



COD Processing Update

April 11, 2014
NEWS/UPDATES

- **NOTICE: Limited COD School Relations Center Availability on Friday, April 11, 2014 (4/9/14)**

As noted in an [April 2, 2014 Electronic Announcement](#), Federal Student Aid will implement COD System functionality for the 2014-2015 Award Year.

During the outage period on Friday, April 11, 2014, the COD School Relations Center will be open. However, because the COD, StudentLoans.gov, and TEACH Grant Web sites will be unavailable during regular business hours, COD School Relations Center staff will have limited ability to assist callers.

- **COD Batch Processing Suspension And Web Site Outages April 11-14, 2014 (4/2/14)**

During the period of April 11-14, 2014, Federal Student Aid plans to implement Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System functionality that supports the processing of Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant, Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) awards for the 2014-2015 Award Year.

Federal Student Aid will post an Electronic Announcement on the [Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#) that provides operational implementation guidance related to the new functionality.

COD Batch Processing Suspension and Web Site Outage Information

To install the additional COD System functionality, we will suspend COD batch processing beginning at 3:00 A.M. (ET) on Friday, April 11, 2014. Records submitted after this time will be held and processed after 8:00 A.M. (ET) on Monday, April 14, 2014.

In addition, between 3:00 A.M. (ET) on Friday, April 11, 2014 and 8:00 A.M. (ET) on Monday, April 14, 2014—

- Users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the [COD Web site](#).
- Users will not be able to access the COD Reports area of the [COD Web site](#).
- An individual will not be able to complete any actions or view loan correspondence via the [StudentLoans.gov Web site](#).
- An individual will not be able to complete any actions via the [TEACH Grant Web site](#).

Federal Student Aid apologizes for this inconvenience and appreciates your understanding and patience while it completes this important activity.



- **COD System Changes for 150% Limit to be Implemented April 11-14, 2014 (4/4/14)**

During the period April 11-14, 2014, we plan to implement Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System functionality that supports the 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 for the 2014-2015 Award Year.

In an [April 4, 2014 Electronic Announcement](#), Federal Student Aid highlights the COD System changes specific to the 150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit. Information about other COD System changes that will be implemented during the April 11-14, 2014 period is posted in an [April 2, 2014 Electronic Announcement](#).

If you have additional questions about the COD System implementation, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **2013-2014 Verification Status Code “W” Warning Message (4/8/14)**

On April 7, 2014, Federal Student Aid began processing a text message (PGTX14OP) as well as a Reconciliation Report (PGRC14OP) to schools that have one or more Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) student records still reported with a verification status code of “W”. The message is a warning that disbursements to all students with a verification status code of “W” will be considered overawards and reduced to a zero dollar amount (\$0.00), even though the disbursements were previously accepted in the COD System. The reduction of the affected disbursements is scheduled to occur on April 21, 2014.

Note Regarding Verification Deadline:

Some of the student records included in the Reconciliation Report may be for students who are still within the allowable timeframe for submitting verification documentation/completing the verification process by the deadlines specified in the “Notice; 2013-2014 Deadline Dates for Reports and Other Records” published in the [Federal Register](#) on July 8, 2013. The [July 8, 2013 notice](#) is also posted on the IFAP Web site.

Following the April 21, 2014 reduction, if a school needs additional time to complete verification for an individual student in accordance with the allowable timeframe in the [Federal Register](#) notice, the school may resubmit a disbursement record with a value greater than zero (\$0.00) until September 30, 2014. After September 30, 2014, the COD System will no longer accept “W” as a valid verification status code for 2013-2014 Pell Grant awards.

For complete information, refer to the Electronic Announcement that will be posted on the [IFAP Web site](#). If you have questions about the warning message or about reporting verification status codes to the COD System, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **Upcoming EExpress for Windows 2014-2015 Releases and Direct Loan and TEACH Grant Functionality (3/28/14)**

In advance of the mid-April 2014 posting of EExpress for Windows 2014-2015, Release 2.0, Federal Student Aid has posted an Electronic Announcement that highlights the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct



Loan) and Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant functionality that a school can **use** in Release 2.0 and clarifies the software features a school will need to **defer** using until it installs EDEXpress 2014-2015, Release 3.0, currently scheduled for posting in June 2014.

For complete information, refer to the [March 27, 2014 Electronic Announcement](#) posted to the IFAP Web site.

- **COD Common Record XML Schema Version 4.0a Now Available [Updated 2/28/14 (10/30/13)]**

In Spring 2014, Federal Student Aid plans to implement Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System functionality that will support the 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 for the 2014-2015 Award Year. In conjunction with this implementation, Federal Student Aid will begin using a new version of the COD Common Record Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schema. The new schema version is 4.0a.

For complete information about the new schema version, refer to [“COD Common Record XML Schema Version 4.0a”](#) posted on the IFAP Web site.

A school can use an XML validator program to test its XML files prior to sending them to the COD System. Step-by-step instructions for how a school uses an XML validator program with our posted COD XML schema files is provided in the COD XML Schema Validation Instructions document found here: <http://ifap.ed.gov/ifap/codXMLSchema.jsp>.

If you have questions about the schema, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **Credit Check Processing on COD Web Site for 2014-2015 Applicants (02/05/14)**

In October 2013, Federal Student Aid implemented a change in which a CPS data-matching process is in place when a school completes a credit check via the COD Web site. More information about this change is posted in an attachment to an [October 18, 2013 Electronic Announcement](#). Federal Student Aid will match CPS data across all active award years on file; however, if a borrower **only has data for 2014-2015**, Federal Student Aid will not be able to perform the CPS match until **after** the COD System implementation for the 2014-2015 Award Year planned for April 2014. If the borrower has data for multiple award years, the CPS match should be able to be performed.

If a school cannot delay credit check processing until April 2014, it may want to consider having borrowers complete a Direct PLUS Loan application via the StudentLoans.gov Web site (credit checks are completed during the PLUS request process and not dependent on the CPS-matching process).

Information about the April 2014 COD System implementation will be provided in a forthcoming Electronic Announcement. For questions about COD System processing, schools should contact the COD School Relations Center.



CURRENT ISSUES

DIRECT LOANS

There are no Direct Loan-related issues at this time.

GRANTS

There are no Grant-related issues at this time.

REMINDERS

Keep School Contact Information Current in the COD System (4/11/14)

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.](#)