

Personal Post Insights and Special Needs resources

Overseas Briefing Center has a communication tool for learning about special needs issues at post. I will share what it is, how to find it, and why potentially useful to you and how you can contribute as well from your own experience for others.

Personal Post Insights

Like the listserv, **Personal Post Insights** is an informal resource, but one that is nimble and very specific to the experiences and discoveries of those at post. Over 3000 surveys exist for posts within the last three years. The anonymous surveys may be completed by family members on the OBC internet website, or by employees on the OpenNet . See whole review, or specifically focus on multiple answers to one question to get overview

Besides questions on various aspects of preparation and advice for post (housing, security, education, activities, etc) we include a specific question for comments on the post which asks about special needs.

Surveys are organized by post, with separate collection of those posts where someone has responded to special needs inquiry; these responses take two directions:

- Physical needs (handicap accessible)
- Educational special needs

Value of these PPIs is as good as the information from contributors (comprehensive, frequent)

- PPI can include comments on school capabilities; alternative resources; individuals with expertise; contacts for other assistance.
- PPI also has a second question directly on schools
- Replies to both questions should be viewed as a part of the mosaic of resources from OOS ECS to give full picture of what is available.
- PPIs are quick and nimble and able to reflect current dynamic at post. Additional information can be shared quickly and directly.
- Interoffice coordination: OOS uses as another preview for what's up with issues, concerns, solutions. Can add additional facts as they are available in ready way.

Accessible to family members:

- Employee can email from **Post Info To Go** system on OpenNet
- OBC staff: fsiobcinfocenter@state.gov