



March 14, 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 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.

Upcoming SAIG Message Class File Update (03/10/08)

On March 14, 2008, Federal Student Aid will send the message class “MESSAGTB” via the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) to all user mailboxes. The EDconnect transmission software will automatically request, download, and import this new message class table with your next connection to the SAIG network. Once the MESSAGTB file has been imported, the new message class table will be used from that point forward.

Federal Student Aid will add message classes for the Central Processing System (CPS), the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System, and the Direct Loan Servicing System (DLSS) to the new message class table. As explained in [a March 7, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#), the COD System updates to the new message class table are as follows:

- The new message class table will reflect the standard COD System messages classes rolled over from 2007-2008. These messages classes are fully outlined in Volume II, Section 2 and Volume III, Section 2 of the [2008-2009 COD Technical Reference](#).
- Federal Student Aid will add five new 2008-2009 COD System message classes for the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program to the new message class table. These 2008-2009 TEACH Grant message classes are fully outlined in Volume II, Section 2 of the [2008-2009 COD Technical Reference](#) and will be in use after the June 27-28, 2008 implementation of additional COD System functionality to support TEACH Grant origination and disbursement processing. The message classes are as follows:

Message Class	Description
CRTHMYIN	TEACH Common Record Documents
CRTHMYOP	TEACH Common Record Response
CRTH09IN	TEACH 08-09 Common Record Documents
CRTH09OP	TEACH 08-09 Common Record Response
CRAT09OP	ATS Acknowledgement

Note: As explained above, these 2008-2009 TEACH Grant message classes will be in use after the June 27-28, 2008 COD System implementation. If a school submits the CRTHMYIN (TEACH Common Record Documents) and CRTH09IN (TEACH 08-09 Common Record Documents) message classes to the COD System prior to June 28, 2008, they will *not* be processed.



For complete information about the new message class table, refer to the [March 7th Electronic Announcement](#). A message containing this same information will be sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes.

TEACH Grant Operational Implementation Guidance – Corrected COD Common Record XML Schema Version 3.0a and Message Class Table Update [02/12/08 (Updated 03/12/08)]

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](#).

Corrected COD Common Record Schema Version 3.0a

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 initially 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).

On March 11, 2008, Federal Student Aid superseded the initial posting of COD Common Record XML Schema Version 3.0a with a corrected posting. For complete information about the correction and the authoritative posting of schema version 3.0a, refer to [“COD Common Record XML Schema Version 3.0a” on the IFAP Web site](#).

As previously explained, Federal Student Aid is phasing in required use of COD Common Record Schema Version 3.0a after its implementation scheduled for June 28, 2008.

- Use of schema version 3.0a for the 2008-2009 Award Year will be required only for Common Record documents that contain TEACH Grant origination and disbursement information.
- Use of schema version 3.0a for all Common Record documents will be required beginning with the 2009-2010 Award Year.

Message Class Table Update

As explained in [a March 7, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the IFAP Web site](#), Federal Student Aid will send the message class “MESSAGTB” via the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) to all user mailboxes on March 14, 2008. In addition to reflecting the standard COD System messages classes rolled over from 2007-2008, Federal Student Aid will add five new 2008-2009 COD System message classes for the TEACH Grant Program to the new message



class table. These 2008-2009 TEACH Grant message classes are fully outlined in Volume II, Section 2 of the [2008-2009 COD Technical Reference](#) and will be in use after the June 28, 2008 implementation of additional COD System functionality to support TEACH Grant origination and disbursement processing.

Reminders

Federal Student Aid has posted updated sections of the [2008-2009 COD Technical Reference](#) in regard to the processing of TEACH Grant awards and will continue to do so. If you have any questions about these materials, contact the COD School Relations Center.

In addition, 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.

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 with the subject line of “DLB Distribution”.

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.

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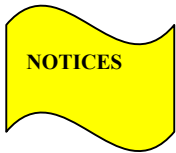
Required EDconnect Upgrade And TDClient Initialization File Replacement By May 1, 2008 (03/07/08)

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 uses 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](#).

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.



Grant Programs

ACG, National SMART Grant, Pell Grant, and TEACH Grant

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The upgrade to EDconnect v7.2 and the replacement of the TDClient initialization file by mainframe and midrange uses 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](#).

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 19th, 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.

NEW!

ACG and National SMART Grant Resources (03/14/08)

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 EExpress, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 880/330-5947 or by e-mail at CPSSAIG@ed.gov.