

Pathway Programs & Conditional Admission

Facilitated Discussion

August 5, 2026
1:00pm ET

This session will not be recorded; notes will be shared on the EnglishUSA Engage Community

Share questions in chat and in the breakout rooms

Today's Purpose

We're here to...

- Share what we know today
- Learn how programs/institutions are preparing
- Exchange practical implementation ideas
- Identify questions that still need guidance
- Help EnglishUSA shape future resources

A Few Ground Rules

Today's sessions is about:

- Sharing strategies
- Learning from peers
- Asking good questions
- Recognizing uncertainty
- Respecting different programmatic and institutional models

Let's learn from one another and identify practical steps we can take while additional guidance continues to emerge.

This is not legal advice.

What We Know

We Know	We're Evaluating	We're Waiting For
Rule is final	Programmatic & institutional implementation	Additional agency guidance
Effective Sept. 15	Advising strategies	SEVP/USCIS clarification
Pathway clarification	Planning	Emerging best practices

EOS & ELPs, Conditional Admission & Pathway Programs

From the preamble, “DHS does not consider movements between campuses, that is, between instructional sites listed under a singular Form I-17 petition, to constitute a transfer or change in educational objective for the purposes of this rule. Transfers between campuses on the same Form I-17 will be reclassified as campus reassignments.”

“DHS plans to introduce functionality that will allow students to be reassigned from one campus to another within a certified Form I-17”

- [Link to NAFSA's Analysis](#)

What does this mean for ELPs, conditional admission, pathway programs?

- No EOS for “movement” or change in educational level under the same I-17
 - How does this impact “internal” transfers for multi-site programs under one I-17?
- Yes, EOS to extend beyond the student’s AUD or ELT or Pathway I-20 program end date
 - Even under the same I-17
- Yes, EOS to transfer to a new school (different I-17)

EOS & ELPs, Conditional Admission & Pathway Programs

Some Provisions Causing Potential Confusion

- The clarification in the final rule appears limited to a fully integrated model
- “Admitted to a degree program” is different from conditional admission
- “Same institution” may not match the institution’s actual structure
- Pathway transitions may be different from a transfer or change in educational objective
- Early pathway completion may create a timing problem
- A timely filed EOS permits continued full-time study while it is pending, but that does answer **which program** the student may attend during adjudication. The final rule codifies continued study during a pending EOS generally, while pathway-specific sequencing remains a source of uncertainty.

What We're Still Learning

- Conditional admission
- Separate I-17 structures
- Student progression
- Educational objectives
- Campus coordination
- Advising students

Can a student at XYZ Language Centers do a lateral transfer between two of their centers without an EOS?

Think of other scenarios like this to share in your breakout rooms!

Strategies/Questions/Resources

Student Progression/Completion

Campus Coordination

Independent Programs

Conditional Admission

Pathway Models/Adaptation

Student Advising

Recruitment

Breakout Rooms

1. What's one implementation step your program or institution has already taken—or begun discussing regarding pathway programs/conditional admission?
 - What strategy or practice could help other English language programs?
2. What implementation question are you still wrestling with?
3. If EnglishUSA could create one additional resource on this specific topic, what would be most valuable?

Reporting Back

Each group will share (2 minutes each):

- One implementation strategy
- One unanswered question
- One recommendation for EnglishUSA



Pathway Programs & Conditional Admission: Ideas Takeaways

August 5, 2026

Possible Strategies

1. X
2. Y
3. X

Questions

1. X
2. Y
3. X

Potential Resources

1. K
2. Y
3. X

Common Questions

- What exactly qualifies as an "integrated pathway program," and which institutional models are eligible?
- How and when can students progress from an English language program to a degree program?
- When can we define program completion? 😊 Just tell us
- What immigration process is required for that transition?

EnglishUSA's Next Steps

We'll continue to:

- Add to the “Duration of Status Final Rule: Explainer for English Language Programs”
- Develop scenarios
- Share member strategies
- Host additional Community Conversations
- Monitor DHS, USCIS, and SEVP guidance

Three Conversations. One Goal. Navigating the New Regulations Together

Let's work through this together! Informal strategy and sharing discussions with your peers to help you prepare your programs for next steps with the new DHS rules for Fixed Time Periods of Admission and Extensions of Stay

Sessions facilitated by EnglishUSA Board Leadership



Complimentary for EnglishUSA Members
\$15 per session or \$40 for all three (non-members)

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