



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

- Welcome to the Winter 2018 SEVP InFocus Webinar
- The webinar will begin promptly at 2 p.m. EST
- Audio will stream through your computer speakers
- Please take a moment to answer the poll questions on your screen

**SEVP**  
STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

**Winter 2018 SEVP InFocus Webinar**

**Dec. 12, 2018, 2 – 3 p.m. EST**



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

**SEVP**  
STUDENT AND EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM

**Winter 2018 SEVP InFocus Webinar**

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# Housekeeping Notes

- **Download items in the Webinar Resources pod**
  - Hyperlink appendix
  - Presentation PDF
  - Glossary
- **Experiencing technical difficulties?**
  - Provide a description of the issue through the Technical Difficulties pod
- **Webinar recording and resources available on Study in the States after event**

# Today's Presenters



**Kimberly Large**

SEVP Field Representative  
Territory 15



**Alexis Gioia**

SEVP Field Representative  
Territory 43



**Robert Walters**

SEVP Field Representative  
Territory 49

# Presentation Overview

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**THE LATEST NEWS**

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**NOTIFICATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP**

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**DON'T FORGET**

4

**FACTS + FIGURES**

5

**HELPFUL RESOURCES**

# Ask the Audience



Today's  
Audience

Please select a response that best describes your current position

# Ask the Audience



Today's  
Audience

What type of school do you represent?

# THE LATEST NEWS

# Fall 2018 Regulatory Update

## *SEVP-related Items from the Unified Agenda*

- **Eligibility checks**
  - DHS may enforce eligibility checks for DSOs and ROs
- **Authorized stay**
  - DHS may consider a maximum period of authorized stay for F-1 students and other nonimmigrants
- **Adjusting program fees**
  - DHS will publish a final rule to adjust fees that SEVP charges to individuals and organizations

Visit [RegInfo.gov](https://www.reginfo.gov) to read the complete Fall 2018 Unified Agenda

# Fall 2018 Regulatory Update

## *What Stakeholders Need to Know*

- No timeline for publication of proposed rules concerning eligibility checks or authorized stay
  - Both are in the initial stages of review
- Understand the federal rulemaking process
  - Initial stages of review
  - Public comment period
    - Opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback
    - SEVP will review and consider all public comments



**REMEMBER:**  
SEVP notifies stakeholders in advance of any proposed regulatory changes

Find additional information on the federal rulemaking process in  
“The Guide to the Federal Rulemaking Process”

[FederalRegister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov)

# Ask the Audience



**Fee Rule  
Impact**

Were you and your institution aware of pending regulatory changes prior to today's webinar?

# Government Partner Notification

## *Accrual of Unlawful Presence by F and M Nonimmigrants*

- USCIS reissued an updated policy memorandum on **Aug. 9, 2018**, related to accrual of unlawful presence
  - Changes calculation of unlawful presence for students and dependents who fail to maintain status in the United States
- **Two situations:**
  - Students who failed to maintain status before Aug. 9, 2018
  - Students who fail to maintain status on or after Aug. 9, 2018
- **Refer to the August 2018 Broadcast Message:**  
**Accrual of Unlawful Presence by F and M Nonimmigrants**
  - Located at [ICE.gov/SEVIS/Whats-New](https://ice.dhs.gov/SEVIS/Whats-New)

Contact USCIS for additional information

# Frequently Asked Question



## USCIS Unlawful Presence

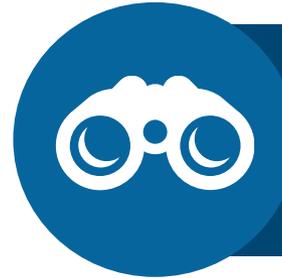
Do students still have a grace period to depart the United States with the proposed changes to unlawful presence?

# NOTIFICATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

# December 2018 SEVIS Release

## *SEVP Portal Upgrade*

- SEVIS upgrade scheduled for early 2019
- Release includes SEVP Portal enhancements:
  - Automated email reminders before validation report deadlines
  - Access to reporting deadline schedule in SEVP Portal



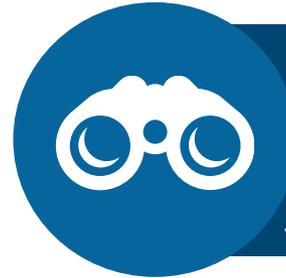
**Reminder for DSOs:**  
Become familiar with the  
new reporting timelines

Resources coming soon to  
[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal Help](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal Help)

# SEVP Portal

## *Tips and Reminders for DSOs*

- **Access previous SEVIS Broadcast Messages on ICE.gov**
  - Includes archived messages sent to DSOs and students
- **Students must enter their current SEVIS ID number**
  - SEVIS ID located on left-hand corner of the Form I-20
  - SEVP Portal will lock the student's account after three failed attempts to enter their SEVIS ID number



### SEVP PORTAL RESOURCES:

- Top questions from DSOs
- Top questions from students

Learn more in the SEVP Portal Help section at:  
[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal Help](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal-Help)

# Ask the Audience



## SEVP Portal Hot Topics

What are the hot topics and common issues that your students are experiencing with the SEVP Portal?  
Select all that apply.

# Unemployment Calculation

## *SEVIS Release 6.41*

- **As of Oct. 26, 2018, SEVIS calculates the total number of unemployment days, as required by regulation**
  - Consideration for STEM OPT students
- **SEVIS will check student records daily and count each day with a gap in employment**
  - Unemployment counter displayed in the expanded view of the SEVIS Employment Information page
- **SEVP will not turn on the SEVIS auto-terminate function for students who exceed unemployment limits set by regulation**
  - SEVP will fully engage the auto-terminate action after completing an assessment of the functionality

# Recertification Approval Notice

## *What DSOs Need to Know*

- SEVP no longer issuing a PDF “Notice of Recertification”
- All recertification approval notices now sent through SEVIS
  - Updated process improves efficiency
  - There is no impact on recertification processes

Contact SRC or your local SEVP field representative with questions about this change

# Reminders for School Officials

## *Updating a Locked Form I-17*

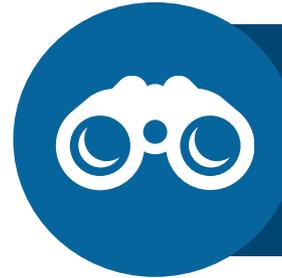
- Schools with a locked Form I-17 must continue to report material changes to SEVP within 21 days of the change
- For PDSO or DSO changes:
  - Email [FormI17SupportingEvidence@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:FormI17SupportingEvidence@ice.dhs.gov)
  - Reference SEVP Fact Sheet 8.1: Designated School Official Submissions
- For all other material changes:
  - Email [SEVP@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@ice.dhs.gov)
  - Provide all necessary evidence related to change

Learn more on Study in the States  
[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Updates-to-Form-I-17](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Updates-to-Form-I-17)

# Enhanced Resource

## *Evidence Guides and Checklists*

- **Definition of Evidence Guide**
  - Overview of common evidence required for SEVP adjudications
- **Evidence checklists organized according to action the school plans to take and school type**
  - Action:
    - Initial SEVP certification
    - Form I-17 updates
    - Recertification
  - School type:
    - Accreditation status
    - K-12, flight school, postsecondary

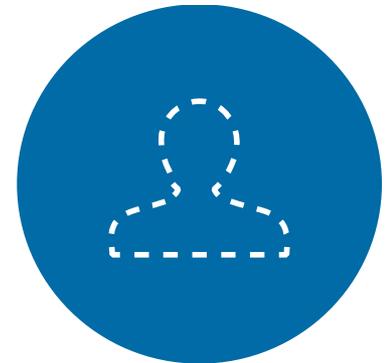


**REMEMBER:**  
Evidence checklists located  
at [ICE.gov/SEVIS/Schools](https://ice.dhs.gov/SEVIS/Schools)

# Field Representative Unit Updates

## *Current Vacancies*

- **Field representatives deployed to:**
  - Raleigh, North Carolina
  - St. Louis, Missouri
- **Three remaining vacancies in:**
  - El Paso, Texas
  - New York, New York
  - Omaha, Nebraska

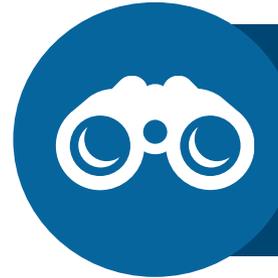


**DON'T FORGET...**

# Holiday Travel

## *Tips for Students*

- **Tip 1: Meet with your DSO**
  - Ensure SEVIS record is up-to-date and in Active status
  - Receive updated DSO contact and 24-hour emergency number
- **Tip 2: What to bring to a U.S. port of entry**
  - Passport
  - Student visa
  - Form I-20
- **Tip 3: Understand the Form I-515A**
  - CBP officer may issue a Form I-515A at U.S. port of entry
  - Notify DSO if form is received

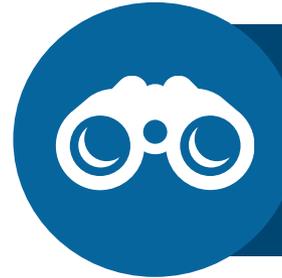
**REMEMBER:**

Students should hand-carry all necessary paperwork at the U.S. port of entry

# Student Travel

## *Form I-515A*

- Grants students temporary admission into the United States
- Paperwork includes:
  - Original Form I-515A
  - Form I-20
  - Form I-94
  - Copy of admission stamp in the student's passport
  - I-901 SEVIS Fee receipt
- DSOs should assist students in complying with Form I-515A requirements
  - Students must respond within 30 days

**REMEMBER:**

Failure to respond to a Form I-515A may negatively impact a student's status

# Ask the Audience



Holiday  
Travel

DSOs: Have you talked with your student's about their holiday travel plans?

# Verify Your School Officials

## *SEVIS Annual Verification*

- **Verification period**
  - Dec. 2, 2018 to March 2, 2019
- **Must verify that all current SEVIS users:**
  - Are still employed by the organization
  - Continue to be a selected PDSO or DSO
  - Require continued SEVIS access
- **If verification is not completed on time:**
  - DSOs lose access to SEVIS and Batch
  - PDSO's SEVIS functions will be limited to verification
  - May result in a compliance action

Learn more in the SEVIS Help Hub:  
[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVIS-Help-Hub](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVIS-Help-Hub)

# FACTS + FIGURES

# SEVP Year in Review

## *Responding to Stakeholder Feedback*

### INTRAGOVERNMENTAL COLLABORATION



January 2018 to December 2018:

**79** presentations to government partners

**82** joint conference presentations

# SEVP Year in Review

## *Responding to Stakeholder Feedback*

### INCREASING GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY



Since January 2018:

**3** updates to the Trends and Improvements section  
on Study in the States

Interagency Coordination | Form I-17 Process Improvements  
Processing Time for PDSO and DSO Form I-17 Updates

# SEVP Year in Review

## *Responding to Stakeholder Feedback*

### STUDY IN THE STATES BLOG POSTS



**5 Study in the States blog posts directly responding to stakeholder feedback:**

**Community Voices: Resources for K-12 DSOs**

**SEVP Portal: Top Questions from DSOs | SEVP Portal: Top Questions from Students Reporting Volunteer Positions During OPT Employment**  
**DSOs: Learn More About SEVIS Termination Reasons**

# SEVP Year in Review

## *Responding to Stakeholder Feedback*

### STUDY IN THE STATES RESOURCE PAGES



**10** Study in the States resource pages directly responding to stakeholder feedback:

**Maintaining Accurate SEVIS Records  
Financial Ability**

**SEVP Portal Help section (Contains 8 new resource pages and 7 new videos)**

# Ask the Audience



**SEVP Response  
to Stakeholder  
Feedback**

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Overall, how would you rate SEVP's ability to respond to stakeholder feedback?

# HELPFUL RESOURCES

# New Exercise Starter Kits for K-12 Schools

## *Information for DSOs*

- DHS OAE released exercise starter kits to assist with active shooter training for K-12 schools on Nov. 27, 2018
  - Available for all K-12 grade levels
- Kits include planning documents with pre-populated templates:
  - Exercise Conduct Briefing
  - Situation Manual
  - Facilitator Guide
  - Participant Feedback Form Template
  - After-Action Report Template

To request Exercise Starter Kits for your school, visit  
[DHS.gov/Exercise-Starter-Kits-esks](https://DHS.gov/Exercise-Starter-Kits-esks)

# New Study in the States Resource

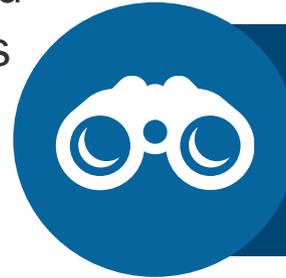
## *Maintaining Accurate SEVIS Records*

- Provides DSOs with overview of various SEVIS functions and reporting tips, including:
  - Reinstatements
  - Transfers
  - School records in SEVIS
  - Annual verification
  - Site visits and on-site reviews
- Links DSOs to additional resources that cover:
  - Maintaining student records
  - Getting started with SEVP certification
  - Full course of study

Learn more information on Study in the States  
[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Maintaining-Accurate-SEVIS-Records](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Maintaining-Accurate-SEVIS-Records)

# Miss a Webinar?

- **Government Voices Webinar: Campus Partnerships with DHS**
  - Discussed different entities involved in the international student process
- **SEVP Ask the Experts Webinar: What DSOs Need to Know about Record Keeping**
  - Discussed record keeping and reporting requirements for SEVP-certified schools



## WATCH NOW

Recordings and additional resources available on the Stakeholder Webinars page

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Webinars](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Webinars)

# SEVP Portal Help

Official website of the Department of Homeland Security

Homeland Security

**STUDY** in the STATES

View Disclaimer | Select Language | SEARCH

STUDENTS | SCHOOLS | BLOG | TOOLS | **STEM OPT HUB**

## SEVP PORTAL HELP

Students on post-completion practical training should use the SEVP Portal Help section to learn how to use the SEVP Portal and comply with reporting requirements.

Watch the SEVP Portal Help videos for step-by-step guides to navigating and updating the SEVP Portal.

### STUDENTS: LEARN HOW TO USE THE SEVP PORTAL

In this section you will find:

- Step-by-step instructions.
- Instructional videos.
- Additional SEVP Portal Help resources.

<h4>SEVP PORTAL: GETTING STARTED</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEVP Portal Overview</li> <li>Create an SEVP Portal Account</li> <li>Make and Maintain User Password</li> <li>SEVP Portal User Guide</li> </ul>	<h4>MAINTAIN INFORMATION</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Navigate the SEVP Portal</li> <li>Update User Profile</li> <li>Update Employer Information</li> </ul>
<h4>INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benefits of the SEVP Portal</li> <li>SEVIS Help Hub</li> <li>Broadcast Messages</li> </ul>	<h4>RESOURCES</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OPT Student Reporting Requirements</li> <li>SEVP Portal Videos</li> <li>Infographic</li> </ul>

**QUESTIONS?** For general and case-specific questions, call 703-603-3400 or email [SEVP@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@ice.dhs.gov) and include SEVP Portal in the subject line. Our offices are open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except holidays.

Create an SEVP Portal account and download the SEVP Portal User Guide

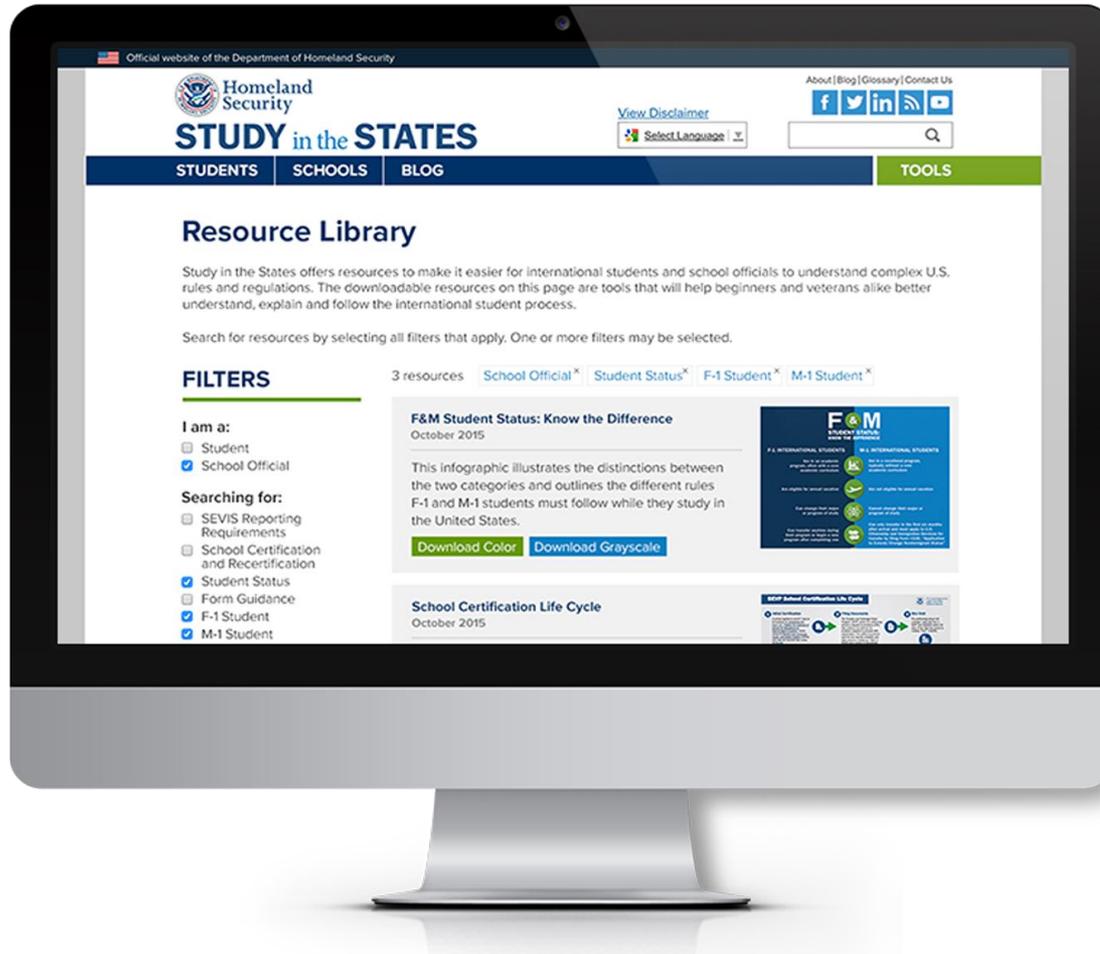
Resources for DSOs about SEVP Portal interface with SEVIS

Navigate and update information through the SEVP Portal

SEVP Portal videos and infographic for students

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal-Help](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/SEVP-Portal-Help)

# Resource Library



[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Resource-Library](http://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Resource-Library)

# Engage with SEVP

## *Stay Connected*



### KEY NEWS AND CONTENT

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Blog](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Blog)

#### Publications

*Available through GovDelivery*

SEVP Spotlight

SEVP Outreach Bulletin



### ENGAGE THROUGH CONFERENCES

Fill out the SEVP Event  
Request Form at

[StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Conferences](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Conferences)



@StudyinStates



Facebook.com/StudyintheStates



Linkedin.com/Company/Student-and-Exchange-Visitor-Program

# SEVP Contact Information



## PHONE

703-603-3400

800-892-4829



## EMAIL

Case-specific questions

[SEVP@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVP@ice.dhs.gov)

Technical issues

[SEVISHelpDesk@ice.dhs.gov](mailto:SEVISHelpDesk@ice.dhs.gov)

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except federal holidays

Additional contact information at [StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Contact-Us](https://StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Contact-Us)

Contact your local field representative for questions about SEVP policies, processes and updates



# U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

- Thank you for joining today's webinar
- Please direct any questions to SRC
- A webinar recording will be on Study in the States shortly
- Please take a moment to complete our feedback polls

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