COD Processing Update

January 31, 2014
NEWS/UPDATES

- **2014-2015 Pell Grant Payment And Disbursement Schedules Posted On The IFAP Web Site (01/31/14)**

  In [Dear Colleague Letter GEN-14-01](#), posted to the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site on January 31, 2014, Federal Student Aid provided the community with the Federal Pell Grant Payment and Disbursement Schedules for the 2014-2015 Award Year for full-time, three-quarter-time, half-time, and less-than-half-time students. All 2014-2015 Pell Grant awards must be based on the schedules attached to the letter. In a forthcoming electronic announcement, Federal Student Aid will provide information about the operational implementation of the schedules in its systems, including the COD System. Please monitor the IFAP Web site for this forthcoming operational guidance.

- **OMB Expiration Date on Direct Loan PLUS Loan Application and Master Promissory Note (01/31/14)**

  The current Direct PLUS Loan Application and MPN have an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) expiration date of 11/30/2013. Federal Student Aid is currently in the process of clearing a revised form, but does not yet have a targeted implementation date. In the meantime, the current MPN form is valid and schools should continue to use it until further notice.

- **Accurately Reporting Direct Loan Disbursement Dates (1/31/14)**

  On January 29, 2014, Federal Student Aid posted an Electronic Announcement reminding schools of the importance of accurately reporting Direct Loan actual disbursement dates to the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System. If the date when Direct Loan funds are made available to a borrower (the actual disbursement date) is different than the original anticipated disbursement date, it is critical for the school to ensure that the actual disbursement date is reported.

  For complete information, refer to the [January 29, 2014 Electronic Announcement](#) on the IFAP Web site.

- **Availability of Report Readers for Pell Grant Reconciliation File, Pell Grant Year to Date (YTD) File, and School Account Statement (SAS) Disbursement Detail on Demand File (01/28/14)**

  Federal Student Aid is pleased to announce the posting of three report readers for the following reports:

  - Pell Grant Reconciliation File
  - Pell Grant YTD File
  - SAS Disbursement Detail on Demand File

  The readers provide a simplified way of importing the report files into an Excel spreadsheet for school reconciliation purposes. To use the readers, a school must receive the fixed-length format of the reports.

The readers, along with instructions on how to use them, are posted on the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) Web site and can be accessed by clicking on the "Today's Update" link located on the gray bar at the bottom of the home page.If you have questions about the readers or need additional assistance with using them, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **2013-2014 COD System Peak Processing Reminders (12/12/13)**

In January 2014, we will begin another peak processing period for the 2013-2014 Award Year.

In a December 12, 2013 Electronic Announcement on the IFAP Web site, Federal Student Aid provides COD System peak processing reminders to assist schools with planning and processing.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this peak processing period.

- **COD Common Record XML Schema Version 4.0a Now Available (10/30/13)**

In Spring 2014, Federal Student Aid plans to implement Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System functionality that will support the processing of Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant, Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) awards for the 2014-2015 Award Year. In conjunction with this implementation, Federal Student Aid will begin using a new version of the COD Common Record Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schema. The new schema version is 4.0a.

For complete information about the new schema version, refer to "COD Common Record XML Schema Version 4.0a" posted on the IFAP Web site.

If you have questions about the schema, contact the COD School Relations Center.

CURRENT ISSUES

DIRECT LOANS

RESOLVED – Borrowers Receiving Incorrect Error Messages about School Participation in Online Counseling Options [Updated 1/31/14 (01/24/14)]

Federal Student Aid determined that some borrowers were impacted by an issue that occurs during the counseling flows completed via the StudentLoans.gov Web site. The system was incorrectly using consolidation loan information pulled from the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) to determine if a school was participating in the various online counseling options. Because consolidation loans do not have school codes, a borrower received an error message stating that the school was not participating in the online counseling.

Federal Student Aid fixed the issue on January 30, 2014 and borrowers should no longer receive the incorrect error message.

If you have additional questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

Contact Information: If you have questions, contact the COD School Relations Center at 800/474-7268 for Grants or 800/848-0978 for Direct Loans. You may also e-mail CODSupport@ed.gov .

GRANTS

There are no Grant-related issues at this time.

REMINDERS

Keep School Contact Information Current in the COD System (01/31/14)

We remind schools and third party servicers that contact information in the COD System must be kept current. Contact information is extremely important for us to be able to reach the right people at the school, particularly about program-specific issues. The e-mail addresses for the President, Financial Aid Administrator, Pell Grant Financial Aid Officer, and Direct Loan Financial Aid Officer are used to deliver time-sensitive materials and critical COD processing information to the school.

Having current contact information for the Pell Grant Financial Aid Officer and Direct Loan Financial Aid Officer is most critical for a school that is an additional location to a main campus. The information allows us to contact those officers directly at the additional location rather than needing to contact the main campus.

For more information on updating School Contact Information, please refer to the December 20, 2012 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site.

Contact Information: If you have questions, contact the COD School Relations Center at 800/474-7268 for Grants or 800/848-0978 for Direct Loans. You may also e-mail CODSupport@ed.gov.