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**March 7, 2008**

\*\*This edition of the COD Processing Update will remain on the [COD Web site](#) until a new edition is posted. We will notify schools via a COD Web Message when a new edition has been posted.\*\*

## *Direct Loan Program*

### COD News

#### **COD System Maintenance Planned For Sunday, March 9, 2008 (03/05/08)**

The COD System will undergo routine maintenance on Sunday, March 9, 2008 from 1:30 A.M. until 9:00 A.M. (ET). In addition, the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) will be unavailable from 3:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. (ET) due to its regular Sunday morning maintenance. The impact of these overlapping outages is as follows:

- Users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the COD Web site between 1:30 A.M. and 9:00 A.M. (ET).
- Batches submitted by schools via the SAIG between 1:30 A.M. and 3:00 A.M. (ET) will be held and not acknowledged back to schools until after the SAIG comes back up at 11:00 A.M. (ET).
- Schools attempting to transmit batches via the SAIG between 3:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET) will receive an error message informing them that the SAIG is unavailable and that the data must be transmitted at a later time.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience these outages may cause. If you have any questions about the COD System, contact the COD School Relations Center. If you have any questions about the SAIG, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 800/330-5947 or by e-mail at [CPSSAIG@ed.gov](mailto:CPSSAIG@ed.gov).

#### **Extended Direct Loan Electronic MPN Web Site Outage For Sunday, March 9, 2008 (03/05/08)**

As a reminder, the Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note (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, individuals are not able to complete new MPNs electronically or retrieve existing MPNs that were completed electronically.

Due to the need for additional maintenance on Sunday, March 9, 2008, the Direct Loan Electronic MPN Web site will be unavailable for an extended period of time from 1:30 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. (ET). Individuals starting the process by 12:30 A.M. (ET) on Sunday, March 9, 2008 will be able to complete their MPNs before the Web site becomes unavailable. 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.



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



**NEW!**

### **Direct Loan Bulletin 08-06 Released (03/07/08)**

[Direct Loan Bulletin 08-06](#) was released to schools from the COD School Relations Center on March 6, 2008 and is posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. The bulletin discusses the implementation of certain MPN-related documents that have been changed as a result of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (the CCRAA), Pub. L. 110-84. The documents discussed include a revised Addendum to the Direct Subsidized Loan/Direct Unsubsidized Loan Master Promissory and a revised Plain Language Disclosure for Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans.

**Note:** Information about a revised Direct Subsidized Loan/Direct Unsubsidized Loan Master Promissory Note will be provided in a Direct Loan Bulletin later this year.

If you would like to be added to or removed from the Direct Loan Bulletin distribution list, please submit an e-mail to [CODSupport@acs-inc.com](mailto:CODSupport@acs-inc.com) with the subject line of "DLB Distribution".



**NEW!**

### **Direct Loan Bulletin 08-07 Released (03/07/08)**

[Direct Loan Bulletin 08-07](#) was released to schools from the COD School Relations Center on March 6, 2008 and is posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. The bulletin discusses the implementation of a revised Plain Language Disclosure for Direct PLUS Loans that has changed as a result of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (the CCRAA), Pub. L. 110-84.

**Note:** Information about how we will provide the CCRAA changes to borrowers signing new PLUS MPNs will be provided in a Direct Loan Bulletin later this year.

If you would like to be added to or removed from the Direct Loan Bulletin distribution list, please submit an e-mail to [CODSupport@acs-inc.com](mailto:CODSupport@acs-inc.com) with the subject line of "DLB Distribution".



**NEW!**

### **Required EDconnect Upgrade And TDClient Initialization File Replacement By May 1, 2008 (03/07/08)**

On March 6, 2008, Federal Student Aid posted guidance on the [Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#) about upgrading to EDconnect v7.2 and replacing the initialization file (tdclient.ini) to be used with all versions of the Transaction Delivery (TD) Client and Easy Access (EA) Client mainframe and midrange transmission software. In both cases, the upgrades are associated with Federal Student Aid's relocation of the data center that supports numerous Federal Student Aid systems and Web sites.

The upgrade to EDconnect v7.2 and the replacement of the TDClient initialization file by mainframe and midrange users of TDClient **should be completed no later May 1, 2008**. Failure to upgrade by the time the transition to the new data center is complete will result in the inability to send and receive files.

For complete information about these upgrades, refer to [the March 6, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the IFAP Web site](#).



### **COD Batch Processing Suspension And Web Site Outages March 14-16, 2008 (03/05/08)**

As explained in a [March 4, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#), during the period March 14-16 2008, Federal Student Aid plans to implement additional COD System functionality that supports the processing of Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant), Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) awards for the 2008-2009 Award Year.

**Note:** This implementation will not include functionality needed to support recent regulatory changes related to late disbursements and loan period/academic year length. This implementation also will not include functionality needed to support the processing of Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant awards for 2008-2009 and subsequent award years. The new grant program was established by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (the CCRAA), Pub. L. 110-84, and is effective July 1, 2008. Federal Student Aid plans to implement COD System functionality to support the regulatory changes and the processing of TEACH Grant awards in June 2008. Federal Student Aid will communicate the details related to the June 2008 implementation, as well as all necessary operational implementation guidance, through Electronic Announcements on the [IFAP Web site](#).

In order to install the system changes that will allow the COD System to receive and process 2008-2009 records—

- Federal Student Aid will suspend COD batch processing beginning at 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Friday, March 14, 2008. Records submitted after 8:00 P.M. (ET) will be held and processed after 9:00 A.M. (ET) on Sunday, March 16, 2008.
- The [COD Web site](#) will be unavailable from 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Friday, March 14, 2008 until 9:00 A.M. (ET) on Sunday, March 16, 2008.

Additionally—

- The [Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note \(MPN\) Web site](#) will be unavailable from 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Friday, March 14, 2008 until 11:00 A.M. (ET) on Sunday, March 16, 2008.

Individuals starting the process by 7:00 P.M. (ET) on March 14, 2008 will be able to complete their MPNs before the Web site becomes unavailable. 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.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience the batch processing suspension and Web site outages may cause and appreciates your understanding and patience while it completes this important activity.

### **TEACH Grant Operational Implementation Guidance – COD Common Record XML Schema Version 3.0a Now Available [02/12/08 (Updated 02/21/08)]**

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act (the CCRAA), Pub. L. 110-84, created the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program. This program



is effective beginning with the 2008-2009 Award Year and provides up to \$4,000 a year in grant assistance to students who plan on becoming a teacher and meet certain specified requirements. If a student who receives a TEACH Grant does not complete the required teaching, the grant must be repaid as a Direct Unsubsidized Loan under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program.

**Note:** For policy information on all of the provisions of the CCRAA, including the TEACH Grant Program, refer to [Dear Colleague Letter GEN-08-01 available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#).

In June 2008, Federal Student Aid will implement COD System functionality that will support the processing of TEACH Grant awards for the 2008-2009 and subsequent award years. On February 20, 2008, Federal Student Aid communicated about the implementation of a new version of the COD Common Record Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schema. The new version – 3.0a – of the COD Common Record XML Schema incorporates 1) a new block for TEACH Grant awards and 2) other changes throughout the schema to comply with standards established by the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC).

Federal Student Aid is phasing in required use of COD Common Record Schema Version 3.0a.

- Use of the new schema version for the 2008-2009 Award Year will be required only for TEACH Grant Common Record documents.
- Use of the new schema version for all Common Record documents will be required beginning with the 2009-2010 Award Year.

For complete information about the new schema version, refer to [“COD Common Record XML Schema Version 3.0a” on the IFAP Web site](#). Federal Student Aid posted updated sections of the [2008-2009 COD Technical Reference](#) on the [IFAP Web site](#). If you have any questions about these materials, contact the COD School Relations Center.

As a reminder, over the next several months Federal Student Aid will post numerous communications about the operational implementation of CCRAA provisions, including the TEACH Grant Program for the 2008-2009 Award Year. All participants in the Federal student aid programs should continue to refer to the [IFAP Web site](#) for applicable guidance and information.



### **Updating School Contact Information in the COD System (03/07/08)**

Federal Student Aid wants to remind all schools and third party servicers that contact information in the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System must be kept current. Contact information is extremely important for the COD School Relations Center. Of utmost importance are e-mail addresses and mailing addresses.

- The e-mail address for the Financial Aid Administrator is used to deliver time-sensitive materials and critical COD processing information to the school.
- For a Direct Loan school, correct mailing address information ensures that Direct Loan closeout letters are delivered timely and to the correct place.

Please ensure that all contact information is updated as needed.



## Submitting Updates to School Contact Information

Depending on the type of information to be updated, a school must submit updates in one of the following two ways:

1. In accordance with 34 CFR 600.21, most changes must be reported using the [Electronic Application for Approval to Participate in Federal Student Financial Aid Programs \(E-App\)](#). This includes changes to the following information:
  - School name
  - School address (including any branches and locations)
  - Names of the President (or equivalent title), Chief Financial Officer (or equivalent title), and Financial Aid Administrator (or equivalent title)
  - Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for the above officials

Once the E-App is processed, the [COD Web site](#) is updated within 24 hours. It may take longer if there is additional information required by the School Participation Team (formerly known as the Case Management and Oversight Division).

2. Two specific changes can *only* be made via the [COD Web site](#). These are changes to the Direct Loan Officer contact information/ mailing address and the Pell Grant Officer contact information/ mailing address. To view and/or update the current contact information for these officers, complete the following steps:
  - Log in to the [COD Web site](#).
  - From the School tab, select the “Financial Aid Contact” link (located under the School Information menu). The School Financial Aid Contact Information screen displays the current information for the school.
  - Update or add new contact information by clicking on the “Update” or “Add New” button in the heading for the officer to be updated.
  - Complete the new information and submit the changes.

This information will be processed and updated immediately on the [COD Web site](#).

An [Electronic Announcement](#) with this same information is posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. If you have any questions about updating your school’s contact information, contact the COD School Relations Center.

## Reports and Data Requests



This section contains important notices regarding reports and/or data requests. While we encourage you to review this section, note that some schools may not be impacted by the information presented below.

- Direct Loan Rebuild File—

Schools in need of this file should contact the COD School Relations Center.



# *ACG, National SMART Grant, and Pell Grant Programs*

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As a reminder, over the next several months Federal Student Aid will post numerous communications about the operational implementation of CCRAA provisions, including the TEACH Grant Program for the 2008-2009 Award Year. All participants in the Federal student aid programs should continue to refer to the [IFAP Web site](#) for applicable guidance and information.

### **2005-2006 Pell Grant CFL Reduction To G5 Net Drawdown Warning Message (02/21/08)**

At this time, all Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) funds for the 2005-2006 Award Year should have been disbursed to students. In general, schools are to submit Pell Grant disbursements to the Department of Education (the Department) no later than 30 days after making an actual disbursement or becoming aware of the need to adjust a student’s previously reported disbursement. Accordingly, disbursements and disbursement adjustments for the 2005-2006 Award Year should have already been submitted to the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System for processing.

### **2005-2006 CFL Reduction to G5 Net Drawdown Warning Message Sent on February 20, 2008**

On February 20, 2008, Federal Student Aid sent a message to schools that have a G5 (formerly GAPS) Pell Grant authorization, known in the COD System as Current Funding Level (CFL), for the 2005-2006 Award Year that is greater than their Net Drawdown amount reflected in the COD System and in G5. The message warns an affected school that its 2005-2006 Pell Grant CFL will be reduced to the G5 Net Drawdown if the CFL is still greater than the G5 Net Drawdown on March 19, 2008. When the actual reduction occurs on March 19<sup>th</sup>, the school will have a reduced authorization in G5 and will receive an Electronic Statement of Account (ESOA) that reflects the revised authorization.





Federal Student Aid sent the February 20, 2008 warning message to an affected school's Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox in the message class PGTX06OP. A school that receives the warning message should review its internal records and its CFL, G5 Net Drawdown, and Net Accepted and Posted Disbursements (NAPD) reflected in the COD System as soon as possible. The school should submit all outstanding downward disbursement adjustments to the COD System and/or request any outstanding drawdown from G5 for the 2005-2006 Award Year as soon as possible but before March 19, 2008.

This same information is posted in [a February 21, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#). If you have any questions regarding the 2005-2006 Pell Grant CFL reduction to G5 Net Drawdown, contact the COD School Relations Center.



### **ACG and National SMART Grant Resources (03/07/07)**

As a reminder, the Department of Education (the Department) has posted a number of Dear Colleague Letters and Electronic Announcements that communicate regulatory, policy, and operational information related to the implementation of the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) programs. In addition, Federal Student Aid has updated the [2006-2007 COD Technical Reference](#), the [2007-2008 COD Technical Reference](#), and posted the [2008-2009 COD Technical Reference](#). A school should refer to the [communications posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#) and to the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 COD technical references for complete information about the ACG and National SMART Grant programs.

More specifically, the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 COD technical references cover all aspects of the operational implementation of the ACG and National SMART Grant programs. This includes information on the following key aspects of ACG and National SMART Grant processing:

- Financial Award ID and Financial Award Number (Award Sequence Number)  
Volume II, Section 1 "Implementation Guide"
- Citizenship and Student Level Code  
Volume II, Section 1 "Implementation Guide"
- Message Classes  
Volume II, Section 2 "Message Classes"
- Common Record Layout  
Volume II, Section 3 "Common Record Layout"
- Reports Generated by COD System  
Volume VI, Section 8 "COD Reports"
- Eligibility/Payment Reason and Rigorous High School Program Code for ACG  
Volume VI, Section 9 "Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study, and Eligible Majors"



- Major/Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) Code for National SMART Grant Volume VI, Section 9 “Rigorous Secondary School Programs of Study, and Eligible Majors”

If your school needs help locating information related to the operational implementation of the ACG and National SMART Grant programs, contact the COD School Relations Center.

**Note for EDEExpress Users:** Volume III of the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 COD technical references provides additional guidance for schools that use EDEExpress in combination with another system. If your school needs help locating information related to EDEExpress, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 880/330-5947 or by e-mail at [CPSSAIG@ed.gov](mailto:CPSSAIG@ed.gov).



### **Updating School Contact Information in the COD System (03/07/08)**

Federal Student Aid wants to remind all schools and third party servicers that contact information in the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System must be kept current. Contact information is extremely important for the COD School Relations Center. Of utmost importance are e-mail addresses and mailing addresses.

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  - School address (including any branches and locations)
  - Names of the President (or equivalent title), Chief Financial Officer (or equivalent title), and Financial Aid Administrator (or equivalent title)
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- From the School tab, select the “Financial Aid Contact” link (located under the School Information menu). The School Financial Aid Contact Information screen displays the current information for the school.
- Update or add new contact information by clicking on the “Update” or “Add New” button in the heading for the officer to be updated.
- Complete the new information and submit the changes.

This information will be processed and updated immediately on the [COD Web site](#).

An [Electronic Announcement](#) with this same information is posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. If you have any questions about updating your school’s contact information, contact the COD School Relations Center.