OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Memorandum: Mandatory Estimated North Star Promise Parameters

To: North Star Promise Campus Administrators

From: Meghan Flores, Director of State Financial Aid Programs

Subject: Mandatory Estimated North Star Promise Parameters for 2027-2028

Date: November 13, 2026

As reported in the November 1, 2026, State Grant & North Start Promise Projections Report (https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=1553), the Office of Higher Education (OHE) is projecting program demand will exceed available resources for FY2028 for the State Grant Program. This has a relational impact on the utilization of funds for the North Star Promise program and as a result demand for North Star Promise will exceed available resources for FY2028 as well. When funds are insufficient for projected awards in the North Star Promise program, OHE is directed by state statute to reduce program expenditures by determining the scholarship amount or number of scholarships awarded. To ensure that North Star Promise spending is within projected available resources, OHE is issuing a mandatory **priority application deadline of February 1, 2027**. Additionally, OHE projects that without further investment, there will be no summer 2028 funding, transitioning NSP into a strictly fall and spring program moving forward.

The field that will be used to implement the priority deadline is the "Application Receipt Timestamp", which is ISIR Field #8. Please note this field name was revised from last year and the timestamp was added, in Central Time. This timestamp will remain the same on all ISIR transactions. The corresponding field that will be used on the Minnesota Alternative State Financial Aid Application is the "Application Date" on the Application Information section of MNAid.

The Office of Higher Education will provide updated State Grant and North Star Promise spending projections at a public meeting in February 2027. Request the meeting invitation by emailing Meghan Flores.

The staff at OHE will continue to monitor the North Star Promise program and to work collaboratively with the Legislature toward solutions for the program. The 2027 legislative session will commence January 12th and is scheduled to adjourn May 17th. Any changes to state financial aid program appropriation or statutory language will be considered prior to OHE issuing final North Star Promise parameters for the 2027-2028 award year.

If you have questions or concerns about the parameters outlined above, please contact Meghan Flores at Meghan.Flores@state.mn.us. If you have questions or concerns about North Star Promise administration, file layout or sending test files, please contact Tara Winchester at Tara.Winchester@state.mn.us.