

SEVP Policy Guidance S13.2: The Form I-20 and the English Proficiency Field

Issue Date: July 13, 2016 Effective Date: July 13, 2016

**Supersedes:** N/A **Status:** Final

**Applicable to:** 8 CFR 214.3(k)

**Purpose/Background:** SEVP regulations and the Form I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status," require a DSO to provide information on a school's English proficiency requirements and whether a prospective F-1 or M-1 student has met those requirements. Consistent use of the English proficiency field by DSOs is important because it directly relates to who is eligible for F-1 or M-1 student status.

Attachments: None.

**Definitions:** None.

## **Acronyms:**

1. **DSO.** Designated school official

- 2. SEVIS. Student and Exchange Visitor Information System
- 3. SEVP. Student and Exchange Visitor Program

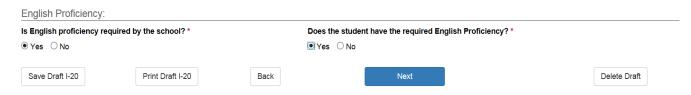
## **Policy:**

- 1. English proficiency requirements and standards for admission. SEVP regulation requires a DSO to issue a Form I-20 to a prospective F-1 or M-1 student who has met all standards for admission for a program of study, including any English proficiency requirement. Regulation prohibits issuance of the Form I-20 based on conditional admission.<sup>3</sup>
- **2. Proper Form I-20 English proficiency field scenarios.** The following scenarios explain how the DSO can properly complete the English proficiency field on the Form I-20:
  - **2.1.** Scenario 1 Student meets required English proficiency standard. The following sample answers denote that the school requires English proficiency as a standard for admission to the program of study for which the DSO is issuing the Form I-20 and that the student has met the standard. By using this response, the DSO confirms that the student meets the required standard.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All use of the term "student(s)" refers to F-1 or M-1 student(s).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 8 CFR 214.3(k)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See 8 CFR 214.3(k), 8 CFR 214.4(a)(2)(x) and (xviii) and SEVP Policy Guidance S13.1: Conditional Admission.



2.2. Scenario 2 – School does not require English proficiency. The following sample answer denotes that the school does not require English proficiency as a standard for admission to the program of study for which the DSO is issuing the Form I-20. The DSO must explain why the school does not require English proficiency.

English Proficiency:				
Is English proficiency required by the school?*		If No, explain why the school does not require English proficiency.*		
∰Yes ®No		English proficiency is not an admission requirement.		
				Characters Remaining: 1000
Save Draft I-20	Print Draft I-20	Back	Next	Delete Draft

3. Improper Form I-20 English proficiency field scenario. The following sample answers denote that the school requires English proficiency as a standard for admission to the program of study for which the DSO is issuing the Form I-20 and that the student has not met the standard. By using this response, the DSO confirms that the student does not meet the required standard; therefore, the DSO must not issue the Form I-20.



- **4.** Form I-20 review. SEVP has discretion to verify that a DSO properly issues and certifies a Form I-20 to an F-1 or M-1 student.
- 5. Evidence. SEVP can request evidence of a school's standards for admission and school use of the English proficiency field, including but not limited to, school catalogues and student records.4
- **6.** Adverse action. SEVP can deny a school's recertification or withdraw a school's SEVP certification for failure to comply with applicable statutes, regulations, or admissions policies stated on the school's Form I-17, "Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Student."5

## References:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> 8 CFR 214.3(g)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 8 CFR 214.4(a)(2)(x) and (xviii)

- 1. 8 CFR 214.3(g)
- **2.** 8 CFR 214.3(k)
- **3.** 8 CFR 214.4(a)(2) (x) and (xviii)

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Signed by Rachel Canty on July 13, 2016 Deputy Director, External Operations Student and Exchange Visitor Program