

To: DSOs and PDSOs at SEVP-certified schools only (for F and M students)

Date: Oct. 31, 2016

Re: Interim Final and Final Policy Guidance Documents Released

Number: 1610-07

General Information

On Friday, Oct. 28, 2016, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) released the following policy guidance documents:

- Interim Final SEVP Policy Guidance S1.2: [Evidentiary Requirements for Schools Not Meeting Eligibility Criteria in 8 CFR 214.3\(b\) and \(c\)](#).
- Final SEVP Policy Guidance S7.2: [Pathway Programs for Reasons of English Proficiency](#).

Interim Final SEVP Policy Guidance S1.2

This policy guidance clarifies the acceptable additional evidence requirements for schools that do not meet one of the following criteria:

- Owned and operated as a public school or school system by the United States, a state or a political subdivision thereof, and confers upon its graduates recognized bachelor's, master's, doctorate, professional or divinity degrees.
- Accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting body and confers upon its graduates recognized bachelor's, master's, doctorate, professional or divinity degrees.
- A secondary school operated by or as part of a postsecondary school that is a public educational institution or is accredited.

The public may submit their comments on SEVP Policy Guidance S1.2 by emailing SEVPFeedback@ice.dhs.gov with the title of the guidance in the subject line. The open comment period will close on Monday, Dec. 12, 2016.

To download a copy of the interim final guidance, visit the [SEVP Guidance for Comment](#) page on Study in the States or refer to the link above. SEVP develops interim final guidance that clarifies or revises SEVP policy. Unlike draft guidance, interim final guidance is official SEVP policy that establishes standards or requirements and is used by SEVP adjudicators when it is posted. Once the public comment period closes, stakeholders will find the interim final guidance in the [Operating Instruction section](#) of ICE.gov/SEVP, under the Policy Guidance tab.

Final SEVP Policy Guidance S7.2

This final policy guidance provides information regarding pathway programs for F-1 postsecondary students who fail to meet the English proficiency requirements for admission into a certified degree program of study, or need to improve English competencies for that program.

Attached within the guidance document is Fact Sheet FS S7.2 – Pathway Programs, which outlines Student and Exchange Visitor Information System instructions for how to perform the following:

- Input pathway program information into the school’s Form I-17, “Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student.”
- Properly issue a Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status,” for a pathway program.

As a reminder, all final SEVP Guidance is considered official SEVP policy. This final policy guidance is available in the [Operating Instruction section](#) of ICE.gov/SEVP, under the Policy Guidance tab.

Comments

To comment on this broadcast message, please email SEVP@ice.dhs.gov with “Broadcast Message 1610-07 Comment” entered in the subject line.

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