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U.S. Department of Homeland Security

**U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Student and Exchange Visitor Program**

SEVIS and SEVIS II Updates

Spring 2012



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SEVP Information Technology Branch

What we have been up to
and where we are going...

- **SEVIS**
 - New Changes in Production
 - Upcoming Changes
- **SEVIS & SEVIS II Transition Activities**
- **SEVIS II**
 - SEVIS II Update
 - SEVIS II Visualization Overview
 - SEVIS II Resources



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SEVIS New Changes in Production

- **SEVIS Release 6.9**
 - Successfully implemented October 2011
 - Provides SEVP with the ability to perform required adjudication for Form I-17 for DSOs and average annual students
 - Provides SEVP with the ability to cancel Form I-17 updates and recertification applications



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SEVIS Upcoming Changes

- **SEVIS Release 6.10**
 - Anticipated implementation Summer 2012
 - Includes the following:
 - ◆ Administrative changes for print, view and display
 - ◆ Access control
 - ◆ Password issuance
 - Ability to disable cap-gap extensions
 - Correct recertification withdrawals and adjudication date ranges on student searches
 - Provide a new link for identifying CIP codes that are DHS-approved for the 17-month extension



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SEVIS Security!

Would you give your co-worker access to your bank accounts?

- On average, SEVP disables more than 10 accounts per year due to shared passwords. However, SEVP recently has seen a 50% increase in these cases.
- Password sharing is not only against regulations but it is also grounds for an investigation by the Security Operations Center.
- Password sharing can result in a loss of school certification.
- Password sharing can also create additional problems.
- **Only Authorized Users Should Access SEVIS.**



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SEVIS II Update

- **Schedule**
 - Currently working with schedules for initial operating capacity (IOC) and final operating capacity (FOC)
 - ◆ Tentative IOC release date – Spring 2014
 - ◆ Tentative FOC release date – Fall 2014
- **Visualization**
 - Currently working on visualization of SEVIS II
 - ◆ Scheduled process completion – by May 2012
- **Transition**
 - Hosted a transition conference in August 2011
 - ◆ Began identifying various areas of concern, including issues that may arise with the transition from SEVIS to SEVIS II

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SEVIS II Visualization Overview

- **Visualization**
 - Includes business rules for each scenario in its sessions
 - Generates a “high fidelity” simulation, which further validates user experience, navigation and overall application flow
 - Clarifies the expectations of stakeholders and end users of the future system
- **Post-Visualization**
 - Documentation sessions
 - ◆ Requirements traceability matrix (RTM)
 - ◆ Systems requirements documents (SRD)
 - Reviews, feedback
 - Final documentation and approval



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SEVIS & SEVIS II Transition Activities

- **Conducted two webinars with workshop participants in October 2011**
- **Finalizing Workshop Summary Report**
 - Review with local user group members
 - Send to participants
 - Collect feedback
- **Planning 2012 outreach activities**
 - Conference presentations and outreach schedule
 - ◆ SEVP website: www.ice.gov/sevis
- **Continuing with 2011-2012 visualization schedule**



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SEVIS II Update

SEVIS II Transition

- **Transition**

- In August 2011, the SEVIS II team hosted a transition conference with a group of specifically selected users to begin conversations on the impact of the transition from SEVIS to SEVIS II.
- The top areas of concern identified by the users were the following:

	High Priority	Med Priority	Low Priority
Communication	97%	3%	0%
Inter-Agency Coordination	94%	6%	0%
Regulations	88%	12%	0%
Training	76%	24%	0%
SEVIS II Timeline	70%	30%	0%
Customer Account	61%	33%	6%
Form I-17	55%	27%	18%
Domestic Report	49%	46%	6%
Help Desk	49%	46%	6%
Batch	46%	27%	27%

Community cross section represented 47 different states and territories.



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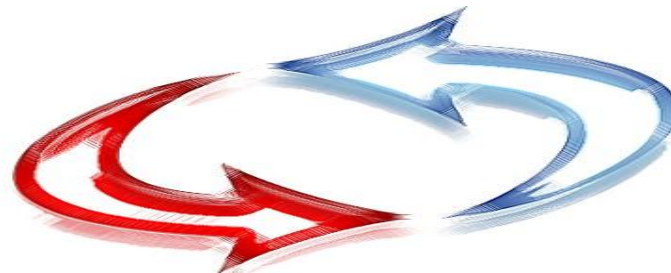
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SEVIS II Transition, cont.

- **Transition**
 - The SEVIS II team will do the following:
 - ◆ Utilize information gleaned during the conference to develop a workbook that will be available to all schools
 - ◆ Host a series of webinars in 2012 that will enable all schools to provide feedback on the information presented
 - ◆ Incorporate this feedback in future training, communication and process initiatives



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SEVIS II Resources

- **SEVP Website** – www.ice.gov/sevis
 - SEVIS II background and updates
 - Conference presentations and outreach schedule
 - Guidance documents
 - Screenshots
- **General Questions**
 - E-mail: sevp@dhs.gov
 - ◆ Include “SEVIS II question” in the subject line



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Study in the States Initiative



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Study in the States Initiative

The *Study in the States* initiative will enhance our nation's economic, scientific and technological competitiveness by finding new, innovative ways to encourage the best and brightest international students to study and learn about post-graduate opportunities in the United States.

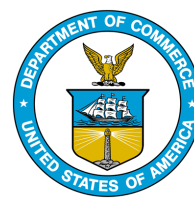


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Initiative Objectives

- The *Study in the States* Initiative seeks to:
 - Examine regulatory changes
 - Expand public engagement between the government and academia
 - Enhance coordination between the various federal agencies that play roles in implementing our student visa and exchange visitor programs

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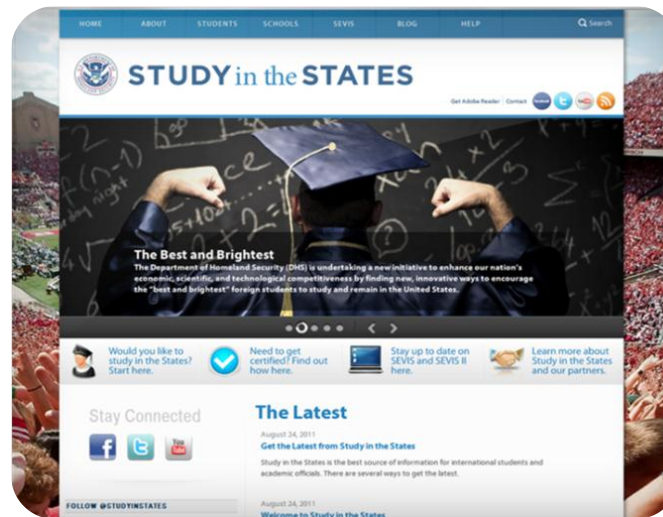
*Study in the
States
Initiative*

Website Launch

One part of this initiative is the website, which launched on September 16, 2011, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison by U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

studyinthestates.dhs.gov

- **Key highlights:**
 - Central, on-line information hub
 - Streamlined, dynamic, user-friendly content and format



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*Study in the
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Study in the States Website

- The *Study in the States* website employs a variety of tools that feature dynamic and interactive content, including the following:
 - Links to social media websites
 - A blog with relevant news, helpful tips and success stories
 - Searchable database of schools
- **Additional features will go live this spring:**
 - “How-to” training videos for students and academia
 - Language translation capabilities
 - Interactive and accessible map that allows prospective and current international students to visually navigate through the steps of the student visa process



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Stay Connected

Study in the States has a presence on social media sites.



Bookmark: <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov>

Follow us on Twitter: @studyinstates

Find us on Facebook: Study in the States



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Regulatory Agenda

8 CFR 214 will be addressed in three specific regulatory initiatives:

Early 2012	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM): In conjunction with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), a non-substantive rewrite and reordering of text
Mid-2012	NPRM: A substantive rewrite and reordering of text, including key elements for the Initial Operating Capacity (IOC) of SEVIS II. This will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Electronic Signatures▪ New terminology▪ Account set-up▪ Phasing out of paper forms

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SCB Update

School Certification Branch (SCB)



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Recertification Pointers

- **Carefully read the notification material provided before submitting a recertification petition.**
- **After receiving a 180-day notice, submit early – particularly if there are edits or updates.**
- **Add to the Form I-17 petition any location where nonimmigrants will attend class.**
- **Make all substantial edits and updates to the Form I-17 petition prior to petitioning for recertification.**
- **Submit a Form I-17 signed by the owner, president or head of school.**
- **Submit the Form 1-17 in SEVIS.**



Recertification Pointers

- **Remember:**
 - If withdrawn, applicants must repeat the certification process from the beginning.
 - ◆ A payment of \$2,355 is mandatory for initial school. (*\$1,700 petition fee plus \$655 for the site visit*)



Updates - Backlog

SCB is adjudicating over 100 updates each month.

- **Updates from recertifying schools or changes in DSOs are a priority.**
- **Updates that involve changes in location require site visits.**
 - A \$655 site visit fee is mandatory.
 - Contractor objective is to complete each site visit within 20 business days.



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Field Representatives



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SEVP Field Representative Hiring Plan

- **Hiring Activities and Proposed Timeline**
 - Gain approval of organization and position descriptions *(Completed)*
 - Selection pending for branch chief *(Completed)*
 - Advertise, interview and hire three field representative regional managers *(Completed)*
 - Duty location - SEVP office, Washington, D.C.
 - Advertise, interview and hire 60 field representatives beginning in late March 2012
 - ◆ Duty locations throughout the United States
 - ◆ Hiring announcements will indicate position locations
 - ◆ Relocation expenses not included
 - Full staffing and commencement of operations complete in approximately 18 months



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SEVP Field Representative Hiring Plan, *cont.*

Tips on using usajobs.gov

- **Positions will be advertised at <http://www.usajobs.gov/>.**
 - Go to the site and register in advance.
 - Read the various rules, regulations and qualifications pertaining to the job and application process.
 - Set appropriate alerts to notify you of announcements.



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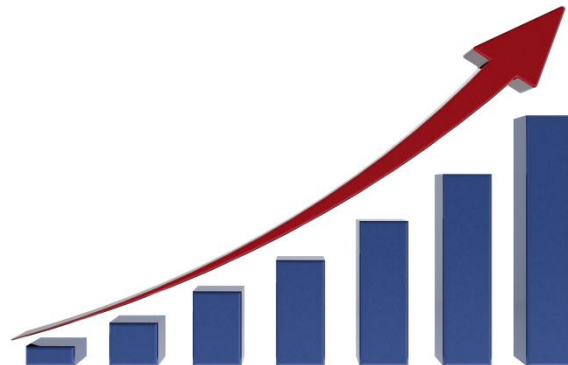
SRC (SEVP Response Center)



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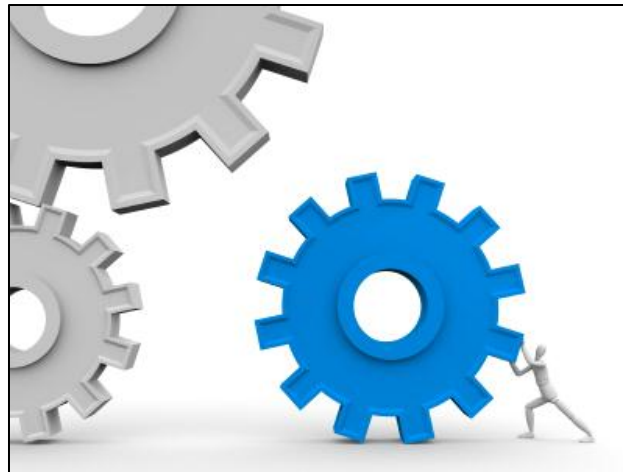
SRC Summary

- **SEVP Response Center (SRC)**
 - Timely and accurate customer service
 - Dedicated full-time representatives who understand SEVP operations and the school certification process
- **Goal**
 - To provide a single point of contact to program stakeholders for program inquiries
- **SRC History**
 - Began operations on January 26, 2009
 - 31,493 calls resolved (*as of March 31, 2011*)
 - 98% of inquiries resolved on initial call



Enhanced SRC (E-SRC)

- **Planned enhancements for the SRC**
 - Once implemented, the SRC will do the following:
 - ◆ Provide additional resources to directly answer policy and operational questions
 - ◆ Serve as a conduit to route technical questions to the SEVIS Help Desk
 - ◆ Expand its reach to provide support for SEVIS II system access requests
 - ◆ Provide assistance to students and proxies for accessing SEVIS II



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Outreach



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Who to Contact?

- **Policy and regulation-related questions:**
 - Contact the SRC
 - ◆ Hours of operation:
 - Monday through Friday (*excluding Federal holidays*)
 - 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST
 - ◆ Phone: 703-603-3400
 - ◆ E-mail: sevp@dhs.gov
 - *The SEVIS.Source e-mail address is no longer in use.*
- **SEVIS-related technical questions:**
 - Contact the SEVIS Help Desk
 - ◆ Phone: 800-892-4829
 - ◆ E-mail: SEVIShelpdesk@hp.com
 - ◆ Urgent technical issues:
 - Toolbox.SEVIS@dhs.gov

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