November 9, 2006

Direct Loan Program

COD News

COD System Services For Friday, November 10, 2006 through Sunday, November 12, 2006 (11/03/06)
The Federal observance of Veterans Day on November 10, 2006 as well as maintenance activities on both the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System and the Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) on November 11 and 12, 2006 will have the following impact:

- ***Friday, November 10th***
  - The COD School Relations Center will be open.
  - Users will be able to submit and retrieve data via the COD Web site.
  - The COD System will accept and process data from schools and send back responses/acknowledgments.
  - Schools will not be able to receive any Federal funds on November 10th. Requests for changes in funding levels and for funds will not be processed until Monday, November 13, 2006.

- ***Saturday, November 11th***
  - Users will be able to submit or retrieve data via the COD Web site.
  - Schools attempting to transmit batches via the SAIG between 12:01 A.M. (ET), Saturday, November 11th and 2:00 P.M. (ET) on Sunday, November 12th will receive an error message informing them that the SAIG is unavailable and that the data must be transmitted at a later time.

- ***Sunday, November 12th***
  - Users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the COD Web site between 2:00 A.M. and 8:00 A.M. (ET).
  - Schools attempting to transmit batches via the SAIG between 12:01 A.M. (ET) on Saturday, November 11th and 2:00 P.M. (ET) on Sunday, November 12th will receive an error message informing them that the SAIG is unavailable and that the data must be transmitted at a later time.

Additional information about Veterans Day processing and customer service hours for COD and other Federal Student Aid/Department of Education call centers is available in an Electronic Announcement on the IFAP Web site. An Electronic Announcement about the SAIG outage is available on the IFAP Web site.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience these outages may cause. If you have any questions about the COD System, contact the COD School Relations Center. If you have any

questions about the SAIG, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 800/330-5947 or e-mail CPSSAIG@ed.gov.

Extended Direct Loan Electronic MPN Web Site Outage For Sunday, November 12, 2006 (11/03/06)
As a reminder, the Direct Loan Electronic Master Promissory Note (MPN) Web site is unavailable every Sunday morning from 5:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. (ET) while routine maintenance is performed. During this period, individuals are not able to complete new MPNs electronically or retrieve existing MPNs that were completed electronically.

Due to the need for additional maintenance on Sunday, November 12, 2006, the Direct Loan Electronic MPN Web site will be unavailable for an extended period of time from 2:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. (ET). Individuals 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.

COD apologizes for any inconvenience this outage may cause. If you have any questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

2006 Las Vegas Federal Student Aid Conference (10/30/06)
As a reminder, the second 2006 Federal Student Aid Conference will be held November 28, 2006 through December 1, 2006 in Las Vegas, Nevada. This event was formerly known as the Electronic Access Conference (EAC). The registration deadline for the Las Vegas conference is November 11, 2006. This year's agenda will feature a Direct Loan Track with a series of sessions focused on Direct Loan topics. Detailed information about this Federal Student Aid conference is available in a Dear Colleague Letter and on Federal Student Aid's conference Web site.

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. (10/03/05)

COD Issues

Some GAPS Transactions For ACG, National SMART Grant, Pell Grant, And Direct Loan Programs Inaccurately Or Not Reflected In COD System [11/03/06 (11/07/06)]
COD has discovered that some Grant Administration and Payment System (GAPS) transactions performed by schools since September 29, 2006 are not accurately reflected in the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System. The transactions affect multiple programs—Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG), National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant), Federal Pell Grant (Pell Grant), and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan)—and multiple award years. In some cases, GAPS refund, return, drawdown, and drawdown adjustment transaction amounts have been doubled in the COD System. In other cases, GAPS transactions are not yet reflected in the COD System.

COD has identified the issues that sporadically caused the reflection of inaccurate GAPS transactions in the COD System and is working to correct the inaccurate data in the COD System as expeditiously as possible. COD will keep schools informed of our work via the "COD Processing Update" and messages on the COD Web site.

In the meantime, an affected school can refer to the GAPS Activity Report on the GAPS e-Payments Web site for an accurate reflection of all GAPS transactions it has performed since September 29, 2006. If the school has any questions or concerns, it can contact the COD School Relations Center by phone or e-mail. In addition, until the inaccurate data in the COD System has been corrected, COD will not include the Unsubstantiated Cash section in COD School Monitoring e-mails sent to the affected school.

Note to Direct Loan Schools: If this issue has affected a Direct Loan school, its October 2006 month-end School Account Statement (SAS) will also be impacted.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for the inconvenience caused by this issue and assures schools that it is working to correct the inaccurate data in the COD System as expeditiously as possible.

An Electronic Announcement with this same information is posted on the IFAP Web site.

ACG, National SMART Grant, and Pell Grant Programs

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- Pell Year-to-Date (YTD) Records— The YTD Record can be used to assist a school with its year-end and ongoing reconciliation processes. Schools also use the YTD Record for the purpose of rebuilding a complete student record or Pell Grant database.
  - For rebuilds for the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 Award Year, the school can submit the data request via the COD Web site or batch.
  - For rebuilds for the 2004-2005 and earlier award years, the school must contact the COD School Relations Center by e-mail to CODSupport@acs-inc.com. The school should include "Pell YTD" in the subject line. If a school is unable to e-mail its request, it can contact the COD School Relations Center by phone. [10/03/05 (Updated 10/27/05)]

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