Important Reminders and
2014-2015 Funding Authorization and Disbursement Information
Attachment to April 2014 Electronic Announcement

This document covers important reminders for the 2014-2015 Award Year as well as 2014-2015 funding authorization and disbursement information.

Important Reminders

At this time, we take this opportunity to remind schools of the following:

- 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 Extensible Markup Language (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.

- Any school that uses a solution developed in-house (mainframe system, server, software, or other) and will participate in the Pell Grant, TEACH Grant, or Direct Loan program *for the first time* in the 2014-2015 Award Year must complete school testing with the COD System before sending data into production. The only exception to this is a new school using software from a software provider or third party servicer, or EDExpress.

  For more information about testing, refer to the COD School Testing for the 2014-2015 Award Year Electronic Announcement on the IFAP Web site, or refer to Volume V, Section 1 of the 2014-2015 COD Technical Reference.

If a school uses a third party software provider, it should check with the provider regarding the availability of the provider's 2014-2015 software release.

Note for EDExpress Users: EDExpress for Windows 2014-2015, Release 2.0, scheduled for release in April 2014, will add Pell Grant, TEACH Grant, and Direct Loan functionality for the 2014-2015 Award Year. However, it is important to note that while users may create and save TEACH Grant or Direct Loan records using Release 2.0, they should **not** originate or export TEACH Grant or Direct Loan data to the COD System using Release 2.0. EDExpress 2014-2015, Release 3.0, scheduled for release in June 2014, will add critical updates to the TEACH Grant and Direct Loan modules. For additional information about the EDExpress releases, refer to the March 27, 2014 Electronic Announcement posted to the IFAP Web site.

Beginning April 14, 2014, the following will be in place:

- All 2014-2015 Award Year-specific message classes will include "15" as the award year indicator. All message classes are listed in Volume II, Section 2 of the 2014-2015 COD Technical Reference.

- The Direct Loan Master Promissory Note (MPN) ID will include "15" as the award year indicator.

- The TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS) ID will include "15" as the award year indicator if the ATS is completed for the 2014-2015 Award Year.

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- The default award year will be 2014-2015 on all COD Web site screens except the Request Post Deadline Processing screen. (The Request Post Deadline Processing screen defaults to the award year for which processing has most recently ended.)

- A school's selected report format will default to the format specified by the school's current report options. If desired, COD Web site School User Levels 3-5 and Third Party Servicer User Levels 3-5 can change their schools' report options by accessing the Report Selection screen for the 2014-2015 Award Year after April 14, 2014.

  - o To access the Report Selection screen, click on the Report Selection link on the COD Web site's School Information Options screen. Updates to report formats for reports that are not award-year specific will be applied to all award years. Updates to report formats for reports that are award-year specific will be applied only to the award year selected in the Award Year drop down menu on the Report Selection screen.

  - o Complete details on report formats are available in Volume VI, Section 8 of the 2014-2015 COD Technical Reference.

- A school's StudentLoans.gov Web site processing options will default to the current selections. For the options set with a date, we will increment the date by one year (for example, 4/1/2013 will become 4/1/2014). If desired, a COD Web site School User Levels 3-5 and Third Party Servicer User Levels 3-5 can change the StudentLoans.gov Web site processing options on the COD Web site's School Information Options screen.

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2014-2015 Funding Authorization and Disbursement Information

2014-2015 funding authorization and disbursement information is summarized below.

Pell Grant Program

There is no Initial Authorization for the Pell Grant Program for the 2014-2015 Award Year. Schools will receive a Current Funding Level (CFL) based on the accepted and posted actual disbursement records that they submit to the COD System.

The earliest date on which a school may disburse a Pell Grant for the 2014-2015 Award Year, either with federal funds or its own funds, is *January 31, 2014*. The COD System will accept 2014-2015 actual disbursement data [Disbursement Release Indicator (DRI) = "True"] for Pell Grant awards beginning *April 14, 2014*.

Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Program

These grants will continue to be processed as they are for the 2013-2014 Award Year.

All 2014-2015 Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants must be submitted via the COD Web site; batch processing for these grants will not be available. To process an Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant award successfully, a school must complete all of the following actions:

- Submit Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant awards through the "Create Award/Pell" screen.
- Select the CPS transaction number that contains the DoD Match Flag = "Y" and the Pell-Eligible Flag = "N".
- Select the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Indicator.

Funding for Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants for the 2014-2015 Award Year will continue to be an exception-based process and based on anticipated disbursements [(Disbursement Release Indicator (DRI) = "False")].

All disbursements for Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant awards must be submitted as anticipated disbursements (DRI = "False"). Any 2014-2015 Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant disbursements submitted with DRI = "True" will be rejected with COD Reject Edit 194.

A school will be able to draw down funds *after* it has submitted the Iraq and Afghanistan Grant award via the COD Web site. We will adjust the school's Current Funding Level (CFL) based on the amount of the accepted anticipated disbursements (DRI = "False") of the award and send a Statement of Account (SOA) via e-mail to the school.

Once the SOA is received, the school can log in to the G5 Web site and draw down its 2014-2015 Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant funds. The funds will be posted under the G5 Award Number P408A14#### with the last four digits indicating the school's existing G5 Award Number for the Pell Grant Program. A school can expect to receive the SOA and be able to draw the funds within 3 business days of submitting the award.

TEACH Grant Program

There will be no Initial Authorization for the TEACH Grant Program for the 2014-2015 Award Year. Schools will receive a CFL based on the accepted and posted actual disbursement records that they submit to the COD System.

The COD System will accept 2014-2015 actual disbursement data (DRI = "True") for TEACH Grant awards beginning *April 14, 2014*.

Direct Loan Program

Schools that receive funds under the Advanced funding method and historically report actual disbursements prior to July 1st will receive an initial CFL for the 2014-2015 Award Year the week of April 14, 2014. All other Advanced funded schools will receive an initial CFL for the 2014-2015 Award year in June 2014. Additional CFL increases will occur in November 2014 and February 2015.

Schools on Heightened Cash Monitoring (HCM1 and HCM2), Reimbursement, foreign schools, and those that request to be "records first" will not receive an initial CFL, but instead will receive funding increases based on actual disbursement records that are submitted to and accepted by the COD System.

The COD System will accept 2014-2015 actual disbursement data (DRI = "True") for Direct Loan awards beginning *April 14, 2014*.