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**In 2017, the Student & Youth Travel Association (SYTA) partnered with the Center for Student Travel Safety** to undertake an industry changing initiative to improve overall safety and risk management practices throughout the student and youth travel industry.

The Certified Student Travel Organization (CSTO) certification was created to ensure that student travel organizations meet the highest standards available for safety and professional management in the student travel industry. The standards that must be met for this certification include:

- » **Risk Assessment and Management**
- » **Emergency Response**
- » **Crisis Communications**
- » **Staff/Chaperone/Driver Background Checks**
- » **Business Practices**
- » **Vendor assessments**
- » **Family Assistance & Support**
- » **ADA Requirements**
- » **Health Information**
- » **Swimming Safety**
- » **International Travel Requirements**
- » **First Aid/CPR Training**
- » **Incident Response/Lost Student Protocols**

SYTA is the only association in the industry equipped to educate student travel providers about all aspects of student travel with an emphasis on student travel safety. The standards above were derived from the most effective practices in the industry and are based upon SYTA's Code of Ethics and reviewed by an objective commission of industry experts.

Student travel organizations that earn their CSTO have proven they meet stringent safety standards and uphold their business standards to ensure they are providing the safest experience possible for students and youth.