

## Metropolitan Area Foreign Student Advisors - FY'21 Meetings

Website link: <https://www.mafsa.info/>

**Date: Friday, December 11, 2020**

**Topic: MAFSA Fall 2020 meeting**

**Time: 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.**

### **Attendees (everyone signs in) :**

Michele Forman, Prince William County Public Schools

Carol Zuhars, Fauquier County Public Schools

Candice Lenet, Baltimore County Public Schools

Marissa Yzita, Loudoun County Public Schools

Jennifer Ferrance, Loudoun County Public Schools

Beverly Pariser-Foster, Retired

Maria Cartagena-MCPS

Norka Padilla- MCPS

Patricia Chiancone- PGCPs

Karen Resumadero- PGCPs

Margaret Evans Headley- PGCPs

Maribel Jahanbakhsh-Tehran- MCPS

Ileana Alamo-Ramos - MCPS

Kelly Sheranko (Calvert County Public Schools, MD)

Namita Sharma(MCPS)

Valerie Chesley, FCCPS, VA

Janine Davis CCPS, VA

Tammy Zino-Seergae (Cecil County Public Schools, MD)

Lori Crisafulli (Caroline County Public Schools, MD)

Elizabeth Donaldson - Fairfax County Public Schools, VA

Alicia Corral-Clark- RCPS

Kimberly Peterson - WCPS :

Colby Lopez- Nelson County Public Schools

Eric Shelstad - DoDEA Europe South

Kendon Johnson - DoDEA Americas Southeast

Astrid Brueckner-DoDEA Europe West

Farah Rana- FCPS, VA  
Mariana Benavides- ACPS, Alexandria, VA  
Suzanne Lank, Alexandria, VA  
Rachel Linden- Harrisonburg City, VA  
RaMona Stahl - Harrisonburg City, VA  
Staunton Haskins - Staunton City, VA (NEW: shaskins@staunton.k12.va.us)  
Kimberly Adams- Queen Anne's County Public Schools, MD  
Monica Hewett, AACPS, MD  
Silvia Restivo, Frederick County Public Schools - Virginia  
Taina Compagnet AACPS, MD  
Kathy (Katherine) Gull, Frederick County Public Schools, MD  
Jessica Burgos, AACPS, MD  
Andrea Beckman, AACPS, MD  
Angela Flores, Richmond Public Schools, VA  
Christal Harkowa, Caroline County Public Schools, MD  
Corina Coronel , Arlington Public Schools, VA  
Ayesha Qasimi, Spotsylvania County Public Schools  
Regla Pérez-Pino, Prince William County Public Schools  
Vincent Hodge, Episcopal High School, Alexandria, VA  
Sheena Cox, Norfolk Public Schools, Norfolk, VA  
Elizabeth Miranda (Guest) Frederick County Public Schools  
Erin Coleman- Howard County Public Schools  
Adrienne Aviles- Bouloy( Stafford County School)  
Victoria Rayo (Howard County Public Schools)  
Alba N Morales-Anne Arundel County Public Schools,MD  
Yolanda E. Blake (Harrisonburg City Public Schools)  
Enid Lum (Cecil County Public Schools)  
Silvia Hoke (MAFSA Secretary)  
Patricia Ford *-(new member as of this meeting)* Frederick County Public Schools (Frederick, MD)  
Tara Jenkins- Chesterfield County Public Schools, Virginia  
Samarah Delgadillo (New)- Chesterfield County Public Schools, Virginia  
Alejandro Carmona (New)- Chesterfield County Public Schools, Virginia  
Jasmine Mcleod - Department of Defense Education Activity  
Erin Pierce-Inouye, Baltimore City Public Schools  
Joy Elliott - Prince William County Schools  
Jacqueline Smith-Henrico County Public Schools  
Anne Dillon-Henrico County Public Schools  
Juana Terrazas - Alexandria City Public Schools  
Miroslava Rogovich - Fauquier County Public Schools  
Saralyn Aylor - Fauquier County Public School  
Leanne Riordan - Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Annapolis, MD  
Kristine Lentz-Johnston -Spotsylvania County Schools  
Rhida Vazquez, Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) MD  
Dr. Verona Wilborn Stafford County Public Schools  
Justin D. Beamon - Hanover County Public Schools, VA

**Facilitators: Candice, Margarita & Silvia**

**Timekeeper (reminders/agenda adjustments): Margarita**

**Notetaker (important reminders/next steps): Silvia**

**Objectives:**

- Receive an overview of MAFSA and Charts
- Present transcripts for review/support
- Share different strategies and/or practices implemented during school closures
- Review general transcript evaluation questions
- Update Charts

**Next steps from previous meeting:**

- None

**To prepare for this meeting:**

- N/A

**Schedule (150 minutes)**

Time	Min.	Activity
1:00 p.m.	5"	<b>Sign-in, review of new agenda format and objectives</b> Welcome from Candice. Agenda is in chat box. Sign-in sheet is embedded in agenda. Please sign yourself in. Margarita is co-facilitating.
1:05 - 1:15 p.m.	10"	<b>Objective 1: MAFSA Membership and Chart Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MAFSA Overview - Candice -</li> <li>● Review membership guidelines -</li> <li>● Chart overview and upcoming training - Training to be announced and hosted at a later date.</li> </ul> <p><b>Notes:</b> MAFSA was created as a support group for area school districts to assist with credit evaluations and other related topics and issues. \$5 donations from members to help maintain our MAFSA website. Candice will send the membership list to the group at the end of the meeting for updating. Password to Charts is the same as last year. The password will be shared with new members once they join. Silvia will send out a link for everyone to pay the membership electronically. Contact Sylvia directly if you prefer a different method.</p>
1:15 - 1:35 p.m.	20"	<b>Objective 2: Members Present <a href="#">Transcripts</a> - click on link to open folder with sample transcripts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rwanda -</li> <li>● Hungary - MCPS</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● China - Norfolk, VA</li> </ul> <p><b>Notes:</b> Hungary - student provided school records. 2 years of 9th grade according to student. Has anyone else had a student from Hungary? Try to reach out to school for more information. Astrid (DODeA) will reach out to Ileana to help. She has contacts with NATO schools. Also need to interview family. Will circle back to everyone.</p> <p>China - Sheena - student enrolled in 19-20 school year and was placed as a junior. Question about proper grade placement. Are records for grade 9 or 10 from China? Needs to get name of school (Middle School = 7th, 8th, 9th). Senior Secondary = (10th, 11th, 12th). Can check translation (MAFSA website useful form or <a href="#">MVA - in MD</a> can offer official translator lists, or check with a Chinese teacher/program in Virginia). We can't always depend on the family's translation, but double-checking with bilingual staff members may also help. Note from Ivy Chaine (DC):</p> <p><a href="mailto:ivy.chaine@k12.dc.gov">ivy.chaine@k12.dc.gov</a></p>
1:35 - 2:05 p.m.	30"	<p><b>Objective 3: <a href="#">Share strategies/processes during COVID</a></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Screening Tools</li> <li>● Enrollment Processes</li> <li>● Reopening Plans</li> <li>● WIDA ACCESS Administration (Spring 2021)</li> </ul> <p><b>Notes: <a href="#">Check the link (above) to share strategies in the capture sheet.</a></b></p> <p>Question AACPS - how to use virtual screener to grant English credit? WIDA paper screener was done from May - November. Now schools are back in virtual mode, so how are English credits being determined? PGCPs is estimating level based on interviews. When student completes the course with a passing grade, it will confirm previous credits granted. In AACPS, granted credits cannot be changed once they are on the student's records. Some districts do not grant English credits for ESOL courses, and some list the credits as "pending" until the end of the year.</p> <p>Keep filling out Capture Sheet above (everyone)</p>
2:05 - 3:00 p.m.	55"	<p><b>Objective 4: General Credit Evaluation <a href="#">Questions</a></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Acceptable school records</li> <li>● Time frame for accepting school records</li> <li>● Awarding credits for virtual classes</li> <li>● Grade placement process when no records are provided</li> <li>● Verifying graduated students when no documents (ministry of education, national exams, final exams, GCSE scores) are provided</li> <li>● Awarding English credits using new screener (virtual questionnaire)</li> </ul> <p><b>Notes: <a href="#">See Questions link (above).</a></b> Pre-COVID, we had clear guidelines, but now it's more complicated. MCPS and BCPS - grade 12 question. Some schools are not providing end-of-year exams due to school closures (i.e. GCSE). If students have completed the school system but have not taken exiting exams, what are districts doing to determine if they've</p>

		<p>graduated? Regla (PWPCS) talked about this becoming an issue, and making appointments to discuss the educational history is even more important. (Concurrent enrollment in two different school systems is not something we do). Namita (MCPS) has some cases where students have not taken final exams due to COVID closures. Some are enrolling in both systems for virtual education. Records are sometimes changed after initial receipt.</p> <p>Big question - if students are continuing their enrollment in the home country, and attempt to enroll in the U.S. also, what should districts do? It's important to verify as much as possible students' enrollment status. Referrals to Adult Ed, continuing ed, college enrollment, etc. (Although we do not always have control over this.)</p> <p>Marissa-Loudoun County - for students coming from another U.S. school, it's important to reach out to them to get additional information.</p> <p>Namita (MCPS) - Are other districts requesting withdrawal letters before enrolling? Normally not.</p> <p>And also WAEC results from Ghana - if they haven't yet taken the exam, can they register?</p> <p>Numbers of Registrations: generally going down for everyone.</p> <p>Immigrant Updates: Pat (PGCPS) - (will post notes). New administration will implement changes for our students.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refugee numbers will go up</li> <li>2. Muslim ban reversed (affects countries like Nigeria too)</li> <li>3. TPS reinstated</li> <li>4. Health of Latino Youth due to Immigration research (published by MPI)</li> <li>5. DACA new cases being accepted as of Dec 7</li> <li>6. Children in detention being released</li> <li>7. Change in 'stay in Mexico' during asylum cases</li> <li>8. SIJV (Special Immigrant Juvenile Visa) and Public Charge changes</li> <li>9. Increase in international college enrollments (and dependents of international college student and visiting professors).</li> </ol> <p>Everyone please complete the questionnaire and we will revisit the topic at the next visit.</p>
<p>3:00 - 3:15 p.m.</p>	<p>15"</p>	<p><b>Objective 5: MAFSA Chart Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hungary - will be discussed at next meeting</li> <li>● Republic of North Macedonia - Astrid (DoDEA) -</li> <li>● Spain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is process for review/update recommendations to MAFSA info/charts?</li> <li>○ What sources are reputable to use?</li> <li>○ Is there a peer review before present to group?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Notes:</b> Astrid/Eric (DoDEA) has new information on Spain.  Grade 9 = 3 degree of ESO  Grade 10 = 4 degree of ESO  Grade 11 = 1 degree Bachillerato</p>

		<p>Grade 12 = 2 degree BAchillerato</p> <p>For grading scale, could add new one (with NCAA scale).</p> <p>Will wait for UK Naric information to confirm. Astrid and Elizabeth will research and send proposal to Juana if changes are recommended.</p>																					
<p>3:15 - 3:20 p.m.</p>	<p>5"</p>	<p><b>Review Next steps from this meeting (Action Items)</b></p> <p>New Topics: Is anyone else gathering feedback from families (EL services, placement, experience with registration, etc.)? Regla (PWCPs) has a link in all her emails asking for evaluations, also at web meetings. Question will be added to current survey.<a href="#">Share</a></p> <p>Question: What happens when partial records are provided/ final exams are delayed?</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="381 821 1338 1850"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="381 821 930 884">What:</th> <th data-bbox="930 821 1125 884">Who:</th> <th data-bbox="1125 821 1338 884">When:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="381 884 930 1276">Virtual Spring MAFSA Meeting Date?</td> <td data-bbox="930 884 1125 1276">Margarita/Candice will do another survey. Possible two more meetings this year. They will be virtual.</td> <td data-bbox="1125 884 1338 1276">ASAP</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="381 1276 930 1446">Transcript Evaluation Training Session (check chat for questions)</td> <td data-bbox="930 1276 1125 1446">Silvia</td> <td data-bbox="1125 1276 1338 1446">Will send out survey for date in early January</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="381 1446 930 1549">Review General Evaluations Chart <a href="#">Questions</a></td> <td data-bbox="930 1446 1125 1549">everyone</td> <td data-bbox="1125 1446 1338 1549"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="381 1549 930 1612">Complete Strategies Capture Sheet <a href="#">Share</a></td> <td data-bbox="930 1549 1125 1612">everyone</td> <td data-bbox="1125 1549 1338 1612"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="381 1612 930 1753">New Password for accessing Charts</td> <td data-bbox="930 1612 1125 1753">Silvia</td> <td data-bbox="1125 1612 1338 1753">As soon as member list is updated</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="381 1753 930 1850">Hungary grading scale and North Macedonia</td> <td data-bbox="930 1753 1125 1850">Astrid</td> <td data-bbox="1125 1753 1338 1850">For next meeting</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	What:	Who:	When:	Virtual Spring MAFSA Meeting Date?	Margarita/Candice will do another survey. Possible two more meetings this year. They will be virtual.	ASAP	Transcript Evaluation Training Session (check chat for questions)	Silvia	Will send out survey for date in early January	Review General Evaluations Chart <a href="#">Questions</a>	everyone		Complete Strategies Capture Sheet <a href="#">Share</a>	everyone		New Password for accessing Charts	Silvia	As soon as member list is updated	Hungary grading scale and North Macedonia	Astrid	For next meeting
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		Spain school system and grading scale	Astrid/Elizabeth	Next week
		New password for website Charts	Silvia	
3:20 - 3:30 p.m.	10"	<b>Assess what worked well and what didn't in this meeting</b>		
		<b>+ (What worked well)</b>	<b>▲ (What to change in future meetings)</b>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of complex transcripts with a focus on collaborative problem solving (I learned a lot-thank you)</li> <li>• Virtual was successful, thank you.</li> <li>• Well organized , thank you</li> <li>• Ditto on Virtual!</li> <li>• Great immigration news from Pat!</li> <li>• Enjoyed being able to attend virtually. Otherwise, I probably wouldn't have been able to attend. Thank you!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	