

To: All SEVIS Users

Date: Aug. 5, 2016

Re: SEVIS Release 6.28

Number: 1608-04

General Information

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) will deploy the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Release 6.28 on Friday, Aug. 12, 2016, at 8 p.m. EDT. The release will affect F and M batch user functionalities only. This release will perform the following functions:

- Restore two lists that inadvertently disappeared:
 - Students Within 45 Days of Cancellation
 - Students Within 45 Days of Termination
- Change the Primary Major and Secondary Major fields to Major 1 and Major 2 fields. This change affects batch processing only.
- Require the entry of a Current Session Start Date during registration of F and M students. This change will affect batch users and those who use the SEVIS real-time interface (RTI). Batch schools have reported several problems with registration functionality in SEVIS RTI and in batch processing. These problems stem from the inability of designated school officials to enter or edit the Current Session End Date field. With the bulk of registration season still to come, the fix could not wait until Sept. 30, 2016.

Implications of the Release for Batch Users

SEVP has repeatedly discussed the registration problems with batch vendors, who for the most part have indicated they could make the change to support the Aug. 12 release. After the Aug. 12 release, submission of the Current Session Start Date will be required. Registration events submitted via batch will fail until the school is able to deploy the update to its batch software. Batch schools must use SEVIS RTI to submit any registration events due before the school is able to apply the upgrade to the batch software.

SEVP realizes that schools will not have immediate access to the functionality, even if the schools' batch vendor delivers the software update on time. After delivery of the update, schools must still work with their information technology team to deploy and test the update at their campus. We recognize this is a strain on resources and comes at an inconvenient time – for the developers of batch software and for the schools. Be assured that this inconvenience was considered. However, it is critical that the problems caused by the inability to change the Current Session Start Date be resolved as soon as possible, as the cost to schools for not correcting this problem now would be great.

Release Resources

- SEVIS 6.28 Planning Guide
- SEVIS Program and Session Dates at a Glance (Attached)
- Revision to the Registration User Guide
- SEVIS 6.28 Post-release Webinar (Aug. 19, 2016, at 2 p.m. EDT)

Comments

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