



July 3, 2008

This edition of the COD Processing Update will remain on the [COD Web site](#) until a new edition is posted. We will notify schools via a COD Web Message when a new edition has been posted.

Direct Loan Program

COD News

NEW!

COD Holiday Schedule For July 4, 2008 (06/27/08)

The COD School Relations Center will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2008 in observance of the Independence Day Federal holiday. The COD System will accept and process data from schools and send back responses/acknowledgements on July 4, 2008, but schools will not be able to receive any Federal funds on that day. Requests for changes in funding levels and for funds will not be processed until Monday, July 7, 2008.

Further information regarding Independence Day processing and customer service hours for COD and other Federal Student Aid/ED call centers is posted in [a June 27, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site.](#)

NEW!

COD System Maintenance Planned For Sunday, July 6, 2008 (07/03/08)

The COD System will undergo routine maintenance on Sunday, July 6, 2008 from 5:00 A.M. until 7:00 A.M. (ET). In addition, the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) will be unavailable from 3:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. (ET) due to its regular Sunday morning maintenance. This activity will result in outages of certain COD System functionality for a period of time. Federal Student Aid appreciates your patience and understanding as it completes this important activity. An explanation of how this activity will impact COD System availability and processing follows below. Please review this information to determine if processing at your school will be affected.

COD System and Web Site

- Schools attempting to transmit batches via the SAIG between 3:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET) will receive an error message informing them that the SAIG is unavailable and that the data must be transmitted at a later time.
- COD batch processing will be suspended beginning at 5:00 A.M. (ET). Records submitted after 5:00 A.M. (ET) will be held and processed after 11:00 A.M. (ET).
- Users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the [COD Web site](#) between 5:00 A.M. and 7:00 A.M. (ET).

Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note Web Site

- An individual will not be able to complete new MPN electronically or retrieve an existing MPN that was completed electronically via the [Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note \(MPN\) Web site](#) between 5:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET).



An individual starting the process by 4:00 A.M. (ET) will be able to complete his or her MPN before the Web site becomes unavailable. An individual attempting to access the Web site after the cutoff time will see a Web site maintenance message and will not be able to start the process or retrieve an existing MPN.

TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve Web site

- An individual will not be able to complete a new ATS electronically or retrieve an existing ATS via the [TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve \(ATS\) Web site](#) between 5:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET).

An individual starting the process by 4:00 A.M. (ET) will be able to complete his or her ATS before the Web site becomes unavailable. An individual attempting to access the Web site after the cutoff time will see a Web site maintenance message and will not be able to start the process or retrieve an existing ATS.

Contact Information

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience these outages may cause. If you have any questions about the COD System, the Direct Loan Electronic MPN Web site, or the TEACH Grant ATS Web site, contact the COD School Relations Center. If you have any questions about the SAIG, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 800/330-5947 or by e-mail at CPSSAIG@ed.gov.

NEW!

Publication of Title IV Loans NPRM (07/03/08)

On July 1, 2008, the Department of Education (the Department) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the [Federal Register](#) that proposes changes to the regulations related to the Federal Perkins Loan Program (34 CFR Part 674), the Federal Family Education Loan Program (34 CFR Part 682), and the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (34 CFR Part 685). This NPRM is a result of statutory changes made to the programs by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA).

The comment period for this NPRM ends on August 15, 2008. If you plan on submitting comments, please carefully review the information on page 37694 of the NPRM for the procedures to be used for the submission and review of comments.

NEW!

Direct Loan Bulletin 08-19 Released (07/03/08)

[Direct Loan Bulletin 08-19](#) was released to schools from the COD School Relations Center on July 2, 2008 and is posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. This bulletin is the third in a 3-part series of Direct Loan closeout bulletins that informs schools of the closeout deadline for the 2006-2007 Program Year.

If you would like to be added to or removed from the Direct Loan Bulletin distribution list, please submit an e-mail to CODSupport@acs-inc.com with the subject line of "DLB Distribution".

NEW!

Direct Loan Bulletin 08-18 Released (07/03/08)

[Direct Loan Bulletin 08-18](#) was released to schools from the COD School Relations Center on July 2, 2008 and is posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. This bulletin provides the new interest rates for variable rate William D. Ford Federal Direct



Loan (Direct Loan) Program loans that will be in effect from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The bulletin also provides the interest rates for fixed rate Direct Loan Program loans.

If you would like to be added to or removed from the Direct Loan Bulletin distribution list, please submit an e-mail to CODSupport@acs-inc.com with the subject line of "DLB Distribution".

Direct Loan Bulletin 08-17 Released (07/01/08)

[Direct Loan Bulletin 08-17](#) was released to schools from the COD School Relations Center on June 27, 2008 and is posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. This bulletin and its related attachment, "Operational Guidance for Direct Loan Changes to be Implemented June 27-28, 2008", provide additional and, in some cases, new information about the operational implementation of the changes affecting the Direct Loan Program.

If you would like to be added to or removed from the Direct Loan Bulletin distribution list, please submit an e-mail to CODSupport@acs-inc.com with the subject line of "DLB Distribution".

Direct Loan Bulletin 08-16 Released (07/01/08)

[Direct Loan Bulletin 08-16](#) was released to schools from the COD School Relations Center on June 27, 2008 and is posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. This bulletin informs schools that the annual loan limits for Direct Unsubsidized Loans will increase for some (but not all) students, effective for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2008.

If you would like to be added to or removed from the Direct Loan Bulletin distribution list, please submit an e-mail to CODSupport@acs-inc.com with the subject line of "DLB Distribution".

Additional System Functionality For 2008-2009 Award Year Implemented (07/01/08)

Federal Student Aid is pleased to announce the implementation of additional COD System functionality during the period June 27-28, 2008. These system changes support Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant origination and processing functions as well as regulatory and legislative changes that impact William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program origination and processing functions. The effective date for the TEACH Grant Program and the Direct Loan changes is July 1, 2008.

Federal Student Aid implemented all of the system changes described in [a June 20, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#) and a number of other reference communications listed in that announcement.

Thank you for your understanding and patience while Federal Student Aid completed this important activity. If you have any questions about the system changes, contact the COD School Relations Center.

CCRAA Operational Implementation Guidance – Availability of EExpress for Windows 2008-2009, Release 3.0 (07/01/08)

EExpress for Windows 2008-2009, Release 3.0 is available for download from the Department's Federal Student Aid Download (FSAdownload) Web site, located at fsadownload.ed.gov.



Release 3.0 is the first of three planned EDEExpress 2008-2009 enhancement releases that implement provisions of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA), Pub. L. 110-84, and other regulatory changes.

In addition to the Release 3.0 software, the following EDEExpress 2008-2009 documents are now available on the [FSAdownload](#) Web site:

- The EDEExpress for Windows 2008-2009, Release 3.0 Cover Letter
- The EDEExpress for Windows 2008-2009 Packaging Technical Reference (June 2008 Update)

These documents, along with the Installation Guide for EDEExpress for Windows 2008-2009 (also available on the [FSAdownload](#) Web site), contain important information and guidance regarding EDEExpress 2008-2009 functionality that you should review.

For complete information about Release 3.0, refer to [the June 30, 2008 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#).

Availability of Direct Loan (DL) Tools for Windows, Release 8.0 (07/01/08)

The William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (DL) Tools for Windows, Release 8.0, a supplemental software product for Direct Loan participants is available for download from the Department's Federal Student Aid Download (FSAdownload) Web site, located at fsadownload.ed.gov.

In addition to the software, the following DL Tools, Release 8.0 user documentation is now available on the FSAdownload Web site:

- DL Tools, Release 8.0 Cover Letter
- DL Tools, Release 8.0 Installation Guide

These documents contain important information regarding DL Tools functionality, enhancements, and installation that you should review.

For complete information about the DL Tools software, refer to [the June 30, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#).

Upcoming SAIG Message Class File Update (06/26/08)

On June 30, 2008, Federal Student Aid will send the message class "MESSAGTB" via the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) to all user mailboxes. The EDconnect transmission software will automatically request, download, and import this new message class table with your next connection to the SAIG network. Once the MESSAGTB file has been imported, the new message class table will be used from that point forward.

Federal Student Aid will add the non-cyclical Conditional Disability Discharge Tracking System (CDDTS) message class GACDDTOP to the message class table. Federal Student Aid will use this message class to deliver to each Guaranty Agency (GA) a monthly report listing CDDTS assignment rejections and acceptances.



Detailed information about the new message class table has been posted in [a June 26, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#) and will be sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes.

Direct Loan Program Overview -- Online, Instructor-Led Training (06/12/08)

Federal Student Aid is pleased to announce an online, instructor-led training—Direct Loan Program Overview—for school financial aid administrators and their staff. This one hour and thirty minute session will be offered on July 11, 2008 from 10:00 A.M. to 11:30 P.M. (Central Time).

The Direct Loan Program Overview training session is intended to provide introductory level information to staff new to the Direct Loan Program, as well as for those who may be interested in learning more about the program.

For additional information about the online training, including registration information, refer to [the June 9, 2008 Training Announcement ANN 08-08 on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#).

Reports and Data Requests



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.

- Direct Loan Rebuild File— Schools in need of this file should contact the COD School Relations Center.



Grant Programs

ACG, National SMART Grant, Pell Grant, and TEACH Grant

COD News

COD Holiday Schedule For July 4, 2008 (06/27/08)

The COD School Relations Center will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2008 in observance of the Independence Day Federal holiday. The COD System will accept and process data from schools and send back responses/acknowledgements on July 4, 2008, but schools will not be able to receive any Federal funds on that day. Requests for changes in funding levels and for funds will not be processed until Monday, July 7, 2008.

Further information regarding Independence Day processing and customer service hours for COD and other Federal Student Aid/ED call centers is posted in [a June 27, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site.](#)



COD System Maintenance Planned For Sunday, July 6, 2008 (07/03/08)

The COD System will undergo routine maintenance on Sunday, July 6, 2008 from 5:00 A.M. until 7:00 A.M. (ET). In addition, the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) will be unavailable from 3:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. (ET) due to its regular Sunday morning maintenance. This activity will result in outages of certain COD System functionality for a period of time. Federal Student Aid appreciates your patience and understanding as it completes this important activity. An explanation of how this activity will impact COD System availability and processing follows below. Please review this information to determine if processing at your school will be affected.

COD System and Web Site

- Schools attempting to transmit batches via the SAIG between 3:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET) will receive an error message informing them that the SAIG is unavailable and that the data must be transmitted at a later time.
- COD batch processing will be suspended beginning at 5:00 A.M. (ET). Records submitted after 5:00 A.M. (ET) will be held and processed after 11:00 A.M. (ET).
- Users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the [COD Web site](#) between 5:00 A.M. and 7:00 A.M. (ET).

Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note Web Site

- An individual will not be able to complete new MPN electronically or retrieve an existing MPN that was completed electronically via the [Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note \(MPN\) Web site](#) between 5:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET).



An individual starting the process by 4:00 A.M. (ET) will be able to complete his or her MPN before the Web site becomes unavailable. An individual attempting to access the Web site after the cutoff time will see a Web site maintenance message and will not be able to start the process or retrieve an existing MPN.

TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve Web site

- An individual will not be able to complete a new ATS electronically or retrieve an existing ATS via the [TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve \(ATS\) Web site](#) between 5:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET).

An individual starting the process by 4:00 A.M. (ET) will be able to complete his or her ATS before the Web site becomes unavailable. An individual attempting to access the Web site after the cutoff time will see a Web site maintenance message and will not be able to start the process or retrieve an existing ATS.

Contact Information

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience these outages may cause. If you have any questions about the COD System, the Direct Loan Electronic MPN Web site, or the TEACH Grant ATS Web site, contact the COD School Relations Center. If you have any questions about the SAIG, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 800/330-5947 or by e-mail at CPSSAIG@ed.gov.

Additional System Functionality For 2008-2009 Award Year Implemented (07/01/08)

Federal Student Aid is pleased to announce the implementation of additional COD System functionality during the period June 27-28, 2008. These system changes support Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant origination and processing functions as well as regulatory and legislative changes that impact William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program origination and processing functions. The effective date for the TEACH Grant Program and the Direct Loan changes is July 1, 2008.

Federal Student Aid implemented all of the system changes described in [a June 20, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#) and a number of other reference communications listed in that announcement.

Thank you for your understanding and patience while Federal Student Aid completed this important activity. If you have any questions about the system changes, contact the COD School Relations Center.

CCRAA Operational Implementation Guidance – Availability of EExpress for Windows 2008-2009, Release 3.0 (07/01/08)

EExpress for Windows 2008-2009, Release 3.0 is available for download from the Department's Federal Student Aid Download (FSAdownload) Web site, located at fsadownload.ed.gov.

Release 3.0 is the first of three planned EExpress 2008-2009 enhancement releases that implement provisions of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (CCRAA), Pub. L. 110-84, and other regulatory changes.

In addition to the Release 3.0 software, the following EExpress 2008-2009 documents are now available on the [FSAdownload](#) Web site:



- The EDEExpress for Windows 2008-2009, Release 3.0 Cover Letter
- The EDEExpress for Windows 2008-2009 Packaging Technical Reference (June 2008 Update)

These documents, along with the Installation Guide for EDEExpress for Windows 2008-2009 (also available on the [FSAdownload](#) Web site), contain important information and guidance regarding EDEExpress 2008-2009 functionality that you should review.

For complete information about Release 3.0, refer to [the June 30, 2008 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#).

TEACH Grant Operational Implementation Guidance – COD System Implementation and Guidance Summary (07/01/08)

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act (the CCRAA), Pub. L. 110-84, authorized the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program for implementation beginning with the 2008-2009 Award Year. The TEACH Grant Program provides up to \$4,000 a year in grant assistance to a student who agrees to serve for at least four years as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families. A TEACH Grant recipient who does not complete the required teaching within a specified timeframe, or fails to meet certain other requirements of the TEACH Grant Program, will be required to repay the TEACH Grant as a Direct Unsubsidized Loan under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. During the period June 27-28, 2008, Federal Student Aid implemented COD System functionality that supports the processing of TEACH Grant awards for the 2008-2009 and subsequent award years. This functionality included implementation of the [TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve \(ATS\) Web site](#).

For TEACH Grant guidance refer to the following postings on the [Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#):

- [Final Rule published on June 23, 2008 \(73 FR 35472\)](#) in the [Federal Register](#) provides the final regulations effective July 1, 2008 for the 2008-2009 Award Year.
- [Dear Colleague Letter GEN-08-01](#) provides policy information on all of the provisions of the CCRAA, including the TEACH Grant Program.
- [Dear Colleague Letter GEN-08-07](#) provides information on institutional eligibility for the TEACH Grant Program.
- [June 19, 2008 Electronic Announcement](#) provides information on Federal Student Aid's operational implementation of TEACH Grant Program functionality.
- [June 27, 2008 Electronic Announcement](#) provides information on the student aspects of the TEACH Grant Program that will be operational for July 1, 2008. This communication includes a "TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS) Web Site User Guide" designed to assist a student in completing his or her first electronic ATS.
- [2008-2009 COD Technical Reference](#) provides technical information related to the processing of TEACH Grant awards.



Federal Student Aid will continue to inform the community of the implementation of additional TEACH Grant functionality scheduled for implementation over the next several months. Please monitor the [IFAP Web site](#) for the forthcoming communications.

Upcoming SAIG Message Class File Update (06/26/08)

On June 30, 2008, Federal Student Aid will send the message class "MESSAGTB" via the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) to all user mailboxes. The EDconnect transmission software will automatically request, download, and import this new message class table with your next connection to the SAIG network. Once the MESSAGTB file has been imported, the new message class table will be used from that point forward.

Federal Student Aid will add the non-cyclical Conditional Disability Discharge Tracking System (CDDTS) message class GACDDTOP to the message class table. Federal Student Aid will use this message class to deliver to each Guaranty Agency (GA) a monthly report listing CDDTS assignment rejections and acceptances.

Detailed information about the new message class table has been posted in [a June 26, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#) and will be sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes.

2007-2008 National SMART Grant Deobligation Due to No Corresponding Pell Grant Warning Message (06/20/08)

On June 19, 2008, Federal Student Aid began processing a message to schools that have reported 2007-2008 National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) actual disbursements for a student who does not have a 2007-2008 Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) actual disbursement recorded in the COD System. The message is a warning that these disbursements will be considered overawards and reduced to a zero dollar amount (\$0.00), even if the disbursements were previously accepted in the COD System. The reduction of the affected disbursements is scheduled to occur on July 16, 2008.

Federal Student Aid sent the June 19, 2008 warning message to schools' Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailboxes in the message class SGTX08OP. Additionally, Federal Student Aid sent a file of student records reported to the COD System that do not have a corresponding 2007-2008 Pell Grant actual disbursement in the Reconciliation Report message class SGRC08OP. Schools that receive the warning message should review the accompanying Reconciliation Report and, if applicable, report 2007-2008 Pell Grant disbursements for affected students before July 16, 2008.

Note Regarding Exception Process for No Corresponding 2007-2008 Pell Grant Due to R2T4 Calculation:

Some of the student records included in the Reconciliation Report may be for students who do not have a corresponding Pell Grant for the 2007-2008 Award Year due to the documented full repayment of the Pell Grant as a result of a Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4) calculation. A school can inform Federal Student Aid of the student records to which this exception applies by calling the COD School Relations Center by July 14, 2008. A customer service representative will collect the following information from the school via the phone:

- School's Name



- School's Pell ID and G5 Award Number
- Student's First and Last Names
- Student's Social Security Number (SSN)
- Student's Grade Level
- National SMART Grant Award ID
- National SMART Grant Award Amount
- National SMART Grant Award Year-to-Date Disbursement Amount

Upon notification that an R2T4 exception applies, Federal Student Aid will exclude the applicable student records from the reduction scheduled for July 16, 2008.

For complete information, refer to [the June 20, 2008 Electronic Announcement that is posted on the IFAP Web site](#). If you have questions about the warning message or need to report an R2T4 exception (by July 14, 2008 as explained above) contact the COD School Relations Center.