

Overview

Table of Contents

Preface	1-2
Software Products	1-3
EDExpress for Windows	1-3
EDconnect.....	1-3
TDClient	1-4
EDE Input and Output Files.....	1-5
Input Data Files	1-5
Output Data Files.....	1-5
What's New and Changed in the <i>EDE Technical Reference</i> for 2011-2012.....	1-8
Overview Changes	1-8
EDE Processing Changes.....	1-8
Record Layout Changes.....	1-9
Processing Codes Changes	1-12
Printing Changes	1-13
<i>EDE Technical Reference</i> Changes Since the Draft Release in August 2010.....	1-14
Getting Help.....	1-16
CPS/SAIG Technical Support.....	1-16
FSATECH.....	1-16

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 2011-2012 version of the *EDE Technical Reference*

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 and EDconnect, which can be found on the Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Download (FSAdownload) Web site located at fsadownload.ed.gov and TDClient which you can request by contacting CPS/SAIG Technical Support at 800/330-5947 or CPSSAIG@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). You submit the data through the Web interface and processed results are returned to your Student Aid Internet Gateway (SAIG) mailbox 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 fsaweбенroll.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.

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 destination point as ISIRs in the IDAP12OP message class.

The Record Layouts section of this technical reference contains the FAFSA Application Export Record Layout (EAPS12IN). 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 will submit electronic corrections in the CORR12IN 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 will 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)
- Post-screening 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:

CORE12OP	Electronic Correction Errors
EAPR12OP	Electronic Application Errors
SIGA12OP	Signature Record Errors

What's New and Changed in the *EDE Technical Reference* for 2011-2012

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 *2011-2012 Summary of Changes for the Application Processing System* guide. You can find this guide on the U.S. Department of Education's Information for Financial Aid Professionals (IFAP) Web site located at ifap.ed.gov, as well as the Federal Student Aid Download (FSAdownload) Web site located at fsadownload.ed.gov.

We have 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.

The Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) and National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent Grant (National SMART Grant) programs do not have funding after 2010-2011 and as a result, we are removing all FAFSA questions, edits, and SAR/ISIR comments from all of Federal Student Aid's systems including paper and Web applications and EDEExpress software, as well as all data outputs. Processing for and references to these grants shall be removed from all systems as appropriate. You may find some documentation that still references these grants, for instance comment codes, but because the functionality has been removed from the systems, it should never be accessed.

ACG and National SMART Grant data continues to be collected by NSLDS for current grant payments and overpayments and NSLDS will report the data, so you will continue to see ACG and SMART Grant information in the ISIR record layout and in the NSLDS section of the SAR and ISIR. NSLDS information reported will be for awards in 2010-2011 and earlier.

Overview Changes

We revised the What's New and Changed in the *EDE Technical Reference* for 2011-2012 to describe changes to the document.

EDE Processing Changes

We updated the steps for submitting corrections to include the new High School Code field in the Correction Record Layout. Step 10 in "Creating a Correction Record" and step 11 in "Adding Your Federal School Code to Receive Electronic Data" are new.

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 2011-2012 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, there are no corresponding FAFSA question numbers for the NSLDS data elements included in the ISIR because this data is not collected on the FAFSA.

Refer to the Processing Codes section for the 2011-2012 ISIR Cross-Reference Table, which provides a comparison of the 2011-2012 ISIR field number, start and end positions, and field values with the respective 2010-2011 ISIR field data.

Global Change

Along with annual rollover changes that include adding, removing, renaming, and updating the fields and valid content based on changes to the FAFSA, we are implementing the following major change to the ISIR for 2011-2012:

- **Record Length Increased** – The ISIR Record Layout and the Request Title record length increased by 100 bytes, from 4150 bytes to 4250 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):

- **Added High School Information (30-32)** – Due to regulatory changes, the FAFSA now asks for the name, city, and state of the student’s high school if the applicant answers that he or she received a high school diploma in the High School Completion status question (FAFSA question 26). We do not request the high school information from applicants who answer that they will have a General Education Development (GED) certificate, were home-schooled, or none of the choices listed.

- **Revised Type of Aid Interested in Receiving Question (37)** – We revised the question to ask “Are you interested in receiving work-study?”. Because the question changed, we have revised the response to the question as well:
 1 = Yes
 2 = No
 3 = Don’t know
 Blank
- **Deleted Enrollment Status and Completing Teacher Coursework Questions** – Due to initiatives to simplify the FAFSA, we have removed these questions from the 2011-2012 FAFSA. We have deleted the Enrollment Status and Completing Teacher Coursework fields from our ISIR and FAFSA record layouts.

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):

- **Student IRS Request Flag (175) and Parents IRS Request Flag (176)** – The text for value 03 was modified to “IRS data for the student was transferred from IRS and at least one IRS data field was changed by the user before submission,” and we added a description to blank, “Not eligible for IRS Data Retrieval.” The values for 05 (TBD) and 06 (TBD) were deleted.
- **High School Code (33) and High School Flag (229)** – The name, city, and state the student provides on the FAFSA is compared with our list of high schools. We will check our database and provide the results in ISIR in field 33, High School Code which is 12 bytes in length.
 The valid values for this field are:

 Numbers 0 to 9

 Uppercase letters A to Z

 All 0’s = No results found

 All 8’s = Incomplete information provided (one or two of the name, city, and state fields are blank, but not all of the fields)

 All 9’s = More than one result found

 Blank = No high school information entered (name, city, and state)

We will put a “Y” in field 229, High School Flag, to identify students who did not provide high school information, provided information that was illegible (on paper transaction), or provided information that was not found in our high school database when the applicant meets each of the following criteria:

- Applicant responded that he or she received a high school diploma in FAFSA question 26, high school completion status. (ISIR field 29, HS Diploma or Equivalent, is equal to 1.)
- Applicant responded that he or she was a first year undergraduate in FAFSA question 29, what will be your grade level. (ISIR field 35, Grade Level in College, is equal to 0 or 1.)
- Applicant did not provide high school information (ISIR field 33, High School Code, is blank), or
Applicant provided high school information, but it was incomplete or did not match our database or multiple matches were made to our database. (ISIR field 33, High School Code, is equal to all zeros, eights, or nines.)

Note: The high school code is for Department of Education analytical purposes only. The High School Code field cannot be corrected; however, you can correct the high school name, city, and state. The CPS attempts to find the updated school information in the database and then updates the high school code and flag.

NSLDS Data Element Changes

NSLDS implemented the following change in the data sent to CPS (the numbers in parentheses are the ISIR field numbers):

- **Added New Overpayment Flag and Contact Information for the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Flag (378 and 379)** – NSLDS will send NSLDS Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Flag and contact information for students who have received an overpayment for the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant. These flags work like other overpayment flags and contact flags.

Correction Export Record Layout

We updated the Correction Export Record Layout to add a new field (positions 571 to 620) to correct the High School Name. The High School Name can be up to 50 bytes, so we created a new field to allow the user to enter up to 50 characters, much like the e-mail address correction fields.

Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) Data File Record Layout

We deleted the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) data file record layout. Because the ACG program was not funded for 2011-2012, we have removed this record layout from the *EDE Technical Reference*.

Processing Codes Changes

2011-2012 ISIR Cross-Reference

We updated the cross-reference to compare the 2010-2011 ISIR with the changes to the 2011-2012 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 1935.
 - **Reject B** – Independent student and date of birth is on or after September 01, 1995, and there is not a “good” SSA match for the student.

Transaction Reject Error Messages

- We updated the year indicator in error 13 to “2” for 2011-2012.

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 2011-2012 field changes.

State/Country/Jurisdiction Codes

- We revised the “***” note that identifies codes that are only valid for mailing state to specify that these codes are not valid for the High School state.

Correction Data Entry Specifications

- We updated the data entry specifications to reflect 2011-2012 field changes.

Message Class Changes

- We updated the process year in all message classes from “11” to “12,” revised record layout lengths.

- We deleted the IGAAXXOP and ED20xxOP message classes.
- We increased the length of the correction record message classes (CORR12IN, SIGS12IN, and TCOR12IN) to 680 bytes.

Comment Codes

- There are no major changes of note in the Comment Codes section. For more information, see the *Summary of Changes for the Application Processing System* Guide, which describes the changes to the comment codes and text.

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 2011-2012 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:

- **Added High School Information** – We added the High School Name, City, and State fields because of the addition of question 27 to the FAFSA. If the applicant’s high school information is found in the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) database high school list the CPS prints the high school name, city, and state on the SAR and ISIR. The High School Code also prints on the ISIR, but not on the SAR. See the Record Layout Changes section earlier in this section of the technical reference for more information on the High School Code.
- **Added High School Flag** – The new High School Flag results print with the other match flag information in the FAA Information section of the ISIR. A “Y” in this field means that the High School information provided by the applicant did not correspond to the information for schools on our High School list. See the Record Layout Changes section earlier in this section of the technical reference for more information on the High School Flag.
- **Added Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Information to NSLDS** – We added overpayment and contact information in the NSLDS section of the ISIR with the other overpayment information.

EDE Technical Reference Changes Since the Draft Release in August 2010

Record Layouts

ISIR Record Layout

We made the following changes to the ISIR Record Layout. We also updated the corresponding fields in the Cross Reference table.

- **Revised High School Name Field Justification and Valid Content** – We revised field 30 to be left justified and to include the following valid values in addition to the values previously listed:
 - . (Period)
 - ' (Apostrophe)
 - (Dash)
 - # (Number)
 - @ (At)
 - % (Percent)
 - & (Ampersand)
 - / (Slash)
 - , (Comma)
 - : (Colon)
 - = (Equal)
 - "" (Quotation marks)
 - () (Parenthesis)
- **Revised High School City Justification** – We revised field 31 to be left justified.
- **Revised High School Code Justification** – We revised field 33 to be left justified.
- **Revised Income Threshold in Automatic Zero EFC Field** – We revised field 221, Automatic Zero EFC to change the income threshold from \$30,000 to \$31,000.
- **Revised Verification Tracking Flag Valid Content** – We revised the valid content for field 360, Verification Tracking Flag to “For Federal Student Aid use only.” Alphanumeric values may be included for this field.
- **Added “Overpayment” to New Field Names** – We added “Overpayment” to the field names for fields 378 and 379. The new field names are:
 - NSLDS Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Overpayment Flag
 - NSLDS Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant Overpayment Contact

FAFSA Record Layout

- **Revised High School Name Field Justification and Valid Content** – We revised field 28 to be left justified and to include the following valid values:
 - . (Period)
 - ' (Apostrophe)
 - (Dash)
 - # (Number)
 - @ (At)
 - % (Percent)
 - & (Ampersand)
 - / (Slash)
 - , (Comma)
 - : (Colon)
 - = (Equal)
 - "" (Quotation marks)
 - () (Parenthesis)
- **Revised High School City Justification** – We revised field 29 to be left justified.
- **Changed High School Code to Filler** – We changed field 31, to Filler and changed the justification to left. A school cannot submit the High School code on the FAFSA.
- **Updated Transaction Receipt Date Valid Content** – We changed the valid field content end date for FAFSA field 170, Transaction Receipt date to 10120702.

Correction Export Record Layout

- **Added New Field** –We updated the Correction Export Record Layout to add a new field (positions 571 to 620) to correct the High School Name. The High School Name can be up to 50 bytes so we had to create a new field to allow the user to enter up to 50 characters, much like the e-mail address correction fields. As a result, all subsequent field numbers were incremented.

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

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.