

COD Processing Update

September 30, 2016

NEWS/UPDATES

- **COD Holiday Schedule For October 10, 2016 (9/30/16)**

The COD School Relations Center will be closed on Monday, October 10, 2016 in observance of the Columbus Day federal holiday. The COD System will accept and process data from schools and send back responses/acknowledgments on Monday, October 10, 2016, but schools will not be able to receive any federal funds on that day. Requests for changes in funding levels and for funds will not be processed until Tuesday, October 11, 2016.

Further information regarding Columbus Day processing and customer service hours for the COD School Relations Center and other Federal Student Aid/ED call centers is posted in a September 29, 2016 Electronic Announcement on the IFAP website.

- **COD Common Record XML Schema Version 4.0c Now Available (9/27/16)**

In spring 2017, Federal Student Aid plans to implement Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System functionality that will support the processing of Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), Iraq and Afghanistan Service 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 conjunction with this implementation, Federal Student Aid will begin using a new version of the COD Common Record Extensible Markup Language (XML) Schema. The new schema version is 4.0c.

For complete information about the new schema version, refer to “COD Common Record XML Schema Version 4.0c” posted on the IFAP website.

If you have questions about the schema, contact the COD School Relations Center.

- **Operational Guidance – NSLDS and COD Info for Transfer Students and Closed Schools (9/22/16)**

In a September 21, 2016 Electronic Announcement posted to the IFAP Web site, Federal Student Aid provides important information to assist schools in using National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS®) and Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System information as it relates to transfer students who attended a school that has closed.

- **Credit Check Processing Impact due to October 1 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) Availability (9/13/16)**

With the 2017-2018 FAFSA available beginning on October 1, 2016, schools will be able to complete COD Web credit checks for 2017-2018 beginning on October 1, 2016. However, the start of COD System processing for the 2017-2018 Award Year is planned for late March 2017.

As a reminder, credit checks expire 180 days from the completion date. If more than 180 days has passed between the date the credit check was completed and the date the Direct PLUS Loan origination record is processed, a new credit check will be run. Therefore, it is important for schools to carefully consider the timeframe between completing a COD Web credit check and Direct PLUS Loan origination record processing for the 2017-2018 Award Year.

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

- **Operational Guidance on COD Reporting of Pell Grant Overpayments (9/7/16)**

Federal Student Aid recently reviewed Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant) data in the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System and determined that some schools are incorrectly adjusting Pell Grant information due to a Pell Grant overpayment. Incorrect adjustments to Pell Grant information for overpayments may result in a student receiving more Pell Grant funds than he or she is eligible to receive and can result in an audit finding for a school.

In a September 6, 2016 Electronic Announcement and its attachment posted to the IFAP Web site, Federal Student Aid reminds schools when to report Pell Grant overpayments to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) and when to make adjustments to Pell Grant information in the COD System. For complete information, refer to the September 6th Electronic Announcement.

CURRENT ISSUES

DIRECT LOANS

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

GRANTS

- **RESOLVED - Administrative Cost Allowance (ACA) Payment History Link Error [(8/26/16) Updated 9/30/16]**

As explained in two August 26, 2016 Electronic Announcements posted on the IFAP website, Federal Student Aid began processing Pell Grant ACA payments for schools on August 24, 2016. Federal Student Aid was aware of an issue in which users receive a “Log ID Error” when clicking on the ACA Payment History link on the COD Web site. As a result, school users could not view the page or see the ACA payment history information.

Federal Student Aid fixed the issue on September 25, 2016 and school users are able to view the ACA Payment History page.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience this issue may have caused. If you have additional questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.



Keep School Contact Information Current in the COD System (9/30/2016)

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.](#)