



# Office of Overseas Schools

## Special Education

# Mission of Office of Overseas Schools

- Promote quality education overseas for  
USG and US dependents
  - Develop model American schools to  
promote mutual, educational and cultural  
understanding for all



# OOS Services Related to Special Education

- Maximize choices for special needs families including gathering information on non-A/OS-assisted resources
- Demonstrate best practices in special, as well as regular, education
- Encourage assisted schools to provide accommodations wherever possible
- Provide training for overseas teachers and administrators

# American-Sponsored Overseas Schools

196 Schools Receive Assistance

American Republics - 40

Europe - 66

East Asia - 26

Near East/South Asia - 23

Africa - 41

# A/OS Supported Schools

- Private schools
- Receive small grants from A/OS
- Are not subject to IDEA
- Policy usually determined by Boards of Directors
- Serve stakeholders from varied cultural backgrounds
- Often do not provide auxiliary services

# A/OS Activities in Support of Special/Gifted Education

- Summer workshops for Administrators and Teachers
  - Summer Institute on Exceptional Children
  - Challenging Your Most Able Students
- In-service workshops at schools and conferences
- Grants Designated for Special Education salaries and/or materials
- Overseas Schools Advisory Committee (OSAC) Grants
- Consultants to do training and assess resources



# Advisory Committee on Exceptional Children and Youth

- Now in 18<sup>th</sup> year
- Composed of nationally recognized leaders in gifted and special education
- Provides on-site consultancies for A/OS schools
- Advises A/OS officials on current research and practice in special education at twice yearly meetings
- Oversees gifted identification function

A/OPR/OS



# Publications

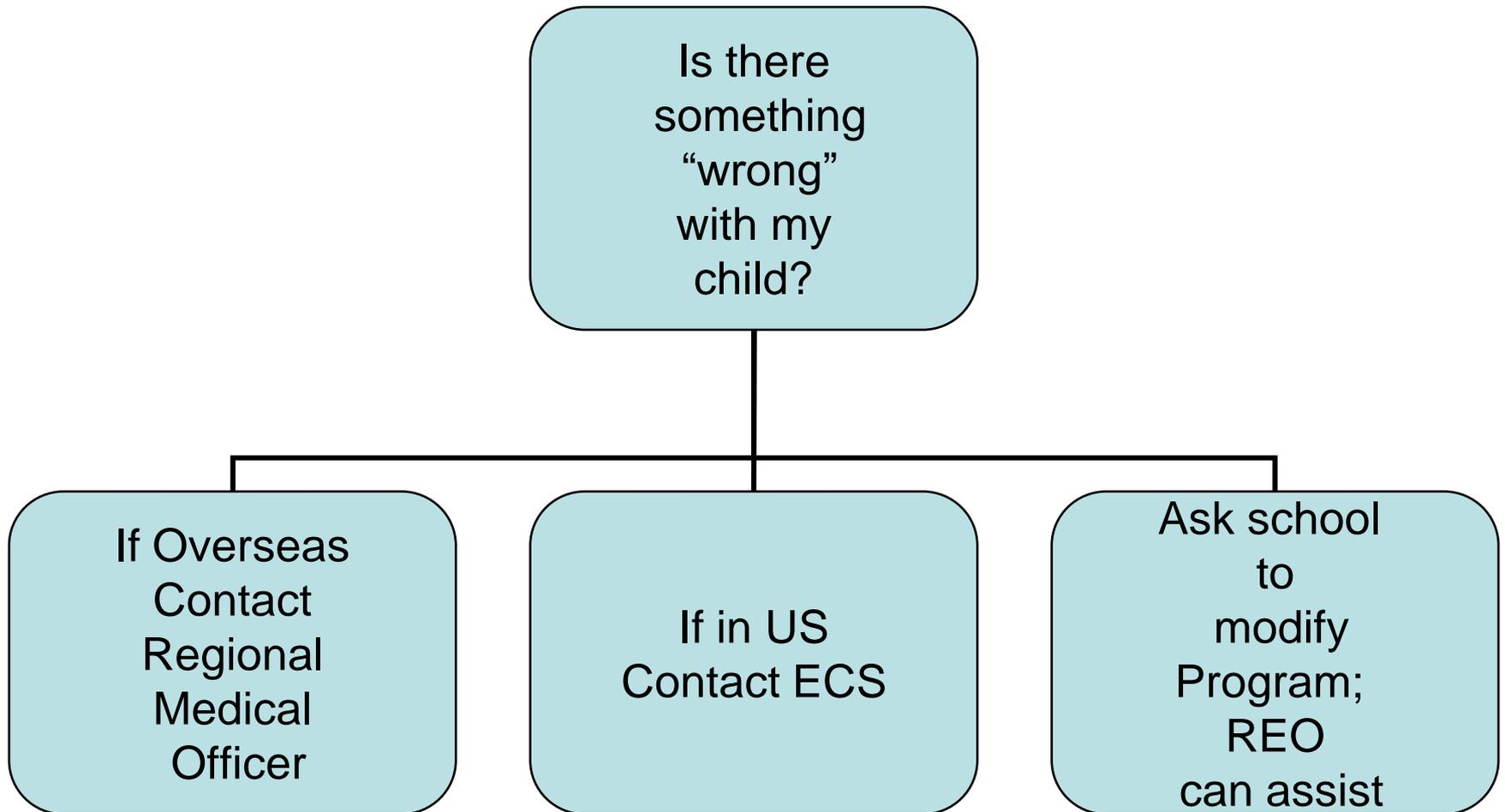


- *Overseas Schools Offering Support to Children with Special Needs*
  - Self-report information on schools worldwide
  - Current Services **Must** be confirmed
- *Transitioning Overseas with a Special Needs Child*
- *Count Me In: Developing Inclusive International Schools*
- *Making the Difference: Differentiation in International Schools*
- *Parent Advocacy in International Schools*

# Advising Families

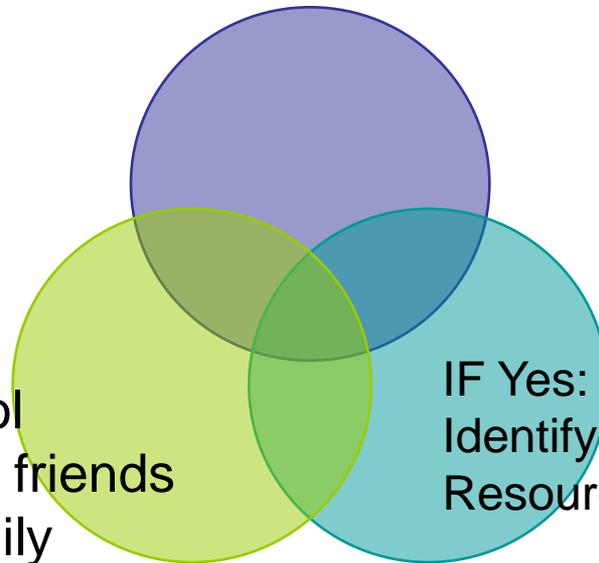
- Regional Education Officers visit multiple schools and facilities when traveling in region
- Resources available on every post in A/OS; SA-1 328
- AOS works closely with the Medical Division, especially ECS; FLO; Career Development and Assignments; and Allowances to assist in planning
- REO's can best be reached by e-mail

# How the Process Works



# Can I Go Overseas with my Special Needs Child?

Assessment



IF No:  
Boarding School  
Student Remains with friends  
or extended family  
Unaccompanied Tour  
Family Remains in US

IF Yes:  
Identify Posts with  
Resources: OOS, ECS

# How Do I Find a School?

- Identify several posts with CDO and narrow list to those with Special Needs services
- Resources available at the Overseas Briefing Center, A/OS, ECS, FLO (boarding schools)
- Contact Employee Consultation Service (MED) and Regional Education Officer (A/OS)
- Contact Regional Medical Officer, CLOs and schools at post
- Obtain an acceptance letter from a school
- Submit acceptance letter to ECS for clearance

# http://www.state.gov/m/a/os

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the website for the Office of Overseas Schools. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.state.gov/m/a/os>. The website header features the U.S. Department of State logo and the slogan "DIPLOMACY IN ACTION". Navigation links include "Multimedia", "Blog", "Subscribe", "What's New", "Contact Us", and "Archive". A search bar is present with the text "Enter Search Term(s)" and a "Search" button. The date "Monday, February 23, 2009" is displayed. A horizontal menu contains links for "Home", "Press", "Travel", "Careers", "Business", "Youth & Education", and "About State".

The main content area is titled "OFFICE OF OVERSEAS SCHOOLS" and includes the following text:

**YOU ARE IN:** [Under Secretary for Management](#) > [Bureau of Administration](#) > [Office of Overseas Schools](#)

**CONTACTS**

- Favorite Links
- Overseas Schools Advisory Council
- Overseas Schools Advisory Council Education Projects
- Regional Education Associations
- Resources on Special Needs
- Schools by Regions
- Selected Activities
- Teaching Overseas
- Training Programs

**OFFICE OF OVERSEAS SCHOOLS**

The mission of the Office of Overseas Schools is to promote quality educational opportunities at the elementary and secondary level for dependents of American citizens carrying out our programs and interests of the U.S. Government abroad.

Our efforts are to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by upgrading educational institutions which serve to demonstrate American educational principles and methods employed in the United States.



**LEARN MORE** +

At the bottom of the page, there are links for "What's New", "Frequent Questions", "Contact Us", "Email this Page", "Subject Index", and "Search". A footer note states: "The Office of Electronic Information, Bureau of Public Affairs, manages this site as a portal for information from the U.S. State Department. External links to other government sites should not be construed as an endorsement of the views or policies of those external sites."

# Contact Information for A/OS

- E-Mail: [OverseasSchools@state.gov](mailto:OverseasSchools@state.gov)
- Websites: [www.state.gov/m/a/os](http://www.state.gov/m/a/os) (Internet)
- <http://aopros.a.state.gov> (Intranet)
- Phone: 202-261-8200
- Fax: 202-261-8224

# Regional Education Officers

- Africa – Pamela Ward ([wardpa@state.gov](mailto:wardpa@state.gov))
- American Republics – William Scotti ([ScottiWH@state.gov](mailto:ScottiWH@state.gov))
- East Asia – Constance Buford ([BufordCW@state.gov](mailto:BufordCW@state.gov))
- Europe – Robert Gross ([GrossRL2@state.gov](mailto:GrossRL2@state.gov))
- Near East, South Asia, Canada - Beatrice Cameron ([CameronBH2@state.gov](mailto:CameronBH2@state.gov))