

Metropolitan Area Foreign Student Advisors  
Minutes for October 5, 2012 meeting  
Submitted by Silvia Hoke, Secretary

Meeting hosted by Prince George's County Public Schools

10:00 – 11:00 - Difficult transcripts

- UK
- Germany
- El Salvador
- Ghana

11:00 – 2:00 – General Meeting

- Secretary's notes: Minutes from previous meetings are posted on the website. New password for Charts will be sent out via email. Member list was circulated for updates.
- Country updates:
  - Nigeria – PGCC – information was brought showing that for JSS3, grading scale only shows A, C, P, and F. There is no 'B'. Further investigation was requested by members and will be shared at next meeting.
  - Korea – Howard Co. – grading scale. A different scale was presented, showing Usu = A, Botong = B/C, Miheup = C/D. Fairfax county will bring additional information. No changes made to charts.
  - Croatia – add grading scale
  - Bosnia – add grading scale
  - Lebanon – delete old grading scale and add new
  - France – No changes to current grading scale, but note that scales from different resources can vary greatly.
  - Benin – add grading scale
  - Central African Republic – add grading scale
  - Cameroon – How to give credit for SVT (Science de la Vie et de la Terre). Most districts use Integrated Science or General Science, not Biology for this course. Only Fairfax County uses it as Biology, but they do not have a graduation requirement of Biology state exam like the HSA's in Maryland.
  - El Salvador – suggested we add the words Primer, Segundo, Tercer to the Bachillerato school system chart for clarification.
  - Jamaica – suggested we add the comment: 5 Passes on CXC including English required for graduation.
  - For next meeting – we would like to add the exiting document for each country to the Chart. (Note: Juana Rivas noticed after the meeting that this is already on the Chart for most countries. We may just need to update for others.)

- Best Practices – Anne Arundel County – deferred to next meeting
- Discussion about yahoo! Group. It was decided to discontinue its use. Updated charts will be sent out via the website only, and members will be able to access the Charts only through the website.
- Update on AYP – Frederick County. They're good now! Only one high school in Frederick County interpreted the 4-year-cohort requirement from MSDE as meaning that all students must graduate in 4 years, including ELL's who enter with no English and need a 5<sup>th</sup> year to complete graduation requirements. New administration is helping.
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Most districts have seen an increase in secondary enrollments, as well as an increase in requests for records. We must be careful when handling these requests because it puts students at risk of exposing their immigration status at the school level. Proof of attendance is what's being required, which means that no new documents need to be created. It's important to reinforce with school level personnel that schools may not inquire about the immigration status of students or families, or the reason for requesting a student's record.

Next Meeting: February 22, 2013

Hosted by Fairfax County

Agenda items:

Sierra Leone school system

Publication of the Charts discussion

Nigeria – JSS3 grading scale

Korea – grading scale

Placing exiting document on Charts (already there?)

Best Practices – Anne Arundel County

10:00 – 11:00 – Charts training session

Fairfax – UK and France