



# 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



# A/OS 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

194 Schools Receive Assistance

American Republics - 39

Europe - 66

East Asia - 25

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  
June 24-28, 2013 Fort Lauderdale, Florida
  - Reach and Teach All Students: How to Address Diverse Educational Needs
  - Translating Brain Research into Effective Language and Literacy Instruction
  - Meeting the Social and Emotional Needs of Students in International Schools
- In-service workshops at schools and conferences
- Grants Designated for Special Educator 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 20<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

# Publications

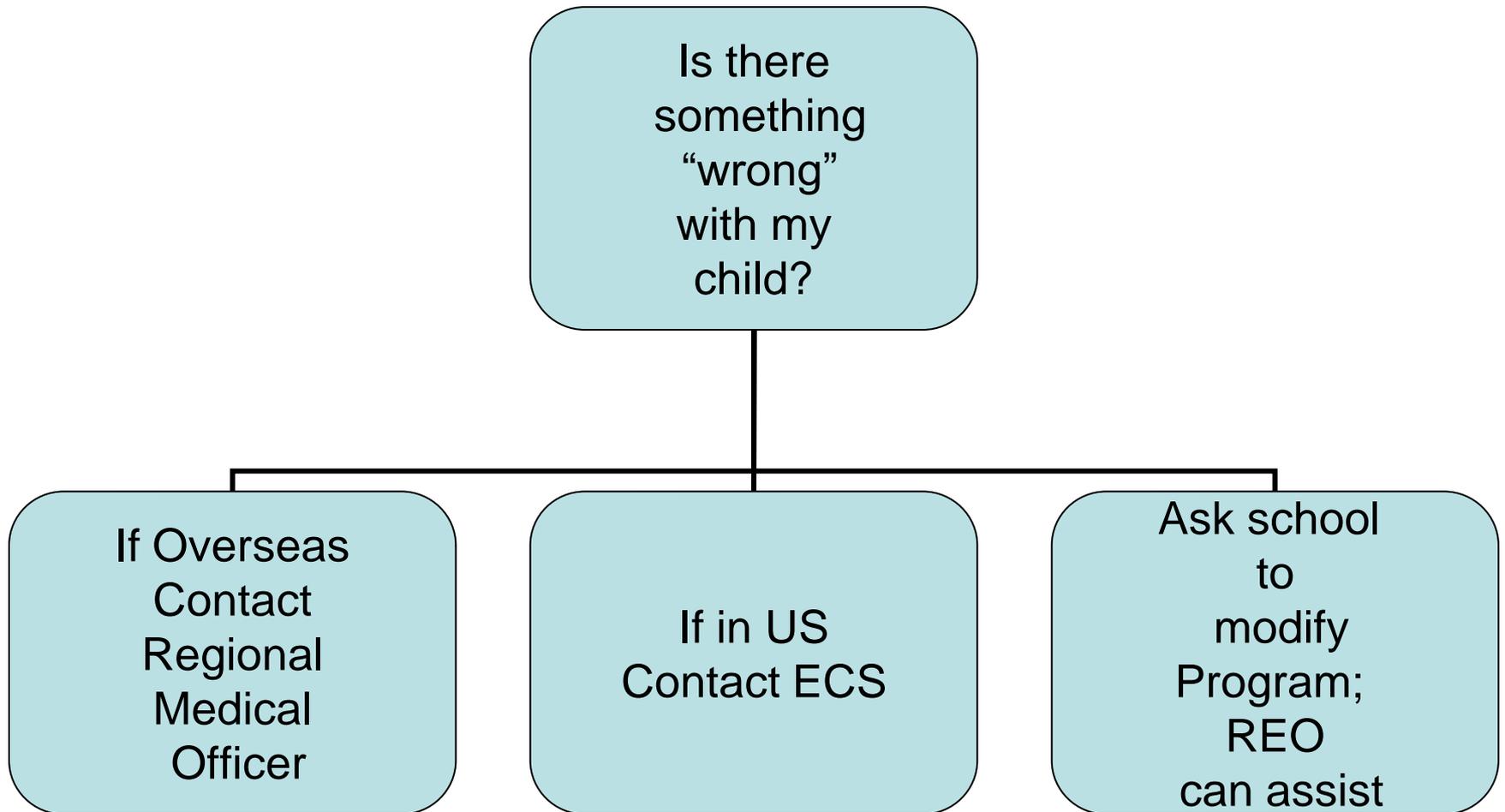


- *Overseas Schools Offering Support to Children with Special Needs*
  - Self-reported information on schools worldwide
  - Current Services **Must** be confirmed
- *Transitioning Overseas with a Special Needs Child*
- *Count Me In: Developing Inclusive International Schools*
- *Making the Difference: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

# Advising Families

- Regional Education Officers visit multiple schools and facilities when traveling in region
- Resources available on every post in A/OS; SA-1 H328
- 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

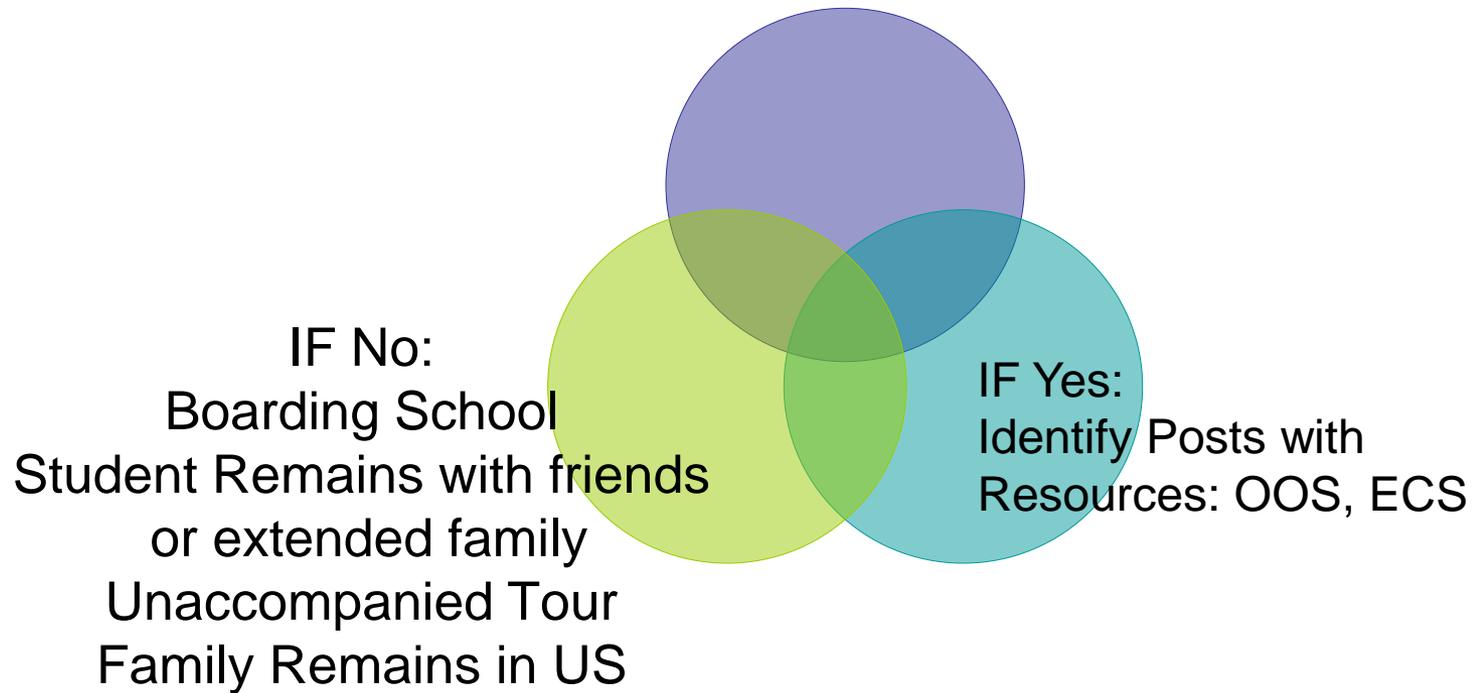


# Assessment

- May be done in US before departure or on home leave
- May be done at some places overseas with permission of ECS
- If identified as Special Needs a letter of school acceptance is required
- Auxiliary services must be identified **BEFORE** an assignment is finalized

# 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 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://aopros.a.state.gov

The screenshot shows a Windows 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's navigation menu includes links for SECRETARY CLINTON, MEDIA CENTER, TRAVEL, CAREERS, BUSINESS, and YOUTH & EDUCATION. Below this, a secondary menu lists categories 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 features a world map background and a breadcrumb trail: Home » Under Secretary for Management » Bureau of Administration » Office of Overseas Schools. The central heading is "Office of Overseas Schools". To the left is a sidebar with a list of links: Contacts, Schools Worldwide, Resources on Special Needs, Overseas Schools Advisory Council, Overseas Schools Advisory Council Educational Assistance Program, Regional Education Associations, Teaching Overseas, Training Programs, Selected Activities, and Favorite Links. The main text describes 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." It further 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." Below the text is a photograph of a group of people, including children and adults, in an outdoor setting. On the right side of the page, there are several utility sections: "Search the Site" with a search box and button; "Browse by:" with links for Topic, Speaker, Publication, Country, and Date; "Quick Links" with a dropdown menu; "Country Profiles" with a dropdown menu; and "Stay Connected with State.gov" with social media icons for Dipnote Blog, Twitter, Tumblr, RSS, Facebook, YouTube, and YouTube. The browser's status bar at the bottom indicates "Local intranet" and "100%" zoom.

# Contact Information for A/OS

- Keith Miller – Office Director
- Resource Center – Kristin Grasso  
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- Websites: [www.state.gov/m/a/os](http://www.state.gov/m/a/os) (Internet)
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# Regional Education Officers

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