SEVIS Release 6.8 System Changes

June 20, 2011
Production Release Date: June 24, 2011

The following summarizes the system changes to SEVIS with Release 6.8.

SEVIS Batch

An overview of the SEVIS Batch modifications with Release 6.8 can be found in the Release 6.8 Batch System Changes document on the SEVIS Batch page of ice.gov (http://www.ice.gov/sevis/schools/batch.htm). The updated Create-UpdateExchangeVisitor.xsd, SEVISTable.xsd, and Batch Application Program Interface (API), including the lookup tables, are also available on this page.

All Users

Hotlinks on School and Sponsor Official Email Addresses

When viewing either the School Information page or the Program Information page, the listing of officials is contained at the bottom of each. For each listed official, SEVIS will display the email address as a hot link. This modification will allow users to quickly initiate an email addressed to the selected official.

F/M School Officials

Additional Adjudicated Form I-17 Events

With Release 6.8, several existing Form I-17 events will be changed from non-adjudicated to adjudicated updates:

- Modification to the Courses of study and time necessary to complete each (Page 3, Field 17)
- Addition of a new official
- Addition of an existing official if the added official is not a current Principal Designated School Official (PDSO) or Designated School Official (DSO)
- Updates to the last name, first name, and/or middle name of an existing school official

If any of these events are included as part of an updated Form I-17 submission, adjudication will be required by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). These changes will not be reflected on the Approved status Form I-17 unless SEVP grants a favorable adjudication.

Identification of Adjudicated Form I-17 Events

SEVIS will be enhanced to identify those updates to an Approved status Form I-17 that will require adjudication by SEVP:

- A symbol (●), along with text describing the purpose of the symbol, will be added to the following fields/sections that will require adjudication by SEVP when modified:
    - Page 1 – Fields 1, 2, 2a, 3, 4, 5
    - Page 2 – Fields 6, 10, 11, 12
    - Page 3 – Fields 13, 14, 17
    - Page 4 – Update Official
- Text will be added to the following actions that will require adjudication by SEVP when submitted:
    - Page 4 – Add New Official, Add Existing Official (if applicable)
    - Page 5 – Add New Campus, Delete Campus

Removal of Functionality when Pending Recertification

Currently, SEVIS will allow the PDSO to add/update/edit/delete/assign schools officials when his/her school has a submitted Recertification application. With Release 6.8, this functionality will no longer be available to the PDSO while a Recertification application is pending SEVP adjudication.

School Event History

School officials will be given the ability to view their school's event history. This event history will include entries related to the following:

- Initial certification application
- Approved Form I-17 updates
- Recertification application

When viewing a school's event history, the following data elements will display:

- Event Name – Brief description of the event
- Event Date – Date the event was recorded in SEVIS
- Performed By – User who performed the event
    - First name, last name of the school official if performed by a PDSO/DSO
    - 'DHS Official' if performed by a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) user
    - 'SEVIS Maintenance' if performed by an automated SEVIS job

J Sponsor Officials

Removal of the 400 Report

Per request of the Department of State, the 400 Report – Profile of Sponsor Activity will be removed from the list of available reports for sponsor officials.

No Show Link for Transfer-In Exchange Visitors

At the transfer-in program, sponsor officials will have a new No Show link for transfer-in exchange visitors. This link will enable the Responsible Officer (RO)/Alternate Responsible Officer (ARO) to change the status of the exchange visitor and associated spouse/dependents in Transferred status to No Show status.

Print Form DS-2019 for Correct Minor or Technical Infraction

When sponsor officials submit a Correct Minor or Technical Infraction for an exchange visitor in Inactive status, the RO/ARO will be able to print the updated Form DS-2019 where the purpose of the form is 'Correct Minor or Technical Infraction'. This option will only be available one time immediately following submission of the Correct Minor or Technical Infraction.

Additional Fields for Secondary School Students and Au Pairs

Sponsors that are approved to host exchange visitors in the Secondary School Student category will be able to enter/edit **optional** data related to the J-1's residential address, host family, boarding school, and local community coordinator:

- Residential Address Type – Indicates if the exchange visitor's residence is with a host family or at a boarding school.
- Host Family – If the Residential Address Type is host family, a primary contact, secondary contact, and phone number may be provided.

- Boarding School – If the Residential Address Type is boarding school, the school name and phone number may be provided.
- Local Community Coordinator – The local community coordinator name may be provided.

RO/AROs may enter this information during initial record creation and upon Biographical Information edits to either an Initial status record (prior to visa issuance) or Active status record. This information will display on the Exchange Visitor Information screen.

Additional Fields for Au Pairs

Sponsors that are approved to host exchange visitors in the Au Pair category will be able to enter/edit **optional** data related to the J-1's Host Family and Local Community Coordinator.

- Host Family – A primary contact, secondary contact, and phone number may be provided.
- Local Community Coordinator – The local community coordinator name may be provided.

RO/AROs may enter this information during initial record creation and upon Biographical Information edits to either an Initial status record (prior to visa issuance) or Active status record. This information will display on the Exchange Visitor Information screen.

Removal of the Aviation Occupational Category

The Trainee and Intern regulations have been updated to remove the occupational category of Aviation. Therefore, all information regarding the Aviation occupational category will be removed from SEVIS.

Extension Beyond Maximum Duration of Participation for Specialists

The ability to submit an Extension Beyond the Maximum Duration of Participation request will be made available for exchange visitors in the Specialist category. The Specialist category maximum duration is one year but may be extended via Department of State approval.

Extension Beyond Maximum Duration of Participation for Student Interns

The ability to submit an Extension Beyond the Maximum Duration of Participation request will be removed for exchange visitors in the Student Intern category. The Student Intern category maximum duration is one year and may not be extended.

User Manuals, Online Help, and Tutorials

The SEVIS Online Help and user manuals for school and program sponsor officials will be updated as necessary to reflect the changes implemented with SEVIS Release 6.8.