Spring/Summer 2015 Conference Presentation Script

Chapter One: Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2015 Conference Presentation

- Welcome to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program's (SEVP) Spring/Summer 2015 Conference Presentation. This season, we are engaging with our stakeholders, both in-person and virtually, through a number of conferences, webinars, and teleconferences. If you are unable to attend an event this season, this presentation will provide you with an overview of important SEVP updates and initiatives — most of which were requested by you, our stakeholders.
- SEVP strives to consistently meet our stakeholder's needs while ensuring the program keeps up with evolving trends in international education. Throughout this presentation, we will highlight tips and best practices for designated school officials (DSOs), as well as the numerous resources available on Study in the States.
- This season, SEVP is introducing a new, interactive viewing format that allows users to select from a range of topic-specific chapters, as well as watch brief, five-minute videos containing pertinent program news and updates.
- Following this introductory video, we recommend watching the complete video series to receive a comprehensive overview of upcoming SEVP priorities, as well as general program news and updates. During this presentation, we will also discuss:
    - Upcoming regulatory changes, draft guidance documents previously available for comment on Study in the States, as well as upcoming draft and interim final guidance;
    - Current Form I-17,"Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student," update processing times and the fields on the Form I-17 that require adjudication;
    - Hot topics for international students and SEVP-certified schools;
    - Planned enhancements to the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System;
    - SEVP's commitment to improving stakeholder support through the SEVP Response Center, SEVIS Help Desk and SEVP field representatives; and
    - How school officials can use Study in the States as a resource in their daily work and stay up-to-date with the latest program news and updates.
- Following this presentation, we invite you to share your feedback about this video and any additional SEVP presentations you attend. SEVP reviews your comments throughout the

season and incorporates your thoughts and feedback into future presentations and resources. The best way to provide your input is by taking the Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey on Study in the States at StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Survey.

Chapter Two: Policy and Regulatory Updates

- The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) anticipates that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will amend its regulations to improve management of international student programs, and increase opportunities for spouses and children of international students to study in the United States.
    - Under the proposed new regulation, SEVP-certified schools will have greater flexibility to determine the number of designated school officials (DSOs) to nominate. Currently, SEVP-certified schools can nominate a maximum of 10 DSOs. The new regulation will permit SEVP-certified schools to nominate an appropriate number of school officials based on the school's specific needs.
    - Additionally, this amendment will permit dependents of international students to enroll in educational courses while staying in the United States, as long as the courses do not equate to full-time status.
- We will briefly review draft and interim final guidance documents previously available for comment on Study in the States. As a reminder, draft guidance is *not* agency policy and is *not* the same as federal governing regulations. Additionally, draft guidance does *not* establish standards or requirements for SEVP adjudicators. In comparison, interim final guidance is official SEVP policy used by adjudicators, but remains open for public feedback. Schools are expected to comply with interim final guidance during an SEVP review.
- In autumn 2014, SEVP posted draft guidance on pathway programs, as well as interim final guidance on the definition of the academic year, to Study in the States. The pathway programs draft guidance comprised the third of a three-part series on conditional admission and pathway programs.
    - Posted in July 2014, the first part of the draft guidance series focused on **conditional admission** and addressed the practice of schools issuing a Form I-20,"Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status," to a student who does not meet all admissions requirements.
    - The second draft guidance document addressed **the Form I-20 and the English proficiency field**, and provided instruction for school officials to consistently enter information into the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).
    - Posted in September 2014, the third draft guidance document focused on **pathway programs** and was a follow-up to the May 2013 draft guidance on bridge programs and conditional admission. SEVP divided the original 2013 draft guidance into multiple documents, and expanded the list of approvable programs to include degree programs, as well as non-degree programs. SEVP also posted two fact sheets to Study in the States that provide specific instructions for schools on how to use the

Form I-17, "Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student," and Form I-20 in accordance with this guidance.

  - The pathway programs draft guidance series received 100 stakeholder comments and is currently under review by SEVP. We appreciate stakeholder feedback and will review all input to develop additional guidance on the topic.

- Interim final guidance on the **definition of an academic year** received 60 comments. We are currently reviewing your feedback, and will release the guidance in interim final form on SEVP's website at ICE.gov/SEVP.
  - School officials should remember that SEVP released this guidance in interim final status and all schools are expected to comply with the guidance during a review. To learn more about interim final guidance, or to view the academic year guidance document, visit the SEVP Guidance for Comment page on Study in the States.
- In response to an audit by the Government Accountability Office, upcoming **draft guidance** documents will primarily focus on student employment.
  - **Employment-related guidance** will address on-campus employment, off-campus employment, student internships with an international organization and emergent circumstances for F-1 students, as well as general employment for F-1 and M-1 students.
- Additionally, SEVP expects to release **interim final guidance** on the following topics previously available for comment and revised to incorporate stakeholder feedback. Upcoming interim final guidance topics include:
  - **F-1 Student Absence**, which explains how F-1 students leaving the United States during a school session can apply for a temporary absence, as well as the re-admittance process;
  - **M-1 Student Absence and School Breaks**, which explains how M-1 students leaving the country during a school session can apply for a temporary absence, the re-admittance process, and school breaks for M-1 students; and
  - **F-1 Annual Vacation and School Breaks**, which defines a vacation and explains when and under what circumstances an F-1 student may take an annual vacation. The guidance also addresses school breaks for F-1 students.
- For more information on SEVP policy guidance, and to register to receive alerts when SEVP posts new draft guidance, visit the SEVP Guidance for Comment page on Study in the States.

Chapter Three: News from the School Certification Unit

- The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is currently processing Form I-17, "Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student," updates from October and November 2014. Due to the high number of petition updates submitted daily, the average timeframe for adjudication is at least 60 days, and may take longer depending on the nature of the requested update.
- As part of a continuing series for designated school officials (DSOs), we want to remind school officials of tips and best practices to keep in mind when planning and making updates to the Form I-17. Following these tips will help prepare your school for recertification, and ensure updates are processed in a timely manner.

  Tip Number One: Keep your Form I-17 up-to-date

  - We strongly recommend that DSOs review their school's Form I-17 on a regular basis, and submit updates as needed. Regular updates to the Form I-17 — as opposed to updates made prior to recertification — will ensure accurate and timely processing, in addition to making the recertification process easier for you and your school.

  Tip Number Two: Keep important dates in mind

  - School officials should remember that all changes to the Form I-17 must be adjudicated prior to filing for recertification. Therefore, we recommend that school officials always keep important dates in mind, such as the school's certification expiration date (CED), when planning to submit an update.
    - School officials will receive a notification through the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) 180 days prior to the CED. We strongly recommend that DSOs review and immediately update their school's Form I-17 upon receipt of the 180-day CED notification.

  Tip Number Three: Check your email address in SEVIS

  - School officials should ensure that the principal designated school official (PDSO) email address listed in SEVIS is accurate so the school can continue to receive notifications and requests for evidence from SEVP.

  Tip Number Four: Know who to contact

  - For questions concerning updates, contact the SEVP Response Center by phone at 703–603–3400 or by email at SEVP@ice.dhs.gov.
- Additionally, we have several resources available on Study in the States to assist DSOs with completing and updating the Form I-17, including:

- The **Form I-17 Tutorial**, which provides a step-by-step overview of how to complete the Form I-17. Viewers can download an accompanying transcript and Form I-17 Fact Sheet for detailed information on SEVP certification, the Form I-17, and related information. You can access the tutorial through the School's Portal on Study in the States.
- In addition, the **"Questions from DSOs" blog series** allows school officials to submit general questions related to the international student process. Each month, SEVP answers your questions through a Study in the States blog post. Past blog posts answered questions such as, "How do I make changes to the Form I-17 during recertification?" You can submit questions for the blog series by email to SEVPCommunications@ice.dhs.gov with the subject line "Questions from DSOs."

- School officials should keep in mind that several fields on the Form I-17 require adjudication when edited via petition update, including:
  - **Fields one through five**, which contain the petition designation (F, M, or both), the name of the school, the type of school, and its mailing address;
  - **Fields nine and ten**, which contain the location of the school (if different from the mailing address), as well as the name and address of the school's owner;
  - **Fields 12 through 16**, which contain the school's U.S. state license or exemption, name of the accrediting body, subject matter offered, as well as the degrees and education levels available to students;
  - **Fields 19 and 22**, which contain the course(s) of study offered and the school's average annual student population; and
  - **PDSO and DSO Listings** and **Form I-17B Instructional Sites**.
- For a complete listing of all fields that require adjudication on the Form I-17, download the **Recertification Checklist**, which is available through the School's Portal on Study in the States and at ICE.gov/SEVP.

Chapter Four: Student and School Hot Topics

- The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) regularly monitors trends in the international student community. The I-901 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee, student employment, and Form I-515A, "Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor," continue to be hot topics for international students. To ensure international students remain compliant with federal rules and regulations, we want to remind designated school officials (DSOs) of the following tips and best practices:

  Tip Number One: Remind students to pay the I-901 SEVIS fee on their current SEVIS ID to ensure smooth travel

  - If a returning student receives a new SEVIS record with a new SEVIS ID, the student *is required* to pay the I-901 SEVIS fee for the new SEVIS ID.
  - Remember, this fee is different than the one that transfers from an unused SEVIS ID to a new SEVIS ID as an Initial student. If a student has questions concerning their eligibility for a fee transfer, he or she may contact the SEVP Response Center by phone at 703–603–3400 or by email at SEVP@ice.dhs.gov.
  - In the case of a returning student with a different SEVIS ID, paying the I-901 SEVIS fee before traveling will facilitate a smooth re-entry into the United States.

  Tip Number Two: Remember important information regarding authorized periods of optional practical training (OPT)

  - DSOs should remember that post-completion OPT can start no later than 60 days after the student's program end date listed in SEVIS. Additionally, OPT must end no later than one year after the OPT start date, unless the student is eligible for an extension.
  - If the wrong dates are listed on the employment authorization document, the student should contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to request a correction.

  Tip Number Three: Ensure accurate OPT reporting

  - Remember, a student's OPT employers should be listed in SEVIS. Additionally, be sure to remind students submitting applications for OPT that they must keep their school officials informed of their current address and employment status while they are participating in OPT.

Tip Number Four. Ensure students that receive a Form I-515A at a U.S. port of entry file all required documents with SEVP within 30 days of receipt.

- If a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer issues a Form I-515A to a student at a U.S. port of entry, DSOs *must* ensure that the student submits all relevant information in one package to SEVP within 30 days of receipt.
- As a reminder, the student's Form I-515A package must contain the following items:
  - The Form I-515A, "Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor;"
  - The student's Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status," with original signatures;
  - The number on the Form I-94, "Arrival/Departure Record," or printed copy;
  - A copy of the admission stamp from CBP; and
  - The student's I-901 SEVIS fee receipt.
- Additionally, the DSO should assist the student with submitting any supplementary information to SEVP, such as documentation of a SEVIS correction request or reinstatement.
  - If a SEVIS correction request is pending, a DSO must provide the student with a ticket number, along with any other associated paperwork.
  - If a reinstatement is pending, a DSO should assist the student by submitting a cover letter attesting the student is enrolled in a full course of study, a USCIS receipt number, and any other associated paperwork. Please note, in some cases, the same information is true if a change of status is pending.
- If the student elects to go to a CBP-deferred inspection site instead of sending the Form I-515A paperwork to SEVP, the DSO should email SEVP@ice.dhs.gov with the student's Form I-94 number and indicate the length of nonimmigrant status granted to the student at the deferred inspection site.

- Additionally, we would like to remind school officials of the difference between a Remedial Action Plan and an out-of-cycle review.
  - SEVP issues a **Remedial Action Plan** to a school upon discovery of deficiencies. The Remedial Action Plan outlines required actions the school needs to take to resolve these deficiencies. A Remedial Action Plan may be issued for minor clerical errors or for more serious issues that SEVP decides do not require the withdrawal of SEVP certification.

- SEVP may issue Remedial Action Plans prior to, in lieu of, or after an out-of-cycle review, as well as once a school receives a positive determination for recertification.
- Failure to resolve deficiencies and respond to SEVP confirming actions taken may result in additional action, including withdrawal of a school's SEVP certification. If your school believes it incorrectly received a remedial action plan, it is important to provide a response with the information requested, as well as an explanation as to why your school believes SEVP issued the plan in error.

- In comparison, an **out-of-cycle review** can be issued at any time to ensure the school complies with reporting and recordkeeping requirements, and to ensure continued eligibility in the program.
  - An out-of-cycle review may include a student record review, a request for the submission of documentation to verify accreditation, state licensure or other required evidence that proves a school's SEVP certification eligibility requirements, and/or be issued at a site visit.
  - Failure to respond to an out-of-cycle review could negatively affect the school's certification status and lead to withdrawal of SEVP-certification.
  - Remember, the school's response to an out-of-cycle review will not extend the school's certification expiration date.

Chapter 5: SEVIS Enhancements

- The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is working hard to enhance the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). In the coming year, we plan to deploy multiple new enhancements within the current system.
- Beginning on April 5, 2015, designated school officials (DSOs) and government users will be able to access a new **student employment information page**, which will display all employment authorizations granted for a student under a specific SEVIS ID.
- Information available to DSOs on the employment page will include:
    - Employment type,
    - Whether the employment is full-time or part-time,
    - DSO-recommended employment start and end dates,
    - Actual start and end dates,
    - The student's school,
    - The student's level of study, and
    - The ability to request status and receipt number, if applicable.
- Additionally, in June 2015, SEVP plans to deploy a SEVIS release implementing new **standards for SEVIS names, addresses, and email addresses**. Once implemented, SEVIS will automatically convert existing nonimmigrant student names to the new standards, and validate all U.S. street and email addresses to ensure they are complete and legitimate. Additionally, all U.S. street and email addresses will require a standard input to improve deliverability.
    - School officials should be aware that all street addresses will be converted in incremental stages over a one-month period following the release. If an address does not update, school officials will receive a SEVIS alert and have the ability to view a report of addresses that did not convert.
    - To support this release, SEVP and the U.S. Department of State will update the Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status," and Form DS-2019, "Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Status," to reflect the new name standards in SEVIS.
        - The Form I-20 will have a completely new look, including U.S. Department of Homeland Security branding. Additionally, the current bar code or area for port of entry stamp will be removed.
        - The Department of State will make minor changes to the Form DS-2019 to include additional name fields.
    - SEVP is currently working with batch vendors and carrying out extensive testing in preparation for the June release. We will continue to coordinate with our

interagency partners to ensure a smooth conversion of all names, U.S. street and email addresses currently listed in SEVIS.
    - For information about the name, address and email standards, please visit the SEVIS page on Study in the States.
- The June 2015 SEVIS release will also feature a new SEVIS Downloads page and mass reprint feature, allowing school officials to download reports identifying nonimmigrant records changed as a result of the name, address, and email address standardization. SEVIS will produce PDFs of the forms and bundle them into a zip file, which will be available on the SEVIS Downloads page. School officials will be able to open the files and print or save as an individual PDF.
- SEVP will also release the new Form-7002, "Trainee/Intern Placement Plan," to help SEVIS program sponsors ensure compliance with Department of State reporting requirements.
- SEVP is committed to providing stakeholders with information on SEVIS enhancements before, during, and after each release. To communicate upcoming enhancements, and to assist DSOs with SEVIS reporting requirements, we developed numerous SEVIS resources for stakeholders, including a free webinar series, as well as job aids and frequently asked questions.
- To discuss upcoming SEVIS enhancements, we host a regular **webinar series** to explain and demonstrate new features.
    - These webinars provide detailed explanations of upcoming releases and enhancements, and allow SEVIS users the opportunity to voice questions through a moderated question and answer session.
        - Additionally, for releases affecting batch users, we host batch-specific webinars. To receive invitations to SEVIS batch webinars, email SEVISTechnicalFeedback@ice.dhs.gov.
    - Did you miss a SEVIS webinar? The Study in the States Stakeholder Webinars page allows users to view past SEVIS webinars, and topics for upcoming webinars. The page also allows users to register for future webinars and access associated SEVIS resources.
    - Please be sure to check Study in the States, social media and SEVP broadcast messages for the latest news on future webinars.
- In addition to the SEVIS webinar series, we offers other resources — including **FAQ guides**, **job aids** and **fact sheets** — to assist school officials with SEVIS reporting requirements. Stakeholders can access these resources through the SEVIS page on Study in the States.
    - If you wish to access resources associated with previous SEVIS releases, you can visit the SEVIS Archive page on Study in the States.

- If you have questions concerning SEVIS releases, or suggestions for additional resources, please email us at SEVISTechnicalFeedback@ice.dhs.gov.

Chapter 6: Stakeholder Support

- The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is committed to providing effective and efficient support to our stakeholders. To enhance customer support and better address stakeholder questions, the SEVP Response Center (SRC) and Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Help Desk merged support functions into a single location in the Washington, D.C. area. We are fully committed to answering stakeholder questions and appreciate your patience during this transition.
- Recently, we experienced a higher than normal call volume, and stakeholders may have faced extended wait times due to the response center merge. In February 2015, the SRC and SEVIS Help Desk received more than 9,000 calls, a 22 percent increase from February 2014.
    - In an effort to address the extended wait times, the SRC recently made adjustments to staffing levels and the configuration of the phone system to allow for more efficient routing of calls to representatives.
- We would like to thank you for your patience during this transition, and remind you to review resources available on Study in the States and ICE.gov/SEVP for answers to frequently asked questions.
- The SRC and SEVIS Help Desk are happy to report that as of February 2015:
    - Ninety-three percent of all SEVIS Help Desk tickets reported by phone were resolved within 24 hours, and
    - Ninety-five percent of all SEVIS Help Desk tickets reported via email were resolved within 24 hours.
- The SRC and the SEVIS Help Desk permanently extended their hours from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time to support stakeholder inquiries. Stakeholders can continue to email questions and comments to SEVP@ice.dhs.gov.
- The SRC and SEVIS Help Desk have several enhancements planned to provide additional avenues for stakeholders to contact the SRC or SEVIS Help Desk. In the next two years, stakeholders can look forward to:
    - A **chat feature** to provide immediate responses to stakeholder inquiries;
    - A **hold in place (call back feature)** that allows stakeholders the option to receive a call from the next available SEVP service representative during busy periods without losing their place in the queue; and
    - A **first-level option for password resets** that allows stakeholders to connect with a first-level SEVP service representative within seconds.
- To assist stakeholders during this period of heavy call volume, the SRC and SEVIS Help Desk would like to offer the following tips for stakeholders with questions:

Tip Number One: Check Study in the States and ICE.gov/SEVP

- If you are experiencing an extended wait time, we encourage stakeholders to review resources available on Study in the States and ICE.gov/SEVP for answers to frequently asked questions.
- Stakeholders with general questions concerning SEVIS or the international student process can use the "Ask a Question" feature on Study in the States. This resource can help to find answers to commonly asked questions by students and schools.
- Our website at ICE.gov/SEVP contains detailed information on SEVP policy and regulation, in addition to SEVIS reporting requirements.

Tip Number Two: Have all necessary information on-hand

- The SRC and SEVIS Help Desk support staff will generally ask for the following information at the beginning of your call to efficiently address your question:
  - Your first and last name;
  - If you are a student or a designated school official (DSO);
  - The school name or SEVIS ID in question; and
  - Whether or not the student in question is located inside or outside of the United States, if applicable.
- It is important to have this information readily available when calling the SRC or SEVIS Help Desk to ensure your call proceeds in a timely manner.

Tip Number Three: Listen to all menu options when calling the SRC or SEVIS Help Desk before making your selection

- When calling the SRC or SEVIS Help Desk, be sure to listen to all menu options before making your selection. This action will ensure you are placed in the correct queue and directed to the appropriate representative to address your question.

- In addition to the SRC and SEVIS Help Desk, SEVP provides localized support to our stakeholders through the Field Representative Unit. In 2014, SEVP trained and deployed the first and second classes of field representatives. Since deployment, field representatives have conducted over 4,000 school visits, and enhanced relationships with DSOs within their respective territories.
- We are pleased to report that the first two classes of field representatives have received positive feedback from the academic community. An initial survey showed that the first and second classes received the highest overall rating of "Achieves Excellence" for their professionalism, punctuality, and courtesy demonstrated throughout a school visit.

- SEVP posted hiring announcements for the third class of field representatives in February 2015. We expect the class to begin their training course at SEVP headquarters in the late summer and deploy to their respective territories in fall 2015.
- SEVP anticipates hiring and deploying the fourth class of field representatives in 2015 and will continue to provide information on the deployment status of the fourth class.
- Your meeting with your territory's SEVP field representative is an opportunity to ask any general questions related to SEVP and the international student process.
    - Remember, field representatives meet twice annually with SEVP-certified schools in their territory that enroll active F and/or M students. Field representatives meet with certified schools without active F and M students once a year. Additionally, field representatives work closely with school officials to develop a meeting agenda prior to each visit.
- Each field representative has specific goals for their school visit, including:
    - Learning about the school and its international student population;
    - Noting any trends the school has experienced or observed;
    - Establishing a working relationship with school officials; and
    - Answering questions concerning federal regulations, upcoming SEVIS enhancements and other general topics, in addition to providing clarification on SEVP directives or guidance.

Chapter 7: Engage with SEVP

- Since its launch in 2011, Study in the States has established itself as a hub of official government information for school officials and nonimmigrant students interested in the international student process. As of April 2015, Study in the States has reached more than one million users from 229 countries and territories, and has received more than 3.5 million page views.
- Study in the States offers designated school officials (DSOs) free resources that address the international student process and Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) certification.
    - School officials can access a **dedicated Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) webpage** containing numerous resources. These resources include fact sheets, FAQ guides, information concerning upcoming releases, and webinars to assist DSOs with SEVIS reporting requirements. You can access these resources through the SEVIS Web page.
    - Additionally, you can **comment on SEVP policy guidance.** SEVP's Policy Unit periodically requests public feedback on draft and interim final guidance located on the Guidance for Comment page. On this page, stakeholders can view past and current guidance for comment opportunities, and register to receive notices when SEVP posts new draft guidance.
    - Beginning in 2015, SEVP will host a series of **topic-specific webinars** on Study in the States. This webinar series will allow stakeholders to learn more about key topics, such as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's regulatory framework. These webinars will also allow viewers to engage directly with SEVP staff through a question and answer session. Be sure to watch Study in the States and social media for more information about this upcoming webinar series.
    - Study in the States also contains **videos and tutorials** designed to help school officials learn more about SEVP, as well as how to navigate the Form I-17, "Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student," and I-901 SEVIS fee payment process.
        - Our **SEVP 101 Video** explains how SEVP supports the Homeland Security Investigations mission within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to help protect national security.
        - To assist international students going through the I-901 SEVIS fee payment process, and DSOs completing the Form I-17, SEVP has developed **step-by-step tutorials** detailing these processes.

- Study in the States also offers numerous resources for international students and their parents. Using the translation feature, students and their families can access Study in the States information in **64 different languages**.
    - Whether a student is looking to study in the United States, or is completing a program of study, Study in the States provides helpful resources, such as the **Study Guide to the States**.
        - We recently updated the Study Guide to the States to provide an interactive resource that helps students and school officials navigate information about each step in the international student process. From searching for an SEVP-certified school, to completing a program of study, the guide provides access to detailed information at each step in the process.
        - In addition to updated information, the Study Guide to the States can now be viewed from a smartphone or tablet. You can find this resource through the Students Portal on Study in the States.
    - Additionally, prospective or current students can access a **searchable map of SEVP-certified schools**. The School Search page allows students to search for SEVP-certified schools by name, location, state, education, or visa type.
- SEVP is constantly working to improve Web content on Study in the States. In March 2015, Study in the States launched an **interactive SEVIS by the Numbers feature**. This new tool allows users to view SEVIS data by continent, region and country, and see a variety of information, including where international students come from, the male and female breakdown of students from each geographical area, and most popular programs of study.
- Please check back throughout the year to see new enhancements, updates, and additional features in the works.
- We encourage our stakeholders to connect virtually with SEVP, and stay up-to-date with the latest program news and updates, as well as engage with us through social media.
- The Study in the States blog posts daily content with best practices, current events, answers to frequently asked questions, and other topics related to international education. Additionally, SEVP is a monthly contributor to the **U.S. News and World Report's "International Student Counsel"** blog. SEVP Director Lou Farrell writes a blog post focusing on aspects of the international student process, such as transferring schools and financial obligations. The blog is available on the U.S. News and World Report's website. We encourage you to share Director Farrell's latest blog posts through your personal social media networks.
- For the latest government news and updates about international students, join the more than 8,300 users following us on Twitter (@StudyinStates) and more than 26,100 accounts that "like" us on Facebook at facebook.com/StudyintheStates!

- Additionally, to further engage with our stakeholders, we publish the quarterly SEVP Spotlight newsletter and the monthly SEVP Conference Bulletin.
    - The **SEVP Spotlight** is a quarterly newsletter distributed to more than 35,000 DSOs, as well as top academic associations and SEVP's government partners. Each newsletter provides updates on the latest information affecting our stakeholders and the program.
    - The **SEVP Conference Bulletin** is a monthly one-page bulletin to inform our conference stakeholders of the latest SEVP news and events. Past Conference Bulletin topics included seasonal tips and reminders for DSOs, news on the latest SEVP publications, as well as updates on SEVP's participation at stakeholder conferences and events.
- To subscribe to the SEVP Spotlight or Conference Bulletin, please email SEVPCommunications@ice.dhs.gov and we will add you to our distribution list.
- SEVP is constantly expanding our outreach through stakeholder conferences and events, and welcomes the opportunity to participate in your conference. To inquire about SEVP attending your upcoming conference, please submit a request that includes event details to SEVPCommunications@ice.dhs.gov.
- SEVP wants to hear from you about this presentation and any other SEVP presentations you attend. The best way to provide your feedback is through the Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey on Study in the States. The survey is available at StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Survey.
- We review your comments throughout the year and incorporate your thoughts and feedback into future presentations. Your opinion is vital to SEVP continuing to meet your needs. Please complete the survey as soon as this presentation is over.
- If you have case-specific questions, please contact the SEVP Response Center by email at SEVP@ice.dhs.gov, or by phone at 703–603–3400.
- For technical issues, please contact the SEVIS Help Desk by email at SEVIShelpdesk@ice.dhs.gov, or by phone at 800–892–4829.
- For additional contact information, please visit our Contact Page on Study in the States.
- Thank you for tuning into our Spring/Summer 2015 Conference Presentation. SEVP looks forward to engaging with our stakeholders during this conference season. Once again, we encourage you to provide your feedback on this presentation, or any other SEVP conference or event, through our Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey at StudyintheStates.dhs.gov/Survey.