MEMORANDUM FOR: Directors, Field Operations
                      Director, Pre Clearance Operations
                      Executive Directors, Headquarters
                      Office of Field Operations

FROM: David J. Murphy
      Acting Assistant Commissioner
      Office of Field Operations

SUBJECT: Verification of SEVIS status at Air, Land and Sea Ports of Entry

Effective immediately, the mandatory requirement to verify the status of all arriving non-immigrant students, such as "F", "M", and "J" nonimmigrant visa holders, or Canadian students in possession of a form I-20 in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) has been rescinded. The burden of SEVIS verifications and can now be placed on the port of entry. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has been working closely with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to implement procedures.

The onus is on the port of entry to verify that travelers have a valid status in SEVIS prior to being admitted to the United States.
In situations where an applicant has been found to be nonimmigrant classification, and is applying under an “F”, “M” or “J” classification, Officers assigned to passport control secondary will perform to determine the validity of the record.

In cases where a Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) subject is encountered and is applying as an “F”, “M” or “J” nonimmigrant, the processing officer will ensure that all required documentation satisfies the documentary requirements for the class of admission being sought.

All adverse actions initiated must be processed in SIGMA. Any documentary deficiency that may require issuance of Form I-515 (Notice to Student and Exchange Visitor) processed according to current CBP policy.

The appropriate charge to consider for those applicants whose SEVIS status has been.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this memorandum, please contact Program Manager.