COD Processing Update For Pell Grants

March 18, 2005

Pell Grants

COD News

COD Web Site Access For Schools And Third Party Servicers (03/18/05)
COD has posted updated instructions on the IFAP Web site for schools and third party servicers seeking access to the COD Web site. Schools can access the instructions at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0316UpdateCODWebsiteaccessforschools.html. Third party servicers should refer to the instructions at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0316UpdatedCODWebsiteaccessforthirdpartyservic.html.

If you have any questions about the announcement or experience any difficulty setting up a COD security administrator, contact the COD School Relations Center.

2005-2006 COD Technical Reference March 2005 Updates Now Available (03/16/05)
COD would like to announce that the 2005-2006 COD Technical Reference March 2005 Updates are now available on the IFAP Web site at http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0506CODTechrefmarchupdateannouncement.html/.

If you have any questions regarding information contained in these documents, please contact the COD School Relations Center.

COD Batch Processing Suspension And Web Site Outages March 18-19, 2005 (03/11/05)
As explained in the Electronic Announcement posted on the IFAP Web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0310CODSystemImplementationfor0506AwardYear.html, during the weekend of March 18-19, 2005, COD plans to implement additional COD System functionality that supports the processing of Pell Grants and Direct Loans for the 2005-2006 Award Year. In order to install the system changes that will allow the COD System to receive and process 2005-2006 records—

- COD will suspend batch processing beginning at 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Friday, March 18, 2005. Records submitted after 8:00 P.M. (ET) will be held and processed after 7:00 P.M. (ET) on Saturday, March 19, 2005.
- The COD Web site will be unavailable from 8:00 P.M. (ET), Friday, March 18, 2005 through 7:00 P.M. (ET), Saturday, March 19, 2005.

COD Processing Update For Pell Grants

The processing suspension and COD Web site outage will have no impact on the regular processing of schools' funding requests.

COD apologizes for any inconvenience the batch processing suspension and Web site outage may cause and appreciates your understanding and patience while COD completes this important activity.

First Administrative Cost Allowance Payments For 2004-2005 Award Year (03/07/04)
COD began processing the first Administrative Cost Allowance (ACA) payments for the 2004-2005 Award Year on March 5, 2005. Schools will begin to see these payments deposited directly into their bank accounts over the next few weeks.

For more information about these ACA payments, refer to the electronic announcement that is posted to the IFAP Web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0307pellacapayment0405.html.

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.

COD Processing Update For Pell Grants

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.

Student Name And Date Of Birth Not Updated In COD [05/03/04 (Updated 03/16/05)]
COD previously notified schools of an issue where new 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 origination records were accepted in COD; however, the student's Name and Date of Birth (DOB) updates submitted by the school were not displaying on the COD Web site's Person Information screen. The COD Web site was reflecting the Name and DOB from the previous award year. Additionally, in some cases, changes to Name and DOB for previously accepted origination records were not displaying on the Person Information screen.

At this time, all affected records reported to and tracked by the COD School Relations Center have been cleaned up. In the future, if a school suspects that this scenario has occurred, it should notify the COD School Relations Center. COD will then ensure that the affected records are cleaned up.

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

Some Null Tags Submitted Via Batch Not Updated In COD [08/31/04 (Updated 03/11/05)]
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. Previously, COD determined that some null tags were being accepted by the COD System, but were not appropriately updating the COD database. This meant that if a school submitted a null tag for some data elements, the COD System was ignoring it and the content on the COD database for that data element was not being removed. After implementing a code fix to allow the Low Tuition and Fees Code and Verification Status Code data elements to update the COD database correctly, we informed you that COD was conducting a full review of the null attribute.

Upon implementation of the 2005-2006 software (scheduled for March 18-19, 2005), the COD System will only process a null attribute (nil="true") for the following data elements:

- First Name, Middle Initial, Phone Number, E-mail Address, Note Message, Less Than Full Time Indicator, Incarcerated Indicator, Low Tuition and Fees, Verification Status Code

For more information on how nil="true" will update the COD database for each of these data elements, refer to Volume II, Section 3 of the 2005-2006 COD Technical Reference posted at http://www.fsadownload.ed.gov/CODTechRef0506.htm/.

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.