

September 18, 2007

<u>MEMORANDUM</u>

FOR: Secondary School Student Sponsor Community

FROM: Stanley S. Colvin

Director, Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Department of State

SUBJECT: CSIET Audit Template

The Department has reviewed the Audit Template that CSIET prepared for the community and embraces CSIET's independent adoption of a third party audit. We recognize the significant group effort that went into the creation of this template, and we commend the industry for developing a self-assessment tool that should strengthen their programs – to the shared benefit of the sponsor community, the exchange visitor participants, and the Department's foreign policy initiatives.

The Department fully supports the creation and implementation of third party audits of sponsor compliance with the Exchange Visitor Program regulations set forth in 22 CFR Part 62. Not only has the Department implemented a similar audit for the Au Pair category of sponsors, but it is in the process of designing similar audits for several sponsor categories. A future version of Subpart A of the regulations will reflect these mandatory audits. In the interim, the community's implementation of the CSIET Template provides a jump start on obtaining critical information.

Experience has shown that the Au Pair Management Audit provides valuable statistics on various aspects of Au Pair sponsor operations and regulatory compliance. The Secondary School Student sponsor community and the Department should similarly benefit from the initial audits conducted this fall using the CSIET Template. We look forward to reviewing the results of these audits.