



SEVP Ask the Experts Webinar: Behind the Scenes of Form I-17 Updates Glossary

Thursday, July 27, 2017

Designated school official (DSO): an authorized school employee dedicated to assisting and overseeing F and M students enrolled at a school. DSOs must have an office at the school, be accessible to the F and/or M students at their school, and be a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident. A DSO may not receive compensation from commissions on the recruitment of foreign students.

Form I-17, "Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student:" the form that schools use to petition for Student and Exchange Visitor Program certification to admit F and/or M students.

Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status:" a form issued by Student and Exchange Visitor Program-certified schools to accepted nonimmigrant students. The Form I-20 is required to pay students' I-901 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System Fee, apply for a visa, enter the United States, apply for benefits, and for employment authorization or travel.

Principal designated school official (PDSO): the school official who is the primary point of contact for a Student and Exchange Visitor Program-certified school. A school's PDSO has additional responsibilities from other designated school officials, such as submitting certification and recertification packages.

SEVP Response Center (SRC): the Student and Exchange Visitor Program unit that manages and resolves stakeholder calls about cases or other related technical issues. Stakeholders can contact SRC by phone at 703-603-3400 or 800-892-4829, or via email at SEVP@ice.dhs.gov for general questions and SEVISTechnicalFeedback@ice.dhs.gov for technical questions. SRC is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except holidays. SRC is closed every Wednesday from 12:50 to 1:20 p.m. ET for system maintenance and testing.

Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS): an online system that the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) uses to maintain information on SEVP-certified schools, Department of State-certified exchange visitor programs, and F, M and J nonimmigrants and their dependents.

Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP): a part of Immigration and Customs Enforcement that works with government organizations that have an interest in information on international students. SEVP helps the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of State monitor school and exchange visitor programs, nonimmigrant students and exchange visitors, and their dependents.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS): a federal agency whose missions include preventing terrorism and enhancing security, managing U.S. borders, administering immigration laws, securing



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

cyberspace and ensuring disaster resilience. Through Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Student and Exchange Visitor Program, DHS secures the student visa system.