

# COD Processing Update For Pell Grants

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April 8, 2005

## *Pell Grants*

### COD News

#### **COD System Maintenance Planned For Sunday, April 10, 2005 (04/06/05)**

The COD System will undergo routine maintenance on Sunday, April 10, 2005 from 2:00 A.M. until 8:00 A.M. (ET). During this period, users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the COD Web site. Additionally, batches submitted by schools will be held and not processed until after the COD System comes back up. COD apologizes for any inconvenience this outage may cause. If you have any questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

#### **2004-2005 Verification Status Code "W" Warning Message (04/01/05)**

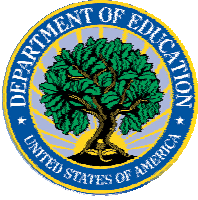
On March 30, 2004, COD began processing a text message (PGTX05OP) as well as a file of student records (PGRC05OP) to schools that have one or more student records still reported with a verification status code of "W". The message is a warning that these disbursements will be considered overawards and reduced to a zero dollar amount (\$0.00), even if the disbursements were previously accepted in the COD System. The reduction of the affected disbursements is scheduled to occur on April 21, 2005.

A more detailed electronic announcement regarding the warning message was posted on the IFAP Web site at <http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0331VerifWWarning0405.html>. Please refer to this announcement. If you have questions about the warning message or about reporting verification status codes to the COD System, contact the COD School Relations Center.

#### **All Schools Must Be COD Full Participants Beginning With 2005-2006 Award Year [08/02/04 (Updated 03/21/05)]**

Now that the 2005-2006 COD software has been implemented, COD wants to refresh the reminder that *all* schools must be Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award Year and forward. This means that *all* schools (including COD Phase-In Participants that currently submit and receive information using fixed-length, flat-file record formats) must send and receive 2005-2006 (and subsequent award year) origination and disbursement data for the Pell Grant and/or Direct Loan programs to the COD System using the Extensible Markup Language (XML) Common Record.

As FSA has previously informed schools, if a school submits 2005-2006 Pell Grant and/or Direct Loan data in fixed-length, flat-file record formats, the COD System will reject the data and the school's access to funding will be affected. If your school has not yet signed up as a Full Participant, or is experiencing difficulty with implementing a Full Participant solution, contact the COD School Relations Center immediately for assistance.



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Additionally, COD is seeking current Full Participant schools that are willing to serve as mentors to schools new to XML processing. If your school is interested in serving as a mentor, or, if your school is new to XML processing and is interested in working with a mentor, contact the COD School Relations Center. COD will assist in connecting like schools with each other.

## **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.

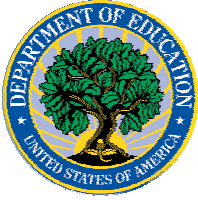
## **Reports and Data Requests**



This section contains important notices regarding reports. While we encourage you to review this section, note that some schools may not be impacted by the information presented below.

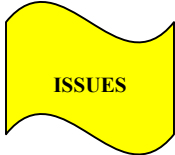
### **Delay In Generating COD Web Site Reports (04/05/05)**

The reports listed below have all been sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes. However, COD is currently experiencing a delay in generating these reports on the COD Web site. Schools should refer to the chart below for updates on the availability of these reports.



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Report	Now Available
Pending Disbursement List for 2004-2005	√ (04/07/05)
SSN/Name/Date of Birth Change Report	√ (04/07/05)
Pell POP Report for 2004-2005	√ (04/07/05)
Verification Status Report for 2004-2005	√ (04/07/05)



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/](http://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 In Clean Up

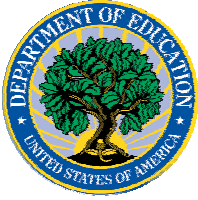
COD has implemented code fixes for the issues listed below and is cleaning up the affected records. After a clean up has been completed, its status will be updated and it will remain in this section for an additional 7 calendar days.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>In Progress</u>	<u>Completed</u>
Disbursements Not Displaying On COD Web Site	√	

## Current Issues

### **Pell Grant Information Not Updated In NSLDS (04/06/05)**

COD transmits Pell Grant records to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) on a daily basis. However, currently, some records are not being transmitted to the NSLDS. This results in student information, such as student identifiers and awards, not being updated in the NSLDS.



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COD is working on forwarding the affected records to NSLDS in order to update the NSLDS. COD will provide updates as more information becomes available. In the meantime, schools should refer to the COD Web site for the most current information on a student.

## **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)]**

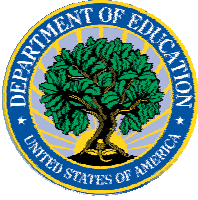
COD has learned of an issue affecting some Full Participants that have their Pell Grant Error Processing Option set to "Corrected". COD is returning to some Full Participants, Pell Grant responses with a disbursement amount corrected to a negative value in error. As a result, the affected schools are 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.



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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.