

Broadcast Message: Response to California Wildfires —Impact on F and M Students in Affected Jurisdictions

To: PDSOs and DSOs at SEVP-certified schools in California

Date: Jan. 8, 2025

Number: 2501 – 03

General Information

Following the impact of wildfires in jurisdictions of California, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) requests that SEVP-certified schools provide certain information for the program to relay an accurate count of those impacted to U.S. government officials, embassies and the media. SEVP requests that all certified schools in the impacted areas please respond to the following questions as soon as possible:

1. Has your school been impacted by the California wildfires? If ‘no,’ please advise SEVP immediately via the contact information below. If ‘yes,’ please respond to the following questions via the contact information below:
 - a. Have you accounted for all F-1 and M-1 nonimmigrants enrolled at your school, as well as their accompanying dependents, if any?
 - b. Do you anticipate an immediate recovery that will enable your students to resume their full course of study for this session? If ‘no,’ please provide an estimated date for when you anticipate students will resume their full course of study.
 - c. If the wildfires impact resumption of normal student progress this session, do you have an alternate plan (e.g., instruction at another location or transfer to another school)? Please provide a brief description of your school’s plan.

Submit the response by email to SEVP at SEVP@ice.dhs.gov, with the subject “Attention: California Wildfires.” Please include additional related comments, questions and/or concerns, if any.

Contact the SEVP Response Center (SRC) with any concerns about your school’s operations due to the California wildfires, including:

- Your school’s ability to submit a timely petition for recertification (before your certification expiration date), if applicable.
- Your school’s ability to respond to a request for evidence if we have questions about your recovery of operations.
- If your school needs to make temporary changes to your Form I-17, “Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student.”

Stakeholders can contact the SRC via phone at 703-603-3400 or 1-800-892-4829 or via email at SEVP@ice.dhs.gov. The SRC is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, except for federal holidays. Additional emergency preparedness resource resources are also available on

[Study in the States](#) and [ICE.gov/SEVP](#). You can also contact your assigned SEVP field representative with any questions or information about your school's operations.

Please note that SEVP may follow up to your response if any clarification is required. We will make every attempt to answer your questions and provide guidance.

Disclaimer

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