

COD Processing Update

May 19, 2017

NEWS/UPDATES

- **Impact on COD Processing May 21, 2017 (5/17/17)**

Federal Student Aid is planning several system maintenance activities on May 21, 2017. In addition, the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) will be unavailable from 3:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. (ET) due to its regular Sunday morning maintenance. These activities will result in outages of certain COD System functionality for a period of time.

An explanation of how these activities will impact COD System availability and processing follows below. Please review this information to determine if processing at your school will be affected.

Extended COD System Maintenance

From 2:00 A.M. (ET) until 6:00 P.M. (ET) on Sunday, May 21, 2017—

- 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 website](#). This includes, but is not limited to, signing master promissory notes, complete counseling, any TEACH Grant processing flows, or submitting Loan Consolidation applications or Income-Driven Repayment Plan requests.
- 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 or the StudentLoans.gov website, contact the COD School Relations Center. If you have any questions about the SAIG, contact the CPS/SAIG Technical Support and the TFA Support Center at 800/330-5947 or by email at CPSSAIG@ed.gov.

- **2017-2018 COD Technical Reference (May 2017 Update) Now Available (5/12/17)**

The updated [2017-2018 COD Technical Reference](#) is now available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) website. The 2017-2018 COD Technical Reference contains development information for the 2017-2018 Award Year. If you have any questions about this material, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **Schools Must Process Drawdown In G5 To Receive Pell ACA Pymts (4/27/17)**

There are a number of schools that have not drawn down their Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance (ACA) payments for the 2014-2015 Award Year, the 2015-2016 Award Year, and/or the 2016-2017 Award Year.

Federal Student Aid would like to remind schools that their calculated Pell Grant ACA payment is posted in G5 as an Available Balance in the school's ACA G5 Award Number, P063Q14##### for the 2014-2015 Award Year, P063Q15##### for the 2015-2016 Award Year, and P063Q16##### for the 2016-2017 Award Year. ***A school must sign in to the G5 website and process a drawdown transaction in G5 to receive the funds.***

For more information about this change, refer to the [January 27, 2016 Electronic Announcement](#) that is posted on the IFAP website.

- **Full COD Common Record XML Schema Validation Begins March 2017 (2/24/17)**

Federal Student Aid will begin to fully validate all Common Record files against the published [COD Common Record XML Schema](#). This means that if a school submits a Common Record batch that does not conform to the published schema format, ***it will not be processed by the COD System and the school will receive COD Reject Edit 210.***

Currently, in some cases, Federal Student Aid is accepting Common Record batches that do not fully conform to the published schema format. In those cases, the batches are processed by the COD System, but we return COD Warning Edit 211 at the batch level. This warning edit provides the opportunity for a school to know that there is an XML coding issue. ***Beginning in March 2017, the warning edit will no longer be returned. Instead, the Common Record batch will be rejected at the batch level with COD Reject Edit 210, and the records included in the batch will not be processed.***

COD Testing Support – COD testing is available to allow schools to send test data to the COD System prior to processing and submitting production data using the new schema version. Detailed information about COD Testing can be found in a [November 18, 2016 Electronic Announcement](#). Additional testing documentation is found in Volume V of the COD Technical Reference.

In addition, schools can use an XML validator program to test its XML files prior to sending them to the COD System. Federal Student Aid provides step-by-step instructions for how a school can use an XML validator program with our posted [COD XML Schema files](#) on the IFAP website.

For complete information about schema validation, refer to a [February 23, 2017 Electronic Announcement](#). If you have additional questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

Contact Information: If you have questions, contact the COD School Relations Center at 800/474-7268 for Grants or 800/848-0978 for Direct Loans. You may also email CODSupport@ed.gov.

CURRENT ISSUES

DIRECT LOANS

Inactive Awards Incorrectly Considered for MPN Processing Options [(4/6/17) Updated 4/25/17]

Federal Student Aid has determined an issue in which the COD System is incorrectly evaluating inactive awards (award and disbursement amounts reduced to \$0) when considering if a loan origination record is on file. As a result, schools may receive Master Promissory Note responses (message class: CRPN) prematurely. Federal Student Aid has identified the cause of the issue and expects to fix it the weekend of July 16, 2017.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for the inconvenience this issue may cause and appreciates your patience as it works to correct the issue. For further assistance with COD System processing, schools should contact the COD School Relations Center.

GRANTS

There are no Grants-related issues at this time.

Keep School Contact Information Current in the COD System (5/19/17)

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.](#)