COD Processing Update

February 27th, 2015

NEWS/UPDATES

- **Processing Tips - COD System Edits 204, 205, and 206 (2/12/15)**

  Federal Student Aid has identified an increased number of Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System edits triggered for Direct Loan awards, specifically COD Reject Edits 204, 205, and 206. In an October 31, 2014 Electronic Announcement posted on the IFAP Web site, Federal Student Aid provides processing tips and reminders to assist schools in researching and resolving these edits for each impacted award.

  For posted guidance and resources and other frequently asked questions related to 150%, refer to the 150 Percent Direct Subsidized Loan Limit Information page on the IFAP Web site. If you have 150%-related questions, submit them to 150Percent-Questions@ed.gov and include the name of your school in the subject line.

  If you have questions about the COD System edits, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **Direct PLUS Loan Changes – Initial Operational Guidance for Schools (2/4/15)**

  On February 3, 2015, Federal Student Aid posted the first in a series of announcements that will provide operational information about the changes to the Direct PLUS Loan adverse credit history provisions. In the first announcement, Federal Student Aid explains early operational impacts to schools and provides preliminary information about the changes planned for the COD System implementation during the period March 27-29, 2015.

  For complete information, refer to the February 3, 2015 Electronic Announcement.

- **Temporary Change to COD Reject Edit 147 – December 2014 - March 2015 (12/23/14)**

  As explained in a November 24, 2014 electronic announcement posted to the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site, we implemented changes to the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System, including revised functionality for COD Reject Edit 147 (Identifier inconsistency for PLUS Award for Graduate/Professional Student), during the weekend of December 12-14, 2014.

  As explained in the announcement, when submitting changes to identifiers for a graduate/professional student Direct PLUS Loan borrower, a school must submit the change in ***both*** the student block and the borrower block in the Common Record. If the change tags are not submitted in both blocks, the school will receive COD Reject Edit 147.

  As a result of this change, some schools are experiencing unexpected rejected records for their Direct PLUS Loans for graduate/professional students. To lessen the potential impact to schools during the early 2015 peak processing period, beginning December 30, 2014, we will change the COD System to return COD Reject Edit 147 under the previous business rules (those in place prior to the December 12-14 implementation) for

a temporary period of time. Accordingly, we will evaluate records for graduate/professional student Direct PLUS Loan borrowers as follows:

- ***From December 30, 2014 until March 27, 2015,*** we will not enforce the COD Reject Edit 147 change. This means that we will not require the identifier change tags in both the student block and the borrower block of the Common Record.
- ***Beginning March 27, 2015,*** we will enforce the COD Reject Edit 147 change. At that time, we will require the identifier change tags in both the student block and the borrower block of the Common Record.

Prior to restarting COD Reject Edit 147 enforcement on March 27, 2015, we will inform the community through an electronic announcement posted to the IFAP Web site. Schools should monitor the IFAP Web site for this guidance.

If you have questions about this change, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **150% EA #16 – Reminders About COD Reporting and Impacts to 150% Calculations (11/24/14)**

In a November 21, 2014 Electronic Announcement, Federal Student Aid reminds schools of the importance of accurate and timely reporting of a student's Direct Loan (Direct Subsidized Loan, Direct Unsubsidized Loan, and Direct PLUS Loan) information to the COD System to ensure that the Subsidized Usage Period can be calculated correctly. It is equally important that schools update previously-reported loan information, including closed Direct Loan program years, as needed. Specifically, when a student's situation changes, in addition to changing disbursement dates or reducing amounts, schools ***must*** also change key award information like award amounts, loan period dates, and academic year dates. For complete information, refer to the announcement.

If you have 150%-related questions or questions about determining the correct loan period and academic year dates, submit them to 150Percent-Questions@ed.gov and include the name of your school in the subject line.

If you have questions about how to make changes to award or disbursement information on the COD System, contact the COD School Relations Center.

CURRENT ISSUES

DIRECT LOANS

There are no Direct Loan-related issues at this time.

GRANTS

There are no Grant-related issues at this time.

Keep School Contact Information Current in the COD System (2/27/15)

We remind schools and third party servicers that contact information in the COD System must be kept current. Contact information is extremely important for us to be able to reach the right people at the school, particularly about program-specific issues. The e-mail addresses for the President, Financial Aid Administrator, Pell Grant Financial Aid Officer, and Direct Loan Financial Aid Officer are used to deliver time-sensitive materials and critical COD processing information to the school.

Having current contact information for the Pell Grant Financial Aid Officer and Direct Loan Financial Aid Officer is most critical for a school that is an additional location to a main campus. The information allows us to contact those officers directly at the additional location rather than needing to contact the main campus.

For more information on updating School Contact Information, please refer to the December 20, 2012 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site.