COD Processing Update For Pell Grants

February 25, 2005

Pell Grants

COD News

COD System Maintenance Planned For Sunday, February 27, 2005 (02/25/05)
The COD System will undergo routine maintenance on Sunday, February 27, 2005 from 12:30 A.M. 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.

Acknowledgements/Responses For Batches Submitted To COD System On February 22nd And 23rd (02/24/05)
Some schools have reported a delay in receiving acknowledgements/responses for batches submitted to the COD System beginning on February 22, 2005. The COD development team has investigated this issue and determined that most batches have been acknowledged and the acknowledgements are in schools' SAIG mailboxes. However, the COD System was not correctly storing the "acknowledgement sent" status on February 22 and 23, 2005. Schools using the COD web site on February 23rd to determine if a batch was acknowledged would be led to believe that a batch had not yet been acknowledged.

The COD development team fixed the "acknowledgement sent" status issue on the evening of February 23rd. The "acknowledgement sent" status is displayed correctly on the COD web site for all batches ***except*** for batches submitted later in the day on February 22nd , and before 8:00 P.M. (ET) on February 23rd. The COD development team is in the process of correcting the COD database to show the "acknowledgement sent" status for batches in this two-day period. The correction should be completed by Sunday, February 27th. If, after checking its SAIG mailbox and the COD web site, a school still believes that the COD System has not acknowledged a batch outside this two-day period, please contact the COD School Relations Center.

Pell Grant Year-To-Date Record In Production [12/01/04 (Updated 02/09/05)]
Pell Grant Year-to-Date (YTD) records (PGYRxxOP) are being generated and sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes. The YTD record can be used to assist a school with its year-end and ongoing reconciliation processes.

Previously, we informed schools of three COD System issues affecting the Pell Grant YTD record and cautioned schools not to use the YTD record for rebuilding a complete student record or Pell database until the issues were resolved. At this time, two of the three issues are no longer affecting the YTD Record.

We regret that the one remaining COD System issue continuing to affect the Pell Grant YTD record has taken longer than initially expected to resolve. We continue to caution schools not to

use the YTD record for rebuilding a complete student record or Pell database until the issue is resolved. The issue is as follows:

- In some cases, when we process more than one disbursement transaction for the same disbursement number on the same day, the individual transactions are ***currently not reflected in the YTD record and on the COD web site***. Instead, one combined disbursement transaction is reflected with the correct disbursement amount, the correct disbursement date, and the highest disbursement sequence number. We are currently researching a code fix and cleanup plan for this issue.

  Note: For a disbursement with this issue, if a school encounters difficulty processing further disbursement activity through its software, the activity can be performed on the COD web site.

Schools should also refer to the Electronic Announcement that was posted on the IFAP web site, http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/1130PellGrantYTDRecord.html, for additional information on the Pell Grant YTD record. Note: The status of the YTD record will continue to be covered in the Reports and Data Requests section of this document until the COD System issue affecting the YTD record is resolved.

All Schools Must Be COD Full Participants Beginning With 2005-2006 Award Year [08/02/04 (Updated 10/25/04)]

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.

If your school currently is a Phase-In Participant (for one or all of the programs in which it participates) and has not yet submitted the required Full Participant information specified in the announcement posted on the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0806CODFullParticReq0506.html, please submit it to the COD School Relations Center as soon as possible. Doing so will assist us in preparing the COD System to accept and process your school's 2005-2006 Pell Grant and/or Direct Loan data.

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) Records— For all award years, are being sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes (Message Class PGYRxxOP). The YTD record can be used to assist a school with its year-end and ongoing reconciliation processes. Until resolution of a current COD System issue affecting the YTD record, we caution a school not to use the

current YTD record for rebuilding a complete student record or Pell database. See the "Pell Grant Year-To Date Record Back In Production" item in the COD News section of this document for an explanation of the issue. [10/05/04 (Updated 02/09/05)]

Resolved Issues

Described below are "Current Issues" that have been resolved. A full description of each issue will remain in this section for 7 calendar days following the "Updated" date. If a clean up is required, the title of the issue will then be moved to "Resolved Issues In Clean Up."

For the full description of a resolved issue after it is removed from this section, refer to previous postings of the COD Processing Update on the IFAP web site, www.IFAP.ed.gov/. The COD Processing Update is posted to the IFAP web site each Friday.

Zeros Incorrectly Displaying On The Record Errors Screen [01/04/05 (Updated 02/24/05)]
COD previously reported that, in some instances, the "Field Value" on the COD web site's Record Errors screen was displaying additional zeros before the actual field value. This display issue seemed to be occurring when changes to awards were rejected for COD Edit 039 or 042.

On February 16, 2005, COD implemented a code fix to correct this issue. The COD web site's Record Errors screen no longer displays additional zeros before the actual field value. We appreciate your patience as we researched and resolved this issue.

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.

Issue	In Progress	Completed
Disbursements Not Displaying On COD Web Site	√	

Current Issues

Schools Unable To Import Response With A Negative Dollar Amount [02/21/05 (Updated 02/22/05)]
COD has learned of an issue affecting some Full Participants that have their Pell Grant Error Processing Option set to "Corrected". COD is returning to some Full Participants, Pell Grant

responses with a disbursement amount corrected to a negative value in error. As a result, the affected schools are unable to import the responses. At this time, COD believes this issue is occurring when a Full Participant submits multiple disbursement adjustments for the same disbursement number within the same batch.

If a school suspects that it is experiencing this issue, contact the COD School Relations Center to report the affected Batch ID. The COD Development team is researching this issue and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

COD Rejecting Records Incorrectly For COD Edit 12 (02/10/05)
COD has identified three situations in which records are rejecting incorrectly for COD Edit 12 (No Eligible SSN, DOB, and Last Name Combination Match Found on CPS for Student). These situations are as follows:

- Schools are receiving COD Edit 12 for students with prior year Pell Awards in the COD System who have since changed their name or require a change to their date of birth. The schools are attempting to submit updates to Pell origination records. In the reported cases, students have updated their SARs appropriately and there are valid CPS transactions on file in the COD System.

  COD is currently researching a code fix to resolve this situation and will provide updates as more information becomes available. If your school has students affected by this situation, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- An award is being established in the COD System; however, a rejected response (COD Edit 12) is being sent back to the school.

  COD is currently researching a code fix to resolve this situation and will provide updates as more information becomes available. If your school has students affected by this situation contact the COD School Relations Center.

- When making online changes to names that contain a space rather than a character, schools are receiving COD Edit 12.

  COD is aware that this is occurring and is in the process of developing a code fix to resolve this situation. At this time, there is no need to contact the COD School Relations Center to report the affected records.

COD apologizes for any inconvenience caused by these processing issues.

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.

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 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.

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.