Common Origination and Disbursement

COD Processing Update

December 30, 2004

Direct Loan

COD News

COD Holiday Schedule For December 31, 2004 [12/17/04 (Updated 12/27/04)]
The COD School Relations Center will be closed on Friday, December 31, 2004, New Year's Eve. The COD System will accept and process data from schools and send back responses/acknowledgements on December 31, 2004. However, requests for changes in funding levels and for funds will not be processed until Monday, January 3, 2005.

Further information regarding New Year's Eve processing and customer service hours for COD and other FSA/ED call centers is available in an Electronic Announcement on the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/1216ChristmasNewYearClosing.html.

COD Processing Update Posting Schedule December 31, 2004 (12/30/04)
On Friday, December 31, 2004, the COD Processing Update will not be updated or posted on the COD web site, www.cod.ed.gov. Today's document will remain posted on the COD web site until we post a new COD Processing Update on Monday, January 3, 2005.

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.comwith the subject line of "FAQ".

COD School Testing For The 2005-2006 Award Year (12/27/04)
The COD School Relations Center will conduct School Testing for the 2005-2006 Award Year from January 3, 2005 through June 30, 2005. 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 entering into the "live" production environment.

All entities that wish to participate in COD School Testing must submit the "COD School Testing 2005-2006 Sign-Up Sheet" to the COD School Relations Center and be scheduled for each phase of testing. The sign-up document is located in the School Testing Guide, Volume V, Section 1 of the 2005-2006 COD Technical Reference posted on the IFAP web site at

http://www.ifap.ed.gov/cod/0506CODTechRefAugustDraft.html and is also available on the COD web site, www.cod.ed.gov, by clicking on the "Today's Update" link.

For more information about COD School Testing, refer to the electronic announcement posted on the IFAP web site at http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/1223CODSchoolTesting.html.

Schools Unable To View Actual Disbursements On The COD Web Site On December 22, 2004 (12/23/04)
On Wednesday, December 22, 2004 some schools were unable to view actual disbursements on the COD web site's Award Disbursement Information Screen. The COD technical team has resolved this issue. We apologize for the inconvenience this issue caused schools.

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

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 Edit Code 39 (12/27/04)
COD has become aware of an issue that results in schools receiving an edit code 39 (Incorrect Award Amount) in error. This is occurring when schools are submitting changes to awards to lower the amount to zero through batch processing or with an online change. In addition, when viewing the Record Errors screen on the COD web site, the "Field Value" field is displaying additional zeros before the previous award amount.

COD is still analyzing this issue and appreciates your patience. Updates will be provided 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

COD Holiday Schedule For December 31, 2004 [12/17/04 (Updated 12/27/04)]
The COD School Relations Center will be closed on Friday, December 31, 2004, New Year's Eve. The COD System will accept and process data from schools and send back responses/acknowledgements on December 31, 2004. However, requests for changes in funding levels and for funds will not be processed until Monday, January 3, 2005.

Further information regarding New Year's Eve processing and customer service hours for COD and other FSA/ED call centers is available in an Electronic Announcement on the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/1216ChristmasNewYearClosing.html.

COD Processing Update Posting Schedule December 31, 2004 (12/30/04)
On Friday, December 31, 2004, the COD Processing Update will not be updated or posted on the COD web site, www.cod.ed.gov. Today's document will remain posted on the COD web site until we post a new COD Processing Update on Monday, January 3, 2005.

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.comwith the subject line of "FAQ".

EDExpress Reported Pell Verification Status Not In COD (12/28/04)
On December 20, 2004, CPS/SAIG Technical Support issued an electronic announcement entitled EDExpress Reported Pell Verification Status Not in COD. We would like to **emphasize the importance for all Pell schools currently using EDExpress for Windows 2004-2005, Release 2.0 to read this notice** posted on the IFAP website at: http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/1220EDExpressPellCODVerifStatus.html.
Beginning on August 10, 2004, when using EDExpress for Windows 2004-2005, Release 2.0 to export Pell records with disbursement data only, the EDExpress software may have incorrectly exported a 'blank' Verification Status Code to COD. If the Verification Status Code field has a V, W, or S value on the student record in the EDExpress database, and that field value was previously accepted by COD, EDExpress is erroneously transmitting to COD a value of 'blank' in this field during disbursement data only transmissions to COD. COD is then updating the Verification Status Code on its system to a 'blank' and is returning an accepted disbursement record in the response file. However, after importing the response file, the EDExpress database continues to reflect the original reported Verification Status Code of V, W, or S. Therefore, for disbursement only data records submitted on or after August 10, 2004, the verification status in the EDExpress database must be resent to COD.

This electronic announcement outlines the actions that a school must follow to ensure that the Verification Status in their EDExpress database and the one reported to COD is accurately reflected in COD. In addition, EDExpress users are reminded to install the file that was posted to the U. S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Download (FSAdownload) Web site (located at http://fsadownload.ed.gov) in September. Until this DLL file is loaded, disbursement only data records will continue to update verification status in COD incorrectly.

If you need assistance or have questions regarding this issue, please contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 800/330-5947 or via e-mail at CPSSAIG@ed.gov.

COD School Testing For The 2005-2006 Award Year (12/27/04)
The COD School Relations Center will conduct School Testing for the 2005-2006 Award Year from January 3, 2005 through June 30, 2005. 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 entering into the "live" production environment.

All entities that wish to participate in COD School Testing must submit the "COD School Testing 2005-2006 Sign-Up Sheet" to the COD School Relations Center and be scheduled for each phase of testing. The sign-up document is located in the School Testing Guide, Volume V, Section 1 of the 2005-2006 COD Technical Reference posted on the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/cod/0506CODTechRefAugustDraft.html and is also available on the COD web site, www.cod.ed.gov, by clicking on the "Today's Update" link.

For more information about COD School Testing, refer to the electronic announcement posted on the IFAP web site at http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/1223CODSchoolTesting.html.

Schools Unable To View Actual Disbursements On The COD Web Site On December 22, 2004 (12/23/04)
On Wednesday, December 22, 2004 some schools were unable to view actual disbursements on the COD web site's Award Disbursement Information Screen. The COD technical team has resolved this issue. We apologize for the inconvenience this issue caused schools.

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

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 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

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.

Pell Grant Administrative Relief Requests Submitted Via E-mail Or Web Not Processed [12/14/04 (Updated 12/17/04)]
COD previously reported that the e-mail address, fsa.administrative.relief@ed.gov, and COD web site functionality used to request Pell Grant Administrative Relief were intermittently not working. COD has restored this functionality as of December 16, 2004.

You can now submit requests via the e-mail address, fsa.administrative.relief@ed.gov, or the COD web site. Please note, if you send your request to the e-mail address, you must include the required information in the body of the e-mail, not in an attachment. The attachment will not be accepted by the Department's e-mail network.

Once again, we apologize for any inconvenience this issue may have caused your school.

For additional information regarding Pell Grant Administrative Relief, refer to the electronic announcement posted on the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0902PellProcDeadline0304.html/.

Updating And/Or Creating Records On The COD Web Site [10/29/04 (Updated 12/13/04)]
Previously, schools intermittently received the error message "Outgoing Message Queue Not Responding" after updating and/or creating records via the COD web site, and a web-based response was not displayed on the web. However, the records were processed in the COD System.

Further research has shown that this was an isolated incident and has not continued to occur. However, if you experience this issue in the future, notify 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.

Issue	In Progress	Completed
Disbursements Not Displaying On COD Web Site	√	

Current Issues

COD Incorrectly Rejecting For Edit Code 39 [12/27/04 (Updated 12/29/04)]
As previously reported, COD identified an issue that results in schools receiving an edit code 39 (Incorrect Award Amount) in error. Upon further research, COD has determined that schools processing Pell awards are receiving this error appropriately. However, in some instances, when schools are submitting changes to awards through batch processing or with an online change, the "Field Value" field on the Record Errors screen on the COD web site is displaying additional zeros before the previous award amount.

COD is still analyzing this issue and appreciates your patience. Updates will be provided 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.

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.