

COD Processing Update

June 3, 2016
NEWS/UPDATES

- **Incorrect TEACH Grant Balance Notification Letters Sent (6/3/16)**

Federal Student Aid has identified an issue with the TEACH Grant Balance Notification Letter. The balance date and TEACH Grant Closeout deadline date posted in those letters are incorrect. Federal Student Aid is researching the cause of this issue and expects to fix it in the near future. Federal Student Aid will generate new TEACH Grant Balance Notification Letters for schools impacted by this issue. If a school needs assistance, it should contact COD School Relations Center.

The correct TEACH Grant Closeout Deadline for the 2015-2016 Award Year is September 30, 2016, and schools should continue working to complete final reconciliation and resolve any balances prior to that date. For more information on TEACH Grant Closeout, refer to the [June 2, 2016 Electronic Announcement](#) posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site.

- **2016-2017 COD System Peak Processing Reminders (6/2/16)**

In June 2016, we will begin a peak processing period for the 2016-2017 Award Year. In [a June 2, 2016 Electronic Announcement on the IFAP Web site](#), Federal Student Aid provides COD System peak processing reminders to assist schools with planning and processing. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this peak processing period.

- **TEACH Grant Closeout Information for 2015-2016 Award Year (6/2/16)**

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH), closeout deadline for the 2015-2016 Award Year is **Friday, September 30, 2016**. This is the last processing day of the award year. All school data must be received and accepted by this date to be included in a school's final Ending Cash Balance for the year. To be considered successfully closed out, the school must—

Reconcile to an Ending Cash Balance (Net Drawdowns – Total Net Booked Disbursements) of \$0 and Total Net Unbooked Disbursements of \$0, as reflected on its monthly TEACH Grant School Account Statement (SAS) and in the school's internal records.

For initial operational guidance about what closeout means and the tools a school can use to complete it, refer to the [June 2, 2016 Electronic Announcement](#) posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site.

- **FY 2017 Sequester Required Changes to the Title IV Student Aid Programs (6/1/16)**

On May 31, 2016, the Department of Education posted updated information about the impact of sequestration on the Title IV Student Aid Programs. For more information, refer to [Dear Colleague Letter GEN-16-11](#).

- **Internet Explorer 9 and 10 Browser Support Ending on COD, StudentLoans.gov and TEACH Grant Web Sites (5/19/16)**

As noted in a [May 19, 2016 Electronic Announcement](#), effective May 26, 2016, the COD Web Site, StudentLoans.gov, and the TEACH Grant Web site will no longer support Internet Explorer 9 and Internet Explorer 10. After May 26th, school users and borrowers using these browsers will not be able to access the sites and will receive an error message. Internet Explorer 11 is supported, and users can continue to access the sites on other browsers (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, etc.).

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

- **150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit Important Reminders (5/16/16)**

On May 11, 2016, Federal Student Aid posted [150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit: Electronic Announcement #21 - Common Subsidized Loan Limit Usage Inquiries](#). This Electronic Announcement presents the most common issues Federal Student Aid has identified from inquiries made to the Direct Loan Subsidized Usage Inquiry page on the COD Web site.

On May 13, 2016, Federal Student Aid posted [150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit: Electronic Announcement #22 - Important Reminders About Program-Level Enrollment Reporting to NSLDS](#). This Electronic Announcement reminds schools of the critical importance of complete and accurate reporting of program-level enrollment information to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS®).

For complete information about these reminders, refer to the corresponding Electronic Announcements that are posted on the [Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#).

- **REMINDER – Schools Must Process Drawdown In G5 To Receive Pell ACA Payments (5/13/16)**

Federal Student Aid began processing the first Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance (ACA) payments for the 2015-2016 Award Year on February 29, 2016.

Beginning with this payment, a school's calculated Pell Grant ACA payment was posted in G5 as an Available Balance in the school's ACA G5 Award Number, P063Q15#####. ***A school must sign in to the G5 Web site and process a drawdown transaction in G5 to receive the funds.***

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 e-mail CODSupport@ed.gov.

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

- **COD System Release – Post-Implementation Issues and Updates (5/9/16)**

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 **late May 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. **[RESOLVED] Pell Grant Report Issues:** Federal Student Aid identified several issues impacting some Pell Grant Reports, including the Pell Grant Multiple Reporting Record and the Pell Grant Reconciliation File. These issues were preventing schools from importing the reports. Federal Student Aid **resolved** this issue on April 14, 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. **[RESOLVED] Action Queue Search Results of More Than 100 Records Not Exporting in CSV Format Correctly:** With this issue, if a school used the Action Queue Search function and the search results return more than 100 records, the results were not exporting in CSV format correctly and some results are missing. Federal Student Aid **resolved** the issue on April 24, 2016, and all search results are exporting correctly.
12. **[RESOLVED] SAS Disbursement Detail On-Demand:** Some schools were unable to import the file in comma-delimited format. Federal Student Aid **resolved** the issue on **May 3, 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.

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 (6/3/16)

We remind schools and third party servicers that contact information in the COD System must be kept current. Contact information is extremely

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 e-mail CODSupport@ed.gov.

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.](#)