

SEVIS Release 6.11 Final System Changes

December 6, 2012

Production Release Date: December 7, 2012

The following summarizes the final system changes to the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) with Release 6.11.

SEVIS Batch

An overview of the SEVIS Batch modifications with Release 6.11 is available in the Release 6.11 Batch System Changes document on the [SEVIS Batch page of ice.gov](#) until December 7, 2012. After December 7, 2012, please reference the [SEVIS API document](#) located in the SEVIS Batch document section on ice.gov. The updated SEVISTable.xsd schema and Batch Application Program Interface (API), including the lookup tables, are also available on this page.

All Users

Updates to Country Lists

SEVIS Real-Time Interactive (RTI) drop-down lists containing country selections will change because of a National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) Geopolitical Entities and Codes (Formerly Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 10-4) Change Notice.

First, the update will add the following six new countries:

- AKROTIRI
- CURAÇAO
- DHEKELIA
- ETOROFU, HABOMAI, KUNASHIRI, AND SHIKOTAN ISLANDS
- SINT MAARTEN
- SOUTH SUDAN

Second, the below table identifies countries that will have the description updated.

Old Description	New Description
CONGO	CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE)
CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF	CONGO (KINSHASA)
SAINT HELENA	SAINT HELENA, ASCENSION AND TRISTAN DA CUNHA
WAKE ATOLL	WAKE ISLAND

Last, the NETHERLANDS ANTILLES will close and only be available for selection as a country of birth.

F/M School Officials

Validation of Secondary Major for Optional Practical Training (OPT) Extension Requests

A modification to SEVIS will permit 17-month OPT extension request for an F-1 student with a science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) secondary major that has approval for the extension. With the addition of this check, the new validation to display the 'Extend' link to a principal designated school official (PDSO)/designated school official (DSO) will be as follows:

- F-1 student record in *Active* status
- Education level of bachelor's, master's, or doctorate
- DHS-approved primary or secondary major
- Student has a current, *Approved* status, post-completion OPT segment
- No 17-month OPT extension in *Requested*, *Pending*, or *Approved* status exists

NOTE: The [current list of DHS-approved degree programs](#) is available on the ice.gov website.

Modification of H-1B Cap-Gap Status Extension Logic

A modification will occur to the business rules that apply H-1B cap-gap upon receipt of F-1 to H-1B change of status data from the Computer-Linked Application Information Management System (CLAIMS). In particular, SEVIS will apply a status-extension to the record if both of the following criteria apply:

- Receipt of *Pending* or *Approved* (with an October 1 benefit start date) H-1B data from CLAIMS between April 1 and September 30
- *Active* status F-1 student's latest *Approved* status post-completion OPT segment has a past end date that falls between February 1 and September 30 of the current year

Enhancements to School Event History

Names of select existing school-related events will change to better identify the action in the school event history. The impacted schools events are in the below table.

SEVIS Action	Existing Event Description	New Event Description
Certification Application	Application Submitted	Certification Application Submitted
	Application Approved	Certification Application Approved
	Application Denied	Certification Application Denied
Form I-17 Update	Application Submitted	Form I-17 Non-Adjudicated Update Submitted
	Application Submitted	Form I-17 Update Application Submitted *
	Application Approved	Form I-17 Update Application Approved

SEVIS Action	Existing Event Description	New Event Description
Certification Application	Application Submitted	Certification Application Submitted
	Application Approved	Certification Application Approved
	Application Denied	Certification Application Denied
	Update Denied	Form I-17 Update Application Denied
Notice of Intent to Withdraw	School Withdrawn	Notice of Intent to Withdraw
Recertification Application	Application Submitted	Recertification Application Submitted
	Application Approved	Recertification Application Approved
	Update Denied	Recertification Application Denied

* **NOTE:** If a Form I-17, "Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student," Update submission includes both adjudicated and non-adjudicated changes, this event will be used.

In addition, six new school related events will be in the school event history. The following table identifies the six new events are identified in the below table.

SEVIS Action	New Event Description
PDSO Registers for Batch Processing	Register for Batch Processing
Recertification Notice E-mail Triggered	180-Day Recertification Notice
	90-Day Recertification Notice
	30-Day Recertification Notice
Record Nonpayment for Recertification	Record Nonpayment (Recertification)
Request Payment for Recertification	Request Payment (Recertification)

If applicable, PDSOs and DSOs will start seeing these events in the school event history from the implementation of Release 6.11 forward.

Restriction of PDSO Role Assignment

SEVIS will restrict the ability to assign the PDSO role to a new official whose addition to the Form I-17 requires adjudication by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). Therefore, when adding either a new official or an existing official that is not a current approved PDSO or DSO, you can only assign the DSO role. If SEVP grants a favorable adjudication of the Form I-17 update, the existing PDSO will then have the ability to assign the PDSO role to the new official, if applicable.

Functionality for School Withdrawal and Appeals Processing

SEVP will have enhanced functionality to handle school withdrawals as well as the ability to track appeals within SEVIS. School officials will notice three ways these modifications impact functionality.

First, SEVIS will further define the types of school withdrawals. The following table identifies the withdrawal types and the related event that will be in the school event history if SEVP withdraws a school. If SEVP withdraws a school, the withdrawal type will

display in parenthesis next to the status on the School Information screen (e.g., Withdrawn (Automatic no Appeal Rights)).

Withdrawal Type	Event Description
Automatic no Appeal Rights	Automatic Withdrawal no Appeal Rights
Automatic with Appeal Rights	Automatic Withdrawal with Appeal Rights
Recertification Denied	Recertification Application Denied
Voluntary	Voluntary Withdrawal
Withdrawn on Notice no Appeal Rights	Withdrawn on Notice no Appeal Rights
Withdrawn on Notice with Appeal Rights	Withdrawn on Notice with Appeal Rights

Second, while the handling of appeals occurs outside of SEVIS, SEVP will have the ability to document the appeal within SEVIS. The below table identifies the appeal statuses and the related event that will be in the school event history if SEVP enters a school appeal. If school officials have submitted an appeal and SEVP has documented this in SEVIS, the appeal status will display on the School Information screen.

Appeal Status	Event Description
Appeal Approved	Withdrawal Appeal Approved
Appeal Dismissed	Withdrawal Appeal Dismissed
Appeal not Received	Withdrawal Appeal not Received
Appeal Pending	Withdrawal Appeal Pending

Last, when a school is in *Withdrawn* status, certain SEVIS functionalities will no longer be available to the school's PDSOs and DSOs. The below table identifies the withdrawn type/appeal status and the related functionality that will be restricted in this status. Note that the functionality is only available until the access termination date, at which point the school's PDSO and DSOs will lose access to the school.

Withdrawal Type/Appeal Status	Restricted Functionalities
Automatic no Appeal Rights	All access to SEVIS is removed
Voluntary	
Appeal Pending	No ability to edit the Form I-17 (including recertification) No ability to register for Batch processing
Appeal Approved	
Automatic with Appeal Rights	
Recertification Denied	
Withdrawn on Notice with Appeal Rights	No ability to create new students No ability to register <i>Initial</i> status students No ability to request a student reinstatement No ability to edit the Form I-17 (including recertification) No ability to register for Batch processing
Appeal Dismissed	
Appeal not Received	
Withdrawn on Notice no Appeal Rights	

J Sponsor Officials

Entry of Employer Identification Number

SEVIS will allow currently designated sponsors the option to enter the program's employer identification number (EIN), a unique number that identifies the organization to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). EIN entry will be in two fields; the first field will have nine digits (no dashes), and the second field is a five character alphanumeric format field sponsors should complete if assigned by the IRS. The field to add/update/remove the EIN will be available via the Update Program Information (formerly Update Address and General Contract Information) link within the Edits menu on the Program Information screen.

Ability to Add/Update Foreign Entity Information

Sponsor officials will have the ability to add/update information regarding their foreign entities (i.e., overseas agents or partners). This will include the following data for each foreign entity:

- Name
- Address (address 1, address 2, city, country)
- Website
- Point of contact (name, phone number, e-mail address)
- Sponsor point of contact (name, phone number, e-mail address)

The ability to add a foreign entity will be available via the new Add Foreign Entity Information link within the Edits menu on the Program Information screen. Once a sponsor has added a foreign entity, the status of the foreign entity will default to *Active*. Also, the Add Foreign Entity Information link will change to Add/Update Foreign Entity Information. The responsible officer or an alternate responsible officer will have the ability to edit the information on the foreign entity as well as change the status to *Inactive*. Note that it is not possible to delete a foreign entity once a user makes this addition.

User Manuals, Online Help, and Tutorials

SEVP will update the SEVIS online help and user manuals for school and program sponsor officials as necessary to reflect the changes implemented with SEVIS Release 6.11.