



COD Processing Update

September 10, 2004

Direct Loan

COD News

End Of Federal Fiscal Year-Impact On Pell Grant And Direct Loan Funds Availability (09/10/04)

September 30, 2004 marks the end of the Department of Education's 2004 Federal fiscal year. Some of the Department's core financial systems will be on a modified processing schedule while the Department finalizes its processing and accounting for Fiscal Year 2004. Schools should refer to the Electronic Announcement on the IFAP web site, <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0909CODEndofFYImpact.html/>, for details on how Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) processing will be affected, and how this may impact the way your school processes Pell Grant and Direct Loan records during the days surrounding the September 30th date.

All Schools Must Be COD Full Participants Beginning With 2005-2006 Award Year [08/02/04 (Updated 08/09/04)]

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.

Note: FSA recently informed schools in [GEN-04-06](#) that the implementation of the Common Record: ISIR will not be implemented for the 2005-2006 Award Year. The adjustment of the Common Record: ISIR implementation schedule *does not* affect the requirement that *all* schools must be COD Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award Year.

Current Phase-In Participants can refer to the following sections of the 2004-2005 COD Technical Reference (<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/cod/0405CODTechRefDraft.html/>) for information that may be helpful in determining their Full Participant solution:

- Volume I, Section 3 provides information about XML.
- Volume II, Section 1 and Volume V, Section 1 provide information about FSA's EDExpress software that can be used to submit data to the COD System.

Updated information about Full Participant sign up for the 2005-2006 Award Year is posted on the IFAP web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0806CODFullParticReq0506.html/>.



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Reports and Data Requests



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:

- 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)
- Duplicate Student Borrower Report— For 2002-2003 and forward, is not being pushed to schools' SAIG mailboxes and is not available on the COD web site. (08/25/04)

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/. The COD Processing Update is posted to the IFAP web site each Friday.

Direct Loan School Account Statement (SAS) Released [09/03/04 (Updated 09/10/04)]

The SAS Report is normally generated on the first Saturday of each month and pushed to schools' SAIG mailboxes the following Monday. The August month-end report that was previously delayed was released to schools' SAIG mailboxes on Thursday, September 9, 2004.

MPN Search Limitation On The COD Web Site [3/17/04 (Updated 09/09/04)]

This item was previously reported under "COD Issues From 2004-2005 System Implementation."

In the past, when performing an MPN search using only the last name, not all of the search results displayed on the web screen. As a result, users were encouraged to perform an MPN search using both the first and last names. On September 1, 2004, COD implemented a fix for this issue. Users may now perform an MPN search using only the last name.

COD Cash Activity Screen Inaccurate [02/19/04 (Updated 09/09/04)]

Previously, COD identified an issue with the COD web site's Cash Activity screen not always displaying every drawdown that was reflected in the GAPS Activity Report. Additionally, COD previously discovered that other cash activities, such as Refunds of Cash and Disbursement Adjustments, were not displaying on the Cash Activity screen.

Over the past several months, COD has routinely worked these errors, implementing code fixes and performing clean ups when necessary. At this time, there is no systematic fix required to prevent these errors. COD works new errors on a regular/daily (and permanent) basis. If you



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discover that your school has a discrepancy on the Cash Activity screen, please contact the COD School Relations Center to report this information.

Direct Loan Servicing And COD System Interface Issues [03/25/04 (Updated 09/09/04)]

As previously noted, COD transmits a daily file to the Direct Loan Servicing System (DLSS) updating DLSS with Direct Loan booking information. Sometimes, not all of the information is processed correctly due to systematic rejects and interface issues between the systems. As a result, data between the two systems may not match for a period of time.

When this occurs, COD reviews the rejects and processes them accordingly, implementing code fixes and performing cleanups when necessary. In some cases, the processing of rejected records and the related code fixes can take several weeks to complete. At this time, there is no systematic fix required to prevent these errors. However, COD works new errors on a regular/daily (and permanent) basis.

Mixed Person Records In COD [03/02/04 (Updated 09/09/2004)]

As previously noted, the COD System is based on the establishment of a person record and contains person records established as early as 1999-2000. COD discovered that primarily due to inaccurate SSNs that entered the COD System, approximately 300 records (out of approximately 14 million person records in the COD System) mixed with other COD records. (Since PLUS borrowers are not matched with CPS, the majority of the people affected by this issue are PLUS borrowers.) Over the past several months, COD has had a dedicated team resolving the small number of records that were mixed.

The following two scenarios are related to the Mixed Person Records issue:

- ***In the first scenario***, one person appears twice within the COD System, with different awards under each profile. COD periodically runs a scan to identify new cases that fall into this scenario. COD will continue to run this scan and clean up affected records as they are identified.
- ***In the second scenario***, two persons have the same SSN in the COD System with mixed profiles and awards. These problems usually occur when incorrect SSNs are submitted to COD and are compounded when the incorrect SSN matches another person's correct SSN. COD cannot run a scan to identify new cases that fall into this scenario. Schools must notify the COD School Relations Center when they suspect that this scenario has occurred, and COD will then clean up the affected records.

Currently, there are approximately 65 affected records to clean up. COD will continue to clean up these records as well as new records that are identified from this point forward. Schools will be notified as their affected records are cleaned up. If you have any questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

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.



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<u>Issue</u>	<u>In Progress</u>	<u>Completed</u>
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	√	
COD Edit 116 Not Working Correctly	√	

Current Issues

COD Not Generating Credit Decision Override Response For The 2004-2005 Award Year (09/03/04)

COD generates a Credit Decision Override response when a PLUS borrower's endorser or appeal of a credit decision has been approved. Additionally, COD generates correspondence to the PLUS borrower and the endorser, if applicable. Recently, some schools have not received a Credit Decision Override response for 2004-2005 Award Year PLUS awards when the PLUS borrower's endorser has been approved. It also appears that COD is not generating the correspondence related to these overrides to the affected parents and endorsers.

COD is researching this issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available. If you discover that you have not received a Credit Decision Override response, contact the COD School Relations Center to report their information. In the meantime, you can view the status of credit decision overrides and credit decision results for endorsers via the COD web site.

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.



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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.

Phase-In Records Incorrectly Rejecting For COD Edit 056 (08/12/04)

COD has discovered 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 the cause of this issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Duplicate Disbursement Information In COD [05/06/04 (Updated 07/30/04)]

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 has made significant progress in analyzing the issue and anticipates a resolution in September 2004. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Student Name And Date Of Birth Not Updated In COD [05/03/04 (Updated 06/30/04)]

COD notified schools of 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 continues to research the cause of this issue and appreciates your patience. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

MPN Status Inaccurate On COD Web Site [10/30/03 (Updated 05/17/04)]

For the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 Award Years, the COD web site is displaying an MPN Status of Active for MPNs that have expired when it should display as Inactive. Currently, COD



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believes this is only a display issue and does not impact data processing. Resources have focused on more critical issues. COD appreciates your patience and will provide updates as more information becomes available.



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Pell Grants

COD News

Pell Grant Reconciliation Report For The 2003-2004 Award Year Will be Pushed To Reporting Schools (09/10/04)

The Pell Grant Reconciliation Report, which is a student summary of processed records, can be helpful to a school as it completes both the year-end and ongoing reconciliation processes. Normally, a school requests this report on the COD web site or by submitting a batch data request to the COD System via SAIG. However, to assist schools with final reporting before the September 30, 2004 deadline, we are going to push a Reconciliation Report for the 2003-2004 Award Year to the SAIG mailbox of all Pell Grant reporting schools with at least one funded 2003-2004 disbursement. Refer to the Electronic Announcement on the IFAP web site, <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0910CODPGReconciliation0203.html/>, for additional information.

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Note: FSA recently informed schools in [GEN-04-06](#) that the implementation of the Common Record: ISIR will not be implemented for the 2005-2006 Award Year. The adjustment of the Common Record: ISIR implementation schedule *does not* affect the requirement that *all* schools must be COD Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award Year.

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- Volume I, Section 3 provides information about XML.
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Updated information about Full Participant sign up for the 2005-2006 Award Year is posted on the IFAP web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0806CODFullParticReq0506.html/>.

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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/. There are issues with the following Pell Grant reports and/or data requests:

- Pell POP Report— For 2004-2005, is not available on the COD web site. COD is evaluating the functionality to push the report to schools' COD newsboxes. Report is being pushed to schools' SAIG mailboxes (Message Class PGPR05OP). (08/25/04)
- Verification Status Report— For 2004-2005, is not being pushed to schools' SAIG mailboxes and is not available on the COD web site. COD is evaluating all functionality. (08/25/04)

Resolved Issues

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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.

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