



Office of Overseas Schools

Special Education

Mission of the Office of Overseas Schools (A/OS)

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



A/OS Services Related to Special Education

- Assist families to identify appropriate options
- Assist schools to develop best practices in special, as well as regular, education
 - Encourage overseas schools to provide accommodations wherever possible
- Provide training for 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

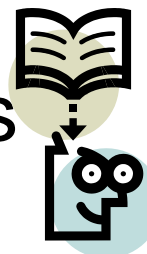
- Grants designated for special educator salaries and instructional materials
- Summer workshops for administrators and teachers
 - Summer Institute on Exceptional Children
 - Challenging Your Most Able Students
- In-service workshops at schools and conferences
- Overseas Schools Advisory Committee (OSAC) Grants
 - Consultants to do training and assess resources

A/OPR/OS



Advisory Committee on Exceptional Children and Youth

- Now in 19th 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 identification of gifted students



Publications

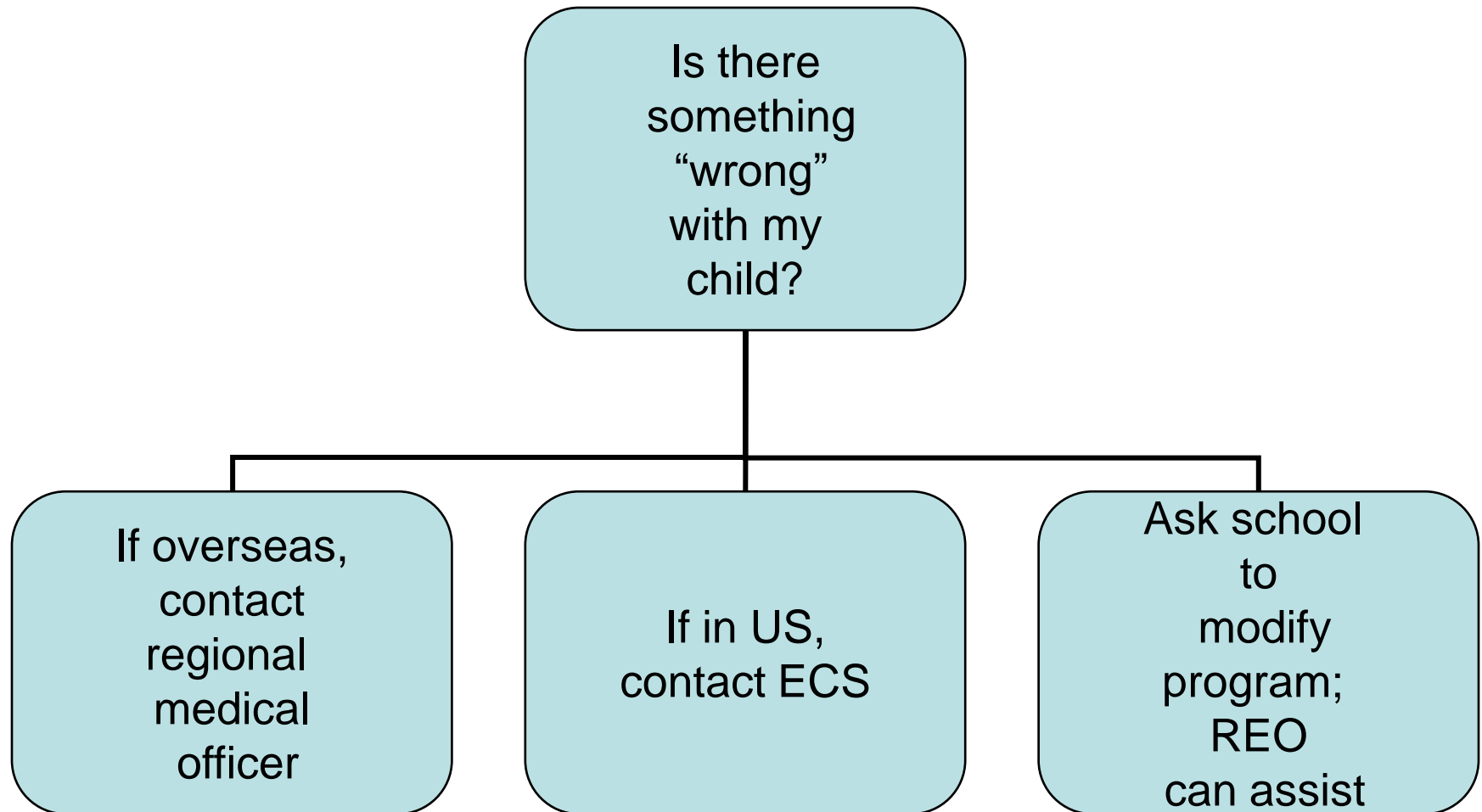


- *Overseas Schools Offering Support to Children with Special Needs*
 - Information on schools worldwide
 - Current services **Must** be confirmed
- *Transitioning Overseas with a Special Needs Child*
- *Count Me In: Developing Inclusive International Schools*
- *Making the Difference: Differentiation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

Advising Families

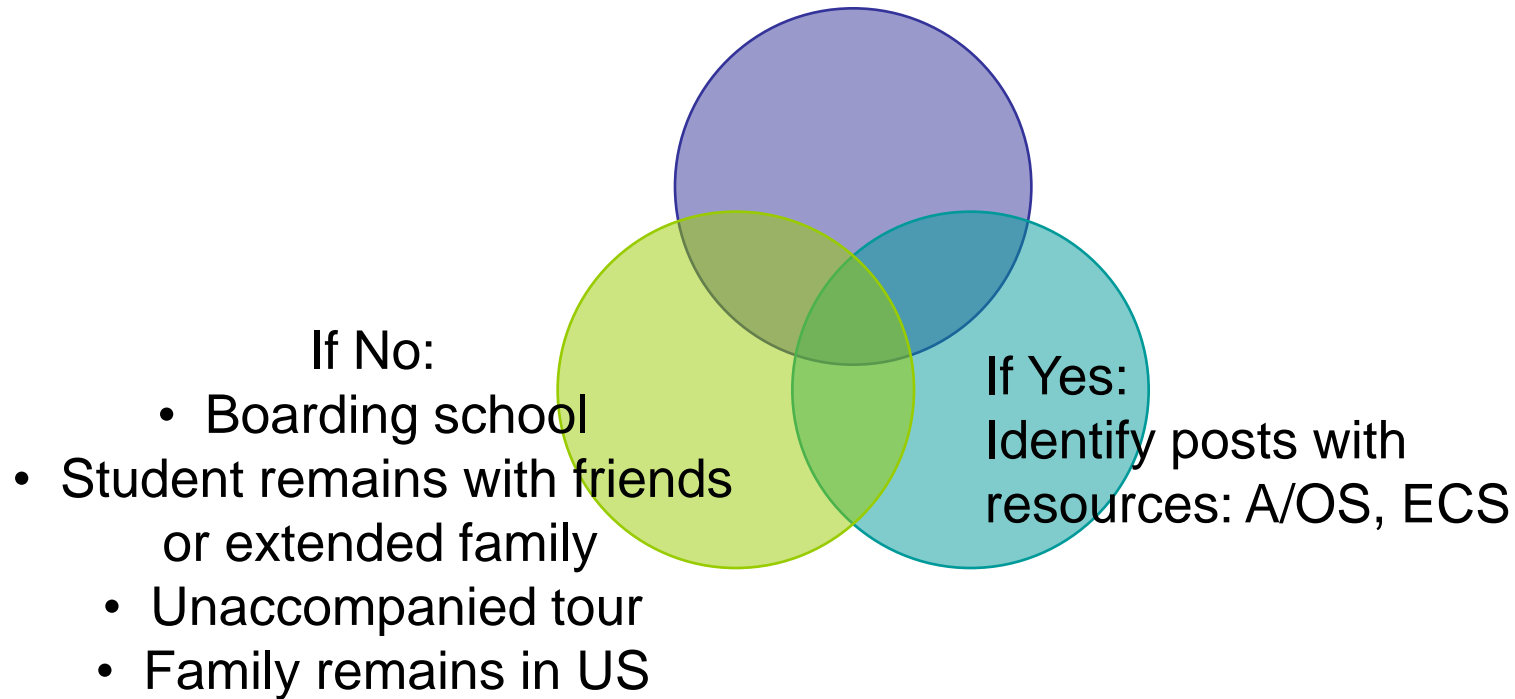
- Regional Education Officers visit multiple schools and facilities when traveling in region
- Resources available in A/OS on every post at SA-1, Room H328
- A/OS works closely with the Medical Division, especially ECS; FLO; Career Development and Assignments; and Allowances to assist in planning
- REOs can best be reached by e-mail

How the Process Works



Can I Go Overseas with my Special Needs Child?

Assessment



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 Officers (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

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 text "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE" and "DIPLOMACY IN ACTION". A navigation menu includes links for "SECRETARY CLINTON", "MEDIA CENTER", "TRAVEL", "CAREERS", "BUSINESS", and "YOUTH & EDUCATION". Below this, a secondary menu lists various topics such as "ABOUT STATE", "POLICY ISSUES", "COUNTRIES & REGIONS", "ECONOMICS & ENERGY", "ARMS CONTROL & SECURITY", "DEMOCRACY & GLOBAL AFFAIRS", "PUBLIC DIPLOMACY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS", and "ASSISTANCE & DEVELOPMENT". The main content area is titled "Office of Overseas Schools" and contains a paragraph describing the mission: "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." Below this, another paragraph states: "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." A sidebar on the left lists "Contacts", "Overseas Schools Advisory Council", "Favorite Links", "Overseas Schools Advisory Council Educational Assistance Program", "Regional Education Associations", and "Resources on Special Needs". A search box is located on the right side of the page, along with "Browse by" options for Topic, Speaker, Publication, Country, and Date. There are also "Quick Links" and "Country Profiles" sections. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open applications including an email inbox, reminders, and the Office of Overseas Schools application, and the system clock showing 7:59 AM.

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Contact Information for A/OS

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