IPEDS, Education Test Score Reporting, and Admissions Application Public Comments

As public comment period for the IPEDS, Education Test Score Reporting, and Admissions Applications proposed standards has now come to a close, PESC is sharing all comments (on page 4 of the Standard and posted at www.PESC.org). All comments are directed to their respective development workgroup and to PESC’s Change Control Board (CCB) for review, analysis, and response. The CCB’s review period expires on Thursday June 25, 2009 unless extenuating circumstances exist which require further deliberation.

Once any changes resulting from the public comment period have been incorporated, the CCB will recommend to the Standards Forum’s Steering Committee and the PESC Board of Directors that the respective specifications be submitted to a vote by the PESC members. The PESC office will issue electronic ballots to the official contacts of PESC member organizations. Completed ballots, including the reason(s) for any rejection, must be returned to the PESC office via e-mail attachment, fax, overnight delivery, or U.S. Postal Service within ten (10) business days. PESC staff is responsible for the tabulation of the ballots; acceptance of the specification as a standard requires an affirmative vote of at least 80% of all votes cast. Once the members accept and approve the specification, the PESC Board of Directors will within seven (7) calendar days ratify the vote or refer it back to the CCB with specific instructions for further work.

PESC staff will then publish/post all necessary documents and communications and implement version control on all documents. PESC approved standards are freely accessible on the PESC website (http://www.PESC.org).

PESC Strategic Survey for Members

With the PESC Board of Directors annual retreat coming up in July 2009, PESC wants to ensure that its annual strategic planning process includes input from the general membership. Within this week, Jennifer Kim, PESC’s Membership Services Manager, will be issuing a quick survey to PESC members on key topics and ideas. Please ensure that your organization’s voice is heard and complete the survey by June 12, 2009. We’ve made the online survey quick and easy and we hope that PESC members provide their input and feedback on the strategic direction of PESC. For questions or concerns, please contact Jennifer at Jennifer.Kim@PESC.org or at 202-261-6514.
A Message from the White House
(from www.opengov.ideascale.com)

The week of May 18, 2009, the White House launched an unprecedented online process for public engagement in policymaking. That process began with a week of Brainstorming, hosted by the National Academy of Public Administration.

You [responders] have shared almost 900 submissions and 33,000 votes on ideas ranging from strategies for making government data more accessible to legal and policy impediments to transparency. Thank you!

The Brainstorming phase is drawing to an official close tonight at midnight [May 29, 2009]. We are reviewing all material on the site in preparation for the Discussion Phase, which begins on Wednesday June 3rd. We’ll be distilling both the ideas from the Brainstorming and the comments from an online dialogue with government employees that took place earlier this spring on the MAX federal wiki. All comments from MAX will be publicly posted tomorrow on the Open Government website.

Our goal is to use the ideas from this first phase of the process as well as other input to inform deeper discussion on the Open Government blog in the Discussion phase. While the voting on the brainstorming submissions will be instructive, it will not determine which topics are discussed in the second phase. Rather, the Discussion is designed to dig in on harder topics that require greater exploration or refinement.

While we are doing our analysis of the first phase of brainstorming and moving on to the Discussion Phase next week, the Brainstorming has been lively and productive. So we will keep the Brainstorming site turned on for addition submissions through June 19th. While new postings may not feed into the Discussion or Drafting Phases, we’ll be on the lookout for interesting new posts.

At the end of the public engagement process, all posted submissions will go up on the Open Government website. (For you records management fans, the Open Government website is run by the Office of Science and Technology Policy and subject to the Federal Records Act.)

The tight schedule of this process is designed to ensure that your ideas inform the development of open government recommendations and the writing of subsequent policy and the development of open government projects as soon as possible. So while we are keeping the Brainstorming open, we will also move on to the next phase of the process beginning on June 3rd.

Longer reports and papers can always be submitted through opengov@ostp.gov.

The process of crafting open government policy will not end this week, this month, or this year. This is an ongoing effort, and your participation has been and will continue to be essential to its success.

PESC submitted an idea through this process to standardize all student data in higher education...and folks have been voting to support that idea. Surprisingly, a number of ideas involved data standardization and not just from the higher education perspective. With a first-ever Federal CIO appointed Vivek Kundra and a new data.gov portal whereby all governmental data sets are being posted, the importance of quality data and on data standardization has reached an all-time high. PESC supports these initiatives and looks forward to bringing its membership and the higher education community close to effective and efficient interoperability.
Registration for the 2009 Federal Student Aid Conference is now open at http://fsaconferences.ed.gov. The Conference program and session content will be posted soon. The conference will be held December 1 - 4, 2009 at Gaylord Opryland Hotel & Convention Center 2800 Opryland Drive, Nashville, TN 37214.

A W3C working group has nearly finished an updated version of the XML Schema, termed XSD 1.1. The specifications complexity will still be present, however it will address many of the functionality limitations it currently possesses. For more information, visit http://www.xmlprague.cz/2009/presentations/Michael-Kay-XML-Schema-moves-forward.pdf

The Federal Student Aid Software Developers Conference will be held August 20, 2009, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, DC. The conference will cover such topics as updates on Federal Student Aid technology initiatives, Person Record Management, PIN re-engineering, Common Origination and Disbursement (COD), Central Processing System (CPS), and security. Additional information will be posted at fsaconference.ed.gov in the coming weeks.

Federal Student Aid is preparing the quarterly update of the Federal School Code List of Participating Schools and would like to remind all schools that school information must be kept current. Please verify your Federal School Code (FSC) name, address, and contact information on the Electronic Application for Approval to Participate in the Federal Student Financial Aid Programs by June 30, 2009 http://eligcert.ed.gov.

Data Exchange Statistics for Internet Server at University of Texas at Austin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transcript Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcripts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Request</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response</td>
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<tr>
<td>Functional acknowledgement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admissions Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL Data Exchange Transactions</td>
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</tbody>
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Public Comments
Admissions Application, Education Test Score Reporting, IPEDS
June 2, 2009

The 30-day public comment period for the proposed Admissions Application, Education Test Score Reporting, and IPEDS standards expired on May 27, 2009. A number of public comments were received and all are itemized below. Public comments are being routed to their respective development workgroups and to the Standards Forum for Education’s Change Control Board (CCB) for review, analysis, and response; and will be posted to the PESC website during this review process. The CCB’s consideration period expires on Thursday June 25, 2009 unless extenuating circumstances exist which require further deliberation.

Once any changes resulting from the public comment period have been incorporated, the CCB will recommend to the Standards Forum’s Steering Committee and the PESC Board of Directors that the Admissions Application, Education Test Score Reporting, and IPEDS specifications be submitted to a vote by the PESC members. In accordance with version 1.0.0 of PESC’s Manual of Policies and Procedures for Standards Development, the PESC office will issue electronic ballots to the official contacts of PESC member organizations. Completed ballots, including the reason(s) for any rejection, must be returned to the PESC office via e-mail attachment, fax, overnight delivery, or U.S. Postal Service within ten (10) business days. PESC staff is responsible for the tabulation of the ballots; acceptance of a specification as a standard requires an affirmative vote of at least 80% of all votes cast. Once the members accept and approve the proposed standards, the PESC Board of Directors will within seven (7) calendar days ratify the vote or refer it back to the CCB with specific instructions for further work.

PESC staff will then publish/post all necessary documents and communications and implement version control on all documents. PESC approved standards are freely accessible on the PESC website (http://www.PESC.org).

Admissions Application

Public Comment 1: XML transcripts will only recognize one student level (semester or quarter) because only the lowest qualifier will be recognize[d] by the process. Thus, if
your school is a semester school but was a quarter school and the school [the] student transfer[ed] from is a quarter school, the transfer credits will come in as semester.

**Reason:** The credit hours and quality points will not be correct.

**Proposed Solution:** Recognize multiple student level[s] so that credit hours and quality points will be correct.

**Response:**

**Public Comment 2:** [For] academic standing only following the PESC standard...If your school has academic standing outside of the PESC standard, then the academic standing for the student will not be reflected correctly when exporting an XML transcript. For example, we have an academic standing of Exclusion meaning students cannot be readmitted to our school or any school within the Georgia System.

**Reason:** Since Exclusion is not one of the PESC standard[s], we have to translate Exclusion to one of the PESC standards which is either Supervision or Probation. Thus, the true Academic Standing is lost in translation.

**Proposed Solution:** Provide options to add appropriate academic standing.

**Response:**

**Public Comment 3:** XML transcripts lack the transcript key on the back of a physical transcript which provide[s] pertinent information such as accreditation information, change of academic system (eg: change from quarter to semester), and legend for grade symbols, etc.

**Reason:**

**Proposed Solution:** Provide a section to display transcript key information.

**Response:**

**Public Comment 4:** With regard to the Admissions Application standard, would that be implemented by all organizations such as LSAC or do you have a select group that has agreed?

**Reason:**

**Proposed Solution:**
Response:

**Public Comment 5**: See attached

**Reason**:  

**Proposed Solution**:  

Response:

**Public Comment 6**: I believe this should be declared as xs:decimal and not xs:float.

```xml
<xs:simpleType name="ApplicationFeeAmountType">
  <xs:restriction base="xs:float"/>
</xs:simpleType>
```

**Reason**:  

**Proposed Solution**:  

Response:

**Public Comment 7**: First, I'll report that our University of California application does not map very nicely to the proposed PESC standard as defined. Given the number of institutions and the number of different applications, that's not surprising when generating a standard. However, having user extensions implemented as they currently are in the specification forces the institutions to either lose the relational integrity of any data with other standard elements in the standard, or results in forcing relational information into the data itself.

**Reason**: The standard currently forces institutions to one of several difficult choices – break the standard by using a slightly modified version or don't use the standard at all, embed relational data into the extensions, or change their application to match a technical specification.

**Proposed Solution**: Including user defined extensions in each type defined would eliminate the issue.

Response:

**Public Comment 8**: Also, the same issue affects the enumerations in the proposed standard.
Reason: This requires us to either break with the standard and use our own enumerations, or forces into creating new types as part of an extension, again causing the problem of relational integrity and user extensions mentioned earlier.

Proposed Solution:

Response:

Public Comment 9: In the documentation of your earlier version, you had the academic record under the application, but later, you placed it outside the application and placed it on the same level.

Reason: This loses the relationship between the academic record reported in the application and the application itself.

Proposed Solution: As multiple applications may have different academic records reported, it would be better to keep the reported academic record with the application it was reported under. Using much the same logic, many of the elements that are currently at the same level of the application, including family, residency, self reported tests, and extra curricular activity may be better placed under Application.

Response:

Public Comment 10: The duplicate naming of entities between core main and the admissions application standard, while technically appropriate under different namespaces, can create confusion and resulting QA issues for a development team, and does cause issues for some toolkits.

Reason:

Proposed Solution: Recommend changing the duplicate naming to unique names, regardless of the namespace breakout.

Response:

Education Test Score Reporting

Public Comment 1: It would be beneficial if PESC were to consider pK12 assessments in this effort and aim for making them consistent with SIF standards.
Public Comments and Responses

Admissions Application, Education Test Score Reporting, IPEDS
June 2, 2009

**Reason:**

**Proposed Solution:**

**Response:**

**Public Comment 2:** I was wondering if the work group considered the possibility of a lender/servicer being able to receive this information electronically.

**Reason:** Part of our Human Capital Score requires students to enter their test date/scores, college they will be attending, etc. and I was thinking that this electronic reporting option may allow us to "verify" the score electronically, rather than receiving a hard copy document from the student.

**Proposed Solution:**

**Response:**

**Public Comment 3:** I see it includes clearinghouses, employers, research, local and federal agencies. Is there any target implementation date???

**Reason:**

**Proposed Solution:**

**Response:**

**IPEDS — Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System**

**Public Comment 1:** As a software provider of reporting for NCES IPEDS reporting, can you give us a progress/status statement regarding the xml standards and format for these reports. We would like to consider a timeline to support our clients with an xml report for all the ipeds surveys.

**Reason:** We would like to consider a timeline to support our clients with an xml report for all the ipeds surveys.

**Proposed Solution:**

**Response:**
Admissions Application Public Comment 5

Review and action appropriately - the most serious is the fixed value for core:ContactName and some of the non-UTF8 characters which may cause XML parser issues! Others are naming and design issues and potential consistency and use ones compared to NIEM.gov guidelines.

Changes and Issues

Non-UTF8 characters in schema annotations and code list enumeration values:

about to transform
xsd2Schema:bundleentry:///56/xsl/xsd2camel/xsd2schema.xsl
Directory:C:\Documents and Settings\Webberd\My Documents\CAM\PESC\Admissions\processing schemafile
about to transform
xsd2Schema:bundleentry:///56/xsl/xsd2camel/xsd2schema.xsl
processing request
transforming output...

[error] - RelationshipCodeType; non-UTF8 char replaced: [ 'AdultOther' |'AdoptedChild'
|'AdoptedDaughter' |'AdoptedSon' |'AdoptiveFather' |'AdoptiveMother' |'AdoptiveParent'
|'AgencyRepresentative' |'Applicant' |'Aunt' |'AuthorizedDesignate' |'Brother' |'BrotherInLaw' |'Business'
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|'GodFather' |'GodMother' |'GodParent' |'GodSon' |'GrandChild' |'GrandDaughter' |'GrandFather'
|'GrandMother' |'GrandParent' |'GrandSon' |'GreatAunt' |'GreatUncle' |'Guardian' |'HalfBrother' |'HalfSister'
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|'Other' |'Parent' |'Parents' |'Partner' |'RelationshipOther' |'Relative' |'Self' |'Sibling' |'SignificantOther'
|'Sibling' |'SisterInLaw' |'Son' |'SonInLaw' |'Sponsor' |'SponsoredDependent' |'Spouse' |'StepBrother'
|'StepChild' |'StepDaughter' |'StepFather' |'StepMother' |'StepParent' |'StepSister' |'StepSon' |'Student'
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AD - Andorra
AE - United Arab Emirates
AF - Afghanistan
AG - Antigua And Barbuda
AI - Anguilla
AL - Albania
AM - Armenia
AN - Netherlands Antilles
AO - Angola
AQ - Antarctica
AR - Argentina
AS - American Samoa
AT - Austria
AU - Australia
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BI - Burundi
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BM - Bermuda
BN - Brunei Darussalam
BO - Bolivia
BR - Brazil
BS - Bahamas
BT - Bhutan
BV - Bouvet Island
BW - Botswana
BY - Belarus
BZ - Belize
CA - Canada
CC - Cocos (Keeling) Islands
CD - Congo, The Democratic Republic Of The
CF - Central African Republic
CG - Congo
CH - Switzerland
CI - Cote D'Ivoire
CK - Cook Islands
CL - Chile
CM - Cameroon
CN - China
CO - Colombia
CR - Costa Rica
CS - Serbia And Montenegro {REMOVE FROM FUTURE RELEASE}
CU - Cuba
CV - Cape Verde
CX - Christmas Island
CY - Cyprus
CZ - Czech Republic
DE - Germany
DJ - Djibouti
DK - Denmark
DM - Dominica
DO - Dominican Republic
DZ - Algeria
EC - Ecuador
EE - Estonia
EG - Egypt
EH - Western Sahara
ER - Eritrea
ES - Spain
ET - Ethiopia
FI - Finland
FJ - Fiji
FK - Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
FM - Micronesia, Federated States Of
FO - Faroe Islands
FR - France
GA - Gabon
GB - United Kingdom
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IM - Isle of Man
IN - India
IO - British Indian Ocean Territory
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IS - Iceland
IT - Italy
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JM - Jamaica
JO - Jordan
JP - Japan
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KG - Kyrgyzstan
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KI - Kiribati
KM - Comoros
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KP - Korea, Democratic People's Republic Of
KR - Korea, Republic Of
KW - Kuwait
KY - Cayman Islands
KZ - Kazakhstan
LA - Lao People's Democratic Republic
LB - Lebanon
LC - Saint Lucia
LI - Liechtenstein
LK - Sri Lanka
LR - Liberia
LS - Lesotho
LT - Lithuania
LU - Luxembourg
LV - Latvia
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MT - Malta
MU - Mauritius
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MW - Malawi
MX - Mexico
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MZ - Mozambique
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NE - Niger
NF - Norfolk Island
NG - Nigeria
NI - Nicaragua
NL - Netherlands
NO - Norway
NP - Nepal
NR - Nauru
NU - Niue
NZ - New Zealand
OM - Oman
PA - Panama
PE - Peru
PF - French Polynesia
PG - Papua New Guinea
PH - Philippines
PK - Pakistan
PL - Poland
PM - Saint Pierre And Miquelon
PN - Pitcairn
PR - Puerto Rico
PS - Palestinian Territory, Occupied
PT - Portugal
PW - Palau
PY - Paraguay
QA - Qatar
RE - Reunion
RO - Romania
RS - Serbia
RU - Russian Federation
RW - Rwanda
SA - Saudi Arabia
SB - Solomon Islands
SC - Seychelles
SD - Sudan
SE - Sweden
SG - Singapore
SH - Saint Helena
SI - Slovenia
SJ - Svalbard And Jan Mayen
SK - Slovakia
SL - Sierra Leone
SM - San Marino
SN - Senegal
SO - Somalia
SR - Suriname
ST - Sao Tome And Principe
SV - El Salvador
SY - Syrian Arab Republic
SZ - Swaziland
TC - Turks And Caicos Islands
TD - Chad
TF - French Southern Territories
TG - Togo
TH - Thailand
TJ - Tajikistan
TK - Tokelau
TL - Timor - Leste
TM - Turkmenistan
TN - Tunisia
TO - Tonga
TR - Turkey
TT - Trinidad And Tobago
TV - Tuvalu
TW - Taiwan, Province Of China
TZ - Tanzania, United Republic Of
UA - Ukraine
UG - Uganda
UM - United States Minor Outlying Islands
US - United States
UY - Uruguay
UZ - Uzbekistan
VA - Holy See (Vatican City State)
VC - Saint Vincent And The Grenadines
VE - Venezuela
VG - Virgin Islands, British
VI - Virgin Islands, U.S.
VN - Viet Nam
VU - Vanuatu
WF - Wallis And Futuna
WS - Samoa
YE - Yemen
YT - Mayotte
ZA - South Africa
ZM - Zambia
ZW - Zimbabwe

[error] - AdmRec:AcademicCompletionDate (annotation); non-UTF8 char replaced: [The date on which the student's requirements for the degree were met or completed.]
[error] - AdmRec:AcademicSummaryCode (annotation); non-UTF8 char replaced: [Summary Type is an indication of what is being summarized over what period of time
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SenderOnly - Summary of all courses at sending institution (or recorded as if they were taken at the
TransferOnly - Summary of transfer work (courses taken at other than the sending institution)
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NonWeighted - Summary that does not give additional value to courses, regardless of special characteristics of the courses. For example, if the grading scale is from 0 to 4.00, then it is not possible to have a summary higher than 4.00.
UserDefined - see NoteMessage for explanation
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[error] - AdmRec:AcademicSummaryLevel (annotation); non-UTF8 char replaced: [The level of credit associated with the credit hours earned for the course
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UpperDivision - Higher or upper division credit (associated with third or fourth year)
Vocational - Vocational/technical credit
TechnicalPreparatory - Tech Prep credit
Graduate - Graduate level credit
Professional - Professional
Dual - Dual level (upper division and graduate- may be applicable to a bachelor's degree or graduate degree or both)
GraduateProfessional - Dual level (graduate and professional- may be applicable to both)
added enums below and reordered in alpha order
SeventhGrade
EighthGrade
NinthGrade
EleventhGrade
TwelfthGrade
DualHighSchoolCollege
DualGraduateUndergraduate
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Dual - Dual level (upper division and graduate- may be applicable to a bachelor's degree or graduate degree or both)
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NinthGrade
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EleventhGrade
TwelfthGrade
DualHighSchoolCollege
DualGraduateUndergraduate
Secondary ]
[error] - AdmRec:CourseCreditBasis (annotation); non-UTF8 char replaced: [The type of enrollment associated with the credit hours for the course.
Regular - Regular/general enrollment
Major - Credit associated with the student's major
AcademicRenewal
AdultBasic
AdvancedPlacement
AdvancedStanding
ContinuingEducation
Exemption
Equivalence
InternationalBaccalaureate
Military
Remedial - Remedial/developmental
CreditByExam - Credit granted from successful score on a standardized test of comprehension or proficiency.
HighSchoolTransferCredit - Credit from a high school course is transferred to the college.
HighSchoolCreditOnly - Credit from a college course is transferred back to high school and not counted by the college.
HighSchoolDualCredit - Credit from a college course is counted at both the college and high school.
JuniorHighSchoolCredit - Credit from a junior high school course is counted at the high school.
The following values are deprecated:
Major
AdultBasic
]
[error] - AdmRec:CourseCreditLevel (annotation); non-UTF8 char replaced: [The level of credit associated with the credit hours earned for the course
Undergraduate - Undergraduate
LowerDivision - Lower division credit (associated with first/second year)
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Secondary ]
[error] - AdmRec:CourseRepeatCode (annotation); non-UTF8 char replaced: [Indicates that an academic course has been repeated by a student and how that repeat is to be computed in the student's academic grade average.
RepeatCounted - Course repeated and counted in GPA
RepeatNotCounted - Course repeated but not counted in GPA
ReplacementCounted
ReplacedNotCounted
RepeatOtherInstitution
NotCountedOther - Other, not counted in GPA (e.g., used for academic forgiveness or clemency).]
[error] - AdmRec:CourseSCEDCode (annotation); non-UTF8 char replaced: [The School Codes for the Exchange of Data maintained by the Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) code to describe the area of study for the course. At the time of this documentation (December 2005), this code set is not completed but it is expected to be released soon and will be the preferred code. Information on this standard is available at http://nces.ed.gov/forum/pdf/course_codes_intro.pdf
The format of the code is as follows:
First and Second digit - general subject area:
01 English Language Arts
02 Mathematics
03 Life and Physical Sciences
04 Social Sciences and History
05 Fine and Performing Arts
06 Foreign Language and Literature
07 Religious Education and Theology
08 Physical, Health, and Safety Education
09 Military Science
10 Computer and Information Sciences
11 Communication and Audio/Visual Technology
12 Business and Marketing
13 Manufacturing
14 Health Care Sciences
15 Public, Protective, and Government Service
16 Hospitality and Tourism
17 Architecture and Construction
18 Agriculture and Natural Resources
19 Human Services
20 Transportation, Distribution and Logistics
21 Engineering and Technology
22 Miscellaneous
23 Special/Exceptional Education

Third through Fifth digit - specific course description within subject area:
e.g. 300

Sixth digit - course level:
B - basic/remedial
G - general/regular
E - enriched/advanced
H - honors

Seventh through Tenth digit:
Carnegie units assigned to course (formatted to 2 decimal places, e.g. 1.00)

Eleventh and Twelfth digit:
Identifies a course as it relates to a consecutive sequence of courses (e.g., part 1 of 2)

Example:
A Regular Algebra I course that was first of two parts could be reported as follows: 02054G0.5012
than the sending institution)
AllNotRepeated - Summary of all courses except for repeated or forgiven courses/credits
SenderNotRepeated - Summary of all courses at sending institution except for repeated or forgiven
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Third through Fifth digit - specific course description within subject area:
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Sixth digit - course level:
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Carnegie units assigned to course (formatted to 2 decimal places, e.g. 1.00)

Eleventh and Twelfth digit:
Identifies a course as it relates to a consecutive sequence of courses (e.g., part 1 of 2)

Example:
A Regular Algebra I course that was first of two parts could be reported as follows: 02054G0.5012

[error] - AdmRec:CourseLevel (annotation); non-UTF8 char replaced: [The level of work which is reflected in the credits associated with the academic course being described or the level of the typical student taking the academic course.
Accelerated - Accelerated
AdultBasic - Adult Basic
AdvancedPlacement - Advanced Placement
Basic - Basic
InternationalBaccalaureate - International Baccalaureate
CollegeLevel - College Level
CollegePreparatory - College Preparatory
GiftedTalented - Gifted and Talented
Honors - Honors
NonAcademic - Non-Academic
SpecialEducation - Special Education
Technical Preparatory - Technical Preparatory
Vocational - Vocational
LowerDivision - Lower division
UpperDivision - Upper division
Dual - Dual level
GraduateProfessional - Graduate/Professional
Remedial - Remedial/Developmental

[error] - AdmRec:CourseGPAApplicabilityCode (annotation); non-UTF8 char replaced: [Indicates how or whether the course grade is included in the computation of the student's grade point average.]

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Duncan Appoints William J. Taggart to Lead Federal Student Aid Office

FOR RELEASE:  
June 1, 2009

U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan today announced the appointment of William J. Taggart as chief operating officer (COO) of the department's Federal Student Aid office (FSA).

"Taggart is an inspiring leader, and he has the deep operational experience critical to maintaining and improving the major systems at FSA," Secretary Duncan said.

FSA became the federal government's first Performance Based Organization (PBO) when it was established as part of the Higher Education Amendments in 1998. PBOs create incentives for high performance and accountability for results, while allowing more flexibility to promote innovation and increased efficiency.

President Obama's proposed FY 2010 budget would significantly expand the federal student aid programs to make them more efficient and effective in serving students and families seeking help to pay for college. Under the budget proposal, the Department of Education will administer over $129 billion in new grants, loans, and work-study assistance in 2010—a 32 percent increase over the amount available in 2008—to help more than 14 million students and their families pay for college. A major initiative of the plan is for all new parent and student loans to be issued directly from the government rather than through private lenders. The change would save taxpayers an estimated $4 billion a year that will be directed to Federal Pell Grants and other aid for needy students.

Taggart has more than 24 years of business management experience with Fortune 50 U.S. companies. Before joining the Education Department, Taggart was president and chief executive officer of Veritas One Consulting, LLC, a management consulting firm specializing in strategy execution planning headquartered in Charlotte, NC.

Prior to his work with Veritas One, Taggart served as chief operating officer of corporate and investment banking at Wachovia Corporation, Charlotte, from 2004-2008. With Wachovia since 2000, Taggart served in a number of leadership capacities, including head of client services, president of Info-One, and chief administrative officer, Wachovia Insurance.

Taggart worked for First Union Corporation, Charlotte, from 1995 to 2000, serving as managing director, strategic support services, automation and operations division. From 1984 to 1995, Taggart worked in various technology, consulting and marketing roles for International Business Machines (IBM).

Taggart received a master's degree from Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration (1991) and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Howard University (1984).

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Top

Data.gov to Bring Unprecedented Access to Government Information
Launch of Site Holds Promise for Greater Transparency, Accountability, Analysis

Washington, DC — The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) today unveiled Data.gov – a site designed to provide unfiltered access to government data streams in machine-readable formats.

"Data.gov will open up the workings of government by making economic, health care, environmental, and other government information available on a single website, allowing the public to access raw data and transform it in innovative ways," OMB Director Peter Orszag explained. "Data.gov is going to be a one-stop shop for free access to data generated across all federal agencies. As we develop Data.gov, it will allow the American people to find, use, and repackage data held and generated by the government, which we hope will result in citizen feedback and new ideas."

Generally, federal data are housed in disparate sites and formats, making them hard to use and even more difficult to access. In contrast, Data.gov has searchable catalogs, currently with access to 46 "raw" datasets and 27 information tools. The catalog of tools links to sites that include data mining and extraction tools and widgets. Datasets and tools are searchable by category, agency, keyword, and/or data format. Federal Chief Information Officer Vivek Kundra said that the debut site is good first step, acknowledging that much more information is coming.

"Moving forward, we want the default assumption to be that federal information is available at Data.gov," Kundra said. "This can be a creative platform that drives readable, machine-ready information across the government, giving the American people a greater voice in the government's priorities and broader access to the government's results."

Data.gov is part of President Obama’s Open Government initiative; more information can be found at www.whitehouse.gov/open.

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www.omb.gov