September 19, 2008

This edition of the COD Processing Update 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.

Direct Loan Program

COD News

Upcoming SAIG Message Class File Update (09/15/08)
On September 19, 2008, Federal Student Aid will send the message class "MESSAGTB" via the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) to all user mailboxes. The EDconnect transmission software will automatically request, download, and import this new message class table with your next connection to the SAIG network. Once the MESSAGTB file has been imported, the new message class table will be used from that point forward.

Federal Student Aid will add message classes for the Central Processing System (CPS) and the Financial Management System (FMS) to the new message class table. These message classes are explained in a September 12, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site.

For complete information about the new message class table, refer to the September 12th Electronic Announcement. A message containing this same information was also sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes.

COD System Maintenance Planned For Sunday, September 21, 2008 (09/17/08)
The COD System will undergo routine maintenance on Sunday, September 21, 2008 from 1:30 A.M. until 9:00 A.M. (ET). In addition, the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) will be unavailable from 3:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. (ET) due to its regular Sunday morning maintenance. This activity will result in outages of certain COD System functionality for a period of time. Federal Student Aid appreciates your patience and understanding as it completes this important activity.

An explanation of how this activity will impact COD System availability and processing follows below. Please review this information to determine if processing at your school will be affected.

COD Web Site and System

- Users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the COD Web site between 1:30 A.M. and 9:00 A.M. (ET).

- Batches submitted by schools via the SAIG between 1:30 A.M. and 3:00 A.M. (ET) will be held and not acknowledged back to schools until after the SAIG comes back up at 11:00 A.M. (ET).

- Schools attempting to transmit batches via the SAIG between 3:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET) will receive an error message informing them that the SAIG is unavailable and that the data must be transmitted at a later time.

Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note Web Site

- An individual will not be able to complete a new MPN electronically or retrieve an existing MPN that was completed electronically via the Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note (MPN) Web site between 1:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET).

  An individual starting the process by 12:30 A.M. (ET) will be able to complete his or her MPN before the Web site becomes unavailable. An individual attempting to access the Web site after the cutoff time will see a Web site maintenance message and will not be able to start the process or retrieve an existing MPN.

TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve Web Site

- An individual will not be able to complete a new ATS electronically or retrieve an existing ATS via the TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS) Web site between 1:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET).

  An individual starting the process by 12:30 A.M. (ET) will be able to complete his or her ATS before the Web site becomes unavailable. An individual attempting to access the Web site after the cutoff time will see a Web site maintenance message and will not be able to start the process or retrieve an existing ATS.

Contact Information

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience these outages may cause. If you have any questions about the COD System, the Direct Loan Electronic MPN Web site, or the TEACH Grant ATS Web site, contact the COD School Relations Center. If you have any questions about the SAIG, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 800/330-5947 or by e-mail at CPSSAIG@ed.gov.

Direct Loan Bulletin 08-22 Released (09/18/08)
Direct Loan Bulletin 08-22 was released to schools from the COD School Relations Center on September 17, 2008 and is posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. Starting the week of September 15, 2008 and going forward, we will include an insert explaining the new provision in all correspondence packages sent to Direct PLUS Loan applicants who receive an adverse credit determination. The insert advises applicants who believe they may be eligible for a Direct PLUS Loan based on the extenuating circumstance described in the bulletin to complete the credit appeal process through the Applicant Services Department at the COD School Relations Center.

If you would like to be added to or removed from the Direct Loan Bulletin distribution list, please submit an e-mail to CODSupport@acs-inc.com with the subject line of "DLB Distribution".

COD Report, Batch Processing, & Web Site Suspensions/Outages September 25-28, 2008 (09/04/08)
As explained in a September 3, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site, during the period September 26-27, 2008, Federal Student Aid plans to update the 2008-2009 COD System with functionality that supports Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant reporting functions as well as an enhancement to COD Web site password requirements. In addition to the implementation of the new functionality, Federal Student Aid plans to perform a hardware upgrade for the COD Reports area of the COD Web site during the period September 25-28, 2008.

In order to install the necessary system and Web site changes, the following suspensions and outages will occur:

Reports

- The COD Reports area of the COD Web site will be unavailable from 3:00 A.M. (ET) on Thursday, September 25, 2008 until 11:00 P.M. (ET) on Sunday, September 28, 2008. During this period, a school will not be able to access reports through its COD Reporting NewsBox.

- Daily reports will be sent to a school's Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox and available in the COD Reports area of the COD Web site (as applicable) according to the following schedule:

  For Thursday, September 25, 2008 – Sent/Available Thursday, September 25, 2008

  For Friday, September 26, 2008 – Sent/Available Monday, September 29, 2008

  For Monday, September 29, 2008 – Sent/Available Tuesday, September 30, 2008

- Data requests submitted via the COD Web site or batch processing will be sent to a school's SAIG mailbox according to the following schedule:

  Submitted Thursday, September 25, 2008 – Sent Thursday, September 25, 2008

  Submitted before 8:00 P.M. (ET) Friday, September 26, 2008 – Sent Sunday, September 28, 2008

  Submitted after 8:00 P.M. (ET) Saturday, September 27, 2008 through Monday, September 29, 2008 – Sent Tuesday, September 30, 2008

Batch Processing

- COD batch processing will be suspended from 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Friday, September 26, 2008 until 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Saturday, September 27, 2008. Records submitted during this period will be held and processed after 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Saturday, September 27, 2008.

- As explained in a September 3, 2008 Electronic Announcement about the September 30, 2008 end of the Federal fiscal year (and a corresponding "COD Processing Update" item), interruptions related to the end of Federal fiscal year processing will impact how the COD System will process financial data and when schools can obtain funds for the Federal student aid programs. These interruptions coincide with the COD System implementation period and are reiterated to ensure that schools prepare accordingly.

  During the period September 26, 2008 through October 1, 2008, the COD System will accept Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant), TEACH Grant, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) records. However, after 10:00 A.M. (ET) on Friday, September 26, 2008, CFL changes (as a result of actual disbursements) and funding will not be processed by G5 (formerly GAPS) until Thursday, October 2, 2008.

  All actual disbursements with a disbursement date from September 26, 2008 through October 2, 2008 must be received by the COD System *no later than 10:00 A.M. (ET) on Friday, September 26, 2008,* and subsequently accepted by the COD System, in order for them to be included in the funds available for drawdown prior to the shutdown. Disbursements submitted by the deadline but not subsequently accepted, disbursements submitted after the deadline, and disbursements with a disbursement date after October 2, 2008 will be processed and funded after G5 re-opens on October 2, 2008.

Web Sites

- The COD Web site will be unavailable from 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Friday, September 26, 2008 until 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Saturday, September 27, 2008.

- The Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note (MPN) Web site will be unavailable from 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Friday, September 26, 2008 until 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Saturday, September 27, 2008.

  An individual starting the process by 7:00 P.M. (ET) on September 26, 2008 will be able to complete his or her MPN before the Web site becomes unavailable. An individual attempting to access the Web site after the cutoff time will see a Web site maintenance message and will not be able to start the process or retrieve an existing MPN.

- The TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS) Web site will be unavailable from 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Friday, September 26, 2008 until 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Saturday, September 27, 2008.

  An individual starting the process by 7:00 P.M. (ET) on September 26, 2008 will be able to complete his or her ATS before the Web site becomes unavailable. An individual attempting to access the Web site after the cutoff time will see a Web site maintenance message and will not be able to start the process or retrieve an existing ATS.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience the report, batch processing, and Web site suspensions and outages may cause and appreciates your understanding and patience while it completes these important activities.
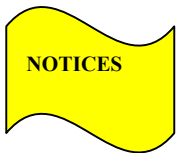
Peak Processing Reminder – Schools May Not Receive Acknowledgements/Responses As Quickly As Usual (08/27/08)
As a reminder, the COD System processes a large volume of data during this time of year, and it may take a little longer than usual to complete daily processing.

We appreciate schools' patience during this peak processing period and request that a school wait 24 hours after sending a batch to the COD System before contacting the COD School Relations Center to report a missing acknowledgement/response. If the school does not receive the acknowledgement/response within 24 hours after sending the batch, the COD School Relations Center will research the situation and ensure that the acknowledgement/response is sent to the school's Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this period.

Reports and Data Requests

NOTICES

This section contains important notices regarding reports and/or data requests. While we encourage you to review this section, note that some schools may not be impacted by the information presented below.

- Direct Loan Rebuild File—   Schools in need of this file should contact the COD School Relations Center.

Grant Programs
ACG, National SMART Grant, Pell Grant, and TEACH Grant

COD News

Upcoming SAIG Message Class File Update (09/15/08)
On September 19, 2008, Federal Student Aid will send the message class "MESSAGTB" via the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) to all user mailboxes. The EDconnect transmission software will automatically request, download, and import this new message class table with your next connection to the SAIG network. Once the MESSAGTB file has been imported, the new message class table will be used from that point forward.

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An explanation of how this activity will impact COD System availability and processing follows below. Please review this information to determine if processing at your school will be affected.

COD Web Site and System

- Users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the COD Web site between 1:30 A.M. and 9:00 A.M. (ET).

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TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve Web Site

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Contact Information

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience these outages may cause. If you have any questions about the COD System, the Direct Loan Electronic MPN Web site, or the TEACH Grant ATS Web site, contact the COD School Relations Center. If you have any questions about the SAIG, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 800/330-5947 or by e-mail at CPSSAIG@ed.gov.

Second 2007-2008 National SMART Grant Deobligation Due To No Corresponding Pell Grant (09/17/08)
On September 16, 2008, Federal Student Aid deobligated 2007-2008 Award Year National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) disbursements for students who did not have a 2007-2008 Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) actual disbursement recorded in the COD System. As noted in the warning message that Federal Student Aid sent to affected schools on September 2, 2008, these National SMART Grant disbursements were considered overawards and reduced to a zero dollar amount ($0.00), even though the disbursements were previously accepted in the COD System. This deobligation affected National SMART Grant disbursements at less than 20 schools.

A school affected by the deobligation will receive or see the following information:

- Receive an SGTX file (SGTX08OP message class) in the school's Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox indicating the number of students and total amount of the decrease

- Receive a system-generated negative disbursement file (CRND08OP message class/ND document type) in the school's SAIG mailbox

- Receive a new Electronic Statement of Account (SGAS08OP message class) in the school's SAIG mailbox that reflects the decrease, unless there are other offsetting increase adjustments

- See a change in the school's Current Funding Level (CFL) that reflects the reduced disbursements

Notes:

- If all of the National SMART Grant recipients at a school had a corresponding 2007-2008 Pell Grant actual disbursement on September 16, 2008, the school was not affected by the September 16th deobligation process.

- Some National SMART Grant recipients do not have a corresponding 2007-2008 Pell Grant actual disbursement due to the documented full repayment of the Pell Grant as a result of a Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4) calculation. If a school informed the COD School Relations Center of the student records to which this exception applies, these student records were excluded from the September 16th deobligation process.

If you have any questions about the 2007-2008 National SMART Grant deobligation of disbursements due to no corresponding 2007-2008 Pell Grant actual disbursement, contact the COD School Relations Center.

End of Federal Fiscal Year 2008 – Impact on Funds Availability (09/04/08)
Tuesday, September 30, 2008 marks the end of the Federal fiscal year for the Department of Education (the Department). Some of the Department's core financial systems, including G5 (formerly GAPS), will be on a modified processing schedule while the Department finalizes its processing and accounting for Fiscal Year 2008. These interruptions will impact how the COD System will process financial data and when schools can obtain funds for the Federal student aid programs as follows:

- *Monday, September 15, 2008 through Friday, September 26, 2008 –* Financial processing between the COD System and G5 will be reduced to once every evening (instead of the normal twice-a-day, morning/evening processing). As a result, early morning processing will be completed in the evening. Current Funding Level (CFL) changes and funding could be delayed by a day.

- *Friday, September 26, 2008 through Wednesday, October 1, 2008 –* The COD System will accept Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant), Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) records. However, after 10:00 A.M. (ET) on Friday, September 26, 2008, CFL changes (as a result of actual disbursements) and funding will not be processed by G5 until Thursday, October 2, 2008.

  All actual disbursements with a disbursement date from September 26, 2008 through October 2, 2008 must be received by the COD System *no later than 10:00 A.M. (ET) on Friday, September 26, 2008,* and subsequently accepted by the COD System, in order for them to be included in the funds available for drawdown prior to the shutdown. Disbursements submitted by the deadline but not subsequently accepted, disbursements

submitted after the deadline, and disbursements with a disbursement date after October 2, 2008 will be funded after G5 re-opens on October 2, 2008.

Note: In two Electronic Announcements posted on September 3, 2008 (and corresponding "COD Processing Update" items), we provide comprehensive information related to activities and deadlines that coincide with the end of the Federal fiscal year. These announcements are about the September 25-28, 2008 COD System implementation and reporting hardware upgrade and the September 30, 2008 deadline for 2007-2008 ACG, National SMART Grant, and Pell Grant awards. Schools should refer to both Electronic Announcements to ensure that 1) all necessary reports are obtained and 2) all applicable 2007-2008 ACG, National SMART Grant, and Pell Grant origination, disbursement, and change records are submitted and accepted prior to the outages.

- *8:00 P.M. (ET) on Tuesday, September 30, 2008 through 6:00 A.M. (ET) on Thursday, October 2, 2008 –* The G5 Web site will not be available. Schools will not be able to draw down Campus-Based, ACG, National SMART Grant, Pell Grant, TEACH Grant, or Direct Loan funds during this period.

This same information is posted in a September 3, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. The Department appreciates your patience and understanding as it completes the required activities during the upcoming period. All financial processing is expected to be caught up by Tuesday, October 7, 2008.

COD Report, Batch Processing, & Web Site Suspensions/Outages September 25-28, 2008 (09/04/08)
As explained in a September 3, 2008 Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site, during the period September 26-27, 2008, Federal Student Aid plans to update the 2008-2009 COD System with functionality that supports Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant reporting functions as well as an enhancement to COD Web site password requirements. In addition to the implementation of the new functionality, Federal Student Aid plans to perform a hardware upgrade for the COD Reports area of the COD Web site during the period September 25-28, 2008.

In order to install the necessary system and Web site changes, the following suspensions and outages will occur:

Reports

- The COD Reports area of the COD Web site will be unavailable from 3:00 A.M. (ET) on Thursday, September 25, 2008 until 11:00 P.M. (ET) on Sunday, September 28, 2008. During this period, a school will not be able to access reports through its COD Reporting NewsBox.

- Daily reports will be sent to a school's Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox and available in the COD Reports area of the COD Web site (as applicable) according to the following schedule:

For Thursday, September 25, 2008 – Sent/Available Thursday, September 25, 2008

For Friday, September 26, 2008 – Sent/Available Monday, September 29, 2008

For Monday, September 29, 2008 – Sent/Available Tuesday, September 30, 2008

- Data requests submitted via the COD Web site or batch processing will be sent to a school's SAIG mailbox according to the following schedule:

Submitted Thursday, September 25, 2008 – Sent Thursday, September 25, 2008

Submitted before 8:00 P.M. (ET) Friday, September 26, 2008 – Sent Sunday, September 28, 2008

Submitted after 8:00 P.M. (ET) Saturday, September 27, 2008 through Monday, September 29, 2008 – Sent Tuesday, September 30, 2008

Batch Processing

- COD batch processing will be suspended from 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Friday, September 26, 2008 until 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Saturday, September 27, 2008. Records submitted during this period will be held and processed after 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Saturday, September 27, 2008.

- As explained in a September 3, 2008 Electronic Announcement about the September 30, 2008 end of the Federal fiscal year (and a corresponding "COD Processing Update" item), interruptions related to the end of Federal fiscal year processing will impact how the COD System will process financial data and when schools can obtain funds for the Federal student aid programs. These interruptions coincide with the COD System implementation period and are reiterated to ensure that schools prepare accordingly.

  During the period September 26, 2008 through October 1, 2008, the COD System will accept Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant), TEACH Grant, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) records. However, after 10:00 A.M. (ET) on Friday, September 26, 2008, CFL changes (as a result of actual disbursements) and funding will not be processed by G5 (formerly GAPS) until Thursday, October 2, 2008.

  All actual disbursements with a disbursement date from September 26, 2008 through October 2, 2008 must be received by the COD System *no later than 10:00 A.M. (ET) on Friday, September 26, 2008,* and subsequently accepted by the COD System, in order for them to be included in the funds available for drawdown prior to the shutdown. Disbursements submitted by the deadline but not subsequently accepted, disbursements submitted after the deadline, and disbursements with a disbursement date after October 2, 2008 will be processed and funded after G5 re-opens on October 2, 2008.

Web Sites

- The COD Web site will be unavailable from 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Friday, September 26, 2008 until 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Saturday, September 27, 2008.

- The Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note (MPN) Web site will be unavailable from 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Friday, September 26, 2008 until 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Saturday, September 27, 2008.

  An individual starting the process by 7:00 P.M. (ET) on September 26, 2008 will be able to complete his or her MPN before the Web site becomes unavailable. An individual attempting to access the Web site after the cutoff time will see a Web site maintenance message and will not be able to start the process or retrieve an existing MPN.

- The TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS) Web site will be unavailable from 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Friday, September 26, 2008 until 8:00 P.M. (ET) on Saturday, September 27, 2008.

  An individual starting the process by 7:00 P.M. (ET) on September 26, 2008 will be able to complete his or her ATS before the Web site becomes unavailable. An individual attempting to access the Web site after the cutoff time will see a Web site maintenance message and will not be able to start the process or retrieve an existing ATS.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience the report, batch processing, and Web site suspensions and outages may cause and appreciates your understanding and patience while it completes these important activities.

2007-2008 ACG, National SMART Grant, And Pell Grant Processing Deadline (09/04/08)
The deadline for electronically transmitting Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant), and Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) records for the 2007-2008 Award Year to the COD System is *Tuesday, September 30, 2008*.

In two Electronic Announcements posted on September 3, 2008 (and corresponding "COD Processing Update" items), Federal Student Aid provides comprehensive information related to activities and deadlines that coincide with the September 30, 2008 deadline for 2007-2008 ACG, National SMART Grant, and Pell Grant awards. These announcements are about the September 25-28, 2008 COD System implementation and reporting hardware upgrade and the September 30, 2008 end of the Federal fiscal year. Schools should refer to both Electronic Announcements to ensure that 1) all necessary reports are obtained and 2) all applicable 2007-2008 ACG, National SMART Grant, and Pell Grant origination, disbursement, and change records are submitted and accepted prior to the outages.

As you will read in the announcements and "COD Processing Update" items referenced above, all actual disbursements with a disbursement date from September 26, 2008 through October 2, 2008 must be received by the COD System *no later than 10:00 A.M. (ET) on Friday, September 26, 2008,* and subsequently accepted by the COD System, in order for them to be included in the funds available for drawdown prior to the shutdown. This means that all new 2007-2008 ACG, National SMART Grant, and Pell Grant awards and increases to 2007-

2008 ACG, National SMART Grant, and Pell Grant awards must be submitted by the 10:00 A.M. (ET) deadline on Friday, September 26, 2008.

For additional information about the 2007-2008 ACG, National SMART Grant, and Pell Grant deadline, refer to the September 3 2008 Electronic Announcement on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site.

Note: In the September 3rd Electronic Announcement, Federal Student Aid informed schools that it will send 2007-2008 Reconciliation Reports to schools' Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailboxes during the period September 4-5, 2008. Due to the mass generation of these Reconciliation Reports, Federal Student Aid will use a "pseudo" Pell ID in the header and trailer of each file. This "pseudo" Pell ID will not be associated with the school that receives the report.

If a school is unable to download and then view, print, or import a report into a spreadsheet as explained in the September 3rd Electronic Announcement, the school can request the report via the COD Web site or by submitting the batch data request for the appropriate program/award year message class via the SAIG. For information about how to request these reports, refer to Volume VI, Section 8 of the 2007-2008 COD Technical Reference.

Peak Processing Reminder – Schools May Not Receive Acknowledgements/Responses As Quickly As Usual (08/27/08)
As a reminder, the COD System processes a large volume of data during this time of year, and it may take a little longer than usual to complete daily processing.

We appreciate schools' patience during this peak processing period and request that a school wait 24 hours after sending a batch to the COD System before contacting the COD School Relations Center to report a missing acknowledgement/response. If the school does not receive the acknowledgement/response within 24 hours after sending the batch, the COD School Relations Center will research the situation and ensure that the acknowledgement/response is sent to the school's Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this period.

TEACH Grant Operational Implementation Guidance – COD System Implementation and Guidance Summary (07/01/08)
The College Cost Reduction and Access Act (the CCRAA), Pub. L. 110-84, authorized the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program for implementation beginning with the 2008-2009 Award Year. The TEACH Grant Program provides up to $4,000 a year in grant assistance to a student who agrees to serve for at least four years as a full-time teacher in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families. A TEACH Grant recipient who does not complete the required teaching within a specified timeframe, or fails to meet certain other requirements of the TEACH Grant Program, will be required to repay the TEACH Grant as a Direct Unsubsidized Loan under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program.
During the period June 27-28, 2008, Federal Student Aid implemented COD System functionality that supports the processing of TEACH Grant awards for the 2008-2009 and subsequent award years. This functionality included implementation of the TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS) Web site.
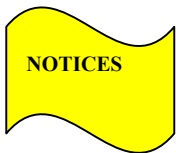
For TEACH Grant guidance refer to the following postings on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site:

- Final Rule published on June 23, 2008 (73 FR 35472) in the Federal Register provides the final regulations effective July 1, 2008 for the 2008-2009 Award Year.

- Dear Colleague Letter GEN-08-01 provides policy information on all of the provisions of the CCRAA, including the TEACH Grant Program.

- Dear Colleague Letter GEN-08-07 provides information on institutional eligibility for the TEACH Grant Program.

- June 19, 2008 Electronic Announcement provides information on Federal Student Aid's operational implementation of TEACH Grant Program functionality.

- June 27, 2008 Electronic Announcement provides information on the student aspects of the TEACH Grant Program that will be operational for July 1, 2008. This communication includes a "TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS) Web Site User Guide" designed to assist a student in completing his or her first electronic ATS.

- 2008-2009 COD Technical Reference provides technical information related to the processing of TEACH Grant awards.

Federal Student Aid will continue to inform the community of the implementation of additional TEACH Grant functionality scheduled for implementation over the next several months. Please monitor the IFAP Web site for the forthcoming communications.

Reports and Data Requests

NOTICES

This section contains important notices regarding reports and/or data requests. While we encourage you to review this section, note that some schools may not be impacted by the information presented below.

Issue Alert – Incorrect Format In Two Fields On 2008-2009 MRRs And YTD Records (09/12/08)
Federal Student Aid has identified a format issue with 2008-2009 Multiple Reporting Records (MRRs) and 2008-2009 Year-to-Date (YTD) Records for the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) programs that have been sent to schools' Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailboxes since March 16, 2008. These reports may have been automatically generated by the COD System or requested by a school via the COD Web site or batch data request.

In short, a school is able to import the affected reports; however, two fields within the reports are not formatted as outlined in Volume VI, Section 8 of the 2008-2009 COD Technical Reference. The affected reports and fields are as follows:

2008-2009 Report Sent to SAIG Mailbox	*Field Name and Positions*
ACG MRR *Message Class:* AGMR09OP	Percent Eligibility Used by Scheduled Award 463-469 Total Percent Eligibility Used by Academic Year Level 470-476
National SMART Grant MRR *Message Class:* SGMR09OP	Percent Eligibility Used by Scheduled Award 463-469 Total Percent Eligibility Used by Academic Year Level 470-476
Pell Grant MRR *Message Class:* PGMR09OP	Percent Eligibility Used by Scheduled Award 442-448
ACG YTD Record (Disbursement) *Message Class:* AGYR09OP	Percent Eligibility Used by Scheduled Award 66-72 Total Percent Eligibility Used by Academic Year Level 73-79
National SMART Grant YTD Record (Disbursement) *Message Class:* SGYR09OP	Percent Eligibility Used by Scheduled Award 66-72 Total Percent Eligibility Used by Academic Year Level 73-79
Pell Grant YTD Record (Disbursement) *Message Class:* PGYR09OP	Percent Eligibility Used by Scheduled Award 66-72 Total Percent Eligibility Used 73-79

The format for all of the affected fields is 0000000. The last four digits should represent less than one percent. Instead, with 2008-2009 MRRs and YTD Records sent to schools' SAIG mailboxes, these field positions are not formatted correctly. As a result, the percentages reflected in the reports are incorrect.

Example

The Percent Eligibility Used by Scheduled Award for a student is 25.02 percent. Currently, this would be reflected in one of the affected reports as 0002502. According to the format explained above and in the 2008-2009 COD Technical Reference, this would indicate .2502 percent. In this case, an affected report should reflect 0250200, which indicates 25.02 percent.

Note: All Percent Eligibility Used and Total Percent Eligibility Used calculations stored in the COD System, reflected on the COD and National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) Web sites, and provided on Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRs) are accurate.

Federal Student Aid is finalizing the implementation of the code fix that will resolve this issue and expects that it will be completed very shortly. After Federal Student Aid has resolved the issue, a school will be able to request corrected reports via the COD Web site or batch data request. Federal Student Aid will update this communication after the issue has been resolved.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for the inconvenience caused by this issue and appreciates your patience and understanding as it completes its work. If you have questions about this issue, or experience issues with any COD reports, contact the COD School Relations Center.