



# COD Processing Update

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September 17, 2004

## *Direct Loan*

### COD News

#### **COD System Maintenance Planned For Sunday, September 19, 2004 (09/15/04)**

The COD System will undergo routine maintenance on Sunday, September 19, 2004 from 12:30 A.M. (ET) until 12:30 P.M. (ET). During this period, users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the COD web site. Additionally, batches submitted by schools will be held and not processed until after the COD System comes back up. COD apologizes for any inconvenience this outage may cause. If you have any questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

#### **Extended Direct Loan E-MPN Web Site Outage For Sunday, September 19, 2004 (09/15/04)**

As a reminder, the Direct Loan E-MPN web site is unavailable every Sunday morning from 5 A.M. until 11 A.M. (ET) and every Monday morning from 12 A.M. until 7 A.M. (ET) while routine maintenance is performed. During these periods, borrowers are not able to complete a new MPN electronically or retrieve an existing MPN that was completed electronically.

Due to COD System routine maintenance on Sunday, September 19, 2004, the Direct Loan E-MPN web site will be unavailable for an extended period of time from 12:30 A.M. until 12:30 P.M. (ET). As previously noted, borrowers will not be able to complete or retrieve MPNs during this period of time.

COD apologizes for any inconvenience these outages may cause. If you have any questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

#### **All Schools Must Be COD Full Participants Beginning With 2005-2006 Award Year [08/02/04 (Updated 08/09/04)]**

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.

Note: FSA recently informed schools in [GEN-04-06](#) that the implementation of the Common Record: ISIR will not be implemented for the 2005-2006 Award Year. The adjustment of the Common Record: ISIR implementation schedule *does not* affect the requirement that *all* schools must be COD Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award Year.

Current Phase-In Participants can refer to the following sections of the 2004-2005 COD Technical Reference (<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/cod/0405CODTechRefDraft.html/>) for information that may be helpful in determining their Full Participant solution:

- Volume I, Section 3 provides information about XML.



# COD Processing Update

- Volume II, Section 1 and Volume V, Section 1 provide information about FSA's EDExpress software that can be used to submit data to the COD System.

Updated information about Full Participant sign up for the 2005-2006 Award Year is posted on the IFAP web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0806CODFullParticReq0506.html/>.

## Reports and Data Requests



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/](http://www.IFAP.ed.gov/). There are issues with the following Direct Loan reports and/or data requests:

- 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)
- Duplicate Student Borrower Report— For 2002-2003 and forward, is not being pushed to schools' SAIG mailboxes and is not available on the COD web site. (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	√	
Direct Loan School Account Statement (SAS) Data Issues	√	
Changes To Award And Disbursement Amounts Not Processed Correctly	√	
COD Edit 116 Not Working Correctly	√	

## Current Issues

### **Duplicate Disbursement Information In COD [05/06/04 (Updated 09/17/04)]**

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



## COD Processing Update

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Disbursement Information screen, each disbursement displays a different status (Pending or Disbursed).

COD has made significant progress in researching the cause of this issue and anticipates a resolution in September 2004. Updates will be provided 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.

### **MPN Status Inaccurate On COD Web Site [10/30/03 (Updated 09/17/04)]**

For the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 Award Years, the COD web site is displaying an MPN Status of Active for MPNs that have expired when it should display as Inactive. Currently, COD believes this is only a display issue and does not impact data processing. COD is researching a code fix that will adjust the MPN status to its correct value and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

### **COD Not Generating Credit Decision Override Response For The 2004-2005 Award Year (09/03/04)**

COD generates a Credit Decision Override response when a PLUS borrower's endorser or appeal of a credit decision has been approved. Additionally, COD generates correspondence to the PLUS borrower and the endorser, if applicable. Recently, some schools have not received a Credit Decision Override response for 2004-2005 Award Year PLUS awards when the PLUS borrower's endorser has been approved. It also appears that COD is not generating the correspondence related to these overrides to the affected parents and endorsers.

COD is researching this issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available. If you discover that you have not received a Credit Decision Override response, contact the COD School Relations Center to report their information. In the meantime, you can view the status of credit decision overrides and credit decision results for endorsers via the COD web site.

### **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



## COD Processing Update

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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.

### **Phase-In Records Incorrectly Rejecting For COD Edit 056 (08/12/04)**

COD has discovered 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 the cause of this issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available.



# COD Processing Update

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## *Pell Grants*

### COD News

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#### **Second 2003-2004 Pell Grant Deobligation Due To Verification Status “W” (09/13/04)**

On September 11, 2004, the COD System deobligated 2003-2004 Award Year Pell Grant disbursements that did not have a verification status updated from “W” to a valid status of “V”, “S”, or “Blank”. As noted in the warning message that we sent to affected schools on August 20, 2004, these disbursements were considered overawards and reduced to a zero dollar amount (\$0.00), even though the disbursements were previously accepted in the COD System. This deobligation affected Pell Grant disbursements at approximately 195 schools.

A school affected by the September 11, 2004 deobligation will—

- Receive a PGTX (PGTX04OP message class) file in the school’s SAIG mailbox indicating the number of students and total amount of the decrease;
- Receive a system-generated negative disbursement file (COMRECOP message class/ND document type for Full Participants and PGDA04OP message class/ # G batch type for Phase-in Participants);
- Receive a new Electronic Statement of Account (ESOA) reflecting the decrease; and
- See a change in the school's Current Funding Level (CFL) that reflects the deobligated disbursements.

Note: A school that did not have students with a verification status of “W” on September 11, 2004 will not be affected by this deobligation process.

If verification has been completed as required or is not required and a school believes a student’s 2003-2004 disbursement should not have been reduced to zero, the school must complete the following steps in this order:

- 1) The school must send an update to the verification status of the award, and the update must be accepted by the COD System.
- 2) Once the verification status is updated to “V”, “S”, or “Blank”, the actual disbursement (DRI = true) for the correct amount may be submitted to the COD System for processing.

Note: Full Participants can perform steps 1 and 2 in the same submission to COD if reported in the same student record.

If the verification status for a student’s award continues to be “W”, do *not* resubmit the disbursement to COD. If the disbursement is resubmitted, it will be rejected by the COD System.



# COD Processing Update

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As a reminder, the deadline for receipt of a valid SAR or ISIR after verification has been completed is September 17, 2004.

If you have any questions regarding the deobligation of disbursements due to verification status “W”, contact the COD School Relations Center.

## **All Schools Must Be COD Full Participants Beginning With 2005-2006 Award Year [08/02/04 (Updated 08/09/04)]**

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Current Phase-In Participants can refer to the following sections of the 2004-2005 COD Technical Reference (<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/cod/0405CODTechRefDraft.html/>) for information that may be helpful in determining their Full Participant solution:

- Volume I, Section 3 provides information about XML.
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Updated information about Full Participant sign up for the 2005-2006 Award Year is posted on the IFAP web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0806CODFullParticReq0506.html/>.

## **Reports and Data Requests**



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- Pell POP Report—  
For 2004-2005, is not available on the COD web site. COD is evaluating the functionality to push the report to schools’ COD newsboxes. Report is being pushed to schools’ SAIG mailboxes (Message Class PGPR05OP). (08/25/04)
- Verification Status Report—  
For 2004-2005, is not being pushed to schools’ SAIG mailboxes and is not available on the COD web site. COD is evaluating all functionality. (08/25/04)



# COD Processing Update

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### **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



## COD Processing Update

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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.

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