



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

**SEVP**  
STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington  
International Educators  
Conference**  
*Jan. 25, 2016*

# Presentation Overview

- Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) optional practical training (OPT) overview
- Policy updates
- News from the School Certification Unit
- Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) enhancements
- Student and school hot topics
- Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) Webinar Series

# Regulatory Fast Facts

## *STEM OPT*

- Rule overview
  - Allow F-1 STEM students to extend OPT period by 24 months
  - Improve oversight of STEM OPT extensions
    - Mentoring and training plans document learning goals and objectives for practical training
    - Wage and other protections for STEM OPT students and U.S. workers
    - Extensions only for students with degrees from accredited schools

# Upcoming Draft Policy Guidance

- Student employment – practical training, including:
  - F-1 OPT
  - F-1 curricular practical training
  - M-1 practical training
  - F-1 and M-1 record keeping and reporting
  - H-1B cap-gap

# Upcoming Interim Final Policy Guidance

- Pathway Programs
- F-1 Student Absence
- F-1 Annual Vacation and School Breaks
- M-1 Student Absence and School Breaks
- Definition of the Academic Year
- Border Commuter Address Requirements
- F-1 Five Month Guidance
- Designated School Official (DSO) Staffing of Instructional Sites
- Engaged in Instruction
- Change of Ownership

# What's New in School Certification

## *Reducing Processing Times for Form I-17 Updates*

- Goals
  - Eliminate the current backlog for principal designated school official (PDSO) and DSO updates by March 25, 2016
  - Provide an adjudication decision within 10 business days of receipt for any new PDSO and DSO updates
- What school officials need to know
  - Submit complete petition requests
  - Respond to SEVP in a timely manner
  - Submit PDSO and DSO updates alone in SEVIS
- Resources

# Planning Ahead

## *SEVIS News and Upcoming Enhancements*

- PDSO/DSO Annual Verification Project
  - PDSO must verify SEVIS users before March 2, 2015
- Reminder: Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status,” conversion deadline
  - Required for in-country use beginning July 1, 2016
- SEVIS Release 6.23 – December 2015
  - Improved student event history display
- Planned enhancements for 2016
  - Multiple releases planned for this year

# Compliance and the Community

## *Student Hot Topics*

- Special relief for Nepalese students
  - Suspension of certain requirements for F-1 Nepalese students as a result of the April 2015 earthquake
- I-901 SEVIS Fee payment
  - Form updates
  - Notice of unpaid I-901 SEVIS Fee
- Student scams
  - Report scams to Homeland Security Investigations Tip Line
    - Call 866-DHS-2-ICE
- Form I-515A, “Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor”
  - Submit paperwork to SEVP within 30 days
  - SEVP notice regarding termination of student records



# Compliance and the Community

## *School Hot Topics*

- SEVIS Access Approval Project
  - Coming soon
- Record keeping best practices
  - Keep student records up-to-date
  - Ensure accurate reporting of student information
  - Ensure timely reporting
  - Do not share SEVIS passwords
- Out-of-cycle reviews (OCR) and requests for evidence (RFE)
  - Submit response electronically
  - Respond to SEVP by the date indicated

## SEVP Webinar Series

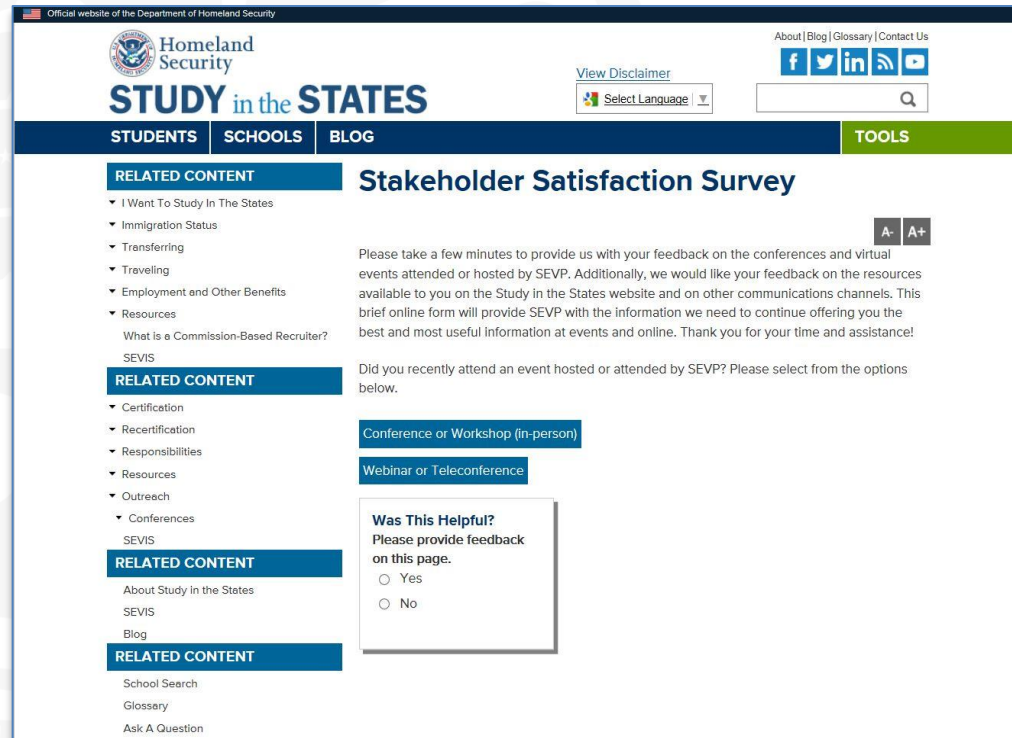
### *Ask the Experts: PDSO/DSO Updates Way Forward*

- Mark your calendars: Feb. 9, 2016, 1 – 2 p.m. EST
  - Listen to School Certification Unit adjudicators discuss the new PDSO and DSO updates process
  - Hear the progress SEVP has made with reducing the backlog
  - Participate in a live question and answer session with School Certification Unit adjudicators
- Call for questions
  - Submit webinar questions to [SEVPOutreach@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVPOutreach@ice.dhs.gov)

# SEVP Values Your Feedback

## *StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Survey*

- Take our Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey today
- Your opportunity to provide feedback on this conference presentation
- Comments reviewed throughout the year



The screenshot shows the 'STAKEHOLDER SATISFACTION SURVEY' page on the 'STUDY in the STATES' website. The page features a navigation menu with 'STUDENTS', 'SCHOOLS', and 'BLOG' tabs, and a 'TOOLS' button. The main content area includes a 'RELATED CONTENT' sidebar with links to 'I Want To Study In The States', 'Immigration Status', 'Transferring', 'Traveling', 'Employment and Other Benefits', and 'Resources'. The main text area contains the survey title, a request for feedback, and a question about attending an event. There are also buttons for 'Conference or Workshop (in-person)' and 'Webinar or Teleconference', and a 'Was This Helpful?' feedback form with 'Yes' and 'No' radio buttons.

# SEVP Contact Information

- Contact the SEVP Response Center by:
  - Phone:
    - 703-603-3400, or
    - 800-892-4829
  - Email:
    - For case-specific questions, email [SEVP@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@ice.dhs.gov).
    - For technical issues, email [SEVISHelpDesk@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVISHelpDesk@ice.dhs.gov).
  - Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except holidays
- Additional contact information:
  - [StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Contact-Us](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Contact-Us)