



# COD Processing Update

June 27, 2014  
NEWS/UPDATES

- **Availability of EExpress for Windows 2014-2015, Release 3.0 (06/25/14)**

Federal Student Aid is pleased to announce the posting of EExpress for Windows 2014-2015, Release 3.0, on the Federal Student Aid Download ([FSADownload](#)) Web site, located at <https://www.fsadownload.ed.gov>. Release 3.0 updates the Direct Loan and TEACH Grant modules to implement critical enhancements related to the 150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit and other new data reporting requirements for the 2014-2015 Award Year.

For complete information about Release 3.0, refer to the [June 23, 2014 Electronic Announcement](#) posted to the IFAP Web site.

- **COD Batch Processing Suspension and Web Site Outages June 27-29, 2014 (6/23/14)**

As explained in a [March 15, 2014 Electronic Announcement](#) on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site, we implemented Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System functionality to support 2014-2015 Award Year Processing. During the period June 27-29, 2014, we plan to implement additional COD System functionality for the 2014-2015 Award Year.

Federal Student Aid will post an Electronic Announcement on the [Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#) that provides operational implementation guidance related to the new functionality.

## **COD Batch Processing Suspension and Web Site Outage Information**

To install the additional COD System functionality, we will suspend COD batch processing beginning at 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Friday, June 27, 2014. Records submitted after this time will be held and processed after 11:00 A.M. (ET) on Sunday, June 29, 2014.

**Note:** All actual disbursements with a disbursement date from June 27, 2014 through June 29, 2014 must be received by the COD System **no later than 9:00 AM (ET) on Friday, June 27, 2014**, and subsequently accepted by the COD System, in order to generate the appropriate funding level increase prior to the outage. Disbursements submitted by the deadline but not subsequently accepted, disbursements submitted after the deadline, and disbursements with a disbursement date after June 29, 2014 will be processed and funded after the outage.

In addition, between 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Friday, June 27, 2014 and 11:00 A.M. (ET) on Sunday, June 29, 2014—

- Users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the [COD Web site](#).
- Users will not be able to access the COD Reports area of the [COD Web site](#).



- An individual will not be able to complete any actions or view loan correspondence via the [StudentLoans.gov Web site](#).
- An individual will not be able to complete any actions via the [TEACH Grant Web site](#).

Federal Student Aid apologizes for this inconvenience and appreciates your understanding and patience while it completes this important activity.

- **Intermittent Issues with StudentLoans.gov Web Site (6/23/14)**

Federal Student Aid is currently experiencing intermittent issues with the StudentLoans.gov Web site. These issues may cause the StudentLoans.gov Web site to be unavailable to users. Federal Student Aid is closely monitoring the Web site to limit the periods of unavailability during this peak processing time.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for this inconvenience and appreciates your patience.

- **EDEXpress for Windows 2014-2015 Release 3.0 and Direct Loan and TEACH Grant Functionality (6/23/14)**

In conjunction with the June 23, 2014 posting of EDEXpress 2014-2015, Release 3.0, Federal Student Aid has posted an Electronic Announcement that provides guidance and recommendations for users of the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) and Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant software modules. Specifically, the announcement provides guidance for users who created Direct Loan and TEACH Grant records in EDEXpress 2014-2015, Release 2.0, which was posted in April 2014.

For complete information, refer to the [June 20, 2014 Electronic Announcement](#) posted to the IFAP Web site.

- **2014-2015 COD Technical Reference (June 2014 Update) Now Available (6/20/14)**

The [2014-2015 COD Technical Reference](#) is now available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. The 2014-2015 COD Technical Reference contains development information for the 2014-2015 Award Year. If you have any questions about this material, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **COD System Warning Edit 211 (5/20/14)**

Since the April 2014 COD System implementation, many schools may have received COD Warning Edit 211 (Failure of Full Schema Enforcement). As a reminder, this warning edit is intended to help schools and software providers identify and fix invalid XML, but still allow the data to be processed by the COD System. Eventually, Federal Student Aid will reject batches sent with invalid XML and the data will not be processed by the COD System.

Since the cause of invalid XML can vary widely, Federal Student Aid cannot provide specific XML error(s) in the response when returning Warning Edit 211. However, some examples of common errors are:



- Submitting tags out of order
- Submitting a string longer than the posted maximum length value specified by the COD XML Schema
- Submitting an integer or decimal outside of the posted value range specified by the COD XML Schema
- Neglecting to submit a required tag within a complex element (for example, <City> in the <PermanentAddress> block)
- Submitting tag names that do not match the COD XML Schema (tag names are case-sensitive)

In addition, Federal Student Aid has posted guidance about using an XML validator tool to help schools identify XML errors. This guidance is posted on the IFAP Web site in a document titled “COD XML Schema Validation Instructions.”

When using an XML validator tool, schools should keep a few things in mind:

- Use of an XML validator tool is optional and a school will need to find the right XML validator tool based on its individual circumstances. Some schools may need to work directly with their technical staff or software provider to select an XML validator tool.
- In some cases, a school can download an XML validator tool to a computer. In other cases, a school can upload files to a Web-based XML validator tool. If a school opts to use a Web-based XML validator tool and it has to upload files to run the validation, for security purposes, the school should use test data for the file upload.
- Federal Student Aid has validated the published COD XML Schema with some of the independent XML validator tools available, including XMLSpy, [www.xmlvalidation.com](http://www.xmlvalidation.com), and XML Notepad 2007.

Finally, schools using a software vendor should consult with that vendor for additional assistance. In many cases, a school may need to ensure it is using the latest version of the chosen product.

Additional information about the COD XML Schema can be found on the IFAP Web site at <https://ifap.ed.gov/ifap/codXMLSchema.jsp>. For additional questions about COD System processing or the COD XML Schema, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **Operational Updates and COD System Readiness for Direct Loan Origination Fee Percent Increases (5/9/14)**

In [Dear Colleague Letter \(GEN-14-10\)](#) Federal Student Aid noted increased origination fees for Direct Subsidized Loans, Direct Unsubsidized Loans, and Direct PLUS Loans (for both parent and graduate student borrowers) with a first disbursement on or after October 1, 2014 and before October 1, 2015. In [May 9, 2014 Electronic Announcement](#), Federal Student Aid provides operational updates and information about COD System readiness for processing Direct Loans with the new origination fees.



- **Import Capability for Direct Loan Rebuild File for DL Tools Users Available Late June 2014 (4/30/14)**

As noted in an April 2, 2014 Electronic Announcement, Federal Student Aid added 12 additional fields to the Direct Loan (DL) Rebuild File as part of the April 11-14, 2014 COD System implementation. As a result, any DL Rebuild files produced after April 14, 2014 cannot be imported in to DL Tools for Windows, Release 13.0 because that version of the software does not include the additional fields. (Due to changing implementation schedules, the COD System update for the DL Rebuild File was implemented earlier than the DL Tools update.) Schools using DL Tools to import the DL Rebuild File can begin to do so when DL Tools, Release 14.0 is available in late June 2014.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience this issue may cause schools. If you have questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

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## CURRENT ISSUES

### DIRECT LOANS

There are no Direct Loan-related issues at this time.

### GRANTS

There are no Grant-related issues at this time.

## Keep School Contact Information Current in the COD System (6/27/14)

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.](#)