

2024 - 2025
February 28, 2025
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Virtual: ZOOM
Please join the meeting at:

PLEASE BE CAREFUL WHEN ADDING INFORMATION TO THE AGENDA-IT CAN BE EDITED AND SEEN BY EVERYONE WITH THE LINK!!

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

Facilitator: Silvia Hoke
Timekeeper (reminders/agenda adjustments): Candice Lenet
Notetaker (important reminders/next steps): Norka Padilla
Transcript Trainer: TBD

Objectives:

- Membership/Website Overview and Updates
- Secretary's Report
- Member Questions
- New Information for Charts
- New Business
- Schedule next meeting for: May 2025

Schedule:

Time	Min.	Activity
10:00 -	10"	Click here to sign in MEMBERS - Initial next to your name, make changes as necessary GUESTS - sign in at the bottom of the page
10:10		70 participants at 10:10

10:10 - 10:20	10"	Objective 1: Membership/Website Overview and Updates - Candice and Silvia Website was renewed for one year in April 2024. Thank you for your contributions! - 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, CashApp, PayPal, or check (include "Donation to MAFSA 2024-2025" 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 (Manager and maintains website) - Candice - Membership Chair: 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. Charts training date to be determined for new members/refresh.
10:20 - 10:25	5"	Objective 2: Secretary's Report - Silvia - Review of Minutes from last meeting (see below and on website) By-laws can be reviewed here. - Discuss "Best Practice" committee (Jacob Smit, Chesterfield VA) Notes: Jacob Smit - looking at reviving "Best Practices ' committee Seeking volunteers- outside of DMV area as well as Maryland new members are appreciated for perspective on needs Jacob_Smit@ccpsnet.net hokesilvia@gmail.com
10:30 - 11:15	45"	Objective 3: Member Questions 1. I have heard that some school districts have been able to compile detailed curriculums from certain countries. If those districts are willing to share, I would love to "compare notes" with what we have in our library at Chicago Public Schools. (Sarah Wohlleb - Chicago Public Schools) Notes: See country profiles link below and on MAFSA website. AI:Perplexity

		2. I have heard that some school districts have been able to implement testing to grant credit and/or determine appropriate class levels. We have a state-mandated English test but would be interested in understanding how other districts manage testing in mathematics and/or other subjects. Notes: Testing for granting credits, some districts have math placement assessments to use to grant credit by exam. BCPS uses math evaluation from the math department to grant credit. Credits are changed in collaboration with schools when more information is learned about students. 20 languages and use bilingual dictionary Fairfax County/Standards of Learning assessments-register and take assessments at welcome center, students can take additional assessments at school to earn credit. Assessments in top languages and students use dictionary. Prince William- assessments for math, science, and social studies - For countries that use IGSC, does anybody give honors credits or just regular credits for the students? If the family argues that the credits should be honors, what do you require the family to provide to justify it and who in the division justifies that the curriculum can count for Honors? Or do you use a different placement like IB to help the student? (Jacob Smit, Chesterfield County, VA) Notes: IGSC, per Cambridge, some course qualify as an honor - Do any VA school districts award more than 8 credits per school year for students coming from non US accredited international schools? (Jill Tucker, Fairfax County, VA) Notes: Loudoun-8 credits Richmond-8 Alexandria-8 7 PWCS- 9 - For districts who offer the IB Program. What grading scale do you use? The MAFSA scale or a different/internal one? (Marissa Yzita, Loudoun County, VA) Notes: IB scale is on MAFSA Grading scale on transcript/report card is to be used Chicago-6-7=A, 5=B, 4=C, 3=D - Do any districts utilize weighted GPA for "higher" performing/level" HS? (Min Woo, Howard County, MD) Notes:
--	--	--

		BCPS accepts letters from schools abroad to justify awarding honors Receive documentation, file, and be prepared to justify. - Discuss/review transcripts from Jamaica--what do you evaluate for a student that has completed the 11th grade? Is the student able to register in your school district IF they did not pass the CSEC? What if the student has enrolled in Form 6? Then what? (Sheena Cox, Norfolk, VA) Notes: Most school systems withdraw students when discovered they have graduated or meet the criteria for the equivalent of a high school diploma. - Has anyone evaluated transcripts from Benin? Can you share their education system/coursework? (Sheena Cox, Norfolk, VA) Notes: Add Benin, see ministry of education - Do we award credits for completing half a year of school? (Shiraz Bensalem, Arlington County, VA) Notes: Depends on the country. Most award half credit for the semester, half credit for half a year. A few do not award partial credit and are revisiting trimesters.
11:15 - 11:45	30 "	Objective 4: New Information for Charts (Marissa Yzita - Charts Manager) Transcript Evaluation Database (Silvia) - check here for Country Profiles. Updates have been added for several countries, including curriculum guides for the Dominican Republic. Marissa has made changes to Dominican Republic, Guatemala and El Salvador, Guatemala school system, Silvia added new grading scale for Haiti to the Charts. Updated Charts are now posted on the website for members to access via the password-protected page. - 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, and add the info to the shared database: Sign up HERE to review specific countries From last meeting: - Ivory Coast (Jennifer Leigh - Manassas City Public Schools) - New Zealand (Ana Acevedo - DCPS) (Year 10 equivalent to our grade 9)

		○ Equatorial Guinea ?? (doesn't appear to be included) ○ Also, Aruba ?? (APS...sorry, yes we will see what we can find) ○ Serbia? (Andrea Beckman - AACPS) ● New counties to review: ○ Laos (Ana Acevedo - DCPS) 1-5 ES, 6-9 lower secondary, 10-12 upper secondary, grading out of 10 ○ Montenegro- research needed ○ Australia- similar to New Zealand, all narrative formate with different calendars. Guidance from embassy- read narrative to determine the grade or use pass/fail. (Canada has some similar schools) Notes: Looking for grade equivalencies, is K mandatory, when do they graduate, what is required for graduation, grading scales, curriculum- math, science, social studies- what do they study so we can compare with our transcripts Use all of the tools to evaluate properly. How are international records being stored? Some districts hold them at the international office.
		Objective 5: New Business (if any) ● Ana Johnson (Fredericksburg, VA) - use of SCED codes ● Cameroon birth certificate ● Providing original transcripts to colleges/universities upon request after evaluation Notes: Different states have different graduation requirements. Some classes are not permitted to be retaken for credit. Virginia - accepts Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 for Integrated 1-3. Cameroon- what to do when the birth certificate when the whole name is listed on the surname. FNU is listed on passport and visa- some districts use it and then use a "preferred" name for the first name Some use the official name form US documents What does flexible modality mean from Guatemala? (flexible schedule, only going a few times a week, but it is an accelerated program of core courses) https://digeex.mineduc.gob.gt/digeex/programa-modalidades-flexibles-para-la-educacion-media/

11:45 - 12:00	15"	Closing: Dates for 2024 - 2025 Meetings: Tentative dates, meetings to be held virtually or hybrid. • May 16, 2025 10-12 • Date for next Charts Training -Notes: Please copy Silvia Hoke when exchanging information regarding MAFSA information so she can update our copy profiles Email Silvia if you are interested in being a charts trainer. MAFSA would like to develop a core group of 10 to help train. Discussing immigration supports: • https://www.cps.edu/services-and-supports/new-presidential-administration-guidance • https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/osi/immigration-supports/ • https://www.pgcps.org/offices/communications-and-community-engagement/newsroom/resources/immigration-resources • https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/partnerships/Resources/Files/OC_P_Relief_Haiti_Afghanistan.Pdf •																		
		Review Next steps from this meeting (Action Items) and Evaluation <table><tr><th>What:</th><th>Who:</th><th>When:</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Updates to Charts - many countries need review</td><td>Everyone HERE</td><td>Continuous</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	What:	Who:	When:				Updates to Charts - many countries need review	Everyone HERE	Continuous									
What:	Who:	When:																		
Updates to Charts - many countries need review	Everyone HERE	Continuous																		
		Assess what worked well and what didn't in this meeting <table><tr><td>+ (What worked well)</td><td> (What to change in future meetings)</td></tr></table>	+ (What worked well)	 (What to change in future meetings)																
+ (What worked well)	 (What to change in future meetings)																			

		Discussion about immigrant supports	
		Good turn out from DMV and beyond	