SEVP
STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

National Association of State Administrators and Supervisors of Postsecondary Schools (NASASPS)
Annual Conference Briefing
April 29, 2014
Agenda

• About SEVP
• Certification and Recertification
• Compliance Updates
• Policy News
• Field Representatives Roll-out
• Partner Coordination and Outreach
• Government Resources
• Question and Answer
About SEVP

- Certify institutions
- Recertify every two years
- Monitor compliance
- Withdraw schools
- Develop policy for institutions and students
- Outreach to stakeholders
- Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)
- SEVP Analysis and Operations Center (SAOC)
- SEVP Response Center (SRC)
- SEVP Field Representatives
Division of Responsibility with Department of State

• SEVP certifies schools
• SEVP maintains SEVIS
• SEVP manages participation of F and M nonimmigrant students

• State Department designates exchange visitor program sponsors
• State Department issues F, M and J visas
• State Department manages exchange visitors
## Forms Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form I-17</th>
<th>Form I-20</th>
<th>Form I-901</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student”</td>
<td>“Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status”</td>
<td>“I-901 SEVIS fee”</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| • Submitted electronically to apply for and maintain a school’s certification in SEVIS | • Paper record of information in SEVIS  
• Necessary for visa application  
• Signed by designated school official (DSO) | • The fee is $200 for F and M students  
• Paid once, before the student comes into the United States.  
• Associated with the SEVIS ID on the Form I-20 |
Certification Process

Schools wishing to enroll nonimmigrant students must:

1. Apply and be granted SEVP certification to accept nonimmigrant students
   – File the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Form I-17, “Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student”
   – Provide required evidence
   – Receive a school visit from SEVP
   – Complete a comprehensive adjudication process

2. Appoint a DSO

3. Submit to continuous monitoring through SEVIS for compliance with federal regulations
Certification vs. Accreditation

• Certification
  – Granted by SEVP
  – Required to enroll nonimmigrant students
  – Recertification every two years

• Accreditation
  – From a regional or national organization
  – Recognized by U.S. Department of Education (ED)

√ Separate distinctions
√ Accreditation by an ED-recognized organization can simplify the process for SEVP certification
Certification Updates

• Initials and updates
  – Committed to reducing wait times

• Recertification
  – 100% of all eligible schools have been notified
  – Rolling process

• Resources
  – Certification best practices
    • StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/schools/certification
  – Form I-17 Tutorial
    • StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/i-17-tutorial
SEVP Analysis & Operations Center

• Compliance best practices
• English as a Second Language (ESL) Accreditation Act update
  – December 14, 2013 deadline
  – Guidance for affected institutions
• Out of cycle reviews and site visits
• Optional practical training (OPT) update
  – Best practices and reminders
Policy Updates

• Draft Guidance for comment
  – Welcome stakeholder feedback
  – StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/draft-guidance

• Regulatory updates
  – DSO limitations
  – Dependent part-time study

• A look ahead
  – Upcoming draft guidance feedback opportunities
Field Representatives

• Hired first 15 of 60 field representatives
  – Serve as liaison between SEVP and schools
  – 60 field representatives will be distributed across three regions (east, west, central)
  – 8 week training at SEVP

• Deployment schedule
  – First class: April 2014
  – Upcoming classes: hiring announced on USAjobs.gov
Intergovernmental Coordination

- The White House
- Department of Homeland Security Headquarters
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
- Congressional Members and Staff
- Office of Management and Budget
- Department of Education
- Department of State
- Federal Bureau of Investigations
- Social Security Administration
- Department of Motor Vehicles
Government Resources

• Study in the States
  – Webinars and Live Q&A sessions
  – SEVP guidance for comment
  – Social media platforms
    • Twitter: @StudyinStates
    • Facebook: Facebook.com/StudyintheStates
    • Blog: StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/blog

• SEVP publications
  – SEVP Spotlight Newsletter (Quarterly)
  – SEVP Conference Bulletin (Monthly)
SEVP Values Your Feedback

• Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey
  – StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/schools/conferences/survey
Question and Answer

• For case specific questions, contact the SEVP Response Center:
  – (703) 603–3400
  – SEVP@ice.dhs.gov
  – Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, except holidays

• For technical issues, contact the SEVIS Help Desk:
  – (800) 892–4829
  – Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, except holidays