



COD Processing Update

July 3, 2014

NEWS/UPDATES

- **Paper Entrance Counseling Addendum Available for Download Via FSAPubs (7/2/14)**

Federal Student Aid has published a one-page supplement to the paper Entrance Counseling Guide for Direct Loan Borrowers (published December 2013). The “Addendum to the Direct Loan Counseling Guide for Direct Loan Borrowers” (the addendum) provides a revised interest rate table for loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2014 and before July 1, 2015, updated information about payment of interest on Direct Subsidized Loans, and a revised contact number for the Federal Student Aid Ombudsman.

Schools may download the addendum via the [FSAPubs Web site](#). It will also be available for bulk order in the next few months. Federal Student Aid will also make the addendum available for download on the Publications page of the [Direct Loan Web site](#).

If you have questions about the Entrance Counseling guide, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **RESOLVED - Import Capability for Direct Loan Rebuild File for DL Tools Users Available Late June 2014 [Updated 7/1/14 (4/30/14)]**

As noted in an April 2, 2014 Electronic Announcement, Federal Student Aid added 12 additional fields to the Direct Loan (DL) Rebuild File as part of the April 11-14, 2014 COD System implementation. Previously, Federal Student Aid explained that schools could not import DL Rebuild Files produced after April 14, 2014 using DL Tools for Windows, Release 13.0 because that version of the software did not include the additional fields, but that schools would be able to import DL Rebuild Files once DL Tools, Release 14.0 was available.

Federal Student Aid has posted DL Tools, Release 14.0 and schools can now import DL Rebuild Files produced after April 14, 2014. More information about DL Tools is provided in a [June 30, 2014 Electronic Announcement](#).

If you have questions about the DL Rebuild File, contact the COD School Relations Center. For questions about DL Tools, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 800/330-5947 (TDD/TTY 800/511-5806) or by e-mail at CPSSAIG@ed.gov.

- **OMB Expiration Date on Direct PLUS Loan Request for Supplemental Information (Direct PLUS Loan Request) on StudentLoans.gov Web Site (7/01/14)**

The current Direct PLUS Loan Request (completed electronically on the StudentLoans.gov Web site) has an Office of Management and Budget (OMB) expiration date of 6/30/2014. Federal Student Aid is currently in the process of clearing a revised Direct PLUS Loan Request.



Until the revised Direct PLUS Loan Request has been approved by OMB and implemented, the current version remains valid for use.

- **Availability of EExpress for Windows 2014-2015, Release 3.0 (06/25/14)**

Federal Student Aid is pleased to announce the posting of EExpress for Windows 2014-2015, Release 3.0, on the Federal Student Aid Download ([FSAdownload](#)) Web site, located at <https://www.fsadownload.ed.gov>. Release 3.0 updates the Direct Loan and TEACH Grant modules to implement critical enhancements related to the 150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit and other new data reporting requirements for the 2014-2015 Award Year.

For complete information about Release 3.0, refer to the [June 23, 2014 Electronic Announcement](#) posted to the IFAP Web site.

- **EExpress for Windows 2014-2015 Release 3.0 and Direct Loan and TEACH Grant Functionality (6/23/14)**

In conjunction with the June 23, 2014 posting of EExpress 2014-2015, Release 3.0, Federal Student Aid has posted an Electronic Announcement that provides guidance and recommendations for users of the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) and Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant software modules. Specifically, the announcement provides guidance for users who created Direct Loan and TEACH Grant records in EExpress 2014-2015, Release 2.0, which was posted in April 2014.

For complete information, refer to the [June 20, 2014 Electronic Announcement](#) posted to the IFAP Web site.

- **2014-2015 COD Technical Reference (June 2014 Update) Now Available (6/20/14)**

The [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.

- **COD System Warning Edit 211 (5/20/14)**

Since the April 2014 COD System implementation, many schools may have received COD Warning Edit 211 (Failure of Full Schema Enforcement). As a reminder, this warning edit is intended to help schools and software providers identify and fix invalid XML, but still allow the data to be processed by the COD System. Eventually, Federal Student Aid will reject batches sent with invalid XML and the data will not be processed by the COD System.

Since the cause of invalid XML can vary widely, Federal Student Aid cannot provide specific XML error(s) in the response when returning Warning Edit 211. However, some examples of common errors are:

- Submitting tags out of order
- Submitting a string longer than the posted maximum length value specified by the COD XML Schema



- Submitting an integer or decimal outside of the posted value range specified by the COD XML Schema
- Neglecting to submit a required tag within a complex element (for example, <City> in the <PermanentAddress> block)
- Submitting tag names that do not match the COD XML Schema (tag names are case-sensitive)

In addition, Federal Student Aid has posted guidance about using an XML validator tool to help schools identify XML errors. This guidance is posted on the IFAP Web site in a document titled “COD XML Schema Validation Instructions.”

When using an XML validator tool, schools should keep a few things in mind:

- Use of an XML validator tool is optional and a school will need to find the right XML validator tool based on its individual circumstances. Some schools may need to work directly with their technical staff or software provider to select an XML validator tool.
- In some cases, a school can download an XML validator tool to a computer. In other cases, a school can upload files to a Web-based XML validator tool. If a school opts to use a Web-based XML validator tool and it has to upload files to run the validation, for security purposes, the school should use test data for the file upload.
- Federal Student Aid has validated the published COD XML Schema with some of the independent XML validator tools available, including XMLSpy, www.xmlvalidation.com, and XML Notepad 2007.

Finally, schools using a software vendor should consult with that vendor for additional assistance. In many cases, a school may need to ensure it is using the latest version of the chosen product.

Additional information about the COD XML Schema can be found on the IFAP Web site at <https://ifap.ed.gov/ifap/codXMLSchema.jsp>. For additional questions about COD System processing or the COD XML Schema, 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 (7/3/14)

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.](#)