OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Date: 10/7/2026
To: Campus Financial Aid Administrators
From: Meghan Flores, Director of State Financial Aid Programs, Office of Higher Education (OHE)

RE: 2026-27 ISIR Deadline and FAFSA Partner Portal Date Discrepancy Impacting North Star Promise

Background

As you are aware, for 2026-27 North Star Promise (NSP) has an application deadline of June 1, 2026. In OHE's Guidance Memo "Mandatory Estimated North Star Promise Parameters" dated January 21, 2026, OHE indicated the field used to determine whether a student has met the FAFSA deadline for NSP would be the ISIR Field #8 – *Application Receipt Date*.

In late August 2026, OHE began receiving communications from financial aid administrators and students regarding a discrepancy between the ISIR Field #8 – *Application Receipt Date* and the processed date listed in the FAFSA Partner Portal (FPP) for administrators and the processed date students see in communications from Federal Student Aid (FSA). Specifically, the ISIR Field #8 – *Application Receipt Date* indicated that the student submitted their FAFSA on June 2, while the FPP and the student FAFSA view both show a June 1st processed date.

Upon learning of the discrepancy, we immediately contacted Federal Student Aid (FSA) to investigate. Over the following weeks, both teams worked together closely to find the root cause.

Issue

The issue is that FSA is presenting the FAFSA processed date in FPP and in their communications to students in Central Daylight Time (CDT). However, the ISIR Field #8 – *Application Receipt Date* displays in Coordinated Universal Time (UCT). UCT is 5 hours ahead of CDT. This means that any student who submitted their FAFSA 7pm or later on June 1st has a June 2nd date in ISIR Field #8 – *Application Receipt Date* but see their processed date as June 1st in StudentAid.gov and in email communications; additionally, aid administrators logging into FPP also see a June 1st processed date.

Solution

OHE has collaborated with FSA and the MNAid technology team to find a data solution to this issue. FSA provided OHE with a list of ISIR records submitted between the times of 7pm and midnight on June 1st. OHE has identified a total of 578 students impacted. OHE has coded an override in MNAid for these students so that a NSP award/payment submitted on a school's file will not reject for "applied after cut-off date".

Please be aware that in the MNAid system, the *FAFSA Original Application Date* comes directly from ISIR Field #8 – *Application Receipt Date* so this date will not change. It will still show the original date from ISIR Field #8 – *Application Receipt Date*. The Application Receipt Date on the original ISIR will never change.

A MNAid report entitled *Override Report* has been created and is available for campus users to generate. Campus users can generate this report to see the students who have listed your institution on their 2026-27 FAFSA and have an override coded for NSP. This list of students will be considered to have met the June 1, 2026, FAFSA application deadline for purposes of 2026-27 NSP eligibility. However, OHE cannot know if these students are enrolled at your institution or if they meet the other NSP eligibility criteria, therefore campus administrators still need to determine this.

Your Action Steps

Campus users should log into MNAid and generate the *Override Report* for their campus and review each entry on the report to see if they qualify for a NSP award at your institution but have not been awarded since your Financial Aid Management System did not package NSP because coding was based off of ISIR Field #8 – *Application Receipt Date*. If the campus administrator determines the student meets all other NSP eligibility criteria, they should award NSP and report the student through the established NSP file process. The payments/awards should not be rejected for "applied after cutoff" in MNAid because of the override that OHE has coded into MNAid.

Some schools may not have any students listed on their *Override Report*. This means that no overrides have been coded for students listing your school. However, keep in mind that a student can add a school to their FAFSA at any time during the aid cycle. Schools are encouraged to periodically check their *Override Report* to see if records have been added.

If you have any questions about the report, please contact NSP Program Administrator Tara Winchester at tara.winchester@state.mn.us.

Preventative Action to Avoid this Issue

For the 2027-2028 FAFSA and corresponding *FAFSA Specifications Guide Volume 4A - Record Layouts*, ISIR Field #8 *Application Receipt Date* will be presented in Central Time. The field will also contain a new feature; a timestamp displayed as HH:MM:SS. This will alleviate the date and time discrepancy we are resolving for 2026-27. Due to this, OHE does not anticipate this will be an issue in future years.

Final Comments

For 2027-2028, it is too soon to know if the rationing provisions in law will be applied to alter the deadline from the 30th day of the start of the term. On October 28th, 2026, OHE will hold the public projections meeting required by state statute and if a spending deficit is projected, proceed accordingly with rationing.

OHE acknowledges that that this issue also impacts the State Grant program deadline of the 30th day of the term. Specific guidance on how this impacts that program will be separate and forthcoming.

FAQs

What if a student did not list a Minnesota NSP eligible school on their original ISIR, but later adds a NSP eligible school?

Overrides have been coded for all impacted ISIR records that listed MN as the state of residence. This includes ISIRs that did not list any Minnesota schools on the FAFSA. Therefore, if a student later makes a correction to their FAFSA and adds a MN school, the override will already be coded in MNAid and the student will then appear on that school's *Override Report*. Schools should periodically check the *Override Report* to determine if new students have been added. It will be helpful to keep previous Override Reports to compare and find new entries. A suggestion for doing this is "Save As" with the date the report was run.

Does this mean that every student who has an ISIR Field #8 – *Application Receipt Date* of June 2nd met the NSP deadline?

No. Only a portion of students with a June 2nd ISIR Field #8 – *Application Receipt Date* met the June 1st deadline. These are students who completed their FAFSA between 7:00pm-11:59pm CDT on June 1st. These students' ISIRs will have a June 2nd date on the ISIR Field #8 – *Application Receipt Date*, which is why OHE coded the override in MNAid. There are students who completed the FAFSA after midnight on June 1st who also have a June 2nd ISIR Field #8 – *Application Receipt Date.* Those students did NOT meet the deadline for NSP, and do not have an override coded in MNAid.

To be clear, an ISIR Field #8 – *Application Receipt Date* of June 2nd does not automatically mean that a student met the deadline for NSP.