



COD Processing Update

April 5, 2013
NEWS/UPDATES

- **Updated Guidance on Making Direct Loan Refunds of Cash (4/5/13)**

An [Electronic Announcement](#) was released to schools from the COD School Relations Center on April 5, 2013 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@ed.gov with the subject line of "DL Electronic Announcement Distribution".

- **2010-2011 National SMART Grant CFL Reduction to G5 Net Drawdown Warning Message (3/27/13)**

At this time, all National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) funds for the 2010-2011 Award Year should have been disbursed to students. In general, schools are to submit National SMART 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 2010-2011 Award Year should have already been submitted to the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System for processing.

2010-2011 CFL Reduction to G5 Net Drawdown Warning Message Sent on March 26, 2013

On March 26, 2013, Federal Student Aid sent a message to schools that have a G5 National SMART Grant authorization, known in the COD System as Current Funding Level (CFL), for the 2010-2011 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 2010-2011 National SMART Grant CFL will be reduced to the G5 Net Drawdown if the CFL is still greater than the G5 Net Drawdown on April 11, 2013. When the actual reduction occurs on April 11th, 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 March 26, 2013 warning message to an affected school's Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox in the message class SGTX11OP. 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 2010-2011 Award Year as soon as possible but before April 11, 2013.

This same information is posted in a [March 27, 2013 Electronic Announcement](#) on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. If you have questions about the 2010-2011 National SMART Grant CFL reduction to G5 Net Drawdown, contact the COD School Relations Center.



- **Availability of Enhanced Loan Counseling Modules and New Repayment Estimator on StudentLoans.gov (3/25/13)**

Federal Student Aid is pleased to announce the availability of enhanced loan counseling modules and a new repayment estimator on the StudentLoans.gov Web site. These borrower resources were implemented on March 24, 2013.

For a summary of the loan counseling and repayment estimator resources from the borrower standpoint, including URLs that offer borrowers direct access to these resources on StudentLoans.gov, refer to the [March 25, 2013 Electronic Announcement](#) on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web Site.

- **System Functionality For 2013-2014 Award Year Implemented (3/25/13)**

Federal Student Aid is pleased to announce the implementation of COD System functionality during the period March 22-23, 2013. These system changes support 2013-2014 Award Year processing. Federal Student Aid implemented all of the system changes described in a [March 15, 2013 Electronic Announcement](#) on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web Site.

Thank you for your understanding and patience while Federal Student Aid completed this important activity. If you have any questions about the system changes, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **2010-2011 ACG CFL Reduction To G5 Net Drawdown On March 20, 2013 (3/21/13)**

On March 20, 2013, Federal Student Aid reduced the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) 2010-2011 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 11, 2013, this action was taken because disbursements and disbursement adjustments for the 2010-2011 Award Year should have already been submitted to the COD System for processing. This reduction affected approximately 133 schools.

A school affected by the March 20, 2013 CFL reduction to G5 Net Drawdown will:

- Receive a text message (AGTX11OP 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) (Message Class AGAS11OP) 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 2010-2011 CFL reduction to G5 Net Drawdown or need to have funding reinstated, contact the COD School Relations Center.



- **Impact of Sequestration on the Title IV Student Financial Assistance Programs (3/18/13)**

On March 15, 2013 the Department of Education posted updated information about the impact of sequestration on the Title IV Student Financial Assistance Programs. For more information, please refer to the [March 15, 2013 Electronic Announcement](#).

- **COD Web Site Access Changes – March and May 2013 (3/8/13)**

As explained in a [January 25, 2013 Electronic Announcement](#) posted to the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site, Federal Student Aid will soon implement a change in how authorized users access the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) Web site. Federal Student Aid plans to implement the COD Web site access change in two phases – the first phase was completed the weekend of March 9-10, 2013. The second phase will occur in May 2013.

- **On March 9-10, 2013** – Federal Student Aid implemented changes to the SAIG Enrollment Web site to allow PDPAs to enroll new and existing COD Web site users for the COD Online Service and to allow those users to register for an FSA User ID and password, if they do not already have one. Full details about this phase were described in a [March 8, 2013 Electronic Announcement](#).
- **May 3-4, 2013** – In the second phase, we will change COD Web site login requirements to include entry of an authorized user’s FSA User ID and password, as well as the six-digit password generated by the user’s TFA token. All users must first be enrolled for the COD Online Service. Full details about this phase will be provided in an Electronic Announcement planned for mid-April 2013.

We appreciate your cooperation in providing secure access to Federal Student Aid systems and look forward to working with the school community to simplify COD Web site access.

CURRENT ISSUES

DIRECT LOANS

Direct Loan School Account Statement (SAS) Disbursement Detail On Demand – Unbooked Loan Detail Not Included (3/28/13)

The Direct Loan and TEACH SAS Disbursement Detail On Demand file is now available to schools, and may be requested through the COD Web site. However, Federal Student Aid has identified an issue with unbooked disbursement detail transactions not being included in the Direct Loan files for the selected report period. Please note that the regularly scheduled School Account Statements sent to all schools on a monthly basis are not impacted by this

issue, and can be used to view unbooked loan and/or disbursement activity level detail for the school.

Federal Student Aid plans to fix the issue for the Direct Loan SAS Disbursement Detail On Demand files in early April. In the meantime, if you have additional questions about this issue or the SAS Disbursement Detail on Demand report, contact the COD School Relations Center.

GRANTS

Pell Grant POP Report (3/28/13)

On March 22-24, 2013, Federal Student Aid implemented COD System functionality for the 2013-2014 Award Year. During implementation, Federal Student Aid needed to update the name of the link for



the Pell POP Report on the COD Reporting Web site from *Pell POP - Attending (CSV) 2012-2013* to *Pell POP - Attending 2012-2013*. While the original report link containing the '(CSV)' is viewable on the Web site, it is no longer operational. Federal Student Aid plans to remove this non-operational link as soon as possible.

In addition, all previous versions of the 2012-2013 Pell POP Report produced prior to March 24, 2013 are no longer available to schools via the COD Reporting Web site. If a school needs a previous version of the 2012-2013 Pell POP Report, it may contact the COD School Relations Center for assistance in retrieving the report. Alternatively, a school may be able to pull previous versions of the report from its Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox.

REMINDERS

Keep School Contact Information Current in the COD System (04/05/13)

We remind schools and third party servicers that contact information in the COD System must be kept current. Contact information is extremely important for us to be able to reach the right people at the school, particularly about program-specific issues. The e-mail addresses for the President, Financial Aid Administrator, Pell Grant Financial Aid Officer, and Direct Loan Financial Aid Officer are used to deliver time-sensitive materials and critical COD processing information to the school.

Having current contact information for the Pell Grant Financial Aid Officer and Direct Loan Financial Aid Officer is most critical for a school that is an additional location to a main campus. The information allows us to contact those officers directly at the additional location rather than needing to contact the main campus.

For more information on updating School Contact Information, please refer to the [December 20, 2012 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site.](#)