

COD System Processing Function Enhancements and Modifications for 2014-2015

Attachment to April 2014 Electronic Announcement

This document highlights the processing function enhancements and modifications we will implement during the April 11-14, 2014 period. We cover the information in the following order:

- Changes Impacting All Programs
- Changes Impacting the Direct Loan Program and the TEACH Grant Program
- Changes Impacting the StudentLoans.gov Web site
- Changes Impacting the Pell Grant Program

Changes Impacting All Programs

The following changes will impact the COD System processing of Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant, Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) awards.

COD Common Record XML Schema Version 4.0a

Beginning April 14, 2014, COD Common Record Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schema Version **4.0a** will be in place. At this time, we will begin to fully validate all Common Record batches against the published COD Common Record XML Schema (versions 3.0d, 3.0e, and 4.0a). This means that if a school submits a Common Record that does not conform to the published schema format, all student, award, and disbursement information within the batch ***will not be processed*** by the COD System.

For the 2014-2015 Award Year, a school must send and the COD System will acknowledge Common Record documents for all origination and disbursement information using COD Common Record XML Schema Version **4.0a**. Unsolicited system-generated responses and COD Web Activity responses for all award years will be sent by the COD System using COD Common Record XML Schema Version **4.0a**. For complete information about the schema version, refer to [COD Common Record XML Schema Version 4.0a](#) on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site.

Reject Disbursement Maintenance for Review Disbursements (Reimbursement Schools Only)

Beginning April 14, 2014, the COD System will begin to reject any changes submitted for disbursements in a review status with COD Reject Edit 212 (Previous Disbursement Maintenance for Review Disbursements).

Removal of COD Warning Edit 59

Beginning April 14, 2014, the COD System will no longer return COD Warning Edit 59 (Duplicate Adjustment Information on File) for disbursements.

COD Web Site Changes

Beginning April 14, 2014, the COD Web site will be modified to include the following:

- Person Event Information page – This page will be updated to allow users to see historical changes to the student's COD System demographic data in an updated display.

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- Disbursement Information page and the Disbursement History Information page – These pages have been modified to accommodate changes related to the 150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit. This modification will also affect how users will see disbursements for all programs.
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) field length – The length of the EFC field will increase from five digits to six digits and will be reflected throughout the COD Web site.
Note: The six-digit EFC will also be displayed on any Pell Grant report that includes the EFC value.

Changes Impacting the Direct Loan and TEACH Grant Programs

The following changes will impact COD System processing of Direct Subsidized Loan, Direct Unsubsidized Loan, Direct PLUS Loan, and TEACH Grant awards.

150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit – COD System Update Summary

Information about COD System changes specific to the 150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit that will also be implemented during the April 11-14, 2014 period will be posted in a forthcoming Electronic Announcement.

Changes Impacting the StudentLoans.gov Web site

The following StudentLoans.gov Web site changes will impact how users interface with the Web site.

Servicer Notifications for StudentLoans.gov E-correspondence Changes

Existing borrowers will be required to reconfirm their E-Correspondence preferences the first time they log on to the StudentLoans.gov Web site following the April 11-14, 2014 implementation. If a borrower selects to receive e-correspondence and a valid e-mail address is on file (or the borrower provides one when completing an action via the StudentLoans.gov Web site), we will:

- Send the e-mail address to the borrower's servicer(s). Each time a borrower updates his or her e-mail address the COD System will record the update and send the updated e-mail address to the servicer(s).
- Send an automated e-mail to the borrower that provides information about his or her servicer. A borrower will receive the e-mail once his or her award has booked.

Direct PLUS Loan Endorser Changes

Beginning April 14, 2014, we will change the information required for an endorser to start the Endorser Addendum process on the StudentLoans.gov Web site. To complete the Endorser Addendum, an endorser will need to provide either the PLUS Endorser Code *or* the Award ID Number and the Direct PLUS Loan Request borrower's full last name. As a reminder, the endorser will need to obtain this information from the borrower prior to beginning the Endorser Addendum process.

A borrower will receive a PLUS Endorser Code and a unique URL via e-mail that must be given to the person endorsing the loan. The borrower will receive this information in one of the following ways:

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- For Direct PLUS Loan Requests completed on or after March 12, 2014 through April 14, 2014 and that have a declined credit decision and no current endorser or approved credit override, we will send a PLUS Endorser Code to the borrower after the April 11-14 implementation.
- For Direct PLUS Loan Requests completed after April 14, 2014 and that have a declined credit decision, we will send a PLUS Endorser Code and a unique URL to the borrower in the confirmation e-mail sent once the Direct PLUS Loan Request is submitted.
 - If a borrower doesn't have an e-mail address on file, he or she can obtain the PLUS Endorser Code by logging in to the StudentLoans.gov Web site and viewing his or her completed Direct PLUS Loan Request(s).

Note: Borrowers or endorsers will no longer use the Loan Reference Number to complete an Endorser Addendum; however, the Loan Reference Number will continue to be sent in responses to schools.

Changes Impacting the Pell Grant Program

The following changes will impact the COD System processing of Pell Grant awards.

Updated Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) Dispute Escalation Process

Even though the COD System is the system of record and has the most up-to-date information about students' Pell Grant disbursements, there may be circumstances where a student disputes the accuracy of the information in the COD System.

We have modified the dispute escalation process to allow a *school* to submit information to the Department of Education (the Department) for adjudication of a student's Pell Grant LEU through a new Pell LEU Dispute Escalation Portal on the COD Web. Schools will no longer have the option to record the escalation through the COD School Relations Center. Complete details about the changes to the Pell Grant LEU dispute escalation process will be posted in a forthcoming electronic announcement.

Pell Grant Payment and Disbursement Schedules for the 2014-2015 Award Year

[Dear Colleague Letter GEN-14-01](#) provides the payment and disbursement schedules for determining Pell Grant awards for the 2014-2015 Award Year for full-time, three-quarter-time, half-time, and less-than-half-time students. All 2014-2015 Pell Grant awards must be based on the schedules attached to the letter.

We will implement the 2014-2015 Pell Grant payment and disbursement schedules in the COD System during this release.