



December 10, 2010

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

Impact on COD Processing December 12, 2010 (12/07/10)

Federal Student Aid is planning several system maintenance activities on December 12, 2010. 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. These activities will result in outages of certain COD System functionality for a period of time.

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

Routine COD System Maintenance

On *Sunday December 12, 2010*, we will perform system maintenance on the COD System. The impact to COD users is outlined below.

- Users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the [COD Web site](#) between 1:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET).
- An individual will not be able to complete online Direct Loan Entrance Counseling, complete a new Master Promissory Note (MPN) electronically, complete a Direct PLUS Loan Request electronically, or endorse a Direct PLUS Loan electronically via the [StudentLoans.gov Web site](#) between 1:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET).
- An individual will not be able to complete TEACH Grant Initial and Subsequent Counseling, complete a new TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve (ATS), or retrieve an existing ATS via the [TEACH Grant Web site](#) between 1:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET).
- Between 3:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. (ET), batches submitted by schools via the SAIG will be held or schools will receive an error message informing them that the SAIG is unavailable and that the data must be transmitted at a later time.

Contact Information

Federal Student Aid appreciates your patience and understanding as it completes this important activity. If you have any questions about the COD System, the StudentLoans.gov Web site, or the TEACH Grant 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.

RESOLVED-School and Third Party Users Unable to View COD Web site Pages [12/08/10 (Updated 12/09/10)]

Earlier this week, Federal Student Aid identified an issue where some school and third-party users were unable to view information within the COD Web site. Federal Student Aid implemented a fix for this issue on December 8, 2010 and users can now view the appropriate information via the COD Web site.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for the inconvenience this issue caused schools.

RESOLVED-Direct PLUS Loan Credit Check Processing Issue on December 6-7, 2010 [12/07/10 (Updated 12/08/10)]

Earlier this week, Federal Student Aid identified an issue with Direct PLUS Loan credit check processing and schools were not able to complete a credit check via the COD Web site.

Federal Student Aid implemented a fix for this issue on December 7, 2010. Schools can now complete credit checks via the COD Web site.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for the inconvenience this issue caused schools and appreciates your patience as it worked to resolve the issue.

POSTPONED-G5 Phase 3 Implementation (12/07/10)

In a [December 6, 2010 Electronic Announcement posted on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals \(IFAP\) Web site](#), Federal Student Aid informed the financial aid community that the G5 Phase 3 implementation has been postponed. Accordingly, COD System and loan consolidation processing will continue as normal.

A new date for the G5 Phase 3 implementation will be provided in a forthcoming Electronic Announcement.

Federal Student Aid apologizes for any inconvenience the postponement may have caused.

Dear Colleague Letter Posted – GEN-10-18 (12/07/10)

On December 2, 2010, the Department of Education (the Department) posted [Dear Colleague Letter GEN-10-18](#) on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. The Dear Colleague Letter provides institutions that participate in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program with guidance on Title IV, Higher Education Act (HEA) program requirements. More specifically, the guidance will assist institutions with the proper administration of various “cash management” requirements for maintaining, disbursing, and accounting for Direct Loan Program funds, as well as information on institutional discretion for adjusting a student’s cost of attendance to account for fluctuating currency exchange rates.

The guidance in this Dear Colleague Letter is intended to supplement, and, where necessary, clarify and correct, training previously provided to foreign schools in workshop sessions as part of their transition to the Direct Loan Program. For complete details, refer to [Dear Colleague Letter GEN-10-18](#).



Weekly Reminders



COD Computer-Based Training (12/10/10)

Federal Student Aid takes this opportunity to remind the community of the availability of the COD Computer-Based Training (CBT). The COD CBT includes enhancements that have been made to the COD System, the [COD Web site](#), and associated Web sites and software products through June 26, 2010.

The COD CBT consists of component simulations and CBTs. Each COD CBT component is explained below. The electronic files associated with each component, as well as information about downloading and navigating the COD CBT, are available on the Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site. Under the “Tools for Schools” section on the home page, click on [COD Computer-Based Training](#).

If you have questions or comments about the COD CBT, contact the COD School Relations Center at 800/474-7268 for Grants or 800/848-0978 for Direct Loans. You may also e-mail CODSupport@acs-inc.com. If you e-mail your question or comment, please include “COD CBT Question/Comment” in the subject line.



Grant Programs

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

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