July 17, 2012 Webinar
(Initial Operating Capability)
Questions and Answers

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Implementation Time Line

Q: You indicated that SEVIS II implementation will not occur this year or next year. Does that mean that IOC will occur in 2014?

A: We will have a defined schedule once we have a better idea of how long it will take to actually build SEVIS II.

Q: Has a vendor been selected to begin SEVIS II development?

A: No. Currently we do not have permission from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to procure a vendor.

Q: When is the cost estimation process expected to be completed?

A: The Life Cycle Cost Estimate is expected to be completed in September 2012.

Q: Is there an expected date for rebaselining to be complete?

A: No.

Design and Accessibility

Q: How will SEVIS II accommodate second language students? Will SEVIS II be only in English for international students?

A: SEVIS II will be only in English, just as SEVIS is now. All instructions will be as simple as possible (5th-8th grade reading level). We recognize that this does not help ESL students with a limited English proficiency, but they can designate Account Managers to manage their account until they have the language ability to manage it on their own.

Q: Is SEVP confident that SEVIS II won't change much before implementation?

A: Yes. We do not anticipate SEVIS II functionality changing very much from the way it has been envisioned.

Q: Has there been research on the User Interface with international subjects to further develop thoughts on web design and ease of use?

A: Except for some research done by the State Department, there has not been a lot of research done on the user interface with international students in mind. SEVP worked very hard to develop a site that is as easy to use as possible. However, ease of use can vary with the user's ability to understand the language. To create a system that is as user friendly as possible, SEVP plans to test the system and will make appropriate adjustments as needed. Additionally, instructional text that appears on screens in SEVIS II will be database driven, which means that the text can be easily changed should if it is not clear enough to be understood by non-native speakers of English. We do recognize that it is a challenge to support such a wide audience.

Q: I have seen initial screenshots and if the end product is anything like what we've seen, I'm afraid navigation will be challenging for the international user.

A: We appreciate your concern. SEVP is doing its best to design a system that is as easy for the user as possible.

Q: Will SEVIS II be ADA compliant?

A: SEVIS II will comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act which requires Federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology accessible to an individual with disabilities.

Q: Can a P/DSO login to two computers at the same time using the same account login?

A: P/DSOs must never log on to two computers simultaneously. That constitutes a security breach that potentially allows access to an individual who is not authorized to use the system.

Regulations

Q: My understanding is that there will be new regulations accompanying SEVIS II implementation. Are there general timelines on expected new regulations?

A: SEVP cannot discuss specifics related to the new regulations at this time. However, regulations will be released in time for SEVIS II. There will be a preliminary rule making and a final rule making, so you will have an opportunity to comment on the new regulations.

Q: Have the numbers of DSOs per school changed? Or will there still be a limit of 10 DSOs per school?

A: SEVP is working on a regulation addressing this issue, but is unable to discuss the regulation at this time.

Data Migration during IOC

Q: Are schools responsible for migrating data from SEVIS I to SEVIS II?

A: No, school information contained in SEVIS will automatically be migrated into SEVIS II. However, schools are responsible for ensuring that school data is accurately reflected in SEVIS. Additionally, schools will be required to provide any data required by SEVIS II that is not contained in SEVIS.

Q: Will populating the email addresses for students in SEVIS help with the migration to SEVIS II? If so, how would it help?

A: Yes, it could help. If SEVP has email addresses, we can send emails to students. However, P/DSOs will need to ensure that they are accurate.

Transition Issues and Cases

Q: What will happen to those students who are out of status with pending Reinstatement requests? Will they still have to create their customer account? Will the student's reinstatement 'pending' be transferred over to SEVIS II?

A: Students who have reinstatements or changes of status pending during Initial Operating Capability (IOC) will need to create customer accounts so their information migrates into SEVIS II. We will develop guidance on how to handle cases such as these during the transition.

Q: Have EducationUSA and the Department of State committed to anything for customer counseling regarding information inquiry?

A: SEVP has been in communication with EducationUSA regarding support for F-1 students. They are eager to be a part of the process and to help. We will be working with them on outreach to international students.

Q: You have told us that all students must create accounts in SEVIS II during IOC, otherwise they will lose status once SEVIS II launches. What about those students who are about to complete post-completion OPT and are not planning to stay in the US afterwards?

A: SEVP will provide transitional guidance on issues such as these during the transition period.

Q: During IOC will there be any new students expected? Will they need to have SEVIS IDs too? Do we create an I-20 or DS-2019 for new students during IOC?

A: We will provide specific transitional guidance on issues such as these as we get closer to IOC. We understand that new students will be arriving during the entire period of SEVIS II implementation. Students who will begin their programs during IOC would be issued I-20s through SEVIS, but would still need to create customer accounts in SEVIS II to have their data transferred.

Q: Will the recertification process be put on hold during the IOC transition period?

A: We will be discussing this with the School Certification Unit (SCU). We hope to avoid doing recertification during that period as we recognize that would be too much to handle. We will provide guidance on this to assist with the transition.

Customer Account Creation for School and Sponsor Officials

Q: Why does SEVISII allow users to enter the United States as a country of citizenship or legal permanent residence when they are not eligible to enter the U.S. as nonimmigrants?

A: Anyone who needs to access SEVIS II will need to create customer accounts. This includes U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents who serve as P/DSOs or ROs/AROs, heads of schools, Account Managers, and a few other roles in SEVIS II.

Q: Will P/DSOs be required to submit their home addresses as students do?
A: No. They may enter a business address.

Q: Are you allowed to be a P/DSO for more than one school?
A: Yes. If you are employed by more than one school, you can be a P/DSO for more than one school.

Q: Will you provide us a list of school administrators that are required to create an account?
A: Yes. Additionally, SEVIS II will provide a list of current school officials who still need to create SEVIS II customer accounts.

Q: If we already have a SEVIS user name and password as P/DSO's, why wouldn't we just use the same account?
A: SEVIS was not built on the one person, one record concept. Individuals who are P/DSOs and ROs/AROs may have two separate sets of log on credentials. This means two separate records in SEVIS that exist independently of each other. If they change institutions, they get different credentials and additional records. SEVIS II will remedy this by linking the different roles to the individual's single customer account. If a P/DSO moves from school to school, they will use the same account and SEVIS II will already know who they are. The one-person-one-record concept applies to every SEVIS II user.

Q: In creating our School/Sponsor Official accounts, will we need to put in all our previous SEVIS ID information (similar to how students will have to add their old records)?
A: You will use your SEVIS login and password to create the account.

Q: Should School/Sponsor Officials add a personal email address for cases when their email address changes when changing schools?
A: Yes. SEVIS II will use email as a method of communicating with customer account holders about system outages and other issues. As a result, all customer account holders must always have a valid email address in the system.

Q: Will there still be separate functions in SEVIS II for P/DSOs and RO/AROs?
A: Yes. However, an individual who is both a P/DSO and an RO/ARO will have a single logon and be able to access both roles from their homepage without logging out and logging back in. The roles and their associated tasks will be separated.

Head of School's Role in SEVIS II

Q: How much involvement in SEVIS II is required of the president/head of school?

A: SEVIS II will not change the legal responsibilities of Heads of Schools. They are required to sign off on certain submissions of the I-17. In the paperless SEVIS II environment, this will require that they create a customer account and a Personal Identification Number (PIN) so that they can submit electronic signatures.

Q: If the president/head of the school is not a PDSO, can they create their own customer account?

A: Yes, all presidents and heads of school will be required to create their own customer accounts.

Q: Does that mean that the president has to create an account even though he doesn't use SEVIS now?

A: Yes, the president must create an account, login information, and a PIN in order to sign applications for certification, recertification, changes of PDSO, etc. as all signatures and submissions will be conducted electronically through SEVIS II.

Customer Account Creation for Nonimmigrants

Q: Do P/DSOs need to create a SEVIS II record for students only during IOC? Will it be necessary after FOC?

A: It is important to be clear that in the SEVIS II environment, the creation of SEVIS II records for students is not initiated by P/DSOs, but by the students themselves. Students will need to create their own customer accounts. Current students will do so during IOC so their data migrates from SEVIS into SEVIS II. New students will do so after FOC. The account creation process for students during IOC will be slightly different from the account creation process during FOC since SEVIS already contains data on the students that will migrate into SEVIS II.

Q: Regarding required passport information, what about Palestinians, a lot of whom do not necessarily have passports, but rather travel documents issued by another country. How would they respond to that question?

A: When students enter passport information they are allowed to input the country that issued the travel document. This can be different from the country of citizenship. SEVIS II will accommodate other travel documents.

Q: Will the passport expiration date prompt a flag six months prior to expiration? If yes, to student, P/DSO, or both?

A: No. SEVIS II will not track passport expiration. However, you will be able to run a report using this data element.

Q: I see that the passport information is not a required field. Will you then require schools to populate this field for their students?

A: No. Passport information will be provided either by the student or through a systems interface.

Q: What if a student does not want to disclose their gender (ex. transgender students)?

A: Unfortunately, nonimmigrants will be required to disclose their gender and will not have the option of leaving this field blank. Gender is a significant data point used in establishing identity in government databases and in matching records between databases.

Q: With respect to gender, would there ever be an option to say "prefer not to answer?"

A: No. The student will be required to answer the question.

Q: What if a student legally changes their gender after creating a customer account?

A: Students will need to submit a Help Desk ticket and provide evidence of the change.

Q: I recommend that there be instructions in the "Current Address Information" section.

A: SEVIS II will contain instructions on each screen.

Q: Will you accept a P.O. Box as a mailing address since they will be entering physical address as well?

A: Yes.

Q: Can students ever change their primary email address once it is used to create the account?

A: Yes. Students have the ability to change the email address on file in SEVIS II. They will need to complete the e-mail validation process initiated by the system before it will be accepted as their primary e-mail.

Q: It looks like first time SEVIS II users need a SEVIS ID to create an account. How will new initial users get a SEVIS ID for that (ex. Students applying to be F or J for first time ever)?

A: This is true only during the IOC period when only students with existing records in SEVIS will need to create an account into which SEVIS data can be migrated. After FOC, new students will not be required to provide SEVIS ID numbers, though they will have the ability to provide SEVIS IDs if they have ever had a SEVIS record before.

Q: For the security questions, do the students need to enter 10 questions or do they choose from 3 to 10 questions for the security purpose?

A: Students will compose 5 security questions and their corresponding answers.

Q: When a student claims previous records, will the system show complete SEVIS ID numbers for student to identify? Also, under add records in the same section, it appears that people cannot add records by SEVIS number. Considering that School/Sponsor Officials tell students to keep those records FOREVER, it's would seem

that entering SEVIS ID numbers would be the best way to get the most accurate information, rather than trying to match up other records with SEVIS numbers. While the SEVIS number may not always be available, it is more accurate when it is.

A: The system will display the full SEVIS ID numbers during the claim previous records portion of the account creation process. Students will have the ability to add additional SEVIS records by either entering SEVIS ID numbers or, if they do not remember those numbers, by entering alternate information related to their past program to help the system locate those records.

Q: **If the student answers "No" to the question of whether they have been here before under a different SEVIS number, will that penalize them in some way, or is this information just for data matching?**

A: Answering "No" will not penalize the student. If, however, it is discovered that a student failed to claim a previous record that was, in fact, theirs, the student may be asked to explain the omission. Depending upon the circumstances, this might be seen as fraudulent behavior on the part of the student.

Names and the Integrity of Student Entered Data

Q: **Will students' names be changeable, based on dual citizenship spelling?**

A: Students will have the ability to submit Help Desk tickets to request changes to their name. They will be required to submit supporting documentation.

Q: **Requiring a Middle Name is a big change for Consular Officers, School/Sponsor Officials, Students, and Exchange Visitors. Can this be an optional field?**

A: SEVIS currently has a middle name field. SEVIS II will require users either to enter a middle name or to indicate that they do not have a middle name.

Q: **During IOC, what happens if the name the student submits does not match the name on the student's passport or current SEVIS record?**

A: During the IOC account creation process, students will not have the ability to submit their own names. Current biographic data in SEVIS will migrate into SEVIS II. Any data errors will need to be corrected in SEVIS now by P/DSOs and the corrections will migrate into SEVIS II.

Account Managers

Q: **A lot of our students hire agents to fill out their school applications. If the agents create the accounts and provide an e-mail address that was created by the agent and that the student does not have access to, how do we know that the information provided is accurate?**

A: We suspect there may be similar issues with agents that occur now. While SEVIS II allows agents to create and to manage accounts on behalf of students, it also provides SEVP the ability to monitor Account Managers as well as the people that they manage. P/DSOs will be able to view student information including email addresses and whether or not a student has an Account Manager. We would encourage you to contact us with any concerns about the behaviors of specific Account Managers. We have the ability to bar individuals from serving as an Account Manager in SEVIS II. Once students claim their customer account, they create their own user name, password, PIN, and security questions and can change the primary email associated with the account.

Q: **Can you expand more on the Account Manager role? I am thinking about agents who create an account for their student, and continue to have access to the account even after a student enrolls (FERPA issues, etc.).**
A: The Account Manager's role is fairly limited. They can create a customer account, but cannot create a user name, password, or PIN for anyone. Account Managers, including parents, cannot sign any COEs for individuals who are 14 years of age or older. They can view the nonimmigrant's record, report address and employment information, and they can initiate Help Desk tickets on behalf of the nonimmigrant. All actions they take can be traced back to them in the system's audit trail.

Once the account has been created, nonimmigrants aged 14 or over must "claim" their account before they can sign their Certificate of Eligibility. During this process the nonimmigrant creates the username, password, security questions, and PIN that is to be associated with their account. Claiming the account does not automatically disassociate the account manage.

Account Managers for individuals 14 years old or older are able to serve in that capacity only with the permission of the student. Students aged 14 years and older have the ability to remove or bar Account Managers at any time. An exception to this is 14- to 18-year olds who cannot bar a parent from being an Account Manager. By allowing someone to continue to manage their account they have given permission to that individual to access the information in the record.

Q: **SEVIS II seems to be a great business opportunity for agents. Will SEVP report to schools any agents with a record of inaccurately entering data for their clients?**
A: No. SEVP does not plan to notify schools of agents who abuse the system. SEVP does, however, plan to take appropriate action against the agent who could be barred from serving as an agent for any students.

Q: **Agents could presumably be able to set up an account for students that would not have personal access (ex. setting up a dummy e-mail address, specific type of password hints, etc). How do students get past that?**
A: If students become aware that another person has set up an account in their name and have been denied access to that account by the Account Manager, the student can contact SEVP helpdesk for assistance. During the account creation process, Account Managers do not create the student's user name, password, PIN, or security questions. The nonimmigrant does that when claiming their accounts.

School Information and the I-17

Q: Will schools be able to add different types of cost of living? For example, undergrad vs. graduate, on-campus vs. off-campus living, etc.?

A: No. The I-17 has space to record one cost of living value. We are looking for the lowest living expense estimates. As you create a certificate of eligibility for a student you do have the opportunity to overwrite that figure. We are not concerned if you put a higher cost of living figure on the COE, but we are concerned if you put down a lower one. Our concern is two-fold: one, by understating the cost of living you create conditions for visa fraud through the misrepresentation of a material fact used in granting an immigration benefit. The student goes to the embassy with enough financial documentation to cover the understated costs on the COE. The student arrives to discover higher actual costs and doesn't have the funds to cover them. That leads to our second concern: illegal employment in an attempt to simply survive.

Q: Regarding cost of living, will schools be able to add by month or still only be year?

A: The cost of living estimate reflected in the School Details section of SEVIS II is based on a calendar year. This figure must be at or above 125% of the Annual Poverty Level guidelines for that geographic area as determined by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Q: How will costs for insurance and taxes be accounted for in SEVIS II?

A: Insurance and other expenses are captured during the COE creation process when a P/DSO enters expenses related to an individual student's program of study.

Q: Does "tuition" include only tuition or tuition plus mandatory fees?

A: Tuition includes only the figure for tuition and is listed as part of the School Information. Mandatory fees would be included in the "Books and Fees" field.

Q: Regarding staffing, what is an appropriate ratio between number of students and DSOs?

A: The student to DSO ratio is something that must be determined by the school. SEVP does not mandate an official ratio.

Q: Will the calendar function allow for both required and non-required sessions (e.g. summer sessions)?

A: Yes. For example, you will put in the summer session. Whether or not the student is required to attend depends on the student's circumstances (e.g. whether or not they are entitled to a vacation). We are expecting you to put in all your sessions - like you do on your website where you have the academic calendar.

Q: Should schools officials enter the "term" start and end dates or the dates when the student can begin to register for their classes?

A: We want start and end dates for when classes begin and end.

Q: Can calendars be updated at any time or will schools need to wait for SEVP to adjudicate these updates?

A: Yes. You can update your calendar at any time.

Q: If a school's academic calendar changes every year, will the Form I-17 need to be changed every year as well?

A: You must update the calendar every year, but SEVIS II will make it easy for you. You can duplicate the term names and then just change the dates.

Q: Will schools be able to designate a reporting date different from their calendar date (e.g. when reporting dates are different from schools' quarterly calendars)?

A: SEVIS II will operate as SEVIS does now. Schools can choose to have the program start date correspond to a reporting date that is different from the initial session start date. This would accommodate attendance at any required orientations.

Q: Regarding P/DSO emergency contact information, will this be made available to current "active" students and to prospective "initial" students as well?

A: Yes. Any student for whom you have issued a COE will be able to view the emergency contact information as part of your school's detailed information. This emergency contact number should be a number the school has established for emergency procedures. We would suggest that the phone number be one that can be forwarded, a phone that different people rotate on-call rather than someone's personal cell phone number, or a dedicated line where the person who answers can reach a P/DSO in a timely manner.

Q: Would it be acceptable for campus police to contact the P/DSO in case of an emergency rather than the students themselves?

A: Yes. Schools must determine their own emergency contact procedures. We understand that some schools have a system whereby students contact the school's campus police for after-hour emergencies and the campus police offers in turn contact the P/DSO.

Q: Is the need for emergency contact information required by law? Will officers at ports of entry be contacting P/DSOs to request confirmation?

A: No. It will not be legislated, but may be in the regulations. It will, however, be required by the system. We believe that the student would benefit from having access to this information. We anticipate that there will be an increase in the overall number of students sent to secondary inspection as a result of a more complete student history available to the inspectors at the Ports of Entry (POE). It may be helpful for the student or the inspector to have a short conversation with one of the school's P/DSOs rather than denying the student entry to the U.S.

Q: Will the program of study need to match what is being reported to Department of Education (DoEd) via IPEDS, or can schools include a program of study that is not reported via IPEDS? If not, does that mean schools will be asked to change what is reported to DoEd?

A: There is currently no requirement to match what is in IPEDS. It needs to be an official program of study for your school. You must show evidence if requested.

Q: Should on-campus summer camps (e.g. music festival camps) with international students be added to the list of programs?

A: Yes, if you want to issue a COE for them. Keep in mind that nonimmigrants may be able to enter as tourists to participate in summer camps that are not part of a course of study.

Q: Regarding multiple campuses, will there be a single main campus that updates information?

A: SEVIS II moves away from the Campus and School referenced and will use the terms "School" and "Group." The "Group" represents the overarching ownership of the school or schools. Beneath the group is the school or set of schools where the academic programs are detailed and managed. Each school can update its own I-17 information. Much will depend upon how schools choose to organize themselves and who has been given authority by the school to update information.

Q: Our school has an intensive English Program with its own Form I-17. In SEVIS II, would that program be included along with the main campus?

A: The program would continue to have its own I-17. It could, however, be included in the same group as the main campus.

Q: Regarding the "capacity" field on the Form I-17, how will a school determine total legal capacity for instructional facilities? Is this every single classroom on campus as well as buildings?

A: SEVP will develop guidance on how this field should be completed. You may notice the placeholder for "instructional text" on the model.

Q: How will the relationship between COE and Form I-17 change?

A: Information from the I-17 will pre-populate some of the fields in the COE creation process. P/DSOs can overwrite this data as needed to accurately reflect a student's situation. We will be having a webinar on September 18, 2012 on creating COEs where you will be able to see the tie-in between what is in the I-17 and what goes on the COE.

Q: Will school officials receive notifications when it is time to input information? Will there be SEVIS II training for school officials?

A: School Officials will be notified of the SEVIS II implementation schedule. They will be informed of the date that IOC is to begin and end. Training and tools to assist in the transition will also be made available.

Q: Do you recommend that schools apply for Form I-17 adjudication prior to IOC (so the adjudication will be pending during IOC)?

A: Once an official implementation schedule has been determined, SEVP will determine how best to handle Form I-17 updates during IOC and will provide transitional guidance to assist schools in managing those updates. We encourage schools to continue to keep their I-17 information current in SEVIS to minimize changes to existing data fields that must be made during IOC. We'll have resources available to help with adjudication of

any updates. Again, we encourage you to make any updates in SEVIS as soon as you know you have them.

Batch Processing

Q: For schools that use Batch, will there be additional time to work with third party vendors for software development and for testing?

A: SEVP is aware of the needs of batch schools. SEVP will ensure all developments are communicated effectively before a schema is developed. SEVP will also be holding a Batch User Conference after we have identified the contractor to develop the SEVIS II application. SEVP will release the batch schema at least a year in advance to allow for development and testing of batch software.

Q: Can schools get a list of what information schools will get back from SEVIS via batch?

A: SEVP does not yet have a list ready, but will make it available as soon as possible.

Q: If we are thinking about moving over to batch, would it be best to do that now or wait until SEVIS II is implemented?

A: That is a decision individual schools must make. SEVP recommends that you carefully look at SEVIS II functionalities before making a decision. SEVIS II will offer significant improvements for those who use the Real Time Interface (RTI). SEVIS II will allow you to make updates to multiple records at the same time. Some schools may decide that they do not need batch. We anticipate that there may be a 6-9 month period immediately preceding SEVIS II implementation where schools will not be able to change to batch, so you may want to consider it sooner rather than later.

Q: If we are a current batch school, can we elect to discontinue being a batch school?

A: Yes. You can discontinue batching at any time.

Certificates of Eligibility

Q: What is a COE?

A: Certificate of Eligibility. We are using the term COE now instead of I-20/DS2019 because SEVIS II will be paperless and the form numbers no longer apply.

Q: Can someone who is not a P/DSO, but is helping with data input for the Certificate of Eligibility create their customer account?

A: No. Anyone who directly accesses SEVIS II to enter data for a Certificate of Eligibility <u>must</u> be a P/DSO. SEVIS II will give the PDSO the ability to assign different levels of permissions to DSOs so that some DSOs may only be able to draft COEs while others can

both draft and sign them. This functionality allows schools to establish their COE creation, review, and issuance processes.

Q: Must students wait until after they have received a COE to create an account?
A: No. The student must create their customer account before the school will be able to issue the COE.

Training and Outreach

Q: If SEVIS II will not be implemented until 2014, is training relevant at this point?
A: While training might not be relevant at the moment, detailed information on how SEVIS II will differ from SEVIS is important. These differences have the potential for changing how schools administer their F and M programs and how they manage their business processes and interactions with students. Knowing what changes SEVIS II entails allows P/DSOs to examine their existing processes, identify what changes need to be made, and work with campus partners to effect those changes.

Q: I work in an international office of one person. Will you do group in-person trainings for multiple schools at a centralized location?
A: We anticipate using SEVP's Field Representatives to conduct in-person, group training for schools in their regions.

Q: When will you post the questions asked during the webinar – following each webinar or at the end of all webinars?
A: We will post the questions and answers after each webinar. Additionally, the questions from individual webinars will be compiled into a larger, more comprehensive set of Frequently Asked Questions.

Miscellaneous

Q: The term "Class of Admission" seems to be confusing, is there some consideration for better wording?
A: No. Class of Admission is the correct terminology. This is the class they were granted upon admission the United States is their class of admission until they depart the U.S. or change or lose status.

Q: Is I-94 information still entered by Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) or it is going to disappear for good?
A: I-94 information will be received through an interface with CBP.

Q: Will a student have the ability to "spam" our emails?

A: Students have the ability to send messages through SEVIS II, but this capability is somewhat limited. They can send messages on a limited number of topics. They can send them multiple times. Schools do have the ability to set up auto-responses student messages generated through the system.

Q: **Do schools have to "register" all continuing students for each term in SEVIS II? Or do schools only need to report to SEVIS II if any of their students violate their status?**
A: SEVIS II will not change the school's legal reporting requirements. You are still going to report registration for each continuing student each term in SEVIS II.

Q: **Will there be a field in SEVIS II to request an additional allotment of DS-2019's for J-1 students?**
A: Yes.

Q: **Will students file separately to pay the SEVIS fee or will that process be streamlined as well?**
A: Students will be able to view any COEs issued by the schools that have accepted them and must pay any associated fee before they can sign a COE. A link from inside SEVIS II will navigate the student to the I-901 fee payment site.   However, there will still be the ability to go directly to the I-901 site without having to access SEVIS II first.