



# COD Processing Update For Pell Grants

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January 28, 2005

## *Pell Grants*

### COD News

#### **COD System Maintenance Planned For Sunday, January 30, 2005 (01/26/05)**

The COD System will undergo routine maintenance on Sunday, January 30, 2005 from 12:01 A.M. (just after midnight) until 6:00 A.M. (ET). During this period, users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the COD web site. Additionally, batches submitted by schools will be held and not processed until after the COD System comes back up. COD apologizes for any inconvenience this outage may cause. If you have any questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

#### **FSA's 2005 Spring Conference—Register Now (01/26/05)**

FSA has invited schools to register for its 2005 Spring Conference that will be held March 22 through March 24, 2005 in Reno, Nevada. As explained in the Electronic Announcement posted on the IFAP web site at

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0121SpringConferenceInvite.html>, FSA is offering exciting new programs designed specifically for campus financial aid professionals.

The conference will follow a *new format* that replaces the traditional approach of offering update sessions, interest sessions, and a PC Lab. The new conference format will offer 1) a strategic visioning program designed to begin the development of a new, front-end, student aid delivery system in which experienced financial aid professionals may participate and 2) intensive, specialized, training designed for new financial aid officers. In addition to the conference, on Monday, March 21, 2005, two pre-conference workshops—one focusing on the Direct Loan Program and the other focusing on Career Colleges— will be offered.

***Registration for the conference is limited and will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.*** As such, if you want to attend the conference, do not delay in submitting your registration via the conference web site at [www.ed.gov/fsa/conferences/](http://www.ed.gov/fsa/conferences/). The deadline to reserve a sleeping room is February 28, 2005; however, reservations also should be made as soon as possible.

For more detailed information about the 2005 Spring Conference, the pre-conference workshops, registration, and travel/accommodation information, refer to the Electronic Announcement and to the conference web site.

#### **Schools May Not Receive Acknowledgements/Responses As Quickly As Usual During Peak Processing Period (01/20/05)**

Some schools have reported to COD that they have not received acknowledgements/responses for batches submitted to the COD System as quickly as they have in the past. As a reminder, COD



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processes a large volume of data during this time of year, and it may take a little longer than usual to complete daily processing.

We appreciate your patience during this peak processing period and request that you wait 24 hours after sending a batch to the COD System before contacting the COD School Relations Center to report a missing acknowledgement/response. If you do not receive the acknowledgement/response within 24 hours, the COD School Relations Center will then research the situation and ensure that the acknowledgement/response is sent to your school's SAIG mailbox.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this period.

## **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



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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**



### NOTICES

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

- Reconciliation Report—

COD is still delayed in fulfilling data requests that were submitted via SAIG or the COD web site from January 17, 2005 through January 20, 2005. As a reminder, please do not submit a subsequent request for this report. COD will notify schools when the requests have been fulfilled. COD apologizes for any inconvenience caused by the delay. [01/25/05 (Updated 01/26/05)]

- Verification Status Reports—

Processed and sent to schools for January 2005 do not reflect updates to the COD system made by schools to students' verification statuses since the December 2004 report. Therefore, a school's January report may still reflect a student's verification status as "W" or blank when in fact the COD system has accepted a verification status of either a "V" or "S."

Currently, COD has corrected this issue and Verification Status Reports are generating correctly reflecting all updates accepted by COD to date for students' verification statuses.



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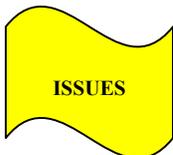
The Verification Status Reports for February 2005 will automatically be sent to schools and will reflect all updates accepted by COD for students' verification statuses.

If your school needs a corrected Verification Status Report at this time, a data request can be made via the COD web site or batch processing. Note that if a data request results in no report, this indicates that your school currently does not have any Pell awards accepted in the COD system for students selected for verification by CPS for which your school has not submitted a verification status of "V" or "S."

As a reminder, we encourage Pell schools currently using EDEExpress for Windows 2004-2005, Release 2.0, to read the IFAP announcement at

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/1116PellVerifStatusandSSNNameDOBChng.html>.

This electronic announcement outlines the actions that a school must follow to ensure that the Verification Status in their EDEExpress database and the one reported to COD is accurately reflected in COD. (01/17/05)



Except as listed below, all Pell Grant 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/](http://www.IFAP.ed.gov/). There are issues with the following Pell Grant reports and/or data requests:

- 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



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of this document for an explanation of these issues.  
[10/05/04 (Updated 12/13/04)]

## Resolved Issues

Described below are "Current Issues" that have been resolved. A full description of each issue will remain in this section for 7 calendar days following the "Updated" date. If a clean up is required, the title of the issue will then be moved to "Resolved Issues In Clean Up."

For the full description of a resolved issue after it is removed from this section, refer to previous postings of the COD Processing Update on the IFAP web site, [www.IFAP.ed.gov/](http://www.IFAP.ed.gov/). The COD Processing Update is posted to the IFAP web site each Friday.

### **Duplicate Disbursement Information In COD [05/06/04 (Updated 01/26/05)]**

COD previously notified schools that duplicate disbursement numbers were displaying incorrectly on the COD web site's Award Disbursements Information screen. On this screen under the Disbursement Number column, disbursement numbers were appearing twice. However, when viewing the Disbursement Information screen, each disbursement displayed a different status (Pending or Disbursed).

On December 21, 2004, COD implemented a code fix to prevent this from occurring in the future. At this time, all affected records have been cleaned up.

## 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.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>In Progress</u>	<u>Completed</u>
Disbursements Not Displaying On COD Web Site	√	

## Current Issues

### **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 or 042.



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COD is researching this issue and will 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 [08/31/04 (Updated 09/16/04)]**

As previously reported, 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 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.

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.