Common Origination and Disbursement

COD Processing Update

October 8, 2004

Direct Loan

COD News

Direct Loan Publications Update (10/08/04)
The Direct Loan Basics for Parents brochure is now in stock and all back orders are being fulfilled. To order a Direct Loan publication, you may contact the COD School Relations Center via e-mail to CODSupport@acs-inc.com or phone: 800/848-0978. All orders will be fulfilled within 2-7 business days.

Note: The Direct Loan Basics for Students brochure is currently out of stock. This publication will not be in stock until the end of October 2004. All requests made for this brochure will go on backorder until it is available.

Both brochures are available on the Direct Loan Web site at
http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/DirectLoan/pubs/studentpubs.html.

School Portion Of Direct Loan Servicing Web Site Intermittently Not Working (10/06/04)
Some schools are experiencing intermittent problems with the school portion of the Direct Loan Servicing web site. Schools that attempt to log in to the site and proceed beyond the home page may receive an error message and be unable to proceed.

If you receive this error message, contact the Direct Loan Servicing Center's School Relations staff at 888/877-7658. Information from schools that experience the error will assist in the analysis and resolution of this issue.

COD System Maintenance Planned For Sunday, October 10, 2004 (10/06/04)
The COD System will undergo routine maintenance on Sunday, October 10, 2004 from 2:00 A.M. until Noon (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 Electronic MPN Web Site Outage For Sunday, October 10, 2004 (10/06/04)
As a reminder, the Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note (MPN) web site is unavailable every Sunday morning from 5 A.M. until 11 A.M. (ET) while routine maintenance is performed. During this period, borrowers are not able to complete a new MPN electronically or retrieve an existing MPN that was completed electronically.

Note: Previously, the Direct Loan Electronic MPN web site was unavailable every Monday morning from 12 A.M. until 7 A.M. (ET) while routine maintenance was performed. However,

web site maintenance will no longer occur on Mondays. As a result, borrowers are now able to complete or retrieve existing MPNs during this period.

Due to COD System routine maintenance on Sunday, October 10, 2004, the Direct Loan Electronic MPN web site will be unavailable for an extended period of time from 2:00 A.M. until Noon (ET). As previously noted, borrowers will not be able to complete or retrieve MPNs during this extended period.

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

Disregard Direct Loan SAS Report Distributed on October 4, 2004 (10/5/04)
On Monday, October 4, 2004, COD pushed the Direct Loan School Account Statement (SAS) for all Program Years to schools' SAIG mailboxes. Subsequently, COD discovered that the September month-end reports contain inaccurate data. ***Please disregard these reports.***

New September month-end SAS Reports for all Program Years will be sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes by October 12, 2004. We sincerely apologize for this inconvenience and appreciate your patience while we correct our error and rerun the reports.

Reminder: Register For The 2004 Orlando Electronic Access Conference (10/04/04)
As a reminder, the first 2004 Electronic Access Conference (EAC) will be held November 1, 2004 through November 4, 2004 in Orlando, Florida. The registration deadline for the Orlando EAC is October 13, 2004. COD will be the subject of several break-out sessions at the conference, and knowledgeable staff will be on duty in the PC Lab to answer COD-related questions. You can register for the Orlando EAC at
http://edeworkshop.ncspearson.com/regist_Orlando.htm/.

The EAC room block at the Royal Pacific Resort is nearly sold out and only a few rooms remain for the pre-conference days. An additional block of rooms has been reserved at the Hard Rock Hotel beginning on Sunday, October 31, 2004.

Further details regarding the EAC Conference and hotel reservations are available at
http://edeworkshop.ncspearson.com/welcome.htm/.

COD Holiday Schedule For October 11, 2004 (10/01/04)
The COD School Relations Center will be open on Monday, October 11, 2004, Columbus Day. The COD System will accept and process data from schools and send back acknowledgements on Monday, October 11, 2004. However, requests for changes in funding levels and for funds will not be processed until Tuesday, October 12, 2004. Further information regarding Columbus Day processing and customer service hours for COD and other FSA/ED call centers is available in an Electronic Announcement on the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/.

End Of Federal Fiscal Year-Impact On Pell Grant And Direct Loan Funds Availability (09/10/04)
September 30, 2004 marked the end of the Department of Education's 2004 Federal fiscal year. Some of the Department's core financial systems are on a modified processing schedule while the Department finalizes its processing and accounting for Fiscal Year 2004. Schools should refer to the Electronic Announcement on the IFAP web site,

http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0909CODEndofFYImpact.html/, for details on how Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) processing is affected, and how this may impact the way your school processes Pell Grant and Direct Loan records during the days surrounding the September 30th date.

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 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.
- 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

ISSUES

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:

• 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.

COD Processing Update

Issue	In Progress	Completed
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

Phase-In Records Incorrectly Rejecting For COD Edit 056 [08/12/04 (Updated 09/27/04)]
COD previously notified schools 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 a code fix for this issue and will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

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 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.

COD Processing Update

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 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.

Pell Grants

COD News

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COD Processing Update

2003-2004 Pell Grant Processing Deadline (10/01/04)
As a reminder, under 34 CFR 690.83, schools must submit student payment data by September 30. Therefore, the deadline for electronically transmitting records for the Federal Pell Grant 2003-2004 Award Year was Thursday, September 30, 2004.

After September 30, 2004, COD will –
- Accept and process decreases to previously accepted 2003-2004 award originations and decreases to previously accepted 2003-2004 disbursements; and
- Accept and process originations and disbursements of new 2003-2004 awards or 2003-2004 award amount increases only if 1) the student was in a POP situation during the 2003-2004 Award Year or 2) the Department has granted Administrative Relief or Extended Processing for the 2003-2004 Award Year, including extended deadlines for schools affected by the recent severe weather conditions.

*Note***:** Unless one of these situations applies, the COD System will reject originations and disbursements of new 2003-2004 awards or 2003-2004 award amount increases and return Full Participant Edit 43/Phase-In Edit 399 (New Award Amount or Award Increase Received After End of Processing Year and Institution has Not Been Granted Administrative Relief) or Full Participant Edit 71/ Phase-In Edit 417 (New Disbursement Increase, or Payment Trigger to "Y" Received After End of Processing Year and Institution Has Not Been Granted Administrative Relief).

For additional information about Administrative Relief and extended processing, refer to the Electronic Announcement on IFAP at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0922pelldeadline0203.html. For details regarding extended deadlines for schools affected by the recent severe weather conditions, refer to GEN-04-09 on the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN0409.html/.

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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

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) Record—

For all award years, is NOT being sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes. Beginning October 2, 2004, all YTD requests received either on the COD web site or via the SAIG are being held and will not be filled by COD until further notice. Please do not submit a subsequent request for the report at this time.

COD has taken this action after determining that since September 20, 2004 the disbursement sequence number for system-generated negative disbursements and web-generated disbursements has been populated incorrectly on the YTD record. Accurate disbursement sequence numbers for these records can be viewed on the COD web site.

COD is working on a code fix to correct this issue and will not produce additional reports until the issue has been corrected. (10/05/04)

- 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)

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.

COD Processing Update

Issue	In Progress	Completed
Disbursements Not Displaying On COD Web Site	√	
COD Edit 116 Not Working Correctly	√	

Current Issues

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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 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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