

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CSIET TO BEGIN NEW CERTIFICATION PROCESS FOR F-1 STUDENT RECRUITMENT AGENCIES AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL

AUGUST 21, 2018 - Alexandria, Va, USA - The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) announced today a new secondary school initiative that will establish model standards and better align expectations among potential international secondary education students, their parents, and the agencies that recruit these students.

“The lack of regulation and consistency around the recruitment and enrollment of F-1 international students at U.S. secondary schools not only raises ethical concerns, but also opens the door for misaligned expectations among the various parties involved in the administration of the enrollment process,” said Christopher Page, CSIET’s executive director.

As hosts of international students, US secondary schools may partner with agencies both within the United States and abroad to recruit and enroll new international students. However, without guidance on best practice for collaborating with third-party recruitment agencies, students may not be given a clear understanding of what to expect from this exciting, yet challenging process. At the higher education level, colleges and universities are expected to act with transparency, integrity, and accountability; secondary-level practices should align with these standards.

In response to these issues, the CSIET Advisory Board, comprising 10 stakeholder organizations, assembled to guide CSIET in developing comprehensive Model Standards for international student recruitment at the secondary level.

The CSIET Advisory Board comprises 10 stakeholder organizations:

AIRC: The American International Recruitment Council
AISAP: Association of Independent School Admission Professionals
CSIET: The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel
EMA: The Enrollment Management Association
NACAC: National Association for College Admission Counseling
NAIS: National Association of Independent Schools (Ioana Wheeler, Director of Global Initiatives, Ex-Officio)
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
TABS: The Association of Boarding Schools

The Cambridge Network
JJL Overseas Education

In a joint statement, members of the CSIET Advisory Board expressed their desire to bring about standards that “balance expectations all the way from the natural parent, through the recruiting continuum, to the American school/host family.”

The group defined the role of the international student recruitment agency as follows:

Recruitment agencies serve students and schools by providing admissions/enrollment/placement support. Practices, policies, procedures, contracts and agreements must be transparent and must disclose appropriate, accurate information, including but not limited to: program accreditation, association membership, legal requirements, cost, tuition, fees, language proficiency, education level, financial aid, housing, and applicable program activities.

“Because of its long history of standard setting and its recognized seal of approval, CSIET is best positioned to develop these Model Standards for the F-1 international student recruitment community,” added Page. “The new Model Standards only will succeed if they are met by a willingness of U.S. schools to commit to learning all they can about sound recruiting practices and the specific needs of these high school students.”

Over the next year, the CSIET Advisory Board will work to establish Model Standards and to refine the new evaluation and certification process. CSIET will implement this new process on July 1, 2019. Newly evaluated F-1 International Members will be listed in the [2020-2021 Advisory List of International Educational Travel & Exchange Programs](#).

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