

COD Processing Update

July 26, 2013
NEWS/UPDATES

- **Internal Revenue Service Interface Unavailable July 27-28, 2013 – Impact to StudentLoans.gov and FAFSA On the Web (7/25/13)**

The Federal Student Aid system that interfaces with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will be unavailable from 7:00 A.M. (ET) Saturday, July 27, 2013 until 7:00 A.M. (ET) on Sunday, July 28, 2013. During this period, actions can be completed on the StudentLoans.gov and FAFSA on the Web sites. However, if an action requires entry of federal tax information, the tax information will need to be entered manually.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciates your understanding and patience.

- **Second 2012-2013 Verification Status Code “W” Warning Message (7/17/13)**

On July 16, 2013, Federal Student Aid began processing a text message (PGTX13OP) as well as a Reconciliation Report (PGRC13OP) to schools that have one or more 2012-2013 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 30, 2013.

Notes:

- For the conditions under which each verification status code should be used, refer “Application and Verification Guide” of the [2012-2013 Federal Student Aid Handbook](#).
- A school does not need to submit a verification status code and should leave the field blank (nil = “True”) 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.

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 by the deadlines specified in the “Applications, Reports, and Other Records for the 2012-2013 Award Year Notice” published in the Federal Register in February 28, 2013. The [February 28, 2013 notice](#) is also posted on the IFAP Web site.

Following the July 30, 2013 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 30, 2013. After



This edition will remain on the [COD Web site](#) until a new edition is posted. We will notify schools via a COD Web Message when a new edition has been posted.

September 30, 2013, the COD System will no longer accept “W” as a valid verification status code for 2012-2013 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.

- **Preliminary Information About New COD Common Record XML Schema 4.0a Planned for March 2014 (7/11/13)**

In March 2014, we plan to implement a new version of the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) Common Record XML Schema. The new version - **4.0a** - of the COD Common Record XML Schema incorporates new tags related to the 150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit.

Also in March 2014, we will begin to fully validate all Common Record files against the published COD Common Record XML Schema (versions 3.0d, 3.0e, and 4.0a). This means that if a school submits a Common Record that does not conform to the published schema format, **it will not be acknowledged or processed** by the COD System. The COD School Relations Center will contact a school that sends a Common Record that fails schema validation.

For more information, refer to a [July 11, 2013 Electronic Announcement](#) posted to the IFAP Web site.

- **2013-2014 COD System Peak Processing Reminders [(5/31/13) Updated 7/10/13]**

It is a peak processing period for the 2013-2014 Award Year. In a [May 31, 2013 Electronic Announcement on the IFAP Web site](#), Federal Student Aid provided COD System peak processing reminders to assist schools with planning and processing.

Mondays and Tuesdays are the heaviest processing days. Schools with flexibility may want to consider scheduling the transmission of their award data for later in the week.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this peak processing period.

- **150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit – Phase One of COD System Changes Scheduled for June 28-30, 2013 (6/20/13)**

As noted in [150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit: Electronic Announcement #1](#), which was posted to the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site on May 16, 2013, we will be making system changes to the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System, the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), and the Central Processing System (CPS) to implement the 150% limit.

For complete information about the first phase of COD System changes related to the 150% limit, refer to the [June 21, 2013 Electronic Announcement](#) on the IFAP Web site.



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CURRENT ISSUES

DIRECT LOANS

There are no Direct Loan-related issues at this time.

GRANTS

There are no Grant-related issues at this time.

REMINDERS

Keep School Contact Information Current in the COD System (7/26/13)

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.](#)