



COD Processing Update

September 5, 2014

NEWS/UPDATES

- **September 2014 COD System Update – Changes to Several Direct Loan Edits (9/5/14)**

On September 14, 2014, we plan to implement additional COD System functionality that will impact several Direct Loan edits, add a new edit, and add a new system-generated response. In a [September 4, 2014 Electronic Announcement](#), Federal Student Aid provides operational implementation guidance related to the new functionality.

To install the additional COD System functionality, we will suspend COD batch processing beginning at 5:00 A.M. (ET) on Sunday, September 14, 2014. Records submitted after this time will be held and processed after 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Sunday, September 14, 2014. In addition, the [COD Web site](#), the [StudentLoans.gov Web site](#), and the [TEACH Grant Web site](#) will be unavailable between 5:00 A.M. (ET) and 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Sunday, September 14, 2014.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for this inconvenience and appreciates your understanding and patience while it completes this important activity. If you have questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **Internal Revenue Service Interface Unavailable September 6-7, 2014 – Impact to StudentLoans.gov and FAFSA On the Web (9/4/14)**

The Federal Student Aid system that interfaces with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will be unavailable from 9:00 P.M. (ET) Saturday, September 6, 2014 until 6:00 P.M. (ET) on Sunday, September 7, 2014. 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. This work is in addition to the regular weekly maintenance that occurs each weekend.

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

- **Second Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance Payments for 2013-2014 Award Year (8/27/14)**

Federal Student Aid began processing the second Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance (ACA) payments for the 2013-2014 Award Year on August 25, 2014. Schools will begin to see these payments deposited directly into their bank accounts over the next few weeks.

For complete information about these ACA payments, refer to the [August 26, 2014 Electronic Announcement](#) that is posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site.



- **Third and Final Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance Payments for 2012-2013 Award Year (8/27/14)**

Federal Student Aid began processing the third and final Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance (ACA) payments for the 2012-2013 Award Year on August 25, 2014. Schools will begin to see these payments deposited directly into their bank accounts over the next few weeks.

For complete information about these ACA payments, refer to the [August 26, 2014 Electronic Announcement](#) that is posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site.

- **2013-2014 Reconciliation Reports Sent to Reporting Schools (8/21/14)**

To assist schools with final reporting before the September 30, 2014 deadline, **beginning August 15, 2014** the **2013-2014 Pell Grant Reconciliation Report** was sent to the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailboxes of all reporting schools with at least one funded 2013-2014 Pell Grant disbursement.

Schools will receive the 2013-2014 Reconciliation Report on or shortly after the date specified above.

Key information about the 2013-2014 Reconciliation Report is as follows:

- The report includes information for all Pell Grant recipients, at all attended campuses for the reporting school.
- The report is in the standard fixed-length format as specified in Volume VI, Section 8 of the [2013-2014 COD Technical Reference](#).
- Each report is sent to the reporting school's SAIG mailbox via the appropriate program/award year message class.

Pell Grant Reconciliation Report Message Class – PGRC14OP

Note: While we have automatically sent the 2013-2014 Reconciliation Report to schools as specified above, a school can request a Pell Grant Reconciliation Report via the [COD Web site](#) or by submitting the batch data request for the appropriate program/award year message class via the SAIG. To request a report via the COD Web site, select the New Report Request link located under the Batch tab followed by the Report Requests link on the left.

More information will be provided in a forthcoming announcement posted on the [Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#). For questions regarding the 2013-2014 Reconciliation Report, 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

Endorser Addendum Linking Issue for Some Direct PLUS Loans (09/03/14)

Federal Student Aid has determined there is an issue in which an Endorser Addendum will not link to a Direct PLUS Loan in certain situations. Specifically, the issue occurs in the following scenario:

1. The borrower completes a Direct PLUS Loan Request via the [StudentLoans.gov Web site](#) and receives an adverse credit decision.
2. The borrower's school submits a Direct PLUS Loan for the borrower.
3. An endorser completes an Endorser Addendum via StudentLoans.gov Web site, but uses the Endorser Code instead of the Award ID to access the flow. Note: As a reminder, the Endorser Code is received after the Direct PLUS Loan Request is completed and the credit check is returned as declined.

Federal Student Aid is working on a fix for the issue, but does not have an estimated date of resolution. In the meantime, a school can re-submit the Direct PLUS Loan to re-initiate the endorser linking process.

If you have additional questions about COD System processing, contact the COD School Relations Center.

GRANTS

There are no Grant-related issues at this time

Keep School Contact Information Current in the COD System (9/5/14)

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.](#)