

# COD Processing Update

July 13, 2017  
NEWS/UPDATES

- **[COD Batch Processing Suspension And Web Site Outages July 14-16, 2017 \[\(6/30/17\) Updated 7/11/17\]](#)**

During the period of July 14-16, 2017, Federal Student Aid plans to implement additional Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System functionality that supports the processing of Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant, Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) awards for the 2017-2018 Award Year.

In a [June 29, 2017 Electronic Announcement](#) posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) website, Federal Student Aid provides operational implementation guidance related to the new functionality.

## **COD Batch Processing Suspension and Web Site Outage Information**

To install the COD System functionality, we will suspend COD batch processing beginning at 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Friday, July 14, 2017. Records submitted after this time will be held and processed after 11:00 A.M. (ET) on Sunday, July 16, 2017.

In addition, between 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Friday, July 14, 2017 and 11:00 A.M. (ET) on Sunday, July 16, 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, completing counseling, completing any TEACH Grant processing flows, or submitting Loan Consolidation applications or Income-Driven Repayment Plan requests.

**Note:** On Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, the COD School Relations Center and Student Loan Support Center will close at 8 P.M. (ET).

Federal Student Aid apologizes for this inconvenience and appreciates your understanding and patience while it completes this important activity.

- **Second 2016 -2017 Verification Status Code “W” Warning Message (7/13/17)**

On July 12, 2017, Federal Student Aid began processing a text message (PGTX17OP) as well as a Reconciliation Report (PGRC17OP) to schools that have one or more 2016-2017 Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) student records still reported with a verification status code of “W”. The message is a warning that disbursements to all students with a verification status code of “W” will be considered overawards and reduced to a zero dollar amount (\$0.00), even though the disbursements were previously accepted in the COD System. The reduction of the affected disbursements is scheduled to occur on July 26, 2017.

**Notes:**

- For the conditions under which each verification status code should be used, refer to the “Application and Verification Guide” of the [2016-2017 Federal Student Aid Handbook](#).
- 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”).

**Note Regarding 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 as by the deadlines specified in the “Notice of Deadline Dates for Receipt of Applications, Reports, and Other Records for the 2016 -2017 Award Year” published in the [Federal Register](#) on April 4, 2016. The [April 4, 2016 notice](#) is also posted on the IFAP website.

Following the July 26, 2017 reduction, 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 September 29, 2017. After September 29, 2017, the COD System will no longer accept “W” as a valid verification status code for 2016 -2017 Pell Grant awards.

If you have questions about the warning message or about reporting verification status codes to the COD System, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **COD System Changes for 150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit to be Implemented on July 14-16, 2017 (7/5/17)**

In a [June 29, 2017 Electronic Announcement](#) posted on the IFAP website, we highlight the COD System changes specific to the 150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit to be implemented on July 14-16, 2017. The

changes are being made to improve processing and the accuracy of 150% Subsidized Loan Limit calculations.

For complete information regarding the COD System changes for 150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit, refer to the [June 29, 2017 Electronic Announcement](#) posted on the IFAP website.

- **FY 2018 Sequester Required Changes to the Title IV Student Aid Programs (6/20/17)**

On June 19, 2017, the Department of Education posted updated information about the impact of sequestration on the Title IV Student Aid Programs. For more information, refer to the [June 19, 2017 Electronic Announcement posted on the IFAP website](#).

- **REMINDER – How To Access Information From the COD Web Site File Share (6/8/17)**

As a reminder, Federal Student Aid shares student-specific information through uploaded files via the COD Web Site. We upload these files to the File Share section of the “File Share & Messages” page of the COD Web Site. Authorized school users are able to view and download the customized documents from the COD Web Site. Schools can access the “File Share & Messages” page by completing the following steps:

- 1) Log in to the COD Web Site.
- 2) Click on the “School” tab.
- 3) Enter the required school identifiers and click on “Search.” This will open the “School Summary Information” page.
- 4) Click on the “File Share/Messages” link on the left-hand side of the page to open the “File Share & Messages” page.

From the File Share section of the page, an authorized COD Web Site user will see a list of uploaded files. A user will click on the “Download” icon to download the File Share document to his or her computer. **Note:** Authorized school users are able to view and download the customized documents from the COD Web Site for a limited period of time.

The COD Web Site will only display File Share documents associated with the school’s Entity ID. If there are no files uploaded for a school, the File Share list will be blank. Schools will be notified via email (or in some cases via a phone call) when a File Share document is available.

- **Full COD Common Record XML Schema Validation Begins March 2017 (5/31/17)**

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.

## 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 (7/13/17)**

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.](#)