

Metropolitan Area Foreign Student Advisors - 2020 - 2021 - 2022 - 2023 Meetings

Website: www.MAFSA.info

2022-2023

June 2, 2023

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

Facilitators: Candice, Jeff & Silvia
Timekeeper (reminders/agenda adjustments):
Notetaker (important reminders/next steps): Silvia

Objectives:

- Membership/Website Overview and Updates
- Secretary's Report
- Member Questions
- New Information for Charts
- New Business
- Schedule meetings for 2023-2024

Next steps from previous meeting:

- N/A

To prepare for this meeting:

- N/A

Schedule (120 minutes total)

Time	Min.	Activity
10:00 - 10:05	5"	Click HERE to sign in MEMBERS - Initial next to your name, make changes as necessary GUESTS - sign in at the bottom of the page

<p>10:05 - 10:15</p>	<p>10"</p>	<p>Objective 1: Membership/Website Overview and Updates - Candice and Silvia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 (preferred), CashApp, PayPal, or check (include "Donation to MAFSA 2022-2023" 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 ● Candice - Membership Chair: training on the Charts was held in April. Next opportunity will be in October 23 or February 24. 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.
<p>10:15 - 10:25</p>	<p>10"</p>	<p>Objective 2: Secretary's Report - Silvia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review of Minutes from last meeting (see below and on website) ● By-laws review ● Website has been renewed for next year. Thank you for your donations!
<p>10:25 - 10:55</p>	<p>30"</p>	<p>Objective 3: Member Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Best practices for centralizing transcript reviews (Nicola Williams) - Discussion led by Jeff Lash <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Several districts discussed their experiences in creating a centralized location for international student registration and transcript evaluations. ● What do other School Systems do at the end of the year. Especially HS, when students arrive at the end of the year, yet we need to enroll them. Do any school systems have a cut off date for new enrollments? Kindly advise. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Most districts continue to enroll, as students have the right and there aren't any policies indicating a cut-off date in state regulations. However, in VA policy says students who enter late should get alternate ways to get credit. This could be placing students into semester courses, enrolling in summer school, or placing in electives with the expectation that no credit will be earned for that term. ● Has anyone in Virginia schools used the Good Cause waiver (VDOE) for international students that were seniors (graduate in year 11) in their home country but have relocated to your school district? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See chat for VDOE link ○ For students who could have graduated in their country (after 11 years) but want to earn a US high school diploma by going




		<p>to 12th grade - it is not automatic that they will be placed as seniors here. Must meet all graduation requirements including credits and exams. In Montgomery County MD, students who have graduated in home country get a graduation letter, referral to community college, and possibly referral to WES (World Education Services) to get their HS diplomas validated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Can school districts who use Oral Declarations share details on their procedures? (Jill Tucker) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some districts will do Oral Declarations only for refugees (checking I-94 for refugee status is permissible), and others can take other circumstances into consideration. Check website for additional comments and forms being used for Oral Declarations by MAFSA members. ● Is there a written process that schools use to train counselors on SLIFE interviews, transcript evaluations and interviews? (Anna Maria Johnson) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Howard County shared their handbook, there is also the SLIFE guide put out by the VDOE, and sample interview questions on the MAFSA website.
<p>10:55 - 11:25</p>	<p>30"</p>	<p>Objective 4: New Information for Charts Transcript Evaluation Database (Silvia) - check here for Country Profiles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Norka (MCPS) talked about their district’s creation of curriculum guides for Math, Science, and Social Studies, which have been developed in collaboration with their subject area specialists and can be used to identify specific courses instead of generic course title (i.e. Algebra 1 instead of Math, Biology instead of Natural Science, etc.). She will invite their Math content specialist to the next meeting to discuss how this resource is being developed. This has helped create consistency in their evaluations and eliminated guessing by schools when transcripts come to them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>THE LINKS BELOW ARE SHARED ONLY WITH MAFSA ON THIS AGENDA FOR NOW. Norka will discuss with her team whether we can post on our website or put it on the password-protected page</u> ● Science https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r-WIQ6oSLkfWyaluacYUPClwlo12qfP_V9Z3OzZK2_a0/edit ● Math: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aha8q6Fg-XsvbtY9D2VV8ktXk8Rg9_1RYDmdlqT6kMmU/edit ● Affirming academic identities: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oWFr-8rMBpIxp4dmeYgJP-8u4M9OnvLiiQCcapkvkc/edit?usp=sharing

○ Examples : El Salvador and Honduras

<u>El Salvador</u>			
Grade 8 Mathematics	Mathematics	Algebra 1	
Grade 9 Mathematics	Mathematics	Geometry	
Grade 10 Mathematics	Mathematics	Algebra 2	
			Like many international countries, Honduras uses an integrated math curriculum. Instead of giving students credit for Algebra 1A/Geometry A for 9th grade math, the thinking is if students have all of these courses then this is the MCPS Aligned Course. The textbooks for Honduras do have some Geometry components as early as 7th grade. However, Geometry is really covered in Grades 8 and Grade 9
<u>Honduras</u>			
<u>Grade 7 Mathematics;</u> <u>(curriculum link grades 7-9)</u>		No HS Credit	
Grade 8 Mathematics; <u>curriculum link grades 7-9</u>		No HS Credit	
Grade 9 Mathematics;		Geometry	If the students have completed 7-8-9,

curriculum link grades 7-9			award Geometry
Grade 10 Mathematics		Algebra 1	
Grade 11 Mathematics (Matematica III)		Algebra 2	

- 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.](#)
 - [Sign up HERE to review specific countries](#)
- Changes from last meeting:
 - Ethiopia (MCPS will continue researching)
 - Cameroon - review francophone school system
 - Peru - grading scale - is there a Failing grade? (Loudoun Co)- new scale now has letters instead of numbers - Marissa will make changes to Charts
<https://elcomercio.pe/peru/como-funcionara-el-nuevo-sistema-de-calificacion-con-letras-para-alumnos-de-secundaria-noticia/>
 AD = Logro Destacado (A)
 A= Logro Esperado (B)
 B= En proceso (C)
 C= Logro inicial (D)
[No Failing grades. Students with a C \(Inicial\) grade must receive a written report from teachers indicating how to improve. Students repeat a grade if they have a C grade in 4 or more subjects \(out of 11 on curriculum\). Marissa has a report card with both numeric and alphabetical grades which will be posted to the Country Profiles folder.](#)
- New Data:
 - Netherlands (Candice Lenet and Monica Ranta will investigate)
 - Haiti - grading scales for max 10, 20, 100, 200, 300 added Country Profiles - to be also added to Charts as alternates
 - Ghana - BECE grading scale - added to Country Profiles. The BECE is an exam that is not graded on a percentage scale, but can be seen as a cumulative evaluation of knowledge. Be careful when doing an evaluation based only on the BECE instead of a report card.

11:25 - 11:45	20"	<p>Objective 5: New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belarus - MCPS (Maribel) found information -country not in our Charts. Will investigate for next meeting • Afghanistan - Ana Johnson sent a translation of a report card with grading scale - has been posted to the Country Profiles. 																		
11:45 - 11:55	10"	<p>Closing: Dates for 2023 - 2024 Meetings: Tentative dates, meetings to be held virtually or hybrid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 24 2023 • February 19 2024 • May 10 2024 																		
11:55 - 12:00	5"	<p>Review Next steps from this meeting (Action Items) and Evaluation</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="380 821 1338 1377"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="380 821 930 888">What:</th> <th data-bbox="930 821 1125 888">Who:</th> <th data-bbox="1125 821 1338 888">When:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 888 930 1066">MCPS Curriculum Guides for Math, Science, Social Studies - invite to discuss database and share findings at next meeting?</td> <td data-bbox="930 888 1125 1066">MCPS (Norka, Margarita)</td> <td data-bbox="1125 888 1338 1066">By October</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 1066 930 1171">Updates to Charts - many countries need review</td> <td data-bbox="930 1066 1125 1171">Everyone HERE</td> <td data-bbox="1125 1066 1338 1171">Continuous</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 1171 930 1241">Ethiopia, Belarus</td> <td data-bbox="930 1171 1125 1241">MCPS</td> <td data-bbox="1125 1171 1338 1241"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 1241 930 1310">Netherlands</td> <td data-bbox="930 1241 1125 1310">Balto Co</td> <td data-bbox="1125 1241 1338 1310"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 1310 930 1377"></td> <td data-bbox="930 1310 1125 1377"></td> <td data-bbox="1125 1310 1338 1377"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	What:	Who:	When:	MCPS Curriculum Guides for Math, Science, Social Studies - invite to discuss database and share findings at next meeting?	MCPS (Norka, Margarita)	By October	Updates to Charts - many countries need review	Everyone HERE	Continuous	Ethiopia, Belarus	MCPS		Netherlands	Balto Co				
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		<p>Assess what worked well and what didn't in this meeting</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="380 1482 1338 1843"> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 1482 857 1654">+ (What worked well)</td> <td data-bbox="857 1482 1338 1654"> (What to change in future meetings)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="380 1654 857 1843"></td> <td data-bbox="857 1654 1338 1843"></td> </tr> </table>	+ (What worked well)	 (What to change in future meetings)																
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