

# 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 2014-2015 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 the FSAdownload Web site.

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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 IDAP15OP 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 (EAPS15IN). 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 CORR15IN 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:

CORE15OP	Electronic Correction Errors
EAPR15OP	Electronic Application Errors
SIGA15OP	Signature Record Errors

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# What's New and Changed in the *EDE Technical Reference* for 2014-2015

Listed below are the changes to the *EDE Technical Reference*. For a complete listing of changes to the Central Processing System (CPS), including changes to database matches and system edits, refer to the *2014-2015 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.

We revised the *EDE Technical Reference* for the annual rollover changes that include year references, 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 2014-2015 section to describe changes to the document.

## EDE Processing Changes

We revised this section to include annual rollover changes, field number changes, and updated the Signed Numeric Fields Table based on ISIR field name and length 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 2014-2015 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 2014-2015 ISIR Cross-Reference Table, which provides a comparison of the 2014-2015 ISIR field number, start and end positions, and field values with the respective 2013-2014 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 the new field, Student's Tax Return Filing Status (41), the field number and start and end positions of the subsequent ISIR fields are revised. The record layout increased from 4500 bytes to 4700 bytes.

## FAFSA Changes

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

- **Revised Field Labels** – We revised references to “Father” and “Mother” in field names to be gender-neutral. The affected fields are the Highest Grade Level Completed (27 and 28), Social Security Number (84 and 88), Last Name (85 and 89), First Name Initial (86 and 90), Date of Birth (87 and 91), and Income Earned from Work (111 and 112).
- **Added Tax Return Filing Status Questions** – We added new ISIR fields to hold the values for the Student's Tax Return Filing Status (41) and the Parents' Tax Return Filing Status (105). The valid values for these fields are:
  - 1 = Single
  - 2 = Married – filed joint return
  - 3 = Married – filed separate return
  - 4 = Head of household
  - 5 = Qualifying widow(er)
  - 6 = Don't know
  - Blank
- **Increased Financial Field Lengths** – We increased the number of digits for financial fields on the FAFSA, such as Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), Taxes Paid, Income Earned from Work, and asset questions. Refer to the Changes column in the ISIR Record Layout in the Record Layouts section or the Processing Codes section for the 2014-2015 ISIR Cross-Reference Table. The layout and the table identify all changes to the ISIR fields.
- **Revised Values for Parents' Marital Status** – We revised the values for the Parents' Marital Status question. We changed the meaning of **2** from “Single” to “Never Married” and added a new value of **5** for “Unmarried and both parents living together.”

## 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):

- **Increased Financial Field Lengths** – We increased the number of digits for financial fields on the FAFSA, and, as a result, we needed to accommodate increased lengths in the values that the CPS assumes and calculates and that are printed on the ISIR. Examples of increased field lengths are:
  - CPS assumed values, such as AGI, Taxes Paid, and Income Earned from Work
  - CPS calculated values, such as Additional Financial Information Total Calculated by CPS and Untaxed Income Total Calculated by CPS, and intermediate EFC calculated values, such as Total Income, Available Income, and Adjusted Available Income
  - EFC values, including primary EFCs, secondary EFCs, and alternate EFCs
- **Added Transaction Data Source/Type Code (174)** – We added a new value, **5L**, to identify records that were released from the Identity hold.
- **Added IRS Display Flags** – We added two new fields, Student IRS Display Flag (185) and Parent IRS Display Flag (186), to inform schools whether the student or parent was presented with the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, and, if not, the reason the IRS Data Retrieval Tool was not displayed. See the ISIR Record Layout in the Record Layouts section for the valid content.
- **Added NSLDS Postscreening Reason Code (354)** – We added a new postscreening reason code of **25** to identify a status change for the Subsidized Usage Limit Applies Flag.
- **Revised Verification Tracking Flag (374)** – We changed the valid values for the Verification Tracking Flag. Federal Student Aid provided 2014-2015 verification guidance in [Dear Colleague Letter GEN-13-16](#) and the [Federal Register Notice](#) published June 13, 2013 on the IFAP Web site.
  - Beginning in 2014-2015, we are no longer assigning records to Verification Tracking Group **V2** (SNAP-Food Stamps). The value of **V2** is now reserved for Federal Student Aid use only.
  - We added a Verification Tracking Group value, **V6**, for the Household Resources Verification Group.

## NSLDS Data Element Changes

The Subsidized Usage Limit Applies Flag and the Subsidized Loan Eligibility Used field have been added to the NSLDS section of the ISIR. The Subsidized Usage Limit Applies Flag indicates which students are subject to the new regulations limiting the maximum period of time (measured in academic years) that a student can receive Direct Subsidized Loans. The Subsidized Loan Eligibility Used field provides the total time during which the student has received Direct Subsidized Loans as of the date of the ISIR. For more information, see the June 20, 2013 [150% Direct Subsidized Loan Limit: Electronic Announcement #2](#).

- **NSLDS Subsidized Usage Limit Applies Flag (444)** – This flag identifies applicant records that are being tracked based on the new regulation limiting the maximum period of time (measured in academic years) that a student can receive Direct Subsidized Loans to 150% of the published program length of the program in which the applicant is currently enrolled. Values for this flag are **Y** or **N**.
- **NSLDS Subsidized Loan Eligibility Used Field (445)** – This field provides the total time during which the student has received Direct Subsidized Loans as of the date of the ISIR. The total does not include the total time during which the student has received Direct Subsidized Loans while enrolled in a non-credential teacher certification program. In general, applicants may not receive Direct Subsidized Loans for more than 150% of the published length of the program in which they are currently enrolled. This field contains numeric six-digit values, 000v000 to 999v999, where “v” is an implied decimal and is excluded from the output.

## Processing Codes Changes

### 2014-2015 ISIR Cross-Reference

We updated the cross-reference to compare the 2013-2014 ISIR with the changes to the 2014-2015 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 1939
  - **Reject B** – Independent student and date of birth is on or after September 01, 1998, and the SSA match for the student is not equal to “4” (successful match)
- We made revisions to the following reject codes because of gender-neutral changes to field names, CPS edits, and comments:
  - Rejects E, F, J, K, S, T, 6, 7, and 9

- We made revisions to the following reject codes because of gender-neutral label changes:
  - Rejects 11 and 20
- We added two new reject codes:
  - **Reject 23** – An EFC cannot be calculated, because the Department of Education has placed an eligibility “hold” on the student
  - **Reject 24** – The NSLDS Fraud Loan Flag is set, indicating the student has a loan that was obtained fraudulently

### **Transaction Reject Error Messages**

- We updated the year indicator in error 13 to “5” for 2014-2015.

### **Assumption Overrides**

- We updated the tax year in Assumption Overrides 5 and 6.
- We revised references from “Father” and “Mother” to “Parent 1” and “Parent 2” to make them gender-neutral for Assumption Overrides 2 and 5.

### **Field Name and Position Cross-References**

- We updated the ISIR Cross-Reference Table to reflect 2014-2015 field changes.

### **NSLDS Loan Program Codes**

- We added two new loan program codes, D0 and D9.

### **Correction Data Entry Specifications**

We updated the data entry specifications to reflect 2014-2015 field changes, including field names, field lengths, and valid content. Beginning with CPS Corr #37, the correction numbers have been revised because of the addition of new questions:

- We added CPS Corr # 037 for Student’s Tax Return Filing Status question
- We added CPS Corr # 099 for Parents’ Tax Return Filing Status question

### **Message Class Changes**

- We updated the process year in all message classes from “14” to “15” and updated record lengths.

### **Comment Codes**

- The Comment Codes section contains no significant changes. 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 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 2014-2015 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:

- **Gender-Neutral Labels** – Father and Mother labels were revised to be gender-neutral, Parent 1 and Parent 2.
- **Six New Fields** – The printed ISIR includes the following new fields:
  - Student’s Tax Filing Status
  - Parents’ Tax Filing Status
  - Student IRS Display Flag
  - Parent IRS Display Flag
  - Subsidized Usage Limit Applies Flag
  - Subsidized Loan Eligibility Used field
- **Increased Financial Field Lengths** – We increased the number of digits for financial fields on the FAFSA, and, as a result, we needed to accommodate increased lengths in the values that the CPS assumes and calculates and that are printed on the ISIR.

## ***EDE Technical Reference Changes Since the Draft Release in July 2013***

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

### **ISIR Record Description/Data Dictionary**

- **Updated “High School Name” (31) Valid Content** – We added a new value, + (plus), to the valid content.
- **Updated “Student’s Tax Return Filing Status” (41) and “Parents’ Tax Return Filing Status” (105)** – We revised the valid content order and numbering as follows:

#### **Original:**

- 1 = Single
- 2 = Head of household
- 3 = Married – filed joint return
- 4 = Married – filed separate return
- 6 = Qualifying widow(er)
- 7 = Don’t know

#### **Revised:**

- 1 = Single
- 2 = Married – filed joint return
- 3 = Married – filed separate return
- 4 = Head of household
- 5 = Qualifying widow(er)
- 6 = Don’t know

- **Updated “Student IRS Display Flag” (185) Description for Value A** – We revised the definition to remove “Dependent,” because the value of A is also used for independent students. It now says, “A = Student skipped the income and asset questions – IRS DRT was not displayed.”
- **Updated or Added value for Blank** – We revised several match flags to add a value of Blank or revise the description for Blank. The revised ISIR fields are as follows:
  - DHS Match Flag (348)
  - NSLDS Match Flag (353)
  - Parent 1 SSN Match Flag (356)
  - Parent 2 SSN Match Flag (358)
  - Selective Service Match Flag (359)
  - Selective Service Registration Flag (360)
  - SSA Citizenship Flag (361)
  - SSN Match Flag (363)
  - VA Match Flag (364)

## FAFSA Application Export Record Layout

- **Updated “High School Name” (28) Valid Content** – We added a new value, + (plus), to the valid content.
- **Updated “Student’s Tax Return Filing Status” (39) and “Parents’ Tax Return Filing Status” (103)** – We incorrectly listed the values for Qualifying widow(er) and Don’t know options. We revised the valid content as follows:

### Original:

- 1 = Single
- 2 = Head of household
- 3 = Married – filed joint return
- 4 = Married – filed separate return
- 6 = Qualifying widow(er)
- 7 = Don’t know

### Revised:

- 1 = Single
- 2 = Married – filed joint return
- 3 = Married – filed separate return
- 4 = Head of household
- 5 = Qualifying widow(er)
- 6 = Don’t know

## Correction Export Record Layout

- **Updated “High School Name” (31) Valid Content** – We added a new value, + (plus), to the valid content.

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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).