



COD Processing Update

April 1, 2005

Direct Loan

COD News

Direct Loan Bulletin 05-05 Released (03/31/05)

Direct Loan Bulletin 05-05 was released to schools from the COD School Relations Center on March 30, 2005, and was posted on the IFAP Web site at <http://ifap.ed.gov/dlbulletins/DLB0505.html>. This bulletin announces new message class codes for the Borrower Delinquency Report, the Entrance Counseling Report, and the Exit Counseling Report. The new message class codes will be used beginning with the March 2005 month-end reports.

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

EDEExpress For Windows 2005-2006, Release 2.0 Available For Download (03/28/05)

The Department has announced the posting of EDEExpress for Windows 2005-2006, Release 2.0, on the Department's Federal Student Aid Download (FSA download) Web site at <http://www.fsadownload.ed.gov/index.htm>. This release adds Pell and Direct Loan processing functionality for the 2005-2006 cycle. The complete announcement regarding Release 2.0 is available on the IFAP Web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0325EDEExpress0506Rel2.html>

All Schools Must Be COD Full Participants Beginning With 2005-2006 Award Year [08/02/04 (Updated 03/21/05)]

Now that the 2005-2006 COD software has been implemented, COD wants to refresh the reminder that *all* schools must be Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award Year and forward. This means that *all* schools (including COD Phase-In Participants that currently submit and receive information using fixed-length, flat-file record formats) must send and receive 2005-2006 (and subsequent award year) origination and disbursement data for the Pell Grant and/or Direct Loan programs to the COD System using the Extensible Markup Language (XML) Common Record.

As FSA has previously informed schools, if a school submits 2005-2006 Pell Grant and/or Direct Loan data in fixed-length, flat-file record formats, the COD System will reject the data and the school's access to funding will be affected. If your school has not yet signed up as a Full Participant, or is experiencing difficulty with implementing a Full Participant solution, contact the COD School Relations Center immediately for assistance.

Additionally, COD is seeking current Full Participant schools that are willing to serve as mentors to schools new to XML processing. If your school is interested in serving as a mentor, or, if your



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school is new to XML processing and is interested in working with a mentor, contact the COD School Relations Center. COD will assist in connecting like schools with each other.

Reports and Data Requests



This section contains important notices regarding reports. While we encourage you to review this section, note that some schools may not be impacted by the information presented below.

- Duplicate Student Borrower Reports— Have not yet been sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes. However, these reports are available on the COD Web site. COD will inform schools when these reports have been pushed to schools' SAIG mailboxes. (02/09/05)



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:

- Expired MPN Reports— Were sent to some schools containing an incorrect total record byte (length). COD is researching the issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available. In the meantime, schools should notify the COD School Relations Center if they suspect that this situation has occurred. (03/31/05)
- 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.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>In Progress</u>	<u>Completed</u>
Disbursements Not Displaying On COD Web Site And/Or SAS	√	



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Current Issues

Issue With Importing Payment To Servicing Response [03/24/05 (Updated 03/25/04)]

COD and SAIG have identified an issue where some schools are unable to import 2004-2005 Payment to Servicing responses (Message Class CRPS05OP). The situation appears to be limited to Payment to Servicing responses containing PLUS loan data. The error message EDExpress schools are receiving is "Unable to Import File". Note that schools using a different software may receive a similar error message or a message indicating that the Borrower tag is required. COD and SAIG staff are working on a resolution. Pending this, COD has stopped sending the responses. COD will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Schools may access the COD Web site's Batch Detail Information screen to view specific details on the records in affected batches which have already been sent.

Phase-In Records Rejecting For COD Edit 846 (03/11/05)

Some schools that have submitted records affected by the Edit 56 issue (see Resolved Issues section), received COD Edit 846 (Total 'Anticipated Gross Amount' must be less than or equal to the Loan Amount Approved). This occurred because a change to the anticipated disbursement amount was submitted along with a reduced award amount, but COD was only accepting the reduced award amount. As a result, COD Edit 846 was returned because the award amount was less than the total anticipated disbursements.

Although the Edit 56 issue was resolved, affected schools' records are still rejecting for COD Edit 846. COD is testing a code fix to resolve this issue and expects to implement it in early April 2005. In the meantime, schools can opt to submit the disbursement changes first and then submit the award amount change at least one day later. While this is not ideal, it allows schools the ability to correct the records sooner. Schools that can wait until the code fix is implemented can resubmit the records together.

We apologize for the inconvenience and will inform you when the code fix has been implemented.

Some Null Tags Submitted Via Batch Not Updated In COD [09/01/04 (Updated 03/11/05)]

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. Previously, COD determined that some null tags were being accepted by the COD System, but were not appropriately updating the COD database. This meant that if a school submitted a null tag for some data elements, the COD System was ignoring it and the content on the COD database for that data element was not being removed. After implementing a code fix to allow the Verification Status Code data element to update the COD database correctly, we informed you that COD was conducting a full review of the null attribute.

Upon implementation of the 2005-2006 software (scheduled for March 18-19, 2005), the COD System will only process a null attribute (*nil*="true") for the following data elements:

- First Name, Middle Initial, Phone Number, E-mail Address, Note Message, Dependency Status Code, HPPA Indicator, Less Than Full Time Indicator, Incarcerated Indicator, Verification Status Code



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For more information on how nil="true" will update the COD database for each of these data elements, refer to Volume II, Section 3 of the 2005-2006 COD Technical Reference posted at <http://www.fsdownload.ed.gov/CODTechRef0506.htm/>.

COD Incorrectly Rejecting For COD Edit 039 [12/27/04 (Updated 02/24/05)]

COD has become aware of an issue that results in schools receiving COD Edit 039 (Incorrect Award Amount) in error. This sometimes occurs when schools submit changes to awards to lower the amount to zero through either batch or online processing.

COD continues to research a fix for this issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available. In the meantime, please do not resubmit your records. We appreciate your patience as we complete the research necessary to resolve this issue.

COD Rejecting Records Incorrectly For COD Edit 12 (02/10/05)

COD has identified three situations in which records are rejecting incorrectly for COD Edit 12 (No Eligible SSN, DOB, and Last Name Combination Match Found on CPS for Student). These situations are as follows:

- Schools are receiving COD Edit 12 for students with prior year Direct Loan Awards in the COD System who have since changed their name or require a change to their date of birth. The schools are attempting to submit updates to Direct Loan origination records. In the reported cases, students have updated their SARs appropriately and there are valid CPS transactions on file in the COD System.

COD is currently researching a code fix to resolve this situation and will provide updates as more information becomes available. If your school has students affected by this situation, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- An award is being established in the COD System; however, a rejected response (COD Edit 12) is being sent back to the school.

COD is currently researching a code fix to resolve this situation and will provide updates as more information becomes available. If your school has students affected by this situation contact the COD School Relations Center.

- When making online changes to names that contain a space rather than a character, schools are receiving COD Edit 12.

COD is aware that this is occurring and is in the process of developing a code fix to resolve this situation. At this time, there is no need to contact the COD School Relations Center to report the affected records.

COD apologizes for any inconvenience caused by these processing issues.



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Pell Grants

COD News

2004-2005 Verification Status Code “W” Warning Message (04/01/05)

On March 30, 2004, COD began processing a text message (PGTX05OP) as well as a file of student records (PGRC05OP) to schools that have one or more student records still reported with a verification status code of “W”. 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 April 21, 2005.

A more detailed electronic announcement regarding the warning message will be posted shortly on the IFAP Web site at www.ifap.ed.gov. Please refer to this announcement. If you have questions about the warning message or about reporting verification status codes to the COD System, contact the COD School Relations Center.

EDEXpress For Windows 2005-2006, Release 2.0 Available For Download (03/28/05)

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All Schools Must Be COD Full Participants Beginning With 2005-2006 Award Year [08/02/04 (Updated 03/21/05)]

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Pell Grant Year-To-Date Record In Production [12/01/04 (Updated 02/09/05)]

Pell Grant Year-to-Date (YTD) records (PGYRxxOP) are being generated and sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes. The YTD record can be used to assist a school with its year-end and ongoing reconciliation processes.

Previously, we informed schools of three COD System issues affecting the Pell Grant YTD record and cautioned schools not to use the YTD record for rebuilding a complete student record or Pell database until the issues were resolved. At this time, two of the three issues are no longer affecting the YTD Record.

We regret that the one remaining COD System issue continuing to affect the Pell Grant YTD record has taken longer than initially expected to resolve. We continue to caution schools not to use the YTD record for rebuilding a complete student record or Pell database until the issue is resolved. The issue is as follows:

- 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.

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 issue affecting the YTD record is resolved.

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). The YTD record can be used to assist a school with its year-end and ongoing reconciliation processes. Until resolution of a current COD System issue 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



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the COD News section of this document for an explanation of the issue. [10/05/04 (Updated 02/09/05)]

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Current Issues

Some Null Tags Submitted Via Batch Not Updated In COD [08/31/04 (Updated 03/11/05)]

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Upon implementation of the 2005-2006 software (scheduled for March 18-19, 2005), the COD System will only process a null attribute (*nil="true"*) for the following data elements:

- First Name, Middle Initial, Phone Number, E-mail Address, Note Message, Less Than Full Time Indicator, Incarcerated Indicator, Low Tuition and Fees, Verification Status Code

For more information on how *nil="true"* will update the COD database for each of these data elements, refer to Volume II, Section 3 of the 2005-2006 COD Technical Reference posted at <http://www.fsadownload.ed.gov/CODTechRef0506.htm/>.

Schools Unable To Import Response With A Negative Dollar Amount [02/21/05 (Updated 02/22/05)]

COD has learned of an issue affecting some Full Participants that have their Pell Grant Error Processing Option set to "Corrected". COD is returning to some Full Participants, Pell Grant responses with a disbursement amount corrected to a negative value in error. As a result, the affected schools are unable to import the responses. At this time, COD believes this issue is occurring when a Full Participant submits multiple disbursement adjustments for the same disbursement number within the same batch.



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If a school suspects that it is experiencing this issue, contact the COD School Relations Center to report the affected Batch ID. The COD Development team is researching this issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

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- Schools are receiving COD Edit 12 for students with prior year Pell Awards in the COD System who have since changed their name or require a change to their date of birth. The schools are attempting to submit updates to Pell origination records. In the reported cases, students have updated their SARs appropriately and there are valid CPS transactions on file in the COD System.

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