



COD Processing Update

March 16, 2012

NEWS/UPDATES

• **2009-2010 Pell Grant CFL Reduction to G5 Net Drawdown On March 15, 2012 (03/16/12)**

On March 15, 2012, Federal Student Aid reduced the Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) 2009-2010 Award Year Current Funding Level (CFL) to equal the Net Drawdown amount reflected in the COD System and in G5. This action applies to schools that had a CFL greater than their G5 Net Drawdown. As noted in the warning message that we sent to affected schools on February 21, 2012, this action was taken because disbursements and disbursement adjustments for the 2009-2010 Award Year should have already been submitted to the COD System for processing. This reduction affected approximately 689 schools.

A school affected by the March 15, 2012 CFL reduction to G5 Net Drawdown will be impacted as follows:

- Receive a text message (PGTX10OP Message Class) in the school's Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox notifying the school of the reduction.
- Receive a new Electronic Statement of Account (ESOA) that reflects the reduction.
- See a change in the school's CFL that reflects the reduction.
- See a change in the school's authorization in G5 that reflects the reduction.

Note: The amount of the reduction will equal the difference between the school's CFL and Net Drawdown amount. This means that the amount of the reduction could equal as little as \$0.01.

If you have questions about the 2009-2010 CFL reduction to G5 Net Drawdown or need to have funding reinstated, contact the COD School Relations Center.

• **2009-2010 ACG CFL Reduction To G5 Net Drawdown On March 14, 2012 (03/15/12)**

On March 14, 2012, Federal Student Aid reduced the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) 2009-2010 Award Year Current Funding Level (CFL) to equal the Net Drawdown amount reflected in the COD System and in G5. This action applies to schools that had a CFL greater than their G5 Net Drawdown. As noted in the warning message that we sent to affected schools on March 05, 2012, this action was taken because disbursements and disbursement adjustments for the 2009-2010 Award Year should have already been submitted to the COD System for processing. This reduction affected approximately 138 schools.

A school affected by the March 14, 2012 CFL reduction to G5 Net Drawdown will:

- Receive a text message (AGTX10OP Message Class) in the school's Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox notifying the school of the reduction.
- Receive a new Electronic Statement of Account (ESOA) that reflects the reduction.
- See a change in the school's CFL that reflects the reduction.
- See a change in the school's authorization in G5 that reflects the reduction.



Note: The amount of the reduction will equal the difference between the school's CFL and Net Drawdown amount. This means that the amount of the reduction could equal as little as \$0.01.

If you have questions about the 2009-2010 CFL reduction to G5 Net Drawdown or need to have funding reinstated, contact the COD School Relations Center.

• **Batch Receipt File Issue and Resolution – Invalid Length in Batch Number Field (03/16/12)**

On March 12, 2012, Federal Student Aid determined that, in some cases, the value being returned in the Batch Number field on the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) header and trailer of batch receipt files (CRRCxxOP or COMRECOP) was longer than the actual record length. As a result, some schools received an error message and were unable to download the batch receipt files via EDconnect.

The issue was corrected late on Monday, March 12, 2012. To prevent further issues, Federal Student Aid will systematically remove all erroneous batch receipt files from schools' SAIG mailboxes by Friday, March 16, 2012 and plans to resend the corrected batch receipt files for the same period beginning on Friday, March 16, 2012. This means that some schools may receive duplicate batch receipt files.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience this issue may have caused. This same information was posted in a [March 15, 2012 Electronic Announcement](#). If you have additional questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

• **Updated Guidance on Making Direct Loan Refunds of Cash (03/14/12)**

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was released to schools from the COD School Relations Center on March 13, 2012 and is posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. This announcement reminds schools of the correct process for making a refund of cash (i.e., returning unused Direct Loan funds) to the Department of Education (the Department).

If you would like to be added to or removed from the Direct Loan Electronic Announcement distribution list, please submit an e-mail to CODSupport@acs-inc.com with the subject line of "DL Electronic Announcement Distribution".

• **TFA Information - Token Distribution and E-mails for Schools in Group 2 (03/13/12)**

In an earlier announcement, Federal Student Aid explained that we will begin a phased distribution of tokens and token information to schools. Working with Primary Destination Point Administrators (PDPAs) and Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) Security Administrators, Federal Student Aid will distribute the tokens to one group of schools at a time. Each group will be comprised of the schools located in a particular set of states.

For complete information on token distribution for schools in Group 2, refer to the [March 12, 2012 Electronic Announcement](#) posted on the IFAP Web site.

• **Financial Award Number is Changing, but Financial Award ID Not Changing (03/09/12)**

Federal Student Aid recently posted operational guidance related to the COD System implementation for the 2012-2013 Award Year in a [March 2, 2012 Electronic Announcement](#).

As noted in the attachment to the announcement, the Financial Award Number is one of several tags in which the COD System will no longer include leading zeros when the tag is returned in COD System-generated response files.

Note: A school does not need to change the value in the Financial Award Number tag on records sent to the COD System. In addition, this change **does not** impact the Financial Award ID tag. The valid value for the Financial Award ID remains 21-characters in length.



If you have questions, please contact the COD School Relations Center.

CURRENT ISSUES

DIRECT LOANS

RESOLVED – COD Reject Edit 39 Returned Incorrectly in Some Situations (03/15/12)

In February 2012, Federal Student Aid determined that COD Reject Edit 39 (Incorrect Award Amount) was being returned incorrectly in certain situations. The issue occurred when a borrower received Direct Unsubsidized Loan awards at a different school and the first school submitted a Direct Unsubsidized Loan award with the Additional Unsubsidized Indicator set to “True,” but the second school did not. The second school received COD Reject Edit 39 when submitting disbursements, because the COD System was not evaluating all Direct Loan awards for the Additional Unsubsidized Indicator.

Federal Student Aid corrected this issue on March 10, 2012. Prior to the correction, a workaround was in place in which a school could send in the record with the Additional Unsubsidized Indicator set as “True”. If a school used this workaround, it should send in a change to set the Additional Unsubsidized Indicator back to “False”. For further assistance, contact the COD School Relations Center.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience this issue may have caused.

GRANTS

There are no Grant specific issues to report at this time.

REMINDERS

COD Computer-Based Training (03/16/12)

Federal Student Aid takes this opportunity to remind the community of the availability of the COD Computer-Based Training (CBT).

The COD CBT consists of component simulations and CBTs. The electronic files associated with each component, as well as information about downloading

Contact Information: If you have questions, contact the COD School Relations Center at 800/474-7268 for Grants or 800/848-0978 for Direct Loans. You may also e-mail CODSupport@acs-inc.com.

and navigating the COD CBT, are available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. Under the “Tools for Schools” section on the home page, click on [COD Computer-Based Training](#).

Sending Addresses for U.S. Territories and Foreign Countries on the Common Record or the COD Web site (03/16/12)

When submitting student or borrower addresses or address changes to the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System, it is important that the correct tags are used, particularly when the student or borrower address is located in a U.S. Territory or Foreign Country. If these addresses are not submitted correctly, important correspondence from the COD System and the federal loan servicers is delayed or not received.

- When a student or borrower address is located in a U.S. Territory it is considered a domestic address. Do not submit a Country Code.
- When a student or borrower address is located in a Foreign Country, it is treated as a foreign address.

See below for the correct procedures for submitting U.S. Territories and Foreign Country addresses via the Common Record batch submission or COD Web site.

Submitting Addresses for U.S. Territories and Foreign Countries via the Common Record

When creating or updating a person record via the Common Record batch submission, a school should send the address block with the following tags:

| Schema Version | Included Tags for Domestic Address, including U.S. Territories | Excluded Tags for Domestic Address, including U.S. Territories | Included Tags for Foreign Addresses |
|----------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| | | | |



| | | | |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|---|
| 3.0c or 3.0d | <AddressLine> <City> <StateProvinceCode> <PostalCode> | <StateProvince> <CountryCode> | <AddressLine> <City> <StateProvince> (Optional) <PostalCode> (Optional) <CountryCode> |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|---|

Submitting Addresses for U.S. Territories and Foreign Countries via the COD Web site

When creating or updating a person record on the COD Web site, a school should select the U.S. Territory from the dropdown box in the State/Province field. A school should select the Country field as “Blank”.

A complete list of State Codes (including U.S. Territories), Jurisdictions, and Country Codes are provided in Volume VI, Section 4 of the [2010-2011 COD Technical Reference](#). If you have questions about this information, contact the COD School Relations Center.