

Private K-12 Student Life Cycle (F-1)

1 Apply to a Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-Certified School

Student applies and is accepted to an SEVP-certified school.



2 Receive a Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status"

A student's Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) record is created and the student is then issued a Form I-20 by the designated school official (DSO) at the SEVP-certified school they have chosen to attend.



3 Pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee

Student must pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee at FMJFee.com.



6 Maintain Status During Program Study

Student must meet the minimum number of hours per week the school determines is necessary for normal progress toward graduation or completion of the grade level. The student's DSO can help determine if the student's class schedule meets the school and state attendance requirements.



5 Arrive in the United States

Student arrives no more than 30 days before the program start date and presents the Form I-20 and valid student visa to U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents at the port of entry. If admitted, the student receives an electronic Form I-94, "Arrival/Departure Record," and should verify the "Admit Until" date lists "D/S" for Duration of Status.



4 Apply for Student Visa

Student brings the Form I-20 and other required documents to apply for a student visa from the U.S. Department of State.



7 Explore Post-Graduation Opportunities

Student has the option to transfer both before and after high school graduation. To continue education in F-1 status in the United States after high school, the student must first apply and be accepted to an SEVP-certified college or university and then work with the DSO to transfer the student's SEVIS record to that undergraduate program.



8 Depart the United States

After completion of the program of study, student has 60 days to depart the United States.

F-2/M-2 Dependents at the K-12 Grade Level

Minor F-2 and M-2 students (dependent children of F-1 or M-1 students) may attend school at the appropriate grade level without any additional permission or documentation from SEVP. State education laws may require that F-2 and M-2 students attend the appropriate grade level until a certain age. The elementary or secondary school an F-2 or M-2 student attends does not need to be SEVP certified.