Frequently Asked Questions

How is SEVIS II different from SEVIS?

SEVIS II will be more efficient, more effective and more customer-friendly. SEVIS II will take advantage of changes in technology since the program's launch five years ago to provide a more efficient and satisfying experience for students, school administrators and law enforcement. Each individual in the system will have a unique identifier to reduce duplicate records and inconsistent data. SEVIS II will rely on electronic forms, with the goal of eventually creating an entirely paperless system. Data will be entered and accessed based on specific rules used by the entire community and be accessed only by those who have the need and approval to do so.

Who is involved in the design and implementation of SEVIS II?

SEVP, working with our team of technical developers, is coordinating all aspects of the design and launch of the SEVIS II system. End-users of the program—including educators, administrators and admissions personnel—have provided significant input as to how the new system should work, to ensure that the education community has a voice in the development process.

When will SEVIS II be implemented?

Implementation of SEVIS II is planned for September 2009, and SEVP plans an extensive information and training program prior to the launch. Please visit the SEVP Web site regularly for status updates.

Where can I find more information on SEVIS II?

For more information on SEVIS II, visit SEVP online at **www.ice.gov/sevis.**

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Report Suspicious Activity:
1-866-DHS-2-*ICE*
1-866-DHS-2423

www.ice.gov

Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)

SEVIS II

Student and Exchange Visitor
Information System—
The Next Generation

**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) strives to balance the goal of secure borders with the need for open doors for legitimate international students and exchange visitors seeking to participate in U.S. education and cultural exchange programs.

SEVP's primary tool is the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), a Web-based system for administering visas for students and exchange visitors studying in the United States. SEVIS was developed in part to close vulnerabilities identified when one of 19 terrorists in the 9/11 attack was found to have entered the United States on a student visa.

In September 2009, ICE will launch the next generation of the program with SEVIS II—a completely new system for managing student records and ensuring national security. SEVIS II is being developed with the full participation of the educational community, to ensure that the program's stakeholders and end-users have a voice as the system is enhanced, streamlined and made more user-friendly.

Working Together: Cooperation with Stakeholders

The original SEVIS program's successes have been largely due to the continuing participation and feedback provided by educators, administrators, admissions personnel and other end-users of the program. Throughout the life of the program, SEVP has provided patches and upgrades to SEVIS in response to users' requests as part of a commitment to ongoing improvement.

In 2007, SEVP determined, again based upon input from educators and other stakeholders, that a completely new system was required to respond to changing technological demands. Working with these stakeholders, SEVP identified and prioritized critical enhancements needed for the next generation of SEVIS. In addition, SEVP has hosted a series of stakeholder conferences in locations around the United States to ensure open communication during the development of SEVIS II.

SEVIS II Features

A Unique Identifier System: Introduces a "one-person, one-record" system that will help reduce data inconsistencies and duplications and reduce document fraud through the use of biometric identifiers.

A Paperless System: Decreases reliance on paper forms and allows for the real-time update of all forms, moving users toward a paperless environment.

Improved Efficiency: Expedites standard transactions for students and school administrators by integrating information and offering real-time availability of completed forms.

Simplified Interface: Consolidates previously separate data management systems into a single portal with a unified look and feel.

Enhanced Usability: Simplifies data entry via standardized formatting and uniform procedures, making the program more user-friendly and reducing the opportunity for errors.

Comprehensive Training Module: Improves convenience and reduces costs for training SEVIS II users through an online training guide.

Advanced Query and Reporting Tools: Enhances search capabilities by consolidating information to enable searches based on specific criteria such as academic major, criminal history, immigration status and more.

Integrated, Real-Time Information-Sharing: Integrates threat-tracking systems used by various law enforcement agencies to coordinate more effective investigations and enables real-time automatic notifications and alerts to law enforcement agents to facilitate more timely investigations.