

Student and Exchange Visitor Program Office

SEVIS Technical Conference Call with the Educational Community

Questions and Answers from Wednesday, March 22, 2006

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1. CLAIMS update for pending OPT applications

Thank you for updating us on the progress of CLAIMS change of status data matches in SEVIS.

As you are aware from previous calls, many OPT EAD applications still show as “pending” in SEVIS even though they have been approved by the Service Center. Will you be receiving CLAIMS data updates for OPT applications that would resolve this issue as well?

RESPONSE: We will look into receiving updates from CLAIMS for OPT requests that have already been adjudicated. It is a more complicated process than receiving COS updates because for COS requests we receive pending updates from CLAIMS; therefore, we were able to provide the CLAIMS team with the receipt numbers associated with each request, and request any updates. For OPT, the requests are submitted in SEVIS and only adjudications are received from CLAIMS. It will be more difficult for the CLAIMS team to search for adjudications because we cannot provide them with receipt numbers to trace back to the requests.

We will plan to discuss this at our next CLAIMS interface meeting to determine if a plan could be developed for this process. We will provide an update for this on a future call.

2. Use of Transfer Out correction

The RTI user’s manual for F/M schools (p. 140 vol. 2) states that the new Transfer Out correction can be used to transfer a student back to the original school:

“If a student decides not to transfer or wishes to transfer to a different school, and the release date has already passed, the PDSO at the transfer-in school may transfer the record back to the original school or forward to a different school...”

The response to question 13 in the [SEVIS Release 5.1 Training Questions & Answers](#) (PDF format) posted on the ICE Web site, however, states that this correction should not be used if a student mistakenly transferred intends to remain at the original school:

“This correction should only be performed if the student’s original school (school A) transferred the record to the wrong school (school B). In this situation, school B would update the record to Initial status and transfer the record to the correct school (school C). The record would then appear as Deactivated with school B and Draft with school C. Please note that you should not use this correction if school A transferred the student’s record to your school (school B) in error and the student intends to remain at school A. In this case, a



data fix should be requested to cancel the transfer."

Could you clarify this guidance for us?

RESPONSE: The information provided in the SEVIS User Manual is incorrect. PDSOs should only use the correction function if the intent is to transfer the record to a different school. In order to return a record back to the original school, the PDSO should contact the SEVIS Help Desk and request the transfer to be cancelled. Please continue to follow the guidance from the Release 5.1 training. Resolution of this discrepancy is currently a priority. Once the proper correction is made to the SEVIS User Manual, SEVP will inform schools via a broadcast message estimated for the first week in April.

3. Batch pre-validation and pre-visa issuance functionality

Are there plans to have batch eventually support pre-validation, pre-visa issuance change of category edits? Currently this is something that can be done RTI, but not thru batch process.

RESPONSE: It is the intent of the Department of State to have RTI and Batch to work uniformly.

4. Form Purpose for Dependents of EVs

While there are 2 choices for the form purpose on an "Add Dependent" event, Permit dependents to enter US separately or Begin new Program accompanied by dependents, once the EV is in active status, the form purpose always appears on the form as Permit dependents to enter the U.S. separately.

Since EVs may return home to accompany their J-2 to the U.S., this form purpose is not necessarily accurate. In fact, there is no appropriate form purpose for such a scenario. We are not sure whether the form purpose, if inaccurate, causes problems for any J-2.

Further, staff has also commented that while batch users are required to indicate a form purpose with their Add Dependent event, the form purpose is apparently not utilized once the EV record has been validated.

RESPONSE: To date, the Department is unaware of any situations whereby "The Purpose of This Form..." has created any difficulty for someone to receive a visa or to enter the United States. In discussing the scenario provided with the question, Consular Affairs has stated that they would consider the family of the exchange visitor (who has entered the United States and is participating in a program and who has returned to his/her home country to escort the family to the United States) to be entering separately - as the exchange visitor (J-1) has already begun his/her exchange activity. Therefore, the Department does not anticipate any changes to the process.

