



Common Origination and Disbursement COD Processing Update For Pell Grants

June 10, 2004

Pell Grants

COD News

Pell Verification Status Report And Data Request For Award Year 2004-2005 (06/10/04)

New for award year 2004-2005, the Verification Status report is designed to assist schools with early intervention for verification compliance. The report lists awards for students selected by the Central Processing System (CPS) for verification for which the school has reported an actual disbursement (DRI = true) but has *not* reported a verification status code of "V" or "S" to the COD System. This report will be pushed to schools' SAIG mailboxes monthly. In addition, schools can submit a data request for the new Verification Status report via the COD website or via batch for award year 2004-2005 and forward. **Please note that this report cannot be generated for award years prior to 2004-2005.**

Since actual disbursements for the 2004-2005 award year will not be accepted by the COD System until June 21, 2004, a data request made prior to actual disbursements being accepted by the COD System generates a report with no data. **As such, schools should not perform Verification Status data requests until after the COD System accepts actual 2004-2005 disbursements.**

As a reminder, an electronic announcement on the IFAP web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0422CODPGDataRequestsandPGReports.html> provides detailed instructions for performing a data request and retrieving a report. The Pell Grant data requests and reports announcement does not contain information about the Verification Status data request and report.

If you have any questions, contact the School Relations Center.

COD Schedule For Friday, June 11, 2004 (06/09/04)

President George W. Bush has issued an Executive Order to close the Federal government Friday, June 11, 2004 as a mark of respect for Ronald Reagan, the fortieth President of the United States. While our Federal government offices will be closed, the COD School Relations Center will remain open. During this period, the COD web site will remain operational. The COD System will accept and process data from schools and send back acknowledgements on Friday. However, requests for changes in funding levels and for funds will not be processed until Monday, June 14, 2004.

Further information regarding processing and customer service hours for COD and other FSA/ED call centers will be posted to the IFAP web site, www.ifap.ed.gov/ shortly.



Common Origination and Disbursement COD Processing Update For Pell Grants

COD System Maintenance Planned For Sunday, June 13, 2004 (06/08/04)

The COD System will undergo routine maintenance on Sunday, June 13, 2004 from midnight until 8 A.M. eastern time. During this period, users will not be able to submit or retrieve data via the COD web site. Additionally, batches submitted by schools will be held and not processed until after the COD System comes back up. COD expects that any batch submitted by a school early Sunday morning should be processed and acknowledged back to the school by noon on Sunday.

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

Delay In Administrative Cost Allowance For The 2003-2004 Award Year (05/26/04)

As COD previously informed schools, there is a delay in issuing the first Pell Grant Administrative Cost Allowance (ACA) payments for the 2003-2004 Award Year. As explained in the COD Processing Update item entitled "COD Financial Screens Incorrect On COD Web Site", the Total Unduplicated Recipients figure is incorrect. This issue impacts COD's ability to calculate accurate ACA payment amounts.

COD continues to work on resolving this issue. While significant progress has been made to date, there is more work that needs to be completed. As a result, COD will not be able to issue ACA payments in early June 2004 (as previously reported) but expects to do so by the end of June 2004. COD apologizes for any inconvenience this delay causes for schools and thanks schools for their patience.

Resolved Issues

Duplicate Drawdown Amounts In COD [04/28/04 (Updated 06/01/04)]

COD previously informed schools that there were duplicate records of drawdown amounts dated from the week of March 15, 2004 on the COD database. These amounts appeared on the COD web site's Cash Activity screen and on various summary screens and financial reports. This issue affected approximately 166 schools.

The COD development team determined that this issue was caused by an interface error between the Grant Administrative and Payment System (GAPS) and COD. The interface error has been resolved. The cleanup for the affected records was completed on May 28, 2004.

Current Issues

COD Edit 116 Not Working Correctly [01/06/04 (Updated 06/01/04)]

COD has found that COD Edit 116 (SSN, Date of Birth and/or Last Name have not been updated in the COD System) is not working properly. This edit is a warning that is returned when changes to the Student Identifier information are submitted and the reported CPS Transaction Number and Award Year combination is not greater than the combination that currently exists in COD.

Because this edit is not working correctly schools are unable to submit new 2003-2004 originations or make online changes when previous award year information is different for a



Common Origination and Disbursement COD Processing Update For Pell Grants

student in COD. COD is still testing the code fix for this issue and anticipates resolution by early summer 2004. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Issue Resolving COD Edit 025 [05/05/04 (Updated 05/28/04)]

Schools have reported to COD that they are experiencing an issue when attempting to correct a record that has rejected for COD Edit 025 (Duplicate Match On CPS). Records that reject for COD Edit 025 can only be corrected on the COD web site by selecting the correct CPS match from a list on the CPS Report Selection screen. Detailed instructions for resolving this edit via the COD web site are available on IFAP at:

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/cannouncements/0320UpdatedCODEdit025Proc.html/>.

However, in some instances the COD web site is returning only one match or none at all. This may prevent schools from correcting the records in COD as described above. The COD development team has completed the first phase of correcting this problem by migrating the code fix to correct Direct Loan records. Next, the code fix will be migrated to correct Pell records. COD will provide more information on when the code fix for Pell records will be migrated as soon as it becomes available.

Mixed Person Records In COD [03/02/04 (Updated 05/20/04)]

As you are aware, the COD System is based on the establishment of a person record and contains person records established as early as 1999-2000. COD has discovered that primarily due to inaccurate SSNs that have entered the COD System, approximately 300 records (out of approximately 14 million person records in the COD System) have mixed with other COD records. Since PLUS borrowers are not matched with CPS, the majority of the people affected by this issue are PLUS borrowers. COD has a dedicated team working to resolve the small number of records that have been mixed. COD would like to assure you that if your data has been affected by this rare problem it is not lost in the COD System and it will be corrected.

Specifically, COD has identified two scenarios related to this issue. In the first scenario, one person appears twice within the COD System, with different awards under each profile. In the second scenario, two persons have the same SSN in the COD System with mixed profiles and awards. These problems usually occur when incorrect SSNs are submitted to COD and are compounded when the incorrect SSN matches another person's correct SSN.

COD continues to work on further detailed instructions that will assist you in avoiding these scenarios and, if necessary, in correcting them. If you have any questions, please contact the COD School Relations Center.

Duplicate Disbursement Information In COD [05/06/04 (Updated 05/11/04)]

COD has learned that duplicate disbursement numbers are displaying incorrectly on the COD web site's Award Disbursements Information screen. On this screen under the Disbursement Number column, duplicate disbursement numbers are appearing twice. However, when viewing the Disbursement Information screen, each disbursement displays a different status (Pending or Disbursed). COD is analyzing the issue and will provide updates as they become available.

COD Edit 115 Not Working Correctly [04/06/04 Updated (05/06/04)]

COD has identified an issue where COD Edit 115 (Student Referred to DCS but repayment schedule not established, no further disbursements can be accepted for this student for this award year) is being returned incorrectly to schools that attempt to increase/decrease an actual



Common Origination and Disbursement COD Processing Update For Pell Grants

disbursement (DRI=True) for a student that has been referred to DCS for collection of a Pell Grant overpayment.

Additionally, the Pell Grant referral amount and payment amount collected are not being updated correctly in the Pell Collection Referral Amount and Pell Collection Amount Collected fields on the COD web site's Award Detail Information screen. The COD development team is researching the code fix for these issues, and COD will provide updates as they become available.

Disbursements Not Displaying On COD Web Site [12/11/03 (Updated 05/05/04)]

COD has identified an issue where disbursements/adjustments are being processed in COD, but are not appearing on the Disbursement List screen. However, the accepted disbursements are appearing on the Batch screen and being acknowledged correctly to schools. Also in some cases, sequence numbers for the disbursements are not appearing on the History screen.

COD has determined the cause of the problem. The data was not populated in the COD database correctly when the disbursements/adjustments were processed, resulting in the disbursements not appearing on the web site. COD has identified two different code fixes and cleanups that need to take place to resolve the problem.

The first code fix has been migrated, and COD is in the process of cleaning up the affected records. COD is still testing the second code fix and will notify schools when testing has been completed. In the meantime, please be patient and do not resubmit the disbursements/adjustments for processing; these transactions have already been acknowledged back to schools.

Student Name And Date Of Birth Not Updated In COD (05/03/04)

COD has identified an issue where new 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 origination records are accepted in COD, however, the student's Name and Date of Birth (DOB) updates submitted by the school are not displaying on the COD web site's Person Information screen. The COD web site is reflecting the Name and DOB from the previous award year. Additionally, in some cases, changes to Name and DOB for previously accepted origination records are not displaying on the Person Information screen as well. COD is researching the root cause of this issue, and COD will provide updates as they become available.

COD Web Site Response Time [03/19/04 (Updated 04/22/04)]

COD has learned that COD web site users are experiencing poor response time and receiving log errors when performing searches between the hours of approximately 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM eastern time.

COD has identified several potential causes of the issue and is in the process of evaluating the causes. COD ask users to continue to be patient. In the meantime, please continue to e-mail screen shots of any error messages received while performing a search to the COD School Relations Center at CODSupport@acs-inc.com.

COD Financial Screens Incorrect On COD Web Site [05/05/03 (Updated 03/19/04)]

As previously reported, the COD web site financial screens are displaying incorrect information. The "Summary Financial Info" screen is not displaying correct figures in the fields of "Disbursement Amount", "Disbursement Adjustment Amount" and "Ending Cash Balance".



Common Origination and Disbursement

COD Processing Update

For Pell Grants

Additionally, COD has found the Total Unduplicated Recipients field on the “Funding Information” screen is not displaying the correct figure. Schools can refer to the “Yearly Totals” screen to view the correct figure for the Total Unduplicated Recipients.

COD is working to resolve these discrepancies. In the meantime, schools should refer to the “Funding Information Screen” for correct figures (with the exception of the Total Unduplicated Recipients). COD is asking schools to be patient regarding progress on this issue. Resources are focused on other items at this time, so progress will continue to be slow. If you have any questions regarding your funding in the meantime, please contact the COD School Relations Center.