (11.5%) are enrolled in DoDEA schools and served by approximately 8,700 educators.

All schools within DoDEA are fully accredited by U.S. accreditation agencies.

1. UK Naric – Elizabeth Donaldson from Fairfax County presented information about the following countries, and UK Naric to be added to bibliography as a resouce:
   1. Iran (grading scale and country profile)
   2. Ghana (WASSCE exam update)
   3. Brunei (grading scale)
   4. Oman (add grading scale to Charts)
   5. Uganda (grading scale and UCE as exiting exam)
2. Ecuador – information sent in by Pat Chiancone, PG County – Change in grading scale to reflect Ministry of Education:

A = 9.0 – 10.0

B = 8.0 – 8.99

C = 7.0 – 7.99

E = 0 – 6.99

1. El Salvador – Add to Charts – minimum passing grade in some Technical Schools is 7 (not 6).
2. Awarding +/- discussion

No counties acknowledge a +/- on report cards, as is consistent with MAFSA best practices.

1. Foreign Exchange Students and ESOL – Loudoun County, VA:

“Per Virginia’s entrance criteria as outlined in our state ESSA plan, regarding our identification/screening process for students registering with a language other than English, a WIDA assessment must be reviewed to make a determination of student eligibility for services. Most exchange programs use the ELTis assessment as part of their application packet. However, VDOE has stated that ‘the ELTis cannot be used to identify ELs for services.’

Our division, like others, expects that exchange students are not eligible to receive EL services. We are now saying that students will be conditionally admitted until determined not eligible when screened with a WIDA assessment. However, as they won’t take the WIDA assessment until their arrival, we are wondering what guidance/criteria other divisions are using when accepting exchange students, to minimize the number of students who are not able to fully enroll based on their WIDA assessment.”

Discussion: Some districts will allow foreign exchange students to be placed in ESOL, others will not. Each district needs to follow policy on acceptance of foreign exchange students and ESOL placement, or create one if none exists. An ELTis score of 230 is required by some districts in order to determine if a foreign exchange student will be admitted. Do any districts use the WIDA screener for exchange students? MD Dept of Education will bring additional information at the next meeting (Ilhye Yun).

1. Bhutan – Brought up by Baltimore City. The Charts currently have no grading scale. They will reach out to the school abroad, and information was requested from UK Naric if possible. Anyone with a grading scale for Bhutan is asked to share.
2. Foreign Language Credit by exam – question submitted by Prince George’s County: (Pat Chiancone will send out a Google Doc to collect information)

We have been asked to look into what other counties do about granting foreign/world language credits for the student's native language by exam.  I know Fairfax does this but I do not know about other counties, especially Maryland counties.  I would like to send out a google form to the MAFSA group to collect this data and share back with all MAFSA members.

Discussion:

* Arlington, VA – tests everyone for foreign language credit by exam. Testing done by World Languages Dept.
* Loudoun, VA – gives opportunity to students to test by exam, using the top 10 languages in the county. If students pass the test, they earn 2 credits in World Language and the Seal of Biliteracy.
* Prince William, Va – They can evaluate a transcript and award FL credit, OR take credit by exam, as requested by the Director of Counseling. Assessments are not given upon enrollment, but rather at a different time (usually end of term).
* Montgomery County, MD and Baltimore County, MD – they have exams for Seal of Biliteracy, but credits for native language are granted only by transcript evaluation.
* Albermarle County, VA – all level 3 students take STAMP and ALIRA exams in order to get credit

1. K-WAPT Grade Adjusted Proficiency scores - Candice Lenet, Baltimore County.

Discussion on using full score for overall proficiency vs partial for K and 1st semester 1st graders. Please send comments to Candice.

## New Business

1. Reviewed Bylaws. Changes were approved and will be posted on the website.
2. Resources (bibliography) page. Everyone who submits a change to the Charts needs to bring the resource so it can be added to the Bibliography. Will update the current document at each meeting.
3. Reviewed website. A collection of $5.00 per person was taken to offset the cost of renewal. Silvia Hoke, Secretary, will renew the site ([www.MAFSA.info](http://www.MAFSA.info)) in March for the upcoming year. Members who were not present will be able to contribute at the May meeting

## Agenda for Next Meeting

Next meeting – May 8, 2020. To be held in Baltimore County, MD.

Agenda items:

10:00-11:00 Transcript Evaluation

* This hour is used to discuss difficult transcripts
* Group discussion-feel free to bring transcripts to discuss as a group in order decipher course history, grades, school system
* Training will be held if there is enough interest.

11:00-2:00 General Meeting

* Group Vote to update charts to include:
  + Uganda grading scale for UCE
  + Oman grading scale
  + Brunei grading scale
  + Ghana WASSCE
  + Iran school system-grade 12 added
* Brazil school system
* Bhutan grading scale
* Australia grading system
  + Awarding grades when transcripts are provided without grades
* WIDA screener for foreign exchange students
* SLIFE students

## Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

| Minutes submitted by: | Silvia Hoke, Secretary |
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| Approved by: | TBD at May 8 Meeting |