



# COD Processing Update

October 15, 2004

## *Direct Loan*

### COD News

#### **New September Month-End SAS Reports For 2002-2003 Were Sent Only To Schools Granted Extended Processing [10/05/04 (Updated 10/14/04)]**

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.*

All schools for 2002-2003 received this report in error. Only schools that have been granted extended processing for 2002-2003 were sent an updated SAS report on October 11, 2004. Updated SAS reports for 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 were sent to all schools' SAIG mailboxes on October 11, 2004.

2002-2003	Incorrect report sent on 10/4/2004 to all schools	Corrected report sent on 10/11/2004 ONLY to schools that have been granted Extended Processing
2003-2004	Incorrect report sent on 10/4/2004 to all schools	Corrected Report sent on 10/11/2004 to all schools
2004-2005	Incorrect report sent on 10/4/2004 to all schools	Corrected report sent on 10/11/2004 to all schools

We sincerely apologize for this inconvenience and appreciate your patience while we corrected our error and reran the reports.

#### **COD Batch Processing Suspension And Web Site Outages October 16, 2004 (10/12/04)**

COD plans to upgrade the COD System on Saturday, October 16, 2004. In order to complete the system upgrade—

- COD will suspend batch processing beginning at 8:00 A.M. (ET) on Saturday morning, October 16, 2004. Records submitted after 8:00 A.M. (ET) will be held and processed after 3:30 P.M. (ET) on that same day. The suspension of COD batch processing will not impact the regularly scheduled processing of funds requests.
- The COD web site will be unavailable from 8:00 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. (ET) on Saturday, October 16, 2004.

Additionally—

- The Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note (MPN) web site, <http://dlenote.ed.gov>, will be unavailable from 8:00 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. (ET) on Saturday, October 16, 2004. Individuals starting the process by 7:00 A.M. (ET) on that day will be able to complete their MPNs before the web site becomes unavailable.



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Individuals attempting to access the web site after the cutoff time will see a web site maintenance message and will not be able to start the process or retrieve an existing MPN.

- As a reminder, the Direct Loan Electronic MPN web site is unavailable every Sunday morning from 5:00 A.M. until 11:00 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.
- If you have any questions about Direct Loan Electronic MPN web site availability, refer to the "Contact Us" feature on the web site's upper menu bar.

COD apologizes for any inconvenience the batch processing suspension and web site outages may cause and appreciates your understanding and patience while COD completes this important activity.

### **End Of Federal Fiscal Year- Processing Of Financial Data Is Caught Up [09/10/04 (Updated 10/12/04)]**

September 30, 2004 marked the end of the Department of Education's 2004 Federal fiscal year. Some of the Department's core financial systems were on a modified processing schedule while the Department finalized its processing and accounting for Fiscal Year 2004. At this time, the processing of all financial data is caught up. COD appreciates your patience and understanding while COD completed this important activity.

### **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.

### **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:

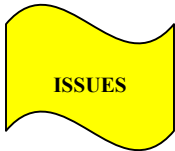
- Volume I, Section 3 provides information about XML.
- Volume II, Section 1 and Volume V, Section 1 provide information about FSA's EDExpress software that can be used to submit data to the COD System.



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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



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:

- Duplicate Student Borrower Report— Has been sent within the past 3 weeks to the SAIG mailboxes of schools that should receive the report. The report is now available on the COD web site as well. The report is current as of two business days prior to its run date.  
  
COD appreciates schools' patience and understanding as we continue to improve performance-related issues that exist with both the SAIG and web versions of this report. These performance-related issues will alter our monthly production schedule for the foreseeable future. We will continue to update you on the availability of this report.  
[08/25/04 (Updated 10/14/04)]
- 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	√	
Direct Loan School Account Statement (SAS) Data Issues	√	
Changes To Award And Disbursement Amounts Not Processed Correctly	√	
COD Edit 116 Not Working Correctly	√	



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## Current Issues

### **Duplicate Disbursement Information In COD [05/06/04 (Updated 10/13/04)]**

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 continues to research the code fix for this issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

### **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.

### **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.

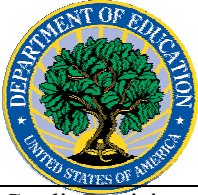
COD is still analyzing this issue and appreciates your patience. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

### **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



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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.



# COD Processing Update

## *Pell Grants*

### COD News

#### **End Of Federal Fiscal Year- Processing Of Financial Data Is Caught Up [09/10/04 (Updated 10/12/04)]**

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#### **COD Batch Processing Suspension And Web Site Outage October 16, 2004 (10/12/04)**

COD plans to upgrade the COD System on Saturday, October 16, 2004. In order to complete the system upgrade—

- COD will suspend batch processing beginning at 8:00 A.M. (ET) on Saturday morning, October 16, 2004. Records submitted after 8:00 A.M. (ET) will be held and processed after 3:30 P.M. (ET) on that same day. The suspension of COD batch processing will not impact the regularly scheduled processing of funds requests.
- The COD web site will be unavailable from 8:00 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. (ET) on Saturday, October 16, 2004.

COD apologizes for any inconvenience the batch processing suspension and web site outage may cause and appreciates your understanding and patience while COD completes this important activity.

#### **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")



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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/dpclatters/GEN0409.html/>.

## 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.

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- 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/>.

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- 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



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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)

- 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)



The following previously unavailable Pell Grant report and/or data request is now available:

- Pell POP Report—

For 2004-2005, is now available on the COD web site in schools' COD newsboxes. This report continues to be sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes (Message Class PGPR05OP). [08/25/04 (Updated 10/14/04)]

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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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