Common Origination and Disbursement

COD Processing Update
For Pell Grants

May 14, 2004

Pell Grants

COD News

COD Web Site Maintenance Planned For Sunday, May 16, 2004 (05/13/04)
The COD web site will undergo routine maintenance on Sunday, May 16, 2004 from 2 AM until 8 AM eastern time. During this period, users will not be able to access data on the COD web site.

COD apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the COD School Relations Center.

Updated COD Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Available (05/13/04)
COD has updated the FAQs on the COD web site, www.cod.ed.gov. The FAQs are available from the COD web site by clicking the "Today's Update" link at the bottom of the page. The Updated FAQs are also available on the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0512FAQCOD.html. If you have any questions about the document, or would like to see anything added, please contact the COD School Relations Center at CODSupport@acs-inc.com with the subject line of "FAQ".

2004-2005 COD Technical Reference May 2004 Updates Now Available (05/07/04)
The 2004-2005 COD Technical Reference has been updated and is available on the IFAP web site at http://www.ifap.ed.gov/cod/0405CODTechRefDraft.html. For a complete list of updates, please see the PDF and Microsoft Word attachments entitled: 2004-2005 COD Technical Reference May 2004 Change Tracking Log. If you have any questions regarding this material, please contact the COD School Relations Center.

Pell Grant information In NSLDS (05/05/04)
COD transmits Pell Grant records to NSLDS on a daily basis. However, there are cases in which the student identifier and Pell Grant eligibility information transmitted from COD does not match the information in NSLDS. As a result, the student's information will not be updated in NSLDS. The Department of Education is working to reduce the cases in which this occurs.

In these cases, schools should refer to the COD web site, www.cod.ed.gov, for the most current information regarding a student's Pell Grant eligibility. In addition, a school may want to check the student identifier information on the student's latest ISIR to determine if the school needs to update the student identifier information submitted to COD.

2003-2004 Pell Grant Deobligation Due To Verification Status "W" (05/03/04)
On April 30, 2004, the COD System deobligated 2003-2004 Award Year Pell Grant disbursements that did not have a verification status updated from "W" to a valid status of "V",

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"S", or "Blank". As noted in the warning message that COD sent to affected schools on April 2, 2004, 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 450 schools.

A school affected by the April 30, 2004 deobligation will—
- Receive a PGTX (PGTX04OP message class) file in the school's SAIG mailbox indicating the number of students and total amount of the decrease;
- Receive a system-generated negative disbursement file (COMRECOP message class/ND document type for Full Participants and PGDA04OP message class/ # G batch type for Phase-in Participants);
- Receive a new Electronic Statement of Account (ESOA) reflecting the decrease; and
- See a change in the school's Current Funding Level (CFL) that reflects the deobligated disbursements.

Note: A school that did not have students with a verification status of "W" on April 30, 2004 will not be affected by this deobligation process.

If verification has been completed as required or is not required and a school believes a student's 2003-2004 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 update must be accepted by the COD System.
2) Once the verification status is updated to "V", "S", or "Blank", the actual disbursement (DRI = true) for the correct amount may be submitted to COD for processing.
   Note: Full Participants can perform steps 1 and 2 in the same submission to COD if reported in the same student record.

If the verification status for a student's award continues to be "W", do ***not*** resubmit the disbursement to COD. If the disbursement is resubmitted, it will be rejected by the COD System.

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

2004-2005 Pell Grant Authorizations And Disbursement Processing Start Dates (05/03/04)
COD would like to remind schools that Initial Pell Grant Authorizations for 2004-2005 will be determined on May 14, 2004. Current Funding Levels (CFLs) will be established in COD at that time, and an Electronic Statement of Account (ESOA) containing this information will be sent to a school's SAIG mailbox. The earliest date a 2004-2005 Pell actual disbursement (DRI = true) will be accepted by the COD System is Monday, June 21, 2004. However, funds for the Pell Grant Program will not be available in GAPS until July 1, 2004.

Through June 20, 2004, **Phase-In Participants** may submit ***only*** 2004-2005 origination records. Schools that submit actual disbursement records (DRI = true) prior to June 21, 2004 will receive

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reject Edit 408 (Disbursement Date is Not Valid for Processing Date, Not in Valid Range, or Not a Valid Date Format).

Through June 20, 2004, **Full Participants** may submit common records that contain 2004-2005 anticipated disbursement information provided the Disbursement Release Indicator (DRI) value is equal to "False". If the DRI value is equal to "True", the actual disbursement will be rejected, and schools will receive Edit 996 (Invalid Value). Beginning June 21, 2004, schools may change the DRI to "True", and COD will process the actual disbursements.

Current Issues

COD Edit 116 Not Working Correctly [01/06/04 (Updated 05/13/04)]
COD has found that COD Edit 116 (SSN, Date of Birth and/or Last Name have not been updated in the COD System) is not working properly. This edit is a warning that is returned when changes to the Student Identifier information are submitted and the reported CPS Transaction Number and Award Year combination is not greater than the combination that currently exists in COD.

Because this edit is not working correctly schools are unable to submit new 2003-2004 originations or make online changes when previous award year information is different for a student in COD. Testing a solution is underway, and COD anticipates that the testing will be completed by the end of May. COD will provide updates after testing has been completed.

Duplicate Disbursement Information In COD (05/06/04 [Updated 05/11/04])
COD has learned that duplicate disbursement numbers are displaying incorrectly on the COD web site's Award Disbursements Information screen. On this screen under the Disbursement Number column, duplicate disbursement numbers are appearing twice. However, when viewing the Disbursement Information screen, each disbursement displays a different status (Pending or Disbursed). COD is analyzing the issue and will provide updates as they become available.

Duplicate Drawdown Amounts In COD (04/28/04 [Updated 05/11/04])
COD has discovered that there are duplicate records of drawdown amounts dated from the week of March 15, 2004 on the COD database. These amounts will appear on the COD web site's Cash Activity screen and on various summary screens and financial reports. This issue affects approximately 166 schools. The COD development team continues to analyze the issue, and updates will be provided as they become available.

COD Edit 115 Not Working Correctly [04/06/04 Updated (05/06/04)]
COD has identified an issue where COD Edit 115 (Student Referred to DCS but repayment schedule not established, no further disbursements can be accepted for this student for this award year) is being returned incorrectly to schools that attempt to increase/decrease an actual disbursement (DRI=True) for a student that has been referred to DCS for collection of a Pell Grant overpayment.

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Additionally, the Pell Grant referral amount and payment amount collected are not being updated correctly in the Pell Collection Referral Amount and Pell Collection Amount Collected fields on the COD web site's Award Detail Information screen. The COD development team is researching the code fix for these issues, and COD will provide updates as they become available.

Issue Resolving COD Edit 025 (05/05/04)
Schools have reported to COD that they are experiencing an issue when correcting a record that has rejected for COD Edit 025 (Duplicate Match On CPS). Records that reject for COD Edit 025 can only be corrected on the COD web site by selecting the correct CPS match from a list on the CPS Report Selection screen. Detailed instructions for resolving this edit via the COD web site are available on IFAP at:
http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0320UpdatedCODEdit025Proc.html.

However, in some instances the COD web site is returning only one match or none at all. This may prevent schools from correcting the records in COD as described above. The COD development team has identified the root cause and is working on implementing the code fix. COD will provide updates as soon as they become available.

Disbursements Not Displaying On COD Web Site [12/11/03 (Updated 05/05/04)]
COD has identified an issue where disbursements/adjustments are being processed in COD, but are not appearing on the Disbursement List screen. However, the accepted disbursements are appearing on the Batch screen and being acknowledged correctly to schools. Also in some cases, sequence numbers for the disbursements are not appearing on the History screen.

COD has determined the cause of the problem. The data was not populated in the COD database correctly when the disbursements/adjustments were processed, resulting in the disbursements not appearing on the web site. COD has identified two different code fixes and cleanups that need to take place to resolve the problem.

The first code fix has been migrated, and COD is in the process of cleaning up the affected records. COD is still testing the second code fix and will notify schools when testing has been completed. In the meantime, please be patient and do not resubmit the disbursements/adjustments for processing; these transactions have already been acknowledged back to schools.

Student Name And Date Of Birth Not Updated In COD (05/03/04)
COD has identified an issue where new 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 origination records are accepted in COD, however, the student's Name and Date of Birth (DOB) updates submitted by the school are not displaying on the COD web site's Person Information screen. The COD web site is reflecting the Name and DOB from the previous award year. Additionally, in some cases, changes to Name and DOB for previously accepted origination records are not displaying on the Person Information screen as well. COD is researching the root cause of this issue, and COD will provide updates as they become available.

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COD Web Site Response Time [03/19/04 (Updated 04/22/04)]
COD has learned that COD web site users are experiencing poor response time and receiving log errors when performing searches between the hours of approximately 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM eastern time.

COD has identified several potential causes of the issue and is in the process of evaluating the causes. COD ask users to continue to be patient. In the meantime, please continue to e-mail screen shots of any error messages received while performing a search to the COD School Relations Center at CODSupport@acs-inc.com.

COD Financial Screens Incorrect On COD Web Site [05/05/03 (Updated 03/19/04)]
As previously reported, the COD web site financial screens are displaying incorrect information. The "Summary Financial Info" screen is not displaying correct figures in the fields of "Disbursement Amount", "Disbursement Adjustment Amount" and "Ending Cash Balance".

Additionally, COD has found the Total Unduplicated Recipients field on the "Funding Information" screen is not displaying the correct figure. Schools can refer to the "Yearly Totals" screen to view the correct figure for the Total Unduplicated Recipients.

COD is working to resolve these discrepancies. In the meantime, schools should refer to the "Funding Information Screen" for correct figures (with the exception of the Total Unduplicated Recipients). COD is asking schools to be patient regarding progress on this issue. Resources are focused on other items at this time, so progress will continue to be slow. If you have any questions regarding your funding in the meantime, please contact the COD School Relations Center.

Mixed Person Records In COD (03/02/04)
As you are aware, the COD System is based on the establishment of a person record and contains person records established as early as 1999-2000. COD has discovered that primarily due to inaccurate SSNs that have entered the COD System, approximately 300 records (out of approximately 14 million person records in the COD System) have mixed with other COD records. Since PLUS borrowers are not matched with CPS, the majority of the people affected by this issue are PLUS borrowers. COD has a dedicated team working to resolve the small number of records that have been mixed. COD would like to assure you that if your data has been affected by this rare problem it is not lost in the COD System and it will be corrected.

Specifically, COD has identified two scenarios related to this issue. In the first scenario, one person appears twice within the COD System, with different awards under each profile. In the second scenario, two persons have the same SSN in the COD System with mixed profiles and awards. These problems usually occur when incorrect SSNs are submitted to COD and are compounded when the incorrect SSN matches another person's correct SSN.

COD is working on further detailed instructions that will assist you in avoiding these scenarios and, if necessary, in correcting them. If you have any questions, please contact the COD School Relations Center.