

Additional COD System Processing Function Enhancements and Modifications for 2015-2016

Attachment to September 2015 Electronic Announcement

This document highlights the processing function enhancements and modifications we will implement during the October 9-11, 2015 period. We cover the information in the following order:

- Changes Impacting All Programs
- Changes Impacting the Direct Loan Program
- Changes Impacting the TEACH Grant Web Site
- Changes Impacting the COD Web Site

Changes Impacting All Programs

The following changes will impact the COD System 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.

Student Eligibility Code (formerly Ability to Benefit Code) Processing Changes

Beginning October 11, 2015, we will make changes to the Student Eligibility Code (to accommodate Career Pathway programs as part of Ability to Benefit (ATB)). Modifications will be made to the valid values and/or descriptions of the following tags: <StudentEligibilityCode> and <AbilityToBenefitTestCode>. In addition, several edits will be modified to account for changes in the valid values of the tags.

Student Eligibility Code Changes

We will retire the <StudentEligibilityCode> value of '08'. We will add the values of '11,' '12,' '13,' and '14' that will be used for 2015-2016 Award Year and forward. We will also modify the descriptions of values '01,' '02,' and '07' for the 2015-2016 Award Year and forward. The table below summarizes the **changes** to some of the the valid values and the award years for which the changes apply. **Note:** The valid values of '04,' '06,' '09,' or '10' are not changing with this implementation so they do not appear in this table.

Value	Current Description	Valid Award Years	New Description	Valid Award Years
01	Ability to Benefit Testing Completed	2011-2012 through 2014-2015	ATB – Test Completed – 1 st Enrolled Before 7/1/12	2015-2016 and forward
02	College Credits	2011-2012 through 2014-2015	ATB – College Credits – 1 st Enrolled Before 7/1/12	2015-2016 and forward
07	GED certificate or state equivalent test	2013-2014 through 2014-2015	GED or State Auth. HS Equivalent Certificate	2015-2016 and forward
11	N/A	N/A	ATB – Test Completed – 1 st Enrolled 7/1/12 to 6/30/15	2015-2016 and forward
12	N/A	N/A	ATB – Test Completed – 1 st Enrolled 7/1/15 or After	2015-2016 and forward
13	N/A	N/A	ATB – College Credits – 1 st Enrolled 7/1/12 to 6/30/15	2015-2016 and forward
14	N/A	N/A	ATB – College Credits – 1 st Enrolled 7/1/15 or After	2015-2016 and forward

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Ability To Benefit Test Code Changes and Ability To Benefit Test Completion Date Changes

We will modify the descriptions of some ATB Test Codes, and we will add a new code of '12'. We have also modified the corresponding valid completion dates because many of the current tests have expired, or will be expiring shortly. The table below summarizes the changes to ATB Test Codes and their corresponding valid completion dates. Items that have changed are in **bold**.

ATB Test Code	Abbreviated Name	Full Name	Valid Completion Date
01	ASSET	ASSET Program: Basic Skills Tests	November 1, 2002 to October 31, 2015
02	CPAt	Career Programs Assessment (CPAt) Basic Skills Subtests	November 1, 2002 to June 30, 2015
03	CELSA	Combined English Language Skills Assessment (CELSA)	November 1, 2002 to Present
04	COMPASS	COMPASS Subtests	November 1, 2002 to October 31, 2015
05	CPTs/ACCUPLACER	Computerized Placement Tests (CPTs)/ACCUPLACER	November 1, 2002 to Present
06	DTLS/DTMS	Descriptive Tests: Language Skills and Mathematical Skills	November 1, 2002 to April 27, 2007
07	COMPASS/ESL	ESL Placement Test (COMPASS/ESL)	May 19, 2006 to October 31, 2015
08	WBST	Wonderlic Basic Skills Test	November 1, 2002 to Present
09	WorkKeys	WorkKeys Program	March 11, 2005 to June 30, 2015
10	TABE	Test of Adult Basic Education	November 1, 2002 to May 11, 2004
11	SABE	Spanish Assessment of Basic Education	November 1, 2002 to October 31, 2015
12	WBST-Spanish	Wonderlic Basic Skills Test - Spanish	July 1, 2015 to Present

Student Eligibility Code - COD Edit Changes

With the changes to the valid values, we will also modify certain edits related to Student Eligibility Codes.

COD Reject Edit 196 – This edit will be modified to apply to the new valid values for the <AbilityToBenefitTestCode> tag and the new corresponding valid date ranges for the <AbilityToBenefitCompletionDate> tag.

COD Reject Edit 197 – This edit will be modified to also apply to the new valid values of '11' or '12' for the <StudentEligibilityCode> tag.

COD Reject Edit 198 – This edit will be modified to edit for the applicable valid award year for the <StudentEligibilityCode> values. It will also be returned on an award if a value of '08' is submitted.

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COD Warning Edit 199 – This edit will be modified to apply to the new valid values for the <StudentEligibilityCode> tag when compared to the ‘H.S. Diploma or Equivalent’ field from the corresponding CPS transaction.

For complete information about the Student Eligibility Code, refer to Volume II, Section 1 of the [2015-2016 COD Technical Reference](#).

Changes Related to Unsubstantiated Cash

Beginning October 11, 2015, the **Unsubstantiated Cash Begin Date** will be added to the Cash Activity page on the COD Web site. This field will record the date at which a financial cash activity transaction (i.e. Drawdown, Drawdown Adjustment, Payment) first becomes unsubstantiated. For fully substantiated cash transactions, this field will display as blank.

This field will also be used to calculate the age of unsubstantiated cash, as reflected in the COD School Monitoring Report and on the COD Web site in the following fields:

- Cash > Net Accepted & Posted Disbursements & older than 30 days (School Summary Information page and Cash Activity page)
- Days Left for On-time Reporting (COD Cash Activity page)

More information about these fields will also be available in the COD Web site help text (to be updated with this release).

School Funding History Report Available to Schools in CSV Format

Beginning October 11, 2015, schools will be able to download a School Funding History Report. This on-demand report will provide information on a school’s funding authorizations, current funding levels, and cash activity transactions. In addition, the report will provide year-to-date funding information for the selected school, program type, and award year.

The School Funding History Report will only be available in CSV format and can be accessed from a link at the bottom of the School Funding Information page on the COD Web site. The report will not be sent via a school’s SAIG mailbox or posted to a school’s Newsbox on the COD Reporting site.

Changes Impacting the Direct Loan Program

The following changes will impact COD System processing of Direct Subsidized Loan, Direct Unsubsidized Loan, and Direct PLUS Loan awards.

Disbursement Date Changes and Disbursement Amount Changes can be made in the Same Transaction and Retirement of COD Reject Edit 57

Currently, if a school submits a change to a disbursement date and a change to the disbursement amount in the same transaction, the school will receive COD Reject Edit 57 (A change/adjustment to a Disbursement Date and Disbursement Amount were submitted on the same transaction. Adjustment to Disbursement Amount has been rejected).

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Beginning October 11, 2015, we will retire COD Reject Edit 57. A school will be able to submit, and the COD System will accept, disbursement amount and date changes in the same transaction. The change will apply to all award years. If a school chooses, it can continue to send disbursement amount and date changes as separate transactions.

Note: The retirement of this edit will also apply to TEACH Grant awards.

Note for EDEExpress Users: There is no change in processing for schools that use the Direct Loan or TEACH Grant module in the EDEExpress for Windows 2015-2016 software. Disbursement amount and disbursement date changes must continue to be processed and submitted separately in EDEExpress 2015-2016, Release 3.0. Additional guidance about processing with EDEExpress 2015-2016 and related enhancements to EDEExpress 2016-2017 is included in a September 25, 2015 Electronic Announcement.

30-Day Warning Report Renamed as Direct Loan Booking Warning Report

Beginning October 11, 2015, we will change the name of 30-Day Warning Report. The report will be called the Direct Loan Booking Warning Report. *Note:* All warning reports produced prior to October 11, 2015 will retain the former name.

The data contained within the report will not change. In addition, the delivery method (Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox or COD Web Reporting mailbox), available formats (preformatted, comma-delimited, pipe-delimited, CSV), and frequency (monthly) of the report will not change.

Note for EDEExpress Users: EDEExpress 2016-2017, Release 2.0 will include a new import type for the Direct Loan Booking Warning Report that replaces the existing 30-Day Warning Report import type. For guidance about importing the renamed report in EDEExpress 2015-2016, Release 3.0, refer to the September 25, 2015 Electronic Announcement.

Changes Impacting the TEACH Grant Web Site

The following changes will impact the COD System processing of TEACH Grant awards.

Updated TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve – We will update the TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS) to reflect statutory and regulatory changes.

Changes Impacting the COD Web Site

The following changes will be made to the COD Web site.

Live Chat Feature Available on COD Web Site

Beginning October 11, 2015, we will add a Live Chat feature that will allow authenticated users (at both schools and third party servicers) to interact with a Customer Service Representative (CSR) via a live chat session during regular business hours. Users *must* be signed in to the Web site to use the live chat feature.

During regular business hours, users will be able to click on the “Chat with a Representative” link on the “Contact Us” page of the COD Web site. If it is outside regular business hours, the chat link will be visible, but will indicate that the service is not available.

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At the beginning of the chat session, users will be able to indicate the topic of their question by simply typing their question. During the chat session, a user will be able to upload file documentation (up to 20 MBs in size) for review, if desired. Once the chat session has ended, a user can print a transcript of the chat from the chat window or view the details of the chat on the My Cases page. Transcripts cannot be sent via e-mail.

Chat sessions will operate in a separate browser window from the COD Web site, so an authenticated user will be able to continue working within the COD Web site while in a chat session. However, actions within the chat session alone will not prevent the COD Web session from timing out after 15 minutes of inactivity.

Search Results Available to Download in CSV Format for Most COD Web Searches

Currently, the search results of select COD Web searches can be downloaded by an authenticated user. Beginning October 11, 2015, we will add the capability to download search results in CSV format on most COD Web searches. We will add an “Export Results to CSV” icon to the various searches on the COD Web site. A user can click on this icon to have search results downloaded to his or her computer.

The maximum number of results that can be downloaded into a CSV format is 5000. If the search results exceed this limit, a user will need to refine his or her search to reduce the number of search results to be under 5000.