



Updated Certification Expiration Date Process

Frequently Asked Questions

Per regulation, all SEVP-certified schools must be recertified every two years. The certification expiration date (CED) is exactly two years from the date of initial certification or the date of previous recertification.

In response to the March 2019 U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendation for SEVP to more precisely establish a two-year recertification cycle, any school that is certified or recertified after March 1, 2020, will receive their next CED notice 180 days before the two-year deadline. See below for frequently asked questions about this change.

Q: When does this new recertification notification process begin?

A: Any school that is certified or recertified **after March 1, 2020**, will receive their next recertification notice 180 days before their CED.

Q: Is there anything that schools will need to do differently to recertify under this new process?

A: No. Schools will continue to receive their CED notification through an automatic SEVIS-generated email.

Q: What was the recertification process before?

A: Previously, SEVP notified schools for recertification two years after the date of their last certification or recertification. SEVP then gave schools up to 180 days beyond the two-year mark to submit for recertification. Under this process, schools were permitted to submit their complete petition and supporting documentation to SEVP up to 180 days after the two-year mark, resulting in a two-and-a-half-year recertification submission cycle.

Q: How will SEVP work to certify schools on a timely basis?

A: To assist with meeting the timeframe, SEVP hired new adjudicators to reduce the recertification processing time and plans to hire additional adjudicators in the near future. SEVP also recently realigned the School Certification Unit into regional adjudication teams with assigned territories, similar to the field representatives' territories, to allow the adjudicators to work with the same schools throughout the school's participation in the program. Additionally, this means that adjudicators are familiar with state rules and regulations, which further reduces processing time.

Q: What happens if a school submits their recertification with updates in a timely manner, but SEVP does not adjudicate them all before the school's CED?

A: As long as the school submits their petition in a timely manner, they will not be at risk of losing their certification because of a delay in adjudicating their petition.



For more information on the Recertification process, visit the [Schools page](#) on ICE.gov/SEVP.