

# COD Processing Update

April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

NEWS/UPDATES

- **2015-2016 Verification Status Code “W” Warning Message (4/15/15)**

On April 12, 2016, Federal Student Aid began processing a text message (PGTX16OP) as well as a Reconciliation Report (PGRC16OP) 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 27, 2016.

***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 as will be specified in the “Deadline Dates for Reports and Other Records for the 2015-2016 Award Year” published in the [Federal Register](#) on March 11, 2015. The [March 11, 2015 notice](#) is also posted on the IFAP Web site.

Following the April 27, 2016 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, 2016. After September 30, 2016, the COD System will no longer accept “W” as a valid verification status code for 2015-2016 Pell Grant awards.

For complete information, refer to the [April 14, 2016 Electronic Announcement](#) 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.

- **COD System Release – Post-Implementation Issues and Updates (4/11/16)**

During the period March 9-14, 2016, Federal Student Aid implemented additional Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System functionality to support the processing for the 2016-2017 Award Year. After major system releases such as this one, Federal Student Aid routinely informs the higher education community if post-implementation issues arise.

Federal Student Aid has resolved or is working to resolve a number of post-implementation issues. These issues are summarized below along with the current status for each. As issues are resolved, or as additional issues arise, they will be reported here. For ease of reporting, the newest items will appear at the end of the list.

### Post-Implementation Issue Summary

1. **[RESOLVED] School Note Message Tag Missing in Responses:** The School Note Message field was not populated in all complex elements (Person, Award, and Disbursement) within Response Documents. This issue was *resolved* on March 15, 2016 and all of the respective elements will be included in the response files going forward. If a school needs assistance with an incorrect response, it should contact the COD School Relations Center.
2. **[RESOLVED] First Name and Middle Initial Tags Missing in Counseling Responses (message class: CREC):** The First Name and Middle Initial tags were not returned in the counseling system-generated response. This issue was *resolved* on March 16, 2016 and the tags will be returned in the counseling response files going forward. If a school needs assistance with an incorrect response, it should contact the COD School Relations Center.
3. **[RESOLVED] Truncating of Cents in Payment to Servicer Responses (message class: CRPS):** If the dollar amount paid is a whole number, the decimal and any amount after the decimal is being truncated. In other words, if the payment was \$100.00, the (.00) is being removed in the response file. This issue was *resolved* over the March 19-20, 2016 weekend. If a school needs assistance with an incorrect response, it should contact the COD School Relations Center.
4. **Pell Grant Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) Report Issues (message class: PGLE):** There are two parts to this issue.
  - a. **[RESOLUTION SCHEDULED]** In the Transaction Number field, leading zeros are being truncated, and the field is showing only a one-digit number. So, Transaction Number 01 is showing as 1. Federal Student Aid has identified the cause of the issue and expects to fix it in **April 2016**. In the meantime, schools can manually update the field to enable it to be imported.
  - b. **[CLOSED]** In the LEU Amount field, if the LEU percentage amount is a whole number, the decimal and any amount after the decimal is being truncated. In other words, if the LEU is 456.000, the (.000) is being removed in the report. Federal Student Aid has determined that this is working as designed and that the report has returned whole numbers without decimals prior to the most recent COD System release. This issue is considered *closed*.
5. **[CLOSED] CRAA17OP Response Files Not Being Returned:** Some schools reported not receiving CRAA17OP response files when sending CRAA17IN files. Federal Student Aid has confirmed that CRAA17OP files are being returned to schools, and considers the issue *closed*.
6. **[RESOLVED] School Selection Issues on StudentLoans.gov:** Some borrowers were receiving an error message when attempting to select certain schools during the school selection process within the different processing flows on StudentLoans.gov. Federal Student Aid *resolved* this issue on March 16, 2016.

7. **[RESOLUTION SCHEDULED] Pell Grant Report Issues:** Federal Student Aid has identified several issues impacting some Pell Grant Reports, including the Pell Grant Multiple Reporting Record and the Pell Grant Reconciliation File. These issues are preventing schools from importing the reports. Federal Student Aid has identified the cause of the issue and expects to fix it in **April 2016**.
8. **[RESOLVED] System-Generated Responses for StudentLoans.gov Activity on March 9, 2016 Not Returned to Schools:** Federal Student Aid has determined that system-generated responses for **any** activity (counseling, MPNs, Direct PLUS Loan Requests, etc.) completed on StudentLoans.gov on March 9, 2016 were not sent to schools prior to the system outage. On March 21, 2016, Federal Student Aid sent all outstanding responses for March 9, 2016. System-generated responses for activity completed on StudentLoans.gov since March 14, 2016 are being sent.
9. **[RESOLVED] School Participation Date Ranges for Direct PLUS Loan Requests Not Updated or Saved Correctly:** Some schools' Participation Date Ranges for Direct PLUS Loan Requests were not updated correctly and some school users are not able to update or save changes to the dates even if they are authorized to do so (School User Levels 3-5). The incorrect participation dates may be preventing borrowers from completing Direct PLUS Loan Requests on StudentLoans.gov. In some cases, schools received 2016-2017 information before they intended it to be available to borrowers. These issues were **resolved** over the March 19-20, 2016 weekend. **Note:** Schools that need assistance with activity that was attempted March 14-18, 2016 should contact the COD School Relations Center.
10. **[RESOLVED] MPN Status Code Tag Missing in Responses (message class: CRDL):** Some schools were not receiving the MPN Status Code tag in some responses. Generally, the tag was missing from only "standard" responses; it was being returned in "full" responses. Federal Student Aid **resolved** the issue the week of April 3, 2016, and the MPN Status Code is being returned in responses.
11. **[RESOLUTION SCHEDULED] Action Queue Search Results of More Than 100 Records Not Exporting in CSV Format Correctly:** With this issue, if a school uses the Action Queue Search function and the search results return more than 100 records, the results are not exporting in CSV format correctly and some results are missing. Federal Student Aid has determined the cause of the issue and expects to fix it in **late April 2016**. In the meantime, a school can work around the issue by altering the search criteria to produce a smaller search result (less than 100 records) or only review the results on the Web.
12. **[RESOLUTION SCHEDULED] SAS Disbursement Detail On-Demand:** Some schools may be unable to import the file in comma-delimited format. Federal Student Aid has determined the cause of the issue and expects to fix it in **late April 2016**.

Federal Student Aid appreciates your patience as it identifies and corrects post-implementation issues.

For further assistance with COD System processing or with any of the issues listed above, schools should contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **Notice of deadline dates for receipt of applications, reports, and other records for the 2016-2017 Award Year (4/5/16)**

Federal Student Aid has posted in the Federal Register deadline dates for the receipt of documents and other information from institutions and applicants for the Federal student aid programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, for the 2016-2017 Award Year.

The text of the [Federal Register notice](#) is posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site.

- **OMB Expiration Dates on Direct Loan Master Promissory Notes (2/19/16)**

***Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Master Promissory Note***

The current Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Master Promissory Note (MPN) has an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) expiration date of 2/29/2016. Federal Student Aid is currently in the process of clearing the new form, but does not yet have a targeted implementation date. Additional information about this implementation will be posted in a forthcoming announcement on the [IFAP Web site](#). In the meantime, the current MPN form is valid and schools should continue to use it until further notice.

***Direct PLUS Loan Application and Master Promissory Note***

The current Direct PLUS Loan Application and MPN has an OMB expiration date of 2/29/2016. Federal Student Aid is currently in the process of clearing the new form, but does not yet have a targeted implementation date. Additional information about this implementation will be posted in a forthcoming announcement on the [IFAP Web site](#). In the meantime, the current MPN form is valid and schools should continue to use it until further notice.

## CURRENT ISSUES

### DIRECT LOANS

#### **DL School Account Statement Issues [(4/8/16) Updated 4/20/16]**

In addition to the post-implementation issues being tracked separately, Federal Student Aid is aware of two issues related to the March Direct Loan School Account Statement (SAS).

1. **[RESOLUTION SCHEDULED] Duplicate SAS Report with Only Cash Activity:** For the March Direct Loan SAS sent to schools on Monday, April 4, 2016, some schools received a complete SAS report, and then also received an additional SAS report containing only the cash activity detail transactions. In these cases, the partial report can be ignored. Federal Student Aid has identified the cause of the issue and expects to fix it on **April 28, 2016**.
2. **[RESOLUTION SCHEDULED] Invalid Record Length Preventing SAS Report Import:** Some schools are unable to import the Direct Loan SAS Report (message classes: DSLF and DSDF) because of invalid record length errors. Federal Student Aid has determined this is due to extra characters being added to rows when the borrower has a hyphenated last name, and the number of characters is longer than the set record length for all name fields. Federal Student Aid has identified the cause of the issue and expects to fix it on **April 28, 2016**.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience these issues have caused. If you have questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

For a list of other current issues, refer to the “COD System Release - Post-Implementation Issues and Updates” item above.

### GRANTS

#### **TEACH GRANT School Account Statement Issue (Updated 4/22/16)**

In addition to the post-implementation issues being tracked separately, Federal Student Aid is aware of an issue related to the TEACH Grant School Account Statement (SAS).

**[RESOLUTION SCHEDULED] Unable to View TEACH Grant SAS Disbursement Detail On Demand Report:** Some schools are unable to import the TEACH Grant SAS Disbursement Detail on Demand Report (message classes: TSOMxxOP, TSOYxxOP, and TSORxxOP). Federal Student Aid has determined this is due to the mismatched batch numbers in the header and trailer record. Federal Student Aid has identified the cause of the issue and expects to fix it on April 28, 2016. In the meantime, a school can contact the COD School Relations Center to receive a corrected report.

For a list of other current issues, refer to the “COD System Release - Post-Implementation Issues and Updates” item above.



## **Keep School Contact Information Current in the COD System (4/22/16)**

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.](#)