

# Overview

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## Preface

The *Electronic Data Exchange (EDE) Technical Reference* is designed to meet the reference needs of programmers and data processing staff who want to incorporate electronic Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and correction functionality into their institutional systems. This technical reference includes information about record layouts, required edits, printing assistance, and reject messages that are applicable for electronic FAFSA records, Institutional Student Information Records (ISIRs), electronic corrections, and signature records

The information in this technical reference can assist you in developing your own software or creating bridges between your own mainframe software systems and the EDEExpress for Windows PC software. We also explain how you can create bridges between your systems and selected Web site functionality provided by Federal Student Aid for sending and receiving FAFSA data.

The remainder of this section provides the following:

- An overview of the EDEExpress and EDconnect software products, which you can use in combination with (or in place of) institutional systems you develop to exchange information with Federal Student Aid's data processors
- A description of Central Processing System (CPS) input and output data files
- An overview of new and modified items in the 2013-2014 version of the *EDE Technical Reference*

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## Software Products

To facilitate electronic data exchange, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) provides three software products free of charge to EDE participants: EDEExpress for Windows, EDconnect and TDClient which can be found on the Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Download (FSAdownload) Web site located at [fsadownload.ed.gov](http://fsadownload.ed.gov).

### EDEExpress for Windows

EDEExpress is a financial aid management software package provided to Title IV financial aid administrators (FAAs) by ED. With EDEExpress, you can manage Title IV student financial aid application data, package awards, and exchange origination and disbursement data with the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) System for Direct Loans, Pell Grants, and the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program.

FAFSA and ISIR correction entry in EDEExpress uses embedded browser technology to provide an interface with the FAA Access to CPS Online Web site ([faaaccess.ed.gov](http://faaaccess.ed.gov)). You submit the data through the Web interface, and processed results are returned to your Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox, also known as a destination point, which you can then import into EDEExpress.

Using this technical reference, you can create files of FAFSA data in the same format that the FAA Access to CPS Online interface uses to send data to the CPS. Some schools and agencies choose to send the data using EDE and import resulting ISIR data into EDEExpress for storage purposes and to use EDEExpress data management tools and report functionality.

To enroll for access to the FAA Access to CPS Online Web site, go to the SAIG Enrollment Web site at [fsawebenroll.ed.gov](http://fsawebenroll.ed.gov).

### EDconnect

EDconnect is a Windows-based file transfer protocol (FTP) program that enables users to send and receive Federal Student Aid information electronically. Users collect data on their PCs or computer systems and transmit the collected data in batches over the SAIG using EDconnect. The appropriate Title IV Application System receives the data, processes the data, performs any required database cross-referencing, and returns the processed data to the user's SAIG mailbox, where it can be downloaded to the user's PC or system with EDconnect.

## **TDClient**

TransactionDelivery Client Software (TDClient) is the software used to send and receive File Transfer Protocol (FTP) data transmissions securely over the Internet using SSL 3.0 and the Diffie-Hellman Dynamic Key Exchange algorithm. Compression software is contained within TDClient, so separate steps are not needed in your send and receive scripts. TDClient is supported under several mainframe and mid-range operating systems. A list of supported operating systems can be found in the [SAIG Host Communication Guide](#) on [fsadownload.ed.gov](http://fsadownload.ed.gov).

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# EDE Input and Output Files

## Input Data Files

Input data files are files that you create in your own system to submit your student FAFSA and FAFSA correction data. To be processed, these data files must match the record layouts included in the Record Layouts section of this technical reference.

### Electronic FAFSA

After a student has completed and signed his or her FAFSA, a school's authorized FAA can submit it electronically by entering the data on the FAA Access to CPS Online Web site or by transmitting it to the CPS in a formatted ASCII file. The CPS transmits processed FAFSA records back to the school's mailbox as ISIRs in the IDAP14OP message class. A message class is a group of records of the same type.

The Record Layouts section of this technical reference contains the FAFSA Application Export Record Layout (EAPS14IN). Reject codes are found in the Processing Codes section. Procedures for handling rejected FAFSAs are located later in this section and in the EDE Processing section. The Printing section includes details on printing ISIRs.

### Electronic Corrections

Schools can submit corrections to FAFSA data electronically by entering the data on the FAA Access to CPS Online Web site or by transmitting it to the CPS in a formatted ASCII file format.

You can find the Correction Record Layout in the Record Layouts section of this technical reference. You submit electronic corrections in the CORR14IN message class. Valid field content specifications for the fields that you can correct are found in the Processing Codes section.

Information about adding your Federal School Code to receive electronic data, making signature corrections, and using the Correction Record Layout is located in the EDE Processing section.

## Output Data Files

Output data files are the files you receive as a result of FAFSA or FAFSA correction data you submitted. You either receive a processed ISIR data file or a record level reject data file. The ISIR file contains student records that met the layout specifications expected by the CPS and defined in the Record Layouts section. Record level reject error files include student records that could not be processed because the format or the data in the file did not match the specifications.

## **Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR)**

The CPS generates and sends an ISIR to each school listed on the student's FAFSA, in response to the following input:

- Electronic FAFSAs or corrections submitted by your school using EDE or FAA Access to CPS Online
- Electronic FAFSAs or corrections submitted by another school using EDE or FAA Access to CPS Online
- Web FAFSAs or corrections submitted using FAFSA on the Web, Spanish FAFSA on the Web, Corrections on the Web, or Spanish Corrections on the Web
- Paper FAFSAs or corrections to a Student Aid Report (SAR)
- Postscreening transactions from the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) or the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- System-generated transactions created by the CPS to provide updated data, such as revised match information from the Department of Defense (DOD) Match
- Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) corrections as a result of a student correction request or for issues such as a data entry error
- FAFSA data entered by FSAIC through the FAFSA on the phone application process

Each school receives one ISIR for every student who lists that school on the FAFSA. Servicers receive only one ISIR per destination point. The CPS also sends ISIRs to state agencies that elect to receive ISIRs for legal residents and for students indicating a school in that state.

The Record Layouts section of this technical reference provides the ISIR Record Description/Data Dictionary record layout. The Processing Codes section includes information on reject codes, the appropriate action to take, and the comment codes associated with the reject. Specifications for printing the ISIR are in the Printing section.

## Handling Record Level Rejected Records

If the specifications in this technical reference are not followed on a particular record, an EDE Record Level Error Report File is transmitted to you and can be printed as an error report. The error layout is in the Record Layouts section.

The EDE Record Level Error Report Import Record Layout contains the student's Social Security Number (SSN), name ID, transaction number, last name, first name, the Federal School Code, the CPS Correction # (number) in error, an edit code, an error code, and a text explanation for the reason the record was rejected. Each field in error is reported in this file. If the record was rejected due to an invalid value, the CPS sends the actual value of the data received from the school. When a record has more than one field in error, the student's SSN is listed more than once in the EDE Record Level Error Report File. See the Processing Codes section for additional details about rejects.

The following is a list of message classes for reporting errors:

CORE14OP	Electronic Correction Errors
EAPR14OP	Electronic Application Errors
SIGA14OP	Signature Record Errors

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# What's New and Changed in the *EDE Technical Reference* for 2013-2014

Listed below are the changes to the *EDE Technical Reference*. For a complete listing of changes to the Central Processing System, including changes to database matches and system edits, refer to the *2013-2014 Summary of Changes for the Application Processing System* guide. You can find this guide, available later this fall, on the U.S. Department of Education's Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site located at [ifap.ed.gov](http://ifap.ed.gov), as well as the Federal Student Aid Download (FSAdownload) Web site located at [fsadownload.ed.gov](http://fsadownload.ed.gov).

We revised the *EDE Technical Reference* for the annual rollover changes that include adding, removing, renaming, renumbering, and updating the fields' start and end positions and valid content based on changes to the ISIR.

## Overview Changes

We revised the What's New and Changed in the *EDE Technical Reference* for 2013-2014 section to describe changes to the document.

## EDE Processing Changes

We revised this section to include annual rollover changes.

## Record Layout Changes

Each record layout includes a column called "Changes," which describes changes to that field. Below, we describe changes specific to the ISIR Record Layout only. See the Record Layouts section of the *EDE Technical Reference* for changes to other record layouts. We do not describe changes that are a result of the annual rollover process.

## ISIR Record Description/Data Dictionary

The ISIR contains all information reported on the FAFSA, as well as key processing results and NSLDS financial aid history information. Changes have been made to the 2013-2014 ISIR based on data element changes on the FAFSA, at the CPS, and in NSLDS. We summarize these changes below with the ISIR field numbers enclosed in parentheses. We provide the ISIR field numbers, which are different than the FAFSA question numbers, because not all ISIR fields have corresponding FAFSA question numbers. For example, no corresponding FAFSA question numbers for the NSLDS data elements are included in the ISIR, because this data is not collected on the FAFSA.

Refer to the Processing Codes section for the 2013-2014 ISIR Cross-Reference Table, which provides a comparison of the 2013-2014 ISIR field number, start and end positions, and field values with the respective 2012-2013 ISIR field data.

## Global Changes

We made annual rollover changes which include adding, removing, renaming, and updating the fields and valid content based on changes to the FAFSA.

Throughout the layout, we revised the field lengths of several Filler fields. Beginning with Filler (66), the start and end positions of the subsequent ISIR fields are revised. Beginning with NSLDS Pell Lifetime Limit Flag (434), all subsequent ISIR field numbers are revised. The record layout increased from 4250 bytes to 4500 bytes.

## FAFSA Changes

We modified the following ISIR field because of changes that were made to the FAFSA (the numbers in parentheses are the ISIR field numbers not the FAFSA question numbers):

- **Revised Date of Birth Valid Content (12)** – This question was revised to remove the hard-coded century “19” to allow a date of birth in the year 2000.

## CPS Data Element Changes

We made the following changes to ISIR fields that are not included on the FAFSA or sent by NSLDS but are included on the ISIR (the numbers in parentheses are the ISIR field numbers):

- **IRS Data Field Flags** – We added four new fields that are used to determine if the applicant transferred a data field from the IRS and if that data was changed. The new fields are:
  - IRS Student Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Data Field Flag (179)
  - IRS Student Federal Income Tax (FIT) Data Field Flag (180)
  - IRS Parent AGI Data Field Flag (181)
  - IRS Parent FIT Data Field Flag (182)

The valid values for these fields are:

0 = IRS data not transferred (default value)

1 = IRS data was transferred and not changed by user

2 = IRS data was transferred and changed by user to a different value

3 = IRS Request flag is equal to 02, 03, or 04, and field has been corrected on this transaction

4 = IRS Request flag is equal to 02, 03, or 04, and field has been corrected on a previous transaction

Blank

- **NSLDS Postscreening Reason Code (350)** – We added a new postscreening reason code of 24 to identify unusual enrollment history status changes.

- **Verification Tracking Flag (370)** – We changed this field from For Federal Student Aid use only to include values that are used to determine the type of verification you need to perform for a student. Federal Student Aid provided verification guidance in *Dear Colleague Letter* GEN-12-11; see the [July 17, 2012 Dear Colleague Letter](#) posted on the IFAP Web site for more information. The valid values for this field are:

V1 = Standard Verification Group

V2 = Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Verification Group

V3 = Child Support Paid Verification Group

V4 = Custom Verification Group

V5 = Aggregate Verification Group

Blank = None

- **NSLDS Data Element Changes**

We made the following changes to NSLDS fields that are sent by NSLDS and included on the ISIR (the numbers in parentheses are the ISIR field numbers):

- **Added NSLDS Pell Lifetime Limit Flag (438)** – This new flag identifies how close the applicant is to meeting the Pell Lifetime Limit. Valid values are:

C = Close to Pell limit

E = Met or Exceeded Pell limit

H = High Pell percent

N = No problem

Blank

- **Added NSLDS Pell Lifetime Eligibility Used (439)** – This new field provides a percentage of the Pell eligibility used. This is a 7-byte numeric field in the following format: 99v99999 where “v” is an implied decimal and is not included in the output. For example, the ISIR output for 01.00000 or 0100.000% would be 0100000 with an implied decimal.

- **Added NSLDS Unusual Enrollment History Status Flag (440)** – This new flag is the result of new edits performed by NSLDS to identify records with unusual enrollment history. Federal Student Aid will provide guidance in a forthcoming electronic announcement to be posted on the IFAP Web site. The valid values for this field are:

1 = For Federal Student Aid use only

2 = Possible enrollment pattern problem, school may need to resolve

3 = Questionable enrollment pattern, school must resolve

N = Enrollment pattern not unusual, no school action required

Blank = Record not sent for match

## Processing Codes Changes

### 2013-2014 ISIR Cross-Reference

We updated the cross-reference to compare the 2012-2013 ISIR with the changes to the 2013-2014 ISIR record layout.

### Table of Reject Codes and How to Respond to Each Code

- We incremented the date of birth end-year references in Rejects A and B, which alert FAAs that the date of birth entered may be in error, because the student is older than most students (greater than 75) or younger than most students (less than 16) pursuing a postsecondary education:
  - **Reject A** – Date of birth year equals 1900 through 1938.
  - **Reject B** – Independent student and date of birth is on or after September 01, 1997, and the SSA match for the student is not equal to “4” (successful match).

### Transaction Reject Error Messages

- We updated the year indicator in error 13 to “4” for 2013-2014.

### Assumption Overrides

- We updated the tax year in Assumption Overrides 5 and 6.

### Field Name and Position Cross-References

- We updated the ISIR Cross-Reference Table to reflect 2013-2014 field changes.

### Correction Data Entry Specifications

We updated the data entry specifications to reflect 2013-2014 field changes.

- Updated the Student’s Date of Birth end range to 20001231.

### Message Class Changes

- We updated the process year in all message classes from “13” to “14” and updated record lengths.

### Comment Codes

- The Comment Codes section contains no major changes of note. For more information, see the *Summary of Changes for the Application Processing System Guide*, which describes the changes to the comment codes and text or review the *SAR Comment Codes and Text* guide Changes column. Both guides will be available on the IFAP Web site later this fall.

## Printing Changes

The Printing section describes the ISIR printed from EDEExpress. We have updated the Fields Not Printed on the ISIR table and the Sample ISIR.

**Note:** You are not required to print ISIRs. If you choose to print ISIRs, you can print them from your own system or EDEExpress. You are not required to print the ISIR output document exactly as the EDEExpress software prints it. For more information on printing ISIRs, refer to the Printing section in this technical reference.

Changes have been made to the 2013-2014 ISIR printed from EDEExpress based on data element changes on the FAFSA, at the CPS, and at the NSLDS. Along with annual rollover changes, the major changes to the printed ISIR are summarized below:

- **Renamed “Food Stamp Benefits” label** – The new label for Food Stamp Benefits is SNAP Benefits.
- **Three New Fields** – The printed ISIR includes the following new fields included in the ISIR record from the Central Processing System (CPS):
  - NSLDS Pell Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU %)
  - NSLDS Pell Lifetime Limit Flag (Lifetime Limit Flag)
  - NSLDS Unusual Enrollment History Flag (Unusual Enrollment History)
- **Updated Certification Statement** – The first sentence in the second paragraph of the certification statement on the signature page was updated to “If you are the parent or the student, by signing this application you certify that all of the information you provided is true and complete to the best of your knowledge and you agree, if asked, to provide information that will verify the accuracy of your completed form.”

## ***EDE Technical Reference Changes Since the Draft Release in July 2012***

The following record layouts are revised in the Records Layout section:

- **ISIR Record Description/Data Dictionary**

- **Updated NSLDS Postscreening Reason Code (350)** – We revised the meaning of the new postscreening reason code from “Enrollment pattern status change” to “Unusual enrollment history status change.”
- **Updated “NSLDS Enrollment Pattern Flag” (440)** – We revised the field name to “NSLDS Unusual Enrollment History Flag” and revised the valid content as follows:

**Original:**

1 = Suspect Enrollment Pattern  
2 = Suspect Enrollment Pattern  
3 = Suspect Enrollment Pattern  
N = No problem  
Blank = No problem

**Revised:**

1 = For Federal Student Aid use only  
2 = Possible enrollment pattern problem, school may need to resolve  
3 = Questionable enrollment pattern, school must resolve  
N = Enrollment pattern not unusual, no school action required  
Blank = Record not sent for match

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# Getting Help

## CPS/SAIG Technical Support

If you have questions regarding this technical reference, contact CPS/SAIG Technical Support. Federal Student Aid maintains this call center to address questions about CPS processing, EDExpress and EDconnect software, SAIG enrollment, and data transmissions, and to collect system enhancement suggestions.

800/330-5947; 319/665-4762; (TDD/TTY 800/511-5806)

Fax: 319/665-7662

Representatives are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. eastern time (ET).

E-mail: [CPSSAIG@ed.gov](mailto:CPSSAIG@ed.gov)

## FSATECH

FSATECH is an e-mail listserv for technical questions about Federal Student Aid systems, software, and mainframe products.

For more information on subscribing to FSATECH, go to [ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/services/fsatechsubscribe.html](http://ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/services/fsatechsubscribe.html).