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This edition will remain on the COD Web site until a new edition is posted. We will notify schools via a COD Web Message when a new edition has been posted.

COD Processing Update

May 8th, 2015

NEWS/UPDATES

- **Impact on COD Processing May 9-10, 2015 (5/8/15)**

  As explained in a May 1, 2015 Electronic Announcement, Federal Student Aid provided information about specific systems and Web sites that will be affected during the implementation of the FSA ID, planned for the weekend of May 9-10, 2015. This work will be in addition to the regular maintenance that occurs each weekend. As a reminder, the implementation will result in outages of certain COD System functionality for a period of time.

  Extended COD System Maintenance

  From 7:00 P.M. (ET) Saturday, May 9, 2015 until 12:00 P.M. (ET) on Sunday, May 10, 2015—

  - 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.
  - Batches submitted by schools via the SAIG will be held or schools will receive an error message informing them that the SAIG is unavailable and that the data must be transmitted at a later time.

  Contact Information

  Federal Student Aid appreciates your patience and understanding as it completes this important activity. If you have any questions about the COD System, the StudentLoans.gov Web site, or the TEACH Grant Web site, contact the COD School Relations Center. If you have any questions about the SAIG, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 800/330-5947 or by e-mail at CPSSAIG@ed.gov.

- **Record Submission Due Date for 2013-2014 Direct Loan Program Year Closeout (5/1/15)**

  On May 1, 2015, Federal Student Aid posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site the second in a 3-part series of Direct Loan closeout announcements that informs schools of the closeout deadline for the 2013-2014 Program Year. For more information, refer to the Electronic Announcement.

- **CANCELLED—G5 Web Site Outage April 29-May 4, 2015 (4/28/15)**

  Previously, in an April 2, 2015 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site, Federal Student Aid informed the community about a maintenance activity that would have impacted the Department of Education's core financial systems, including G5. At this time, the maintenance activity has been cancelled. Financial processing will continue as normal and the G5 Web site will be available April 29-May 4, 2015.

- **FY 2016 Sequester Required Changes to the Title IV Student Financial Assistance Programs (4/24/15)**

  On April 23, 2015, 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 Dear Colleague Letter GEN-15-07.

- **2014-2015 Pell Grant Deobligation Due To Verification Status "W" (4/22/15)**

  On April 21, 2015, Federal Student Aid deobligated 2014-2015 Award Year Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) disbursements that did not have a verification status updated from "W" to a valid status of "V" or "S". As noted in the warning message that Federal Student Aid sent to affected schools on April 7, 2015, these disbursements were considered overawards and reduced to a zero dollar amount ($0.00), even though the disbursements were previously accepted in the COD System. This deobligation affected Pell Grant disbursements at approximately 213 schools.

  A school affected by the deobligation will receive or see the following information:

  - Receive a PGTX (PGTX15OP message class) file in the school's Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox indicating the number of students and total amount of the decrease
  - Receive a system-generated negative disbursement file (CRND15OP message class/ND document type)
  - Receive a new Electronic Statement of Account (ESOA) that reflects the decrease unless there are other offsetting increase adjustments
  - See a change in the school's Current Funding Level (CFL) that reflects the reduced disbursements

  Note: This deobligation process will not affect a school that did not have students with a verification status of "W" just prior to April 21, 2015.

  A school affected by the deobligation should carefully review the information below.

  Verification Completed or Not Required

  If verification has been completed as required or is not required and a school believes a student's 2014-2015 disbursement should not have been reduced to zero, the school must complete the following steps in this order:

  1) The school must send an update to the verification status of the award, and the COD System must accept the update.
  2) Once the verification status is updated to "V" or "S", the school may submit the actual disbursement (Disbursement Release Indicator or DRI equals "True") for the correct amount to the COD System for processing.

  Notes:

  - For the conditions under which each verification status code should be used, refer to the September 28, 2007 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site
  - In the following two cases, it is acceptable for the verification status code field to be blank:

- If the student was not selected for verification or if a selected transaction was received by the school after the student was no longer enrolled and the school has reported the verification status code as "W", the school should change the "W" to blank (nil = "True").

- If the student was not selected for verification or if a selected transaction was received by the school after the student was no longer enrolled and the school has reported no verification status code to date, the school does not need to submit a verification status code and should leave the field blank (nil = "True").

- The school can perform steps 1 and 2 above in the same submission to the COD System if reported in the same student record.

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 "Deadline Dates for Reports and Other Records for the 2014-2015 Award Year" published in the Federal Register on July 11, 2014. The July 11, 2014 notice is also posted on the IFAP Web site.

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 October 1, 2015. After October 1, 2015, the COD System will no longer accept "W" as a valid verification status code for 2014-2015 Pell Grant awards.

If you have any questions regarding the 2014-2015 Pell Grant deobligation of disbursements due to verification status "W," contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **2014-2015 COD Technical Reference (April 2015 Update) Now Available (4/22/15)**

  The updated 2014-2015 COD Technical Reference is now available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. The 2014-2015 COD Technical Reference contains development information for the 2014-2015 Award Year. If you have any questions about this material, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **2015-2016 COD Technical Reference (April 2015 Update) Now Available (4/22/15)**

  The updated 2015-2016 COD Technical Reference is now available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. The 2015-2016 COD Technical Reference contains development information for the 2015-2016 Award Year. If you have any questions about this material, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **COD Common Record XML Examples Now Updated in COD Technical Reference [(3/26/15) Updated 4/22/15]**

  Last month, Federal Student Aid determined that a few of the COD Common Record examples in the 2015-2016 COD Technical Reference were incorrect. These examples listed some of the schema tags in the wrong

order. Federal Student Aid corrected the examples in the latest update of the technical reference, posted on April 21, 2015.

For complete information about the schema, schools should refer to the "COD Common Record XML Schema Version 4.0b" posted on the IFAP Web site.

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

- **Direct PLUS Loan Changes – Operational Guidance for Schools (3/2/15)**

  On February 3, 2015, Federal Student Aid posted the first in a series of announcements that will provide operational information about the changes to the Direct PLUS Loan adverse credit history provisions. In the February 3, 2015 Electronic Announcement, Federal Student Aid explains early operational impacts to schools and provides preliminary information about the changes planned for the COD System implementation during the period March 27-29, 2015.

  On February 27, 2015, Federal Student Aid posted two additional announcements with operational information related to the Direct PLUS Loan adverse credit history provisions. One announcement provides information about the changes being made to the COD System and StudentLoans.gov Web site. The other announcement provides information about the changes to the determination of adverse credit criteria and the duration of a credit check.

  If you have additional questions about these announcements, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **Processing Tips - COD System Edits 204, 205, and 206 (2/12/15)**

  Federal Student Aid has identified an increased number of Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System edits triggered for Direct Loan awards, specifically COD Reject Edits 204, 205, and 206. In an October 31, 2014 Electronic Announcement posted on the IFAP Web site, Federal Student Aid provides processing tips and reminders to assist schools in researching and resolving these edits for each impacted award.

  For posted guidance and resources and other frequently asked questions related to 150%, refer to the 150 Percent Direct Subsidized Loan Limit Information page on the IFAP Web site. If you have 150%-related questions, submit them to 150Percent-Questions@ed.gov and include the name of your school in the subject line.

  If you have questions about the COD System edits, 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.

Keep School Contact Information Current in the COD System (5/8/15)

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.