



United States Department of State
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
Washington, DC 20522

October 12, 2010

Dear Secondary School Student Program Sponsor:

I am pleased to advise you that the Department has completed the first phase of our on-site review (OSR) of Secondary School Student sponsors. Two or three person teams from the Office of Designation and the Office of Exchange Coordination and Compliance have visited the offices of the 39 largest fee-based high school program sponsors to review program operations, files, and finances in an effort to evaluate over-all compliance with the Exchange Visitor Program regulations. The second phase of our review will find us visiting selected school districts and Rotary Clubs and conducting an electronic site review (using a modified version of the OSR protocol) for the remaining fee-based sponsors.

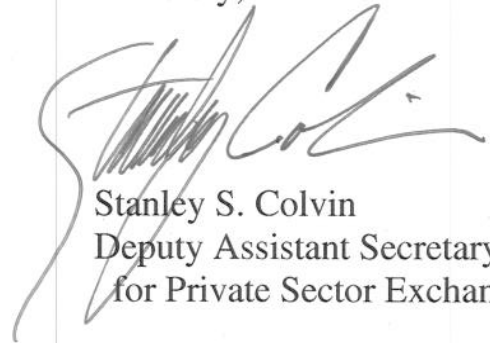
For each of our OSRs, the inspection team utilized a standard format, which included interviews and the review of selected student and coordinator files. The teams then compiled the information they obtained into final evaluation reports. In turn, the Department formed an ad hoc OSR evaluation committee to review these reports and recommend additional Department action. The evaluation committee concluded that 12 sponsors were operating at an acceptable performance level, and that nine others, while falling short of that mark, did not violate program regulations to an extent for which sanctions would be required. The evaluation committee did recommend that the Department issue Letters of Reprimand to 13 sponsors, and that of those, nine sponsors should also be required to submit Corrective Action Plans (CAPs). Further, two sponsors that will not receive a reprimand will be required to submit a CAP detailing their restructuring plans. Finally, for the three remaining sponsors, the Department will deny one sponsor's pending application for redesignation, address another's OSR performance as part of an on-going sanction proceeding, and continue to evaluate the operations of the third.

The teams conducting the OSRs identified four regulatory requirements upon which all sponsors should focus attention. We have identified these areas of concern in a separate Guidance Directive (No. 10-06), enclosed with this letter.

This Guidance Directive should serve as a tool for all sponsors to use when examining the sufficiency of their internal controls and standard operating procedures.

Finally, I want to thank all sponsors for their superb cooperation with and support of this initiative. We look forward to working with each of you to continue our collective efforts to strengthen this program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanley S. Colvin', written over a large, light-colored scribble or watermark.

Stanley S. Colvin
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Private Sector Exchange

Enclosure