



Common Origination and Disbursement COD Processing Update

November 24, 2006

Direct Loan Program

COD News

2007-2008 COD Technical Reference Now Available (11/21/06)

The 2007-2008 COD Technical Reference is available on the [IFAP Web site](#). The 2007-2008 COD Technical Reference consists of multiple volumes that contain development information for the 2007-2008 Award Year. For a complete list of updates, refer to the "0708 COD Technical Reference November 2006 Change Tracking Log." If you have any questions regarding information contained in this document, please contact the COD School Relations Center.

COD School Testing For The 2007-2008 Award Year (11/21/06)

The COD School Relations Center will conduct Common Record Manual Verification and Structured Application Testing for the 2007-2008 Award Year from January 2, 2007 through July 30, 2007. Optional Unstructured Testing will be available June 4, 2007 through November 30, 2007.

School testing provides schools, third party servicers, and software vendors an opportunity to test business processes and system software with the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System prior to the transmission and processing of actual production data. It also allows the opportunity to make corrections or enhancements to software applications prior to sending data to the "live" production environment.

All entities that wish to participate in COD School Testing must submit the "COD School Testing 2007-2008 Sign-Up Sheet" to the COD School Relations Center. Schools, third party servicers, and software vendors can submit the sign-up document beginning Monday, December 4, 2006. The sign-up document is located in the School Testing Guide, Volume V, Section 1, of the 2007-2008 COD Technical Reference posted on the [COD Web site](#) under the "Click here if you are looking for more information on Common Origination and Disbursement" link. In December 2006, this section of the 2007-2008 COD Technical Reference will also be available on the [Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#).

For more information about COD School Testing, refer to the Electronic Announcement that is posted on the [IFAP Web site](#).

2006-2007 COD Technical Reference November 2006 Updates Now Available (11/20/06)

The 2006-2007 COD Technical Reference November 2006 updates are available on the [IFAP Web site](#). The 2006-2007 COD Technical Reference consists of multiple volumes that contain development information for the 2006-2007 Award Year. For a complete list of updates, refer to the "0607 COD Technical Reference November 2006 Change Tracking Log." If you have any



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questions regarding information contained in this document, please contact the COD School Relations Center.

Web Browser Compatibility For Federal Student Aid Web Sites and Software Products (11/16/06)

Federal Student Aid is currently studying the issue of the compatibility of Federal Student Aid Web sites with the Microsoft Internet Explorer, version 7 Web browser, the Mozilla Firefox 2 Web browser, and the Microsoft Windows Vista operating system. Once this is completed, an announcement will be made to the student aid community concerning all Federal Student Aid Web sites and software products.

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.

COD Issues

Some GAPS Transactions For ACG, National SMART Grant, Pell Grant, And Direct Loan Programs Inaccurately Or Not Reflected In COD System [11/03/06 (Updated 11/21/06)]

As previously communicated, in early November 2006 Federal Student Aid discovered that some Grant Administration and Payment System (GAPS) transactions performed by schools since September 29, 2006 were not accurately reflected in the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System. The transactions affected multiple programs—Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant), Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan)—and multiple award years. In some cases, GAPS refund, return, drawdown, and drawdown adjustment transaction amounts were doubled in the COD System. In other cases, GAPS transactions were not yet reflected in the COD System. During this period, an affected school was able to refer to the GAPS Activity Report on the GAPS [e-Payments Web site](#) for an accurate reflection of all GAPS transactions it had performed since September 29th.

As of November 21, 2006, Federal Student Aid has corrected the majority of inaccurate data related to affected GAPS transactions performed in September and October 2006. The COD Web site financial screens have been updated accordingly. Federal Student Aid is now completing an additional check to confirm that it has corrected all data and expects to report full resolution of this issue in the very near future.

At this time, Federal Student Aid has completed its examination of the impact of this issue on COD school reports. The impact is as follows:

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1. ***COD School Monitoring E-mail***—Effective November 21, 2006, Federal Student Aid will resume inclusion of the Unsubstantiated Cash section in COD School Monitoring e-mails sent to schools.
2. ***Direct Loan School Account Statement (SAS)***—The November 2006 month-end SAS for an affected school will reflect the Federal Student Aid's data correction work in one or both of the following ways:
 - Duplicate transactions that appeared on the school's September and/or October month-end SAS will be reversed in the November month-end SAS.
 - Missing transactions that did not appear on the school's September and/or October month-end SAS will appear on the November month-end SAS.

The school will receive the November month-end SAS on or about December 4, 2006.

Again, Federal Student Aid apologizes for the inconvenience caused by this issue and thanks schools for their patience and understanding. If a school has any questions or concerns, it can contact the COD School Relations Center by phone or e-mail.



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ACG, National SMART Grant, and Pell Grant Programs

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Reports And Data Requests



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- Pell Year-to-Date (YTD) Records— The YTD Record can be used to assist a school with its year-end and ongoing reconciliation processes. Schools also use the YTD Record for the purpose of rebuilding a complete student record or Pell Grant database.
 - For rebuilds for the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 Award Year, the school can submit the data request via the COD Web site or batch.
 - For rebuilds for the 2004-2005 and earlier award years, the school must contact the COD School Relations Center by e-mail to CODSupport@acs-inc.com. The school should include "Pell YTD" in the subject line. If a school is unable to e-mail its request, it can contact the COD School Relations Center by phone.

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1. ***COD School Monitoring E-mail***—Effective November 21, 2006, Federal Student Aid will resume inclusion of the Unsubstantiated Cash section in COD School Monitoring e-mails sent to schools.
2. ***Electronic Statement of Account (ESOA)***— The drawdown section of the next ESOA an affected school receives will reflect Federal Student Aid’s data correction work in one or both of the following ways:
 - Duplicate transactions that occurred in September and/or October will be reversed and no longer appear on the school’s ESOA.
 - Missing transactions from September and/or October will appear on the school’s ESOA.

The school will receive an ESOA showing the corrected information after its next Current Funding Level (CFL) change.

Again, Federal Student Aid apologizes for the inconvenience caused by this issue and thanks schools for their patience and understanding. If a school has any questions or concerns, it can contact the COD School Relations Center by phone or e-mail.