COD Processing Update

January 07, 2005

Direct Loan

COD News

Correction To Dependency Status Field Defaulting In COD (01/07/05)
COD has determined that during the period of November 16, 2004 through December 21, 2004, the Dependency Status field value on the COD web site's Award Detail Information screen may have changed from Dependent to Independent when other updates were made to a Direct Loan record via the web.

On December 21, 2004, COD implemented a code fix, and the Dependency Status field no longer changes to Independent when other updates are made to a Direct Loan record. Because COD is unable to determine the records affected by this issue, we ask that schools check the Dependency Status field on the Award Detail Information screen for records that were updated during the specified period.

In order to ensure that the Direct Loan Servicing System (DLSS) and National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) are updated with the correct information regarding dependency status, a school will need to make sure that this information is correct in the COD System. Submitting the incorrect information could impact the awarding of future Financial Aid.

EDExpress For Windows 2005-2006, Release 1.0 Available For Download (01/05/05)
The Department has announced the posting of EDExpress for Windows 2005-2006, Release 1.0, on the Department's Federal Student Aid Download (FSA download) web site at http://www.fsadownload.ed.gov/index.htm. This release contains **Global, Application Processing, and Packaging** functionality for the 2005-2006 cycle. The complete announcement regarding Release 1.0 is available on the IFAP web site at http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0104EDExpress0506Release1.html.

Updated COD Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Available (12/28/04)
COD has updated the FAQs on the COD web site, www.cod.ed.gov. The FAQs are available on the COD web site by clicking the "Today's Update" link at the bottom of the page. The Updated FAQs are also available on the IFAP web site at http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0512FAQCOD.html/. If you have any questions about the document, or would like to see anything added, please contact the COD School Relations Center at CODSupport@acs-inc.com with the subject line of "FAQ".

All Schools Must Be COD Full Participants Beginning With 2005-2006 Award Year [08/02/04 (Updated 10/25/04)]

As a reminder, *all* schools must be Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award Year. This means that *all* schools must be able to submit 2005-2006 Pell and/or Direct Loan origination and disbursement data to the COD System using the COD Common Record in XML format.

If your school currently is a Phase-In Participant (for one or all of the programs in which it participates) and has not yet submitted the required Full Participant information specified in the announcement posted on the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0806CODFullParticReq0506.html, please submit it to the COD School Relations Center as soon as possible. Doing so will assist us in preparing the COD System to accept and process your school's 2005-2006 Pell Grant and/or Direct Loan data.

Reports and Data Requests

NOTICES

This section contains important notices regarding reports. While we encourage you to review this section, note that some schools may not be impacted by the information presented below.

- Funded Disbursement Lists for January 6, 2005 — Have been sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes. However, these reports are also not available on the COD web site. COD will inform schools when these reports are available on the COD web site. (01/07/05)

- Funded Disbursement Lists for January 4, 2005 — Have been delayed and have not yet been sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes. These reports are also not available on the COD web site. COD will send these reports to schools by January 10, 2005. (01/05/05)

ISSUES

Except as listed below, all Direct Loan reports and data requests are available as specified in Volume VIII, Section 8 of the 2004-2005 COD Technical Reference posted on the IFAP web site at www.IFAP.ed.gov/. There are issues with the following Direct Loan reports and/or data requests:

- Funded Disbursement List — Is not displaying correct figures in the Previous Downward Disbursement Adjustments Not Yet Applied field. COD is researching the code fix for this issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available. (12/20/04)

• 30-Day Warning Report (November 2004 Month-End) —	Is displaying incorrect first names for borrowers at some schools. COD is working on correcting the incorrect data in the file. (12/16/04)
• Direct Loan Rebuild File —	Cannot be requested on the COD web site and is not being produced. COD is researching several issues related to incorrect data in the file. (08/25/04)

Resolved Issues In Clean Up

COD has implemented code fixes for the issues listed below and is cleaning up the affected records. After a clean up has been completed, its status will be updated and it will remain in this section for an additional 7 calendar days.

Issue	In Progress	Completed
COD Not Generating Credit Decision Override Response For The 2004-2005 Award Year	√	
Disbursements Not Displaying On COD Web Site And/Or SAS	√	
Direct Loan School Account Statement (SAS) Data Issues	√	
Changes To Award And Disbursement Amounts Not Processed Correctly	√	

Current Issues

COD Incorrectly Rejecting For COD Edit 039 [12/27/04 (Updated 01/04/05)]
COD has become aware of an issue that results in schools receiving COD Edit 039 (Incorrect Award Amount) in error. This sometimes occurs when schools submit changes to awards to lower the amount to zero through either batch or online processing.

COD is researching this issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Zeros Incorrectly Displaying On The Record Errors Screen (01/04/05)
COD has learned that, in some instances, the "Field Value" on the COD web site's Record Errors screen is displaying additional zeros before the actual field value. This display issue seems to be occurring when changes to awards are rejected for COD Edit 039, 042, or 117.

COD is researching this issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Disbursements Incorrectly Rejecting For COD Edit 052 (11/09/04)
COD is returning COD Edit 052 (First Disbursement Date Must Be The Earliest) incorrectly to some schools. Currently, COD believes that this issue is only affecting EDExpress users submitting actual (Disbursement Release Indicator = T) disbursements with a disbursement number greater than "01". However, if you believe your school has encountered this situation, report the affected records to the COD School Relations Center. COD is researching a solution for this issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Duplicate Disbursement Information In COD [05/06/04 (Updated 10/13/04)]
COD has learned that duplicate disbursement numbers are displaying incorrectly on the COD web site's Award Disbursements Information screen. On this screen under the Disbursement Number column, disbursement numbers are appearing twice. However, when viewing the Disbursement Information screen, each disbursement displays a different status (Pending or Disbursed).

COD continues to research the code fix for this issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Phase-In Records Incorrectly Rejecting For COD Edit 056 [08/12/04 (Updated 09/27/04)]
COD previously notified schools that some Phase-In 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 records are incorrectly rejecting for COD Edit 056 (Sequence Number Not In Sequential Order). This edit is being returned incorrectly to Phase-In schools that submit changes to anticipated disbursement amounts.

Additionally, when a change to the anticipated disbursement amount is submitted along with a reduced award amount, COD is only accepting the reduced award amount. As a result, COD Edit 846 (Total 'Anticipated Gross Amount' must be less than or equal to the Loan Amount Approved) is returned because the award amount is less than the total anticipated disbursements.

COD is researching a code fix for this issue and will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

Student Name And Date Of Birth Not Updated In COD [05/03/04 (Updated 09/17/04)]
As previously reported, COD identified an issue where new 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 origination records are accepted in COD; however, the student's Name and Date of Birth (DOB) updates submitted by the school are not displaying on the COD web site's Person Information screen. The COD web site is reflecting the Name and DOB from the previous award year. Additionally, in some cases, changes to Name and DOB for previously accepted origination records are not displaying on the Person Information screen as well.

COD is still analyzing this issue and appreciates your patience. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Some Null Tags Submitted Via Batch Not Updated In COD (09/01/04)
A null tag containing a *nil="true"* attribute can be submitted for some data elements in a Common Record document to remove or delete content currently on file in the COD database. Recently, COD determined that some null tags are being accepted by the COD System, but are not appropriately updating the COD database. This means that if a school submits a null tag for

some data elements, the COD System is ignoring it and the content on the COD database for that data element is not being removed.

On August 10, 2004, COD implemented a code fix to allow a null tag submitted for the Verification Status Code data element to update the COD database correctly. COD continues research to ensure that all applicable data elements reported with a null tag will update the COD database correctly. Note that not all data elements can be submitted with null tags; refer to the COD Technical Reference, Volume II, Section 3 for the applicable data elements.

COD will provide updates as more information becomes available. In the meantime, schools needing to remove or delete content in COD for a specific data element may do so via the COD web site.

Rejected Records Not Viewable On The COD Web Site [07/30/04 (Updated 08/26/04)]
Some schools are receiving an error message when attempting to view rejected records on the COD web site's Batch Detail Information screen. Clicking on the Rejected link in the Award No. column causes the following error message to display: "An unexpected error has occurred. Please contact your administrator if the problem persists."

On August 10, 2004, COD partially corrected this problem by migrating a code fix to correct the affected Phase-In records. Next, the code fix will be migrated to correct the affected Common Records. COD will provide more information about the code fix for Common Records as soon as it becomes available.

Pell Grants

COD News

2005-2006 Federal Pell Grant Payment And Disbursement Schedules (01/07/05)
On December 8, 2004, the President signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (P.L. 108-447) that establishes the maximum Federal Pell Grant award for the 2005-2006 award year at $4,050 and, with the minimum award continuing to be $400, sets the maximum Expected Family Contribution (EFC) that a student may have to be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant at 3850. We used these amounts (and related statutory provisions) to develop the 2005-2006 Federal Pell Grant Payment and Disbursement Schedules.

On January 4, 2005, the Department posted a Dear Colleague Letter (P-005-01) on the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/P0501.html. The attachments to this letter contain the 2005-2006 Award Year Federal Pell Grant Program Payment and Disbursement Schedules - Regular and Alternate. The letter describes when an institution must determine a student's Pell Grant award using the Alternate Schedules and when it can use the Regular Schedules.

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Pell Grant Year-To-Date Record Back In Production [12/01/04 (Updated 12/13/04)]
Pell Grant Year-to-Date (YTD) records (PGYRxxOP) are being generated and sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes. As of December 10, 2004, COD has fulfilled all YTD requests received since October 2, 2004. This is earlier than the previously reported completion date of December 13th. Schools that have not received a previously requested YTD may now resubmit their requests.

The YTD record can be used to assist a school with its year-end and ongoing reconciliation processes. Until resolution of current COD System issues affecting the YTD record, we caution a school not to use the Pell Grant YTD record for rebuilding a complete student record or Pell database. The current COD System issues are as follows:

- System-generated negative disbursements (CRNDxxOP) created by the COD System prior to June 24, 2004 are ***currently reflected in the YTD and on the COD web site with incorrect disbursement dates***. We are currently performing a cleanup to correct these records in our database.

- In some cases, when we process more than one disbursement transaction for the same disbursement number on the same day, the individual transactions are ***currently not reflected in the YTD record and on the COD web site***. Instead, one combined disbursement transaction is reflected with the correct disbursement amount, the correct disbursement date, and the highest disbursement sequence number. We are currently researching a code fix and cleanup plan for this issue.

  Note: For a disbursement with this issue, if a school encounters difficulty processing further disbursement activity through its software, the activity can be performed on the COD web site.

- In some instances, the Previous Disbursement Sequence Number on the ***COD web site's Disbursement History screen differs from the Previous Disbursement Sequence Number reflected in the YTD record***. The Previous Disbursement Sequence Number reflected in the YTD record is correct. We are currently performing a cleanup to correct the erroneous Previous Disbursement Sequence Numbers on the COD web site.

Schools should also refer to the Electronic Announcement that was posted on the IFAP web site, http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/1130PellGrantYTDRecord.html, for additional information on the Pell Grant YTD record. Note: The status of the YTD record will continue to be covered in the Reports and Data Requests section of this document until the COD System issues affecting the YTD record are resolved.

All Schools Must Be COD Full Participants Beginning With 2005-2006 Award Year [08/02/04 (Updated 10/25/04)]

As a reminder, *all* schools must be Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award Year. This means that *all* schools must be able to submit 2005-2006 Pell and/or Direct Loan origination and disbursement data to the COD System using the COD Common Record in XML format.

If your school currently is a Phase-In Participant (for one or all of the programs in which it participates) and has not yet submitted the required Full Participant information specified in the announcement posted on the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0806CODFullParticReq0506.html, please submit it to the COD School Relations Center as soon as possible. Doing so will assist us in preparing the COD System to accept and process your school's 2005-2006 Pell Grant and/or Direct Loan data.

Reports and Data Requests

ISSUES

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- Pell Year-to-Date (YTD) Records — For all award years, are being sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes (Message Class PGYRxxOP). In addition, as of December 10, 2004 all YTD requests held since October 2, 2004 are fulfilled. Schools that have not received a previously requested YTD may now resubmit their requests. The YTD record can be used to assist a school with its year-end and ongoing reconciliation processes. Until resolution of current COD System issues affecting the YTD record, we caution a school not to use the current YTD record for rebuilding a complete student record or Pell database. See the "Pell Grant Year-To Date Record Back In Production" item in the COD News section of this document for an explanation of these issues. [10/05/04 (Updated 12/13/04)]

Resolved Issues In Clean Up

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Disbursements Not Displaying On COD Web Site	√	

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On September 7, 2004 COD implemented a code fix to allow a null tag submitted for the Low Tuition and Fees Code data element to update the COD database correctly. Additionally, a null tag submitted for the Verification Status Code data element continues to update the COD database correctly. COD continues research to ensure that all applicable data elements reported with a null tag will update the COD database correctly. Note that not all data elements can be submitted with null tags; refer to the COD Technical Reference, Volume II, Section 3 for the applicable data elements.

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