

**ICE**  
Office of  
Investigations  
(SEVP)

**“A Case of Perservance”**

*The Student & Exchange  
Visitor Program in 2010*

Eighth Washington International Education Conference  
January 25, 2010

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

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**Agenda**

- SEVP Revenue Shortfall (Briefly)
- SEVIS II Status (Briefly)
- Expanded SEVP Response Center (Briefly)
- Liaison Program Status (Briefly)
- New SEVP Microsite (Briefly)
- Recertification (In more detail)
- Qs & As

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**Revenue Shortfall**

- ❖ FY-2009 Contingency Plan --- 28.75% shortfall
- ❖ Results
  - ❖ Delay hiring 60 Liaisons until FY-2010
  - ❖ Delay hiring 99 agents until FY-2010
  - ❖ Reduce travel by 50%
  - ❖ No reduction to SEVIS II development
- ❖ Actual shortfalls 17.5%
- ❖ FY-2010 Contingency Plan
  - ❖ Assume 17.5% shortfall
  - ❖ Defer hiring agents until FY-2011
  - ❖ Hire all Liaisons
  - ❖ Fully support stakeholder conferences and meetings
  - ❖ No reduction to SEVIS II development

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**SEVIS II Status**

- ❖ Originally scheduled to deploy October 1, 2009
- ❖ Development continues
- ❖ Functional Requirements Document (FRD) being enhanced (Feb 23)
- ❖ Contractor to then develop new timeline & cost
  - Why We Are At This Juncture
    - Capabilities for stakeholders
    - National security vulnerabilities
    - SEVIS Feasibility Study
    - Timeline --- 5 years, then 4 years, then 2 years
    - Result of short timeline
      - ✓ Iterative process (12 products)
      - ✓ Minimum feedback planned
      - ✓ Parallel development
      - ✓ Rework or accept reduced capability
- ❖ Briefing “way ahead” now up the ICE/DHS chain

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**Expanded SEVP  
Response Center (SRC)**

- Current SEVIS I Help Desk unauual
- Contractor bid --- 200 calls/day; no Batch or students
- Huge cost for contractor to “do it all”
- Decision to expand current SRC
  - Approximately 17 people (3 Feds, 14 contractors)
  - 7 IT, 8 Ops, 2 analysts
- All calls come to single #; triaged
  - BAH for IT technical
  - SRC IT for Batch
  - Ops for everything else, including adjudicative issues and students
- SRC in place mid-2011

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**SEVP Liaison Program**

- 60 Liaisons in field; 5 in Arlington
- Geographically located
- Work from home
- Car, laptop, aircard, Blackberry, videoconferencing
- Minimum Starting = \$50,287 (GS-11)
- Minimum Maximum = \$93,175 (GS-13)
- Gunning for PDSOs & DSOs
- Extensive training (min. 2 months in DC)
- In place by Fall 2011

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## SEVP MicroSite

- New, user-friendly SEVP interactive website
- Separate from ICE.gov
- Uses most popular social media tools
  - Separate website
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Text messaging
- Training
- All policies and procedures
- All training (DSOs, SEVIS I & II, etc.)
- Greatly enhance SEVP Comms w/schools & students
- Timely information in fast manner

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## Recertification

*The Time is Now*

Sharon Snyder  
Chief, SEVP Policy Branch

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## Goals of Recertification

- Review School Performance
  - Clearly inform schools what we expect
  - Improve our processes
  - Assist non-compliant schools to become compliant
- SEVIS Review
  - Confirm the accuracy of data in SEVIS
  - Review current SEVIS capabilities to determine regulatory and SEVIS II needs
- *Not drive the DSOs nuts with a complicated and ambiguous process!*

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## Before Recertification

- All DSO listings should be up to date
- All DSO Contact Information, especially e-mail addresses, should be current and verified
- Ensure that any and all firewalls will not prevent e-mail from SEVP
  - The [sysadmin.sevis@dhs.gov](mailto:sysadmin.sevis@dhs.gov) should not be blocked
- Verify that the school mailing address in SEVIS is accurate
- Audit student records for accuracy
- Watch for broadcast messages

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## How will recertification work?

- 6 months (180 days) to complete all recertification package requirements, *plan accordingly!*
- Clear requirements clear so schools can respond completely and effectively
- SEVP will:
  - Use of "scorecard"
  - Give specialized explanations of requirements
  - Issue a Request For Evidence (RFE) as allowed by 8 CFR 103.2(8) only for clarification
  - Provide resources

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## What is a 'Complete Package'

- Electronic submission of Form I-17 in SEVIS
- Signed Form I-17 and all supporting evidence mailed/faxed\* to SEVP
- Any applicable fee requirements paid
  - Change of ownership - \$1700
  - Change of location - \$650
  - Campus addition - \$650 per
- All supporting evidence submitted to SEVP at one time
- The *complete package* must be received by SEVP prior to the Certification Expiration Date

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## To File

- Only the PDSO can submit the I-17 in SEVIS
- May only be submitted after the 180 day notice is sent to the DSOs
- Access to SEVIS is retained during recertification if the school complies with the petition submission requirements
- The date of service of all notices is the date of transmission from SEVIS via email
- Carefully review the evidence package to ensure it is complete
  - Incomplete submissions will result in an automatic withdrawal -for abandonment- which does not have appeal rights



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## Required Evidence

- Recertification Evidence Analysis Tool is available online on home page
- Evidence requirements are based on:
  - Type of accreditation
  - Type of school
- Contact SEVP for any questions
- After consultation you may submit supplementary evidence or explanation for anything you are unable to provide
- All evidence must be submitted in one package



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## SEVP Recertification Scorecard

SEVP Recertification Scorecard (SRMF)	
Applicant Mail	Score
<b>Section 1: Complete Appropriate Type</b>	
1. Accredited (Level, State, Federal)	Yes
2. Public Institution	Yes
3. Accredited by State	Yes
4. Accredited by Federal	Yes
5. Accredited by State	Yes
<b>Section 2: Reporting</b>	
6. School Reporting	Yes
7. Student Reporting	Yes
8. Reporting Change Reported to ICE	Yes
<b>Section 3: School Reporting</b>	
9. Complete (School)	Yes
10. Complete (Institution)	Yes
11. Complete (State)	Yes
12. Complete (Federal)	Yes
13. Complete (Other)	Yes
14. Complete (Other)	Yes
15. Complete (Other)	Yes
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97. Complete (Other)	Yes
98. Complete (Other)	Yes
99. Complete (Other)	Yes
100. Complete (Other)	Yes

Bona Fides:  
Hard Fail

Ownership:  
Hard Fail

School Reporting:  
Soft Pass

Student Reporting:  
Soft Pass



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## Request For Evidence

- Only sent for clarification of information or evidence provided
- Will not be sent to request missing items
  - Adjudicators will not request documents overlooked in the submission of the complete evidence package
- 30 days to respond to the RFE
- Only 1 RFE will be sent if needed
- The burden of proof of eligibility falls on the school
- If no response is received by the close of the 30 day response period the school will be automatically withdrawn



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## Recertification Decision

- Approval *and* Denial Notices will be communicated via e-mail
- Approval means your school met the *minimum* SEVP certification requirements for continued approval in SEVIS
- Recertification approval does *not* mean that validation studies and other types of review will not be conducted over the next period of certification
- The time needed to adjudicate a complete package will be based on the volume of petitions received and ongoing experience with that workload
- Decision date does not effect future Certification Expiration Dates



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## Questions to ask

1. Has a PDSO change been reported?
    - Is their e-mail address current?
  2. Have DSO changes been reported?
    - Has proof of citizenship or legal permanent residence been supplied?
    - Are their e-mail addresses current?
  3. Has the spam filter been removed?
  4. Are student addresses current?
    - Student addresses must be the physical location where they reside
- If in doubt, call first- do not submit an incomplete package



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## Questions & Answers