
State Financial Aid Manual

North Star Promise

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About the Minnesota Office of Higher Education

The Minnesota Office of Higher Education is a cabinet-level state agency providing students with financial aid programs and information to help them gain access to postsecondary education. The agency also serves as the state's clearinghouse for data, research and analysis on postsecondary enrollment, financial aid, finance and trends.

The Minnesota State Grant Program is the largest financial aid program administered by the Office of Higher Education, awarding up to \$210 million in need-based grants annually to Minnesota residents attending eligible colleges, universities and career schools in Minnesota. The agency oversees other state scholarship programs, tuition reciprocity programs, a student loan program, Minnesota's 529 College Savings Plan, licensing and early college awareness programs for youth.

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Change Memo

This Change Memo outlines changes made from the previous draft of this manual. Appendix A has a log of all archived Change Memos from all previous drafts.

October 2024 Updates

Added clarification that Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) fees are not considered mandatory fees for the purpose of the NSP award calculation (p. 8).

Clarification to the definition of “Tuition” (p. 9).

Created additional guidance in the “NSP Student Initiated Award Decline” section (p. 16-17).

Added Dual Training Grant to the chart of aid types included in the NSP award calculation (p. 21).

Added “Even if NSP has not yet disbursed” to the section discussing awarding NSP when a student receives W, FW, or F grades in some or all classes. (p. 31).

Added the statement, “Do not use the OHE refund calculation spreadsheet” pertaining to NSP base and NSP+ award recalculations (p. 31).

Revised a similar sentence to read: If a student becomes ineligible for an NSP award after the award year is closed out, use the OHE Refund Return form process to return funds to OHE (p.31).

Added Student Unit Count Report to the list of MNAid reports that may be useful to run as a financial aid administrator (p. 37).

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Introduction

This manual is written for schools participating in the North Star Promise (NSP) program and is subject to all subsequent changes in both federal and Minnesota state laws and regulations governing the North Star Promise program. The Office of Higher Education (OHE) will provide each school with an opportunity to respond to changes to the North Star Promise program rules and regulations. Schools may offer feedback to OHE and, if adopted, OHE will develop and distribute updated written information to schools that will later be included in this manual. This chapter of the manual is updated on an annual basis. Schools are required to read all electronic and written correspondence from OHE to keep informed of current changes during the interim. Policy changes announced during the interim have the full force and effect of the Financial Aid Manual.

Program Objective and Overview

North Star Promise

Beginning in fall 2024, the North Star Promise (NSP) program will create a tuition and fee-free pathway to higher education for eligible Minnesota residents at eligible institutions as a "last-dollar" program by covering the balance of tuition and fees remaining after other scholarships, grants, stipends and tuition waivers have been applied.

By making college accessible and affordable, NSP is intended to have a positive impact on multiple fronts:

- Create a viable higher education path for Minnesota residents who may have previously thought education was not a possibility for them;
- Help stabilize enrollment at Minnesota public institutions of higher education;
- Serve as an economic driver for Minnesota by educating qualified workers who are much needed to fill vacancies in the state's labor force.

North Star Promise Plus

The program also includes the North Star Promise Plus (NSP+) award which is available to NSP eligible students who either receive Pell Grant, or receive a simulated Pell grant through the Minnesota Dream Act. NSP+ is intended to assist with non-tuition and fees related expenses.

Definitions

Certificate Program

For purposes of MN state financial aid programs, a certificate program is defined as one that is:

- At least 8 semester/12 quarter credits or 300 clock hours; and

- At least 8 weeks long.

Gift Aid

Gift aid comes from a variety of sources and includes:

1. Federal financial aid that is not a loan or pursuant¹ to a work-study program, or not a federal last dollar program;
2. State² financial aid, unless designated for other expenses, that is not a loan or pursuant to a work-study program;
3. Institutional³ financial aid, including a grant, scholarship, tuition waiver, fellowship stipend, or other payment, unless designated for other expenses, that is not a loan or pursuant to a work-study program; and
4. All private financial aid that is not a loan or pursuant to a work-study program.

Mandatory Fees

Fees includes any mandatory, program-specific, and/or course-specific fees. Fees may include, but are not limited to, any fees that are included in the institution's State Grant Budget. Fees also include mandatory fees charged to a students' account for which the student did not initiate (other than by enrolling), did not elect, and cannot opt-out or decline.

Mandatory does not necessarily mean the fee is charged to all students.

The eligible fee must be charged on the student's account in order to be counted as a fee for North Star Promise award calculation. Fees charged directly to the student by 3rd parties are not included in the award calculation.

If a fee has a special circumstances appeal process (i.e. a parking fee charged to all students, but can be waived on a case-by-case bases with an appeal approved by the institution) it can still be considered mandatory for purposes of NSP. A special circumstances appeal process does not preclude the fee from being considered mandatory if the fee meets the definition of mandatory.

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) fees are not considered mandatory for the purpose of the North Star Promise award calculation.

For study abroad, a general rule is that the many fees associated with study abroad are not mandatory as it pertains to NSP. Study abroad programs often have program fees, airfare fees, travel insurance fees, excursion fees, etc. and for the purposes of NSP award calculation these are not included as mandatory fees. Consult with

¹ Pursuant to a work-study program may include stipends paid to students in lieu of a wage (e.g. conducting research).

² State financial aid includes financial aid programs/assistance funded by the State of MN (including from State agencies other than OHE such as, but not limited to, MDVA, DHS, MDE, DLI, DEED, MDH, etc.).

³ Institutional financial aid includes gift aid from the institution's foundation.

the North Star Promise Program Administrator if you have questions about study abroad, or any other fees being included or excluded in the NSP award calculation.

North Star Promise Base (NSP Base)

The North Star Promise Base (NSP Base) award is referring to the last-dollar award calculation award amount.

North Star Promise Plus (NSP+)

The North Star Promise Plus (NSP+) award is referring to the Pell % match award that is given to North Star Promise eligible students who are also eligible to receive Pell Grant. For 2024-2025 the match is 15%.

Other Expenses

“Other expenses” as defined in [HF 4024, Sec. 16, Subdivision 1\(3\)](#)⁴, is referring to institutional or state sources of aid that is designated specifically for books, required supplies, child care, emergency assistance, food, and/or housing.

For the purposes of calculating North Star Promise awards, gift aid designated for “other expenses” as defined in this section can be excluded from the award calculation as long as the source is State financial aid and/or Institutional aid from a public postsecondary educational institution.

The amount excluded as gift aid cannot be more than what is budgeted for that item in the student’s Cost of Attendance (COA). For example, a student receives a \$3,000 scholarship from the institution designated for housing. The COA must contain at least \$3,000 budgeted for housing.

Tuition

Tuition includes the student’s actual tuition charges including any differential program tuition rates. Tuition is also included in the NSP award calculation for the following:

- Non-resident tuition rates.
- Courses marked as “aid ineligible.”
- Graduate coursework being taken by an undergraduate student.
- Courses taken at another NSP eligible institution that are deemed “non-applicable” to a consortium agreement.

Note: For institutions that charge a non-resident tuition rate to students receiving North Star Promise, OHE requests that the student be charged the resident tuition rate to align with the state financial aid residency determination.

⁴ https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF4024&type=bill&version=3&session=ls93&session_year=2024&session_number=0

Eligibility

This section outlines the eligibility requirements for the North Star Promise program for postsecondary institutions and students.

Public Postsecondary Educational Institution

An institution operated by the State of Minnesota, or the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota. To be eligible to participate in North Star Promise, a postsecondary institution must be one of the following:

- Public postsecondary institution eligible to participate under [Minnesota Statutes 136A.101, Subd. 4](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.101) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.101>) and [Agency Rules 4830.0300](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4830.0300/) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4830.0300/>)
- All Minnesota State colleges and universities. (<https://www.minnstate.edu/campusesprograms/index.html>)
- All University of Minnesota campuses. (<https://system.umn.edu/campuses>)
- Tribally controlled college eligible to participate under Minnesota Statutes 136A.101, Subd. 4 and Agency Rules 4830.0300

Student Eligibility Requirements for North Star Promise

This section will list the eligibility requirements of North Star Promise and North Star Promise Plus and also explain pertinent details regarding the specific eligibility requirements. To be eligible for the North Star Promise (NSP) program (which includes NSP+), a student must meet the following requirements:

Minnesota Resident Student as Defined in [136A.101 Subd. 8](#)

Students must be Minnesota residents in order to be eligible. Colleges and Universities are responsible for determining MN resident status for the purposes of state financial aid programs.

The state of Minnesota has an inclusive residency definition in that there are a number of ways for a student to be considered a Minnesota resident for postsecondary education purposes. They may meet one of the criteria listed on the [Minnesota Resident Status webpage](#)⁵. If students are meeting the residency requirement through one of these criteria, they must be lawfully present or legally residing in the state. For example, students granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protective Status (TPS), certain types of Visas, or who have Asylum Pending status may be considered lawfully present or legally residing and thus meet the MN residency requirement for North Star Promise, as long as they also meet one of the criteria listed on the [Minnesota Resident Status webpage](#). The [Common Definitions “Resident Student”](#)⁶ section of the state aid manual may be helpful in determining Minnesota Residency for state financial aid purposes.

⁵ <https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?PageID=194>

⁶ <https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/pdf/FAManual/CommonDefinitions.pdf>

Effective July 1, 2013, undocumented students who meet the conditions in the [MN Dream Act⁷](#) are also considered to be Minnesota residents eligible for state financial aid. For undocumented students, the only way to establish MN residency is through the MN Dream Act. To meet the MN residency conditions for the MN Dream Act, a student must:

- attend high school in MN for 3 years, and
- graduate from a MN high school or earn a GED in MN, and
- apply for lawful immigration status if a federal process becomes available (federal process does not currently exist), and
- males ages 18-25 must register with Selective Service.

“Non-immigrant aliens,” who are in the United States for purposes of studying (student VISA), temporary work (work VISA) or pleasure travel (visitor VISA) are not eligible for MN residency.

Incarcerated students who are MN residents, and meet all other NSP eligibility criteria, are eligible for the North Star Promise program. Note: time incarcerated in MN cannot be used to establish MN residency. A student would need to meet MN resident status requirements before being incarcerated.

Attend an Eligible Public Postsecondary Educational Institution

At the time the award is disbursed, students must be enrolled in a Minnesota public postsecondary institution or a MN Tribal College. The following institutions are eligible for North Star Promise:

- All Minnesota State colleges and universities.
(<https://www.minnstate.edu/campusesprograms/index.html>)
- All University of Minnesota campuses. (<https://system.umn.edu/campuses>)
- Minnesota Tribal Colleges.

Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or State Aid Application (MN Dream Act Application)

To be eligible, the student must have submitted a FAFSA or State Aid Application by the June 30th FAFSA deadline for the academic year. A student must complete either the FAFSA or the State Aid Application – there are very few situations or circumstances where a student would need to complete both applications in the same award year. One example would be if a student has a change in immigration status and becomes Title IV aid eligible mid-award year after completing the MN Dream Act.

Family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) below \$80,000

The Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) used to calculate NSP eligibility must be below \$80,000.

⁷ <https://www.ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?PageID=2056>

- For dependent students: the AGI of their parent(s), and stepparent if applicable, is used. The AGI of the dependent student will not be considered.
- For independent students: the AGI of the student, and their spouse if applicable, is used. If the student is married, the student and spouse's combined AGI must be below \$80,000.

The Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) used for NSP eligibility comes from the information submitted to the college or university through the FAFSA process. The FAFSA application uses prior, prior year tax information so the AGI used to determine NSP eligibility will be two years old. Generally, when the FAFSA is being completed, the AGI information for the student and/or their contributor(s) is transferred into the FAFSA from the corresponding IRS records of their Federal 1040 income tax returns. The AGI can be found on line 11 of the Federal 1040 income tax return.

If a parent or student is not required to file taxes, the AGI for the purposes of North Star Promise is \$0.

AGI changes from year to year and a student could meet the AGI eligibility requirement one year, and not the next or vice versa.

AGI is a figure determined through the process of filing income taxes. If students and/or families have questions about AGI calculation or other aspects of filing income taxes, they should consult a certified tax professional.

It is possible, though not common, that a student has a family AGI below \$80,000 but a SAI above the student's Cost of Attendance. In this situation, a student is eligible for the NSP, according to the conditions for eligibility outlined in NSP [Statute 136A.1465⁸](#), as amended by [HF 4024, Sec. 16, Subdivision 1\(3\)](#).

Enrolled in at Least 1 Credit for the Term the NSP is Awarded

A student must be enrolled in at least 1 semester credit or equivalent. At least 1 credit of enrollment must be reported to MNAid for all NSP/NSP+ student award records. Enrolled courses appear on the student's academic transcript with grades (including: F, FN, NA, W, A-F, P/F, etc.).

Undergraduate Student Who Has Not Earned a Baccalaureate Degree

NSP program funding is only available to students who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree at the time of disbursement. Earning a Bachelor's degree from an institution in any country makes the student ineligible. For NSP, the student is an undergraduate student if it is determined that the student has met the federal definition of "[undergraduate student](#)"⁹. If it is determined that the student does not meet the federal definition of undergraduate student, then the student is not considered meeting this requirement for NSP.

Students who have previously earned certificates, diplomas (2-year), or associate degrees remain eligible to receive the NSP so long as they are otherwise eligible.

⁸ <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/136A.1465>

⁹ <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center/fsa-handbook/2024-2025/vol7/ch1-student-eligibility-pell-grants>

High School Graduate or Recipient of a GED or Equivalent

A student must have graduated from a secondary school or its equivalent or is 17 years of age or over and has met all of the requirements for admission to an eligible college or university. A student who is admitted through Ability to Benefit (ATB) is meeting this requirement as long as they are at least 17 years of age.

Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Standards

Students must be meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards as defined in section [136A.101, subdivision 10](#), at the time of NSP award disbursement. Students who have been granted an appeal and placed on probation per the institution's SAP policy are considered meeting SAP standards for purposes of the North Star Promise program. Students not meeting SAP due to Maximum Timeframe will also need an approved appeal in order to meet this eligibility requirement.

Enrolled in a Program or Course of Study that Leads to a Degree, Diploma, or Certificate

A student must be regularly admitted and enrolled in a course of study that leads to a degree, diploma, or certificate.

Regularly admitted means that the student must have been admitted to the institution through the typical credential-seeking admissions process. Students who are non-degree seeking and/or pursuing continuing education, or customized training, etc. must be admitted through the institution's regular admissions process to be considered for North Star Promise.

Certificate programs are eligible for North Star Promise so long as they meet the MN state aid definition of certificate program as defined in this manual and statute [4830.0100 Definitions for Higher Education Programs](#).

Not in Default on Any Federal or State Student Educational Loan

A student must not be in default status on any federal or state student educational loan. A student in default status on any state or federal educational loan is not eligible for North Star Promise as of the date the school (in the case of federal loans) or the OHE (in case of state SELF loans) was notified of the default. If the date of default is after the NSP award disbursement date, the award does not need to be canceled but the student would lose eligibility for subsequent disbursements. A student will be considered eligible for NSP retroactive to the beginning of the current aid year if the loan(s) is/are rehabilitated out of default status within that aid year. For example, a student is not eligible for a fall NSP award due to default, but rehabilitates the loan in spring semester. The institution can retroactively award NSP for fall term as long as the non-default status is documented by the college or university before disbursing North Star Promise awards.

Not in Arrears on Court-Ordered Child Support

A student must not be more than 30 days in arrears on court-ordered child support that is collected or enforced by the public authority responsible for child support enforcement or, if the applicant is more than 30 days in arrears in court-ordered child support that is collected or enforced by the public authority responsible for child

support enforcement, they must be complying with a written payment agreement under section 518A.69 or order for arrearages.

No Conviction or Nolo Contendere or Guilty Plea in Crime Involving Title IV Funds

A student cannot have been convicted of or pled nolo contendere or guilty to a crime involving fraud in obtaining federal Title IV funds within the meaning of Code of Federal Regulations subtitle B, chapter VI, part 668, subpart C.

Has Not Exceeded NSP Program Usage Limit

Students are eligible to receive North Star Promise base funds for up to 4 full-time semesters or the equivalent for students pursuing a 2-year degree, and up to 8 full-time semesters or the equivalent for students pursuing a 4-year degree. Usage is tracked in MNAid.

Students may transfer from a 2-year to 4-year program and their North Star Promise program usage will follow the student to their new institution or program.

North Star Promise Plus (NSP+) funds received do not count toward program usage.

North Star Promise Plus Eligibility Requirements and Award Information

To be eligible for the North Star Promise Plus (NSP+) award, students must satisfy all of the NSP eligibility requirements above, and have received a Pell Grant, or have a simulated Pell Grant in MNAid. NSP+ is calculated as a percentage of Pell Grant received, or a percentage of the simulated Pell award found in MNAid.

The Commissioner of Higher Education will determine the percentage of Pell match for NSP+ on an annual basis, based on program funding availability. According to MN statute ([136A.1465](#)), the Pell match for NSP+ can be up to 50% of the amount of Pell Grant received.

The percentage Pell match for NSP+ for the 2024-2025 award year is 15%.

NSP+ will pay for non-tuition and fees charges, however, the NSP+ award cannot exceed a student's Cost of Attendance (COA).

A student who has reached their Pell Lifetime Eligibility Used (LEU) is not eligible for NSP+, but may be eligible for an NSP Base award.

A student could receive a \$0 NSP base award and yet still receive the NSP+ award due to receiving Pell grant or having simulated Pell eligibility through the MN Dream Act.

The NSP+ award calculation is solely based off the percentage of Pell received (or simulated Pell from MN Dream Act); and is exempt from the last-dollar award calculation of NSP. Therefore NSP+ can be used to cover non-tuition and fees related expenses.

Application Process

A complete FAFSA or State Aid Application and any other documentation related to state financial aid eligibility must be on file in order for student to be eligible. This includes but is not limited to all of the following:

- Documentation of Minnesota Resident Student status.
- Any required documentation related to the federal verification process.
- Any required information to resolve Conflicting Information related to the FAFSA or State Aid Application.

Verification, Conflicting Information, and C Codes

Before awarding and disbursing NSP, the institution is responsible for resolving any conflicting information and C codes on the student's ISIR or FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS), including unusual enrollment history flags. The institution must also verify the data on the student's application if it is selected for verification using the verification criteria established by the Department of Education for federal student aid programs.

Institutions should refer to the Federal Application and Verification Guide for the aid year in question for detailed instructions. The verification guide and information about resolving conflicting information, C codes and unusual enrollment history flags are available at <https://fsapartners.ed.gov/home/>

In instances where verification selection, conflicting information, C codes, and unusual enrollment history flags take place after NSP was disbursed, all future disbursements must be held until the institution resolves the issues. If corrections are required, the institution must recalculate the NSP award and make any necessary adjustments to the award amount.

For students completing the State Aid Application/MN Dream Act, OHE is responsible for the verification process and NSP awards should not be disbursed until OHE has confirmed the verification process is complete and the student has either been awarded State Grant via Dream Act in MNAid or been deemed ineligible for MN Dream Act for the sole purpose of "No Financial Need."

Award Calculation

Institutions are responsible for calculating North Star Promise awards each term. Both North Star Promise base (NSP) and North Star Promise Plus (NSP+) can be awarded in fall, spring, and/or summer terms.

A student may qualify for an award one term, and not the next, depending upon the award calculation components and the "last dollar" nature of the program. A student may meet all of the eligibility requirements for NSP, but the award calculation returns a \$0 award. A student may receive a \$0 NSP base award and also qualify for an NSP Plus award based off their Pell grant, or simulated Pell grant, eligibility.

The following formulas are used to calculate the North Star Promise awards:

North Star Promise

Tuition and mandatory fees charged to the student for semester **minus** all gift aid received by the student **equals** NSP Award (\$50 and above).

For example:

\$4,622.83 (total tuition and fees charged to student)
-\$3,600.00 (sum of all gift aid)
= \$1,022.83 North Star Promise base award.

North Star Promise Plus (NSP+)

NSP+ award amount is a percentage of the Pell award received, or for students applying for state aid through the Dream Act application, the “simulated Pell amount” is used to calculate the NSP+ award.

For example, a student receives a Pell Grant in the amount of \$2,000 for fall term. The NSP+ award is calculated to be 15% of the Pell Grant received, so for this example the NSP+ amount would be \$300.

NSP+ will pay for non-tuition and fees charges, however, the NSP+ award cannot exceed a student’s Cost of Attendance.

Award Minimum and Maximum Amounts

There is no maximum term, yearly, or aggregate award amount for North Star Promise Base awards.

To ease administrative burden, the minimum award amount for North Star Promise base and North Star Promise Plus awards is \$50/term. This means that any award calculated at less than \$50 will be \$0.

If the NSP award calculation yields a negative or \$0 amount, the institution is not required to notify the student of a \$0 award. However, the institution is required to report to OHE \$0 awards for students otherwise eligible for NSP but not receiving any funds.

North Star Promise and North Star Promise Plus awards may include cents. Awards should be calculated, awarded, and reported to the hundredth cent. NSP base awards should not need rounding, however NSP+ awards might. If an award needs to be rounded, use regular rounding rules and round to the nearest cent. For example, \$742.295 is rounded up to \$742.30; \$128.994 is rounded down to \$128.99.

Student-Initiated NSP Award Decline

Generally, if it is determined that a student is eligible for an award \$50 or greater, the award must be distributed. However, there may be certain infrequent circumstances where a student would choose to decline their NSP Base award. If a student chooses to decline their award, documentation must be collected by the institution and kept in the student’s institutional file.

Example situations where a student might choose to decline their NSP award for a term:

- A student is receiving a small NSP Base award and chooses to decline it for the current term with the intent of saving their program usage for a different term where they anticipate their award amount will be higher.
- A student's 2-year program is designed to take longer than 4 full-time semesters and the student would prefer to utilize North Star Promise eligibility at the end of their program, rather than at the beginning.

When counseling students about their option to decline their NSP award keep in mind:

- The declination of award should be student initiated.
- The student is declining the term award, not waiving their eligibility for the North Star Promise program.
- The rationale for declining the award should be documented.

If a student chooses to decline their award, they must still be reported in MNAid as eligible for NSP, but since there is no place on the NSP file record layout to indicate the student is declining their award, the record will be rejected when reported because it will look like an incorrect award amount has been calculated and the student should have received an award. There will be no way to resolve this rejected record, however, since it's a \$0 award amount the student will not be impacted. A rejected award or payment in one term will not impact an award or payment in a subsequent term.

NSP+ awards do not count toward overall NSP program usage and cannot be declined.

Student Aid Index (SAI), Financial Need, and Cost of Attendance

The only means-testing used for NSP is AGI. SAI is not factored into NSP eligibility. It is possible, though not common, that a student has a family AGI below \$80,000 but a SAI above the student's Cost of Attendance. In this situation, a student is eligible for the NSP, according to the conditions for eligibility outlined in NSP [Statute 136A.1465](#), as amended by [HF 4024, Sec. 16, Subdivision 1\(3\)](#).

Financial need is not a component of North Star Promise award calculation. Thus, a student is not required to "demonstrate need" in the same way they do for federal and other state financial aid purposes (i.e. COA-SAI-OFA = Remaining Need). When awarding Title IV aid, institutions must follow Title IV awarding regulations. Thus, receipt of North Star Promise awards may cause federal need-based financial aid awards (e.g. work study, and/or Direct Subsidized Loans) to be reduced depending on the amount of remaining need available after NSP/NSP+ is awarded.

North Star Promise Base and North Star Promise Plus must be awarded within the student's Cost of Attendance (COA).

Award Eligibility Communication to Students

NSP and NSP+ award amounts and eligibility should be communicated to students through the institution's typical awarding process.

Components of the North Star Promise Award Calculation

There are two main components of the North Star Promise Base award calculation: tuition and mandatory fees, and gift aid.

Tuition and Mandatory Fees

Tuition and mandatory fees are defined in the “Definitions” section above.

The North Star Promise Base award can only pay up to 100% of the charged amount of tuition and fees. The program does not pay for non-tuition and fees expenses such as housing, food, books and supplies, transportation, etc. Although the NSP Base award calculation does not include non-tuition and mandatory fees charges, institutions are not required to exclude payment of those charges in their systems. For example, before their North Star Promise Base award is disbursed, a student makes a payment on their account which pays for the tuition and fees amount, but a balance remains for other charges. The NSP Base award can still be disbursed to the student’s account and the school is not required to exclude it from paying the other charges.

Use the actual, not estimated or averaged, tuition and fees charged to the student. If students are enrolled in more than 15 credits, tuition and fees amounts for the NSP award calculation are not limited to 15 credits per term.

Developmental education tuition and fees should be included in the tuition and fees calculation for North Star Promise. Developmental education includes any courses that are classified as below college level.

The North Star Promise award calculation can include the tuition and fees for a course or courses that a student is repeating.

Mandatory Fees

North Star Promise is a program designed to pay for the actual tuition and fees costs for students. Unlike other programs, like State Grant, which bases awards off average tuition and fee amounts, NSP promises to pay the tuition and mandatory fee charges that a student incurs. Thus, for NSP, the definition of “fee” must be flexible enough to include mandatory charges a student incurs, while excluding optional, elective, and/or punitive, charges.

Fees includes any mandatory, program-specific, and/or course-specific fees.

There is no cap stipulated in the NSP statute on the maximum term, yearly, or aggregate amount of fees that can be covered under North Star Promise.

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) fees are not considered mandatory for the purpose of the North Star Promise award calculation.

For study abroad, a general rule is that the many fees associated with study abroad are not mandatory as it pertains to NSP. Study abroad programs often have program fees, airfare fees, travel insurance fees, excursion fees, etc. and for the purposes of NSP award calculation these are not included as mandatory fees.

Consult with the North Star Promise Program Administrator if you have questions about fees being included or excluded in the NSP award calculation.

Use the table below when determining what counts as a mandatory fee for North Star Promise award calculation purposes.

| Determining if a fee is included or excluded in the North Star Promise Award Calculation | |
|---|---|
| Does the fee appear on the student's institutional account? | <p>If no, the fee cannot be included in the NSP calculation.</p> <p>If yes, more information is needed.</p> |
| Is the fee included in the institution's budget for State Grant? | <p>If yes, the fee can be included for NSP.</p> <p>If no, more information is needed.</p> |
| Is the fee mandatory? | <p>Mandatory means the student cannot opt-out or decline the fee, did not elect the fee, did not initiate the fee (other than by enrolling). Mandatory does not mean it is charged to all students.</p> <p>A fee may have an institutional waiver/appeal process that is handled on a case-by-case basis – this does not preclude a fee from being considered mandatory.</p> <p>Examples: Institution provides laptops for all students and charges a laptop fee which cannot be declined, a first-year orientation fee charged to all first-year incoming students, fees related to mandatory health insurance required for enrollment, parking fee charged to all students, inclusive access for digital course content where the student cannot opt-out, etc.</p> <p>Some fees are mandatory but charged for reasons other than enrollment in courses or a program. Examples would be fees related to being a student athlete (athletic training, health insurance), fees related to participation in study abroad or clubs and organizations, fees associated with Credit for Prior Learning (CPL). These fees are not included in the North Star Promise award calculation.</p> <p>Examples of student-initiated fees that are not mandatory: fines, bookstore charges, fitness memberships, elective parking passes, etc.</p> |

| Determining if a fee is included or excluded in the North Star Promise Award Calculation | |
|--|--|
| Is the fee mandatory and program-specific? | <p>If the fee is related to the academic program the student is pursuing then it likely can be included for NSP.</p> <p>Examples include: flight lab fees for aviation programs, teacher licensure fees, and tools/required supplies fees that cannot be declined.</p> |
| Is the fee mandatory and course-specific? | <p>If the fee is required for a course for which a student is enrolled, then it likely can be included for NSP.</p> <p>Example: art course supply fees.</p> |
| Generally, what is the fee used for? | <p>Generally, if the fee is charged for housing, food, transportation/parking, books, etc. then it's not to be included in the award calculation. However, if it is included in the institution's State Grant budget, and/or the student cannot decline or did not elect or initiate the fee, it might be eligible to be included.</p> |

Gift Aid

To determine how gift aid is treated in the North Star Promise calculation, use the definition of gift aid in the Definitions section of this manual. This section will go into more detail on the process of determining how gift aid should be treated in the NSP award calculation.

Determining how gift aid should be treated in the NSP award calculation requires knowledge of the source of the aid, the type of aid, what the aid is used for, and whether or not the aid is deemed "last-dollar" in Federal or State statute.

Source of Gift Aid

There are four main sources of gift aid outlined in NSP [Statute 136A.1465](#), as amended by [HF 4024, Sec. 16, Subdivision 1\(3\)](#): Federal, State, Institutional, and Private. It is important to know the aid sources because sometimes they are treated differently in the NSP award calculation.

Types of Gift Aid

Grants, scholarships, and most stipends (to name a few) are all different types of gift aid. Work study and loans are types of aid, but not *gift* aid because a student must work for it or pay it back. Sometimes gift aid will be called something but operates like a different type of aid. A couple examples would be a research stipend, is called a stipend, but often is payment in lieu of a wage and "pursuant" to work-study. Similarly, AmeriCorps awards, which is a benefit of public volunteer service, is in lieu of a wage.

What Does the Aid Pay For?

Determining designated uses for the aid type is also helpful in figuring out how it fits into the NSP award calculation. Many aid sources and types do not specifically restrict the expenses they will pay. For example, it is common to see scholarships or grants that will broadly pay for “educational expenses” or “Cost of Attendance” items. Other aid types will only pay for certain designated expenses, such as tuition and fees. Current [North Star Promise statute](#) indicates that if a gift aid source is either State or Institutional, and the aid is designated for books, required supplies, child care, emergency assistance, food, and/or housing, it is exempt from the North Star Promise award calculation.

Hypothetical examples of gift aid types specifically designated for books, required supplies, childcare, emergency assistance, food, and/or housing and excluded from the NSP calculation:

- College A awards a \$500 “Books and Supplies” scholarship to a student.
- A student receives a MN Post-Secondary Child Care Grant to pay for childcare expenses.
- College B’s institutional foundation funds a \$2,000 award that is designated for “required supplies” for students enrolled in a Welding program.
- College C funds a \$2,000 award for first-year students to live on campus.

Is the Aid Type a “Last-Dollar” Award?

Increasingly, “last-dollar” awards have become more commonly designated in State or Federal law. Typically, the funding source wants to maximize their spending by utilizing all other sources of funding before their award. The North Star Promise award calculation can be impacted if a student is eligible for another program which is stipulated as “last-dollar” in either Federal or State statute.

If a gift aid source is stipulated in Federal statute as “last-dollar” then the Federal statute will supersede the State “last-dollar” designation of North Star Promise. Which means, North Star Promise will pay before Federal “last-dollar” gift aid programs. Examples of such programs include, but are not limited to: Federal Veterans Educational Benefits, National Science Foundation S-Stem Grants, Vocational Rehab Services funding, Dislocated Worker funding.

State OHE last-dollar financial aid programs will, for purposes of all state financial aid programs, pay in the order of enactment (unless stipulated otherwise by the Commissioner of Higher Education). See subsequent Order of Aid Calculation for Last Dollar Programs section of this manual and Appendix B.

Below is a list of aid types that are included (counted as gift aid) in the North Star Promise award calculation. It is not an exhaustive list. There may be additional inclusions based on the explanations given in the above section on Gift Aid.

| Aid Types Included (Counted as Gift Aid) in the North Star Promise Award Calculation |
|---|
| Athletic Grants |
| Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship (ATC) |
| American Indian Scholars Program (AIS) |

| Aid Types Included (Counted as Gift Aid) in the North Star Promise Award Calculation |
|---|
| Deaf and/or Blind waivers |
| Dual Training Grant |
| Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) |
| Grants for Students with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities |
| Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) |
| Fostering Independence Grant (FIG) |
| Institutional or State funded gift aid not specifically designated for “other expenses” which includes: books, required supplies, child care, emergency assistance, food, and/or housing |
| Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program (MISP) |
| Minnesota State Grant |
| Pell Grant |
| Private Scholarships and Grants |
| Public Safety Officer Survivor Grant |
| Stipends |
| Student Teacher Grants (Underrepresented and Teacher Shortage) |
| Student Teaching Stipend Pilot |
| TEACH Grant |
| Third Party (Counted as OFA) |
| Tribal Grants |
| Tuition Waivers |

Below is a list of aid types that are excluded from the North Star Promise award calculation. It is not an exhaustive list. There may be additional exclusions based on the explanations given in the above section on Gift Aid. In general, assistance that is given directly to the student, and therefore not counted as OFA by the institution, is not counted as gift aid for purposes of North Star Promise.

| Aid Types Excluded (Not Counted as Gift Aid) from North Star Promise Award Calculation |
|---|
| AmeriCorps Funding |
| CCAMPIS |
| Dislocated Worker Funding (Federal and State) |
| Educational and Training Vouchers (ETV) |
| Federal Veterans Educational Benefits (Ch. 33, Ch. 30, Ch.31, Ch. 35, Ch. 1606) |
| Institutional or State funded gift aid designated specifically for “other expenses” which includes: books, required supplies, child care, emergency assistance, food, and/or housing |
| Loans of any type |
| MN G.I. Bill |
| MN Post-Secondary Child Care Grant |
| National Science Foundation S-Stem Grants |
| Student Payments on Their Account (Including from 529 or educational savings account) |

| Aid Types Excluded (Not Counted as Gift Aid) from North Star Promise Award Calculation |
|--|
| Third Party (Not Counted as OFA) |
| Vocational Rehab Services Funding |
| WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Benefits |
| Work-Study of any type (including stipends in lieu of a wage) |

Contact the North Star Promise program administrator if you cannot determine if an award should or should not be included in the North Star Promise award calculation.

Enrollment at More than One Institution in the Same Term

Enrolled at More than One Eligible Institution

Students enrolled in more than one NSP eligible postsecondary institution during the same term may be eligible to have all eligible institutions' tuition and fees counted in the NSP award calculation. However, only one institution may award the NSP and/or the NSP Plus. In general, the institution responsible for awarding other federal Title IV aid should also award NSP funds. Avoid a situation where a student is receiving federal Title IV aid at one institution, but NSP and/or NSP+ at another.

NSP is meant to provide a tuition and fees-free pathway for eligible students, including those enrolled at more than one eligible institution in the same term. To calculate the NSP award, the institution *may choose to* combine the tuition and mandatory fees amounts from both/all eligible institutions where the student is enrolled, subtract the gift aid, and arrive at the award amount.

Although institutions cannot include charges in the NSP award calculation that do not meet the "tuition and mandatory fees" definition, institutions are not required to exclude the payment of these charges, for example, in cases where a combined tuition and fees amount is used in the NSP award calculation.

If a student is attending an NSP eligible institution and an NSP ineligible institution simultaneously, charges at the ineligible institution cannot be included in the tuition and fees amount for the NSP award calculation.

See the Reporting section below for more information on how to report award information for students attending more than one eligible institution within a term.

Enrolled at One Eligible and One Ineligible Institution in the Same Term

A student cannot receive NSP or NSP+ at an ineligible institution. However, they could be simultaneously enrolled in an eligible and ineligible institution. If the student is NSP eligible, and enrolled in a degree, diploma, or certificate program at the NSP eligible institution, then they may be awarded NSP. However, to receive NSP+, the student must be receiving Pell Grant at the eligible institution. If the student is receiving Pell Grant at the NSP ineligible institution, then they would not qualify for an NSP+ award because their Pell Grant is awarded based off enrollment at an ineligible institution.

Study Abroad and Online Programs

Students enrolled in study or education abroad, national student exchange, student teaching and/or online programs are eligible for NSP. MN resident eligibility requirements still apply.

For study abroad, a general rule is that the many fees associated with study abroad are not mandatory as it pertains to NSP. Study abroad programs often have program fees, airfare fees, travel insurance fees, excursion fees, etc. and for the purposes of NSP award calculation these are not included as mandatory fees. Consult with the North Star Promise Program Administrator if you have questions about study abroad fees being included or excluded in the NSP award calculation.

Order of Aid Calculation for Last Dollar Programs

This section provides guidance on how to award North Star Promise in conjunction with other last dollar programs. North Star Promise is the last-dollar program for all State financial aid programs where the other program is not designated as “last dollar.”

It is possible, though not exceedingly common, that a student will qualify for one or more last dollar financial aid programs. These programs could be other financial aid programs offered through the Office of Higher Education, other state agencies, the Federal government, or institutional or private entities.

See Appendix B for complete guidance on Order of Aid Calculations for 2024-2025.

Federal Last Dollar Programs

In general, last-dollar tuition and fees programs where the source of the funding is the Federal government, will supersede State last-dollar programs. Meaning, the Federal program will be the last payer. OHE cannot provide an exhaustive list, however, some examples of federal last dollar financial aid programs are: Veterans Education benefits, Vocational Rehabilitation, Adult and Dislocated Worker benefits (WIOA), and National Science Foundation Grants like S-Stem. Federal programs that are not stipulated as last-dollar are likely included (counted as gift aid) in the North Star Promise calculation (e.g. Federal Tuition Assistance, FSEOG, Pell Grant, etc.).

When a student qualifies for both a federal last-dollar program and North Star Promise, the federal program will pay last. This means that the North Star Promise award should be calculated and awarded before the Federal last-dollar program benefit is calculated. In the instance where the Federal benefit is calculated before North Star Promise award, the Federal benefit should be excluded in the NSP calculation.

Below are some hypothetical awarding scenarios where students are eligible for North Star Promise and a federal last-dollar program:

| Scenario | NSP Award Calculation | Ch. 33 Award Calculation |
|---|---|--|
| A student is awarded North Star Promise up to 100% of tuition and fees, and then Ch. 33 benefits are certified. | \$5,000 Tuition and Fees (\$1,000 Pell Grant) <u>(\$1,000 MN State Grant)</u> = \$3,000 North Star Promise Base = \$150 NSP Plus (15% Pell match) | \$5,000 Tuition and Fees (at 100% benefit) <u>(\$3,000 North Star Promise Base)</u> = \$2,000 Ch. 33 Award |

In the example scenario above, the NSP calculation does not include the Ch. 33/Post 911 G.I. Bill benefit. The student is still eligible for NSP Base, NSP+, and a Ch. 33 award. Both NSP and Ch. 33 are last-dollar awards, but they have different awarding rules. The Ch. 33 \$2,000 award is not counted in the NSP award calculation because the Federal last-dollar program is excluded from the NSP award calculation.

| Scenario | NSP Award Calculation | Ch. 33 Award Calculation | MN G.I. Bill Award Calculation |
|---|---|--|--|
| A student is eligible for North Star Promise, Ch. 33, and MN G.I. Bill. | \$5,000 Tuition and Fees (\$1,000 Pell Grant) <u>(\$1,000 MN State Grant)</u> = \$3,000 North Star Promise Base = \$150 NSP Plus (15% Pell match) | \$5,000 Tuition and Fees <u>(\$3,000) NSP Base</u> =\$2,000 Ch. 33 | \$5,000 Tuition and Fees (\$1,000 Pell Grant) (\$1,000 MN State Grant) <u>(\$2,000 Ch. 33)</u> =\$1,000 MN G.I. Bill |

In the example scenario above, the student is eligible for NSP Base, NSP+, Ch. 33, and the [MN. G.I. Bill](#)¹⁰. While this scenario may be unlikely, it is possible. The MN G.I. Bill is excluded in the NSP award calculation because of the circular awarding logic required when these three programs all contain dependencies on each other.

If a student is eligible for NSP, Ch. 33, and MN G.I. Bill, the order of aid calculation should be NSP, Ch. 33, MN G.I. Bill.

Federal and State Veterans educational benefits and certification can be complicated. If a student qualifies for Veterans educational benefits, and North Star Promise, and/or other aid programs, work closely with your institution's Veteran's Administration School Certifying Official (SCO) to ensure that award amounts are calculated according to Federal and State statute.

State Last Dollar Programs

In general, state OHE administered financial aid last-dollar programs are awarded by the date of enactment of the program. In the situation where the date of enactment is not in the best interest of students (e.g. program funding limitations) the Commissioner of Higher Education has the statutory authority to, on an annual basis, declare an order of operations for state last dollar OHE financial aid programs.

¹⁰ <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/197.791>

If a student is eligible for more than one last-dollar state OHE financial aid program, calculate NSP award eligibility using the order of enactment below:

| OHE State Financial Aid Programs that Account for Other State Aid | Year of Enactment |
|---|-------------------|
| Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program (MISP) | 1959 |
| Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas (STSA) | 2016 |
| Underrepresented Student Teacher Grants (USTG) | 2021 (a) |
| Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship (ATC) | 2021 (b) |
| Fostering Independence Higher Education Grants (FIG) | 2021 (c) |
| North Star Promise & North Star Promise Plus (NSP & NSP+) | 2023 |

Below are examples of award calculations when a student qualifies for multiple state OHE last-dollar programs:

| Scenario | NSP Award Calculation |
|---|--|
| A student meets the eligibility requirements for FIG, MISP, and NSP Base and NSP+. State Order of enactment rule stipulates that State aid is awarded in this order: MISP, FIG, and then NSP Base and NSP+. | Term COA: \$13,000 & Tuition and Fees: \$6,000 (\$1,000 Pell Grant) (\$1,000 MN State Grant) (\$2,000 MISP) <u>(\$9,000 FIG)</u> = \$0 NSP Base* = \$0 NSP+** |

*Student has 100% of tuition and fees paid for through combination of other aid sources and therefore although they meet the NSP eligibility requirements, their NSP Base award is calculated at \$0.

**Student is awarded up to COA with FIG award and although they received Pell Grant, and their NSP+ award is calculated at 15% of \$1,000 Pell (\$150), but reduced to \$0 to eliminate the COA over-award.

| Scenario | NSP Award Calculation |
|---|--|
| A student meets the eligibility requirements for USTG, and NSP Base and NSP+. State order of enactment rules stipulate that state aid is awarded in this order: USTG, and then NSP Base and NSP+. | Term COA: \$13,000 & Tuition and Fees: \$6,000 (Pell Grant: \$3,000) <u>(USTG: \$7,500)</u> = NSP Base: \$0 = NSP+: \$450 (15% match) |

Student is eligible for USTG, and NSP+, but receives no NSP Base award.

State “Last Dollar” Programs Through a State Agency Other Than OHE

If the source of the gift aid is a state agency other than OHE, and the program is “last-dollar” in statute, then follow the “order of enactment” approach. If the program was enacted into state law before May 2023, it pays before NSP; if it was enacted after May 2023, then it will pay after NSP (or be excluded).

Currently, OHE is not aware of any “last-dollar” aid programs funded through State agencies other than OHE.

Institutional or Private Last Dollar Programs

North Star Promise will always pay after institutional or private last dollar programs, unless State law indicates otherwise.

Determining NSP Eligibility for Dream Act Applicants

Dream Act applicants may also be eligible for North Star Promise Base and North Star Promise Plus funds.

Students will apply for MN Dream Act through the MNAid portal. During the initial account creation process they will indicate if they have an SSN or not. If they do not input an SSN, MNAid will generate a “proxy” SSN in the convention: DXX-XX-XXXX. OHE will process the Dream Act application and determine eligibility for that program. When OHE determines a student is eligible for Dream Act, an NSP record will be created in MNAid.

Each institution will need to assess eligibility for North Star Promise and North Star Promise Plus. If the school determines the MN Dream Act student is also eligible for NSP and/or NSP Plus, they will award and notify the student through their established awarding procedures. With few exceptions, Dream Act applicants must have a Dream Act award certified before awarding NSP and/or NSP+ for the term. It is possible that a student is eligible for Dream Act, but not eligible for a Dream Act award amount due to “No Financial Need,” but still be eligible for NSP/NSP+. Therefore, as a general rule, ensure the Dream Act student has been awarded and the award is certified before awarding NSP and/or NSP+, but a student does not need to have a Dream Act award to be eligible for NSP/NSP+.

To identify potential North Star Promise eligible Dream Act students, campus Financial Aid Administrators may want to log into MNAid and pull the “Dream Act Students – NSP Eligible” report that identifies Dream Act eligible students who listed their institution on the application. Students are able to select more than one institution on their Dream Act application, and for this reason, the institutional “Dream Act Students – NSP Eligible” report may contain records of students who are not currently attending that institution.

The “Dream Act Students – NSP Eligible” report contains student records that appear to meet initial North Star Promise criteria. Schools will need to run this report at least once per term, but preferably at the beginning and end of the term, to identify students and assess NSP/NSP+ award eligibility.

The report includes Dream Act eligible students who have a family AGI under \$80,000, estimated Dream Act award based on 15 credits or paid Dream Act award (if applicable), and the annual (fall/spring) simulated Pell amount based on 12 credits of enrollment. There is also a column named “Projected Plus Amount” which is the 24-25 15% match of the annual (fall/spring) “Simulated Pell Amount”.

The Dream Act Students report will also contain students who have applied for the Dream Act, but are in an ineligible status. This is important because it is possible that a student is ineligible for a Dream Act award due to

“No Financial Need,” but may still be eligible for NSP if they meet all eligibility criteria. When reviewing the Dream Act Students report for Dream Act students who may be eligible for NSP, look at both eligible students, and also ineligible students with the ineligibility reason “No Financial Need.”

Calculating NSP+ for Dream Act Eligible Students

The Simulated Pell Amount is used by institutions to determine eligibility for the North Star Promise Plus award for Dream Act eligible students. The amount displayed on the “Dream Act Students – NSP Eligible” report is an annual (fall/spring) amount estimated based on 12 or more credits of enrollment. There is also a column “Projected Plus Amount” which is the 24-25 15% percentage match of the annual (fall/spring) “Simulated Pell Amount”.

For example, a student may have an annual (fall/spring) Simulated Pell Amount of \$7,395, which at a 15% match equals an annual (fall/spring) Projected Plus Amount of \$1,109.25. Since this is an amount, effectively, for two terms, follow the awarding process below to calculate a per term award amount.

A term based NSP+ award for Dream Act Eligible Students is calculated as follows:

1. Identify the Annual Simulated Pell amount (found in MNAid on Dream Act application or Dream Act Students Report).
2. Divide the Annual Simulated Pell amount by 2.
3. Use the percent match to calculate the term NSP+ award.
4. Check for enrollment intensity (if student is enrolled in fewer than 12 credits that term, pro-rate the award based on enrollment).
 - a. 11 credits = 11/12.
 - b. 10 credits = 10/12.
 - c. Etc....down to 1 credit = 1/12.
5. NSP+ award is calculated.

Example of an NSP+ award calculation for a Dream Act Eligible student enrolled in 9 credits:

1. Annual Simulated Pell amount = \$7,395
2. Divide Annual Simulated Pell amount by 2 = $\$7,395 / 2 = \3697.5
3. $\$3,697.5 \times 15\% = \554.625
4. Pro-rate for enrollment intensity using 9/12 of $\$554.625 = \$415.9687 = \$415.97$ (Using regular rounding to round to nearest cent).
5. NSP+ award for the term is \$415.97

This process is done for each term the student is enrolled, fall, spring, and/or summer. The annual simulated Pell amount is intended to simulate the Pell amount for the 9-month academic year. There is not a separate Simulated Pell amount for the summer term. Because of this, NSP+ for Dream Act students for the summer term, will be calculated using the same process as outlined above, regardless of the NSP+ awards that a student has already received during fall and/or spring terms.

For example, a student is registered for 12+ credits in fall and spring terms and receives NSP+ based on annual Simulated Pell amount in MNAid. The student then registers for 6 credits in the summer. The NSP+ award is calculated using the same process, but the summer NSP+ amount is pro-rated for enrollment intensity at 6 credits. The summer term NSP+ award calculation would be as follows:

1. Annual Simulated Pell amount = \$7,395
2. Divide Annual Simulated Pell amount by two: $\$7,395/2 = \$3,697.5$
3. Multiply the term Pell amount by 15%: $\$3,697.5 \times 15\% = \554.625
4. Adjust for enrollment intensity if enrollment is less than 12 credits: $\$554.625 \times (6/12) = \$277.3125 = \$277.31$

In general, at the time of NSP and NSP+ disbursement, the campus will need to ensure that the Dream Act award is certified in MNAid before the NSP and NSP+ awards are disbursed. This is because the North Star Promise award calculations will need to use the actual Dream Act award amount based on actual enrollment.

Below is an example of an NSP Base and NSP+ award for a Dream Act eligible student enrolled in 12+ credits:

| Scenario | NSP Award Calculation | |
|--|--|---|
| A student meets the eligibility requirements for MN Dream Act, North Star Promise, and has a Simulated Pell amount in MNAid. | Tuition and Fees: \$6,000 <u>(\$4,500 MN State Grant via Dream Act)</u> = \$1,500 NSP Base = \$187.50 NSP+ (15% match) | Other Award Information \$2,500 Annual Simulated Pell Grant (amount found in MNAid) |

Student is awarded \$1,500 in NSP Base, and \$187.50 in NSP+ (based on Simulated Pell Grant amount found in MNAid, using the NSP+ award calculation for Dream Act students on the previous page).

All North Star Promise and North Star Promise Plus awards are reported to OHE in the same file, which includes those awarded to Dream Act eligible students.

Disbursement Process

Institutions will report NSP and NSP+ awards through MNAid. Once awards are reported, the institution will be able to request funds in MNAid. After the institution requests funds, and the request is approved by OHE, payment will be sent to the institution and institutions will disburse awards to students and report another NSP file with payment information.

Disbursing Funds to Students

Awards must be disbursed during the award year in which the charges incurred. An award can be retroactively disbursed within the award year, but retroactive disbursements cannot span award years.

The NSP and NSP+ award amounts must be correct at the time of disbursement. Documentation must exist regarding the NSP disbursement date. Institutions must ensure students meet all of the eligibility requirements before disbursing NSP funds.

The NSP Base award calculation does not include non-tuition and mandatory fees charges, however, institutions are not required to exclude payment of those charges in their systems. For example, before their North Star Promise Base award is disbursed, a student makes a payment on their account which pays for the tuition amount, but a balance remains for other charges. The NSP Base award can still be disbursed to the student's account and the school is not required to exclude it from paying the other charges.

Institutions should follow their standard accounting procedures for disbursing the award to the student.

An institution is not required to adjust the award based on a subsequent ISIR transaction received after the student stopped enrollment at the institution provided the award has already been disbursed and there was no conflicting information at the time of disbursement.

Award Re-Calculation and Adjustments

Because the North Star Promise is a “last-dollar” program, awards must be re-calculated when any component of the current award calculation changes within the award year that the award was made. If the Pell grant amount is modified after the NSP+ award is made, then the NSP+ award must be re-calculated. Re-calculation means that if any tuition and fees or/and gift aid/scholarships components change, the award must be re-calculated using the new/adjusted components. The re-calculation could result in the same award amount, an increased award amount, or a decreased award amount, depending upon the circumstances.

This re-calculation requirement is regardless of the award adjustment end-date set for State grant, and other census dates such as for Pell Grant. Other than the end of the institution's award year, there is no “census” date for which any term NSP award is exempt from re-calculation.

Given the likelihood the components of the financial aid award and tuition and fees may change within the semester, institutions should have systems and/or procedures in place to identify when components of the NSP award calculation are modified so that a re-calculation can be completed.

Guiding Principles for Award Re-Calculations and Adjustments

These guiding principles apply to all enrollment change situations:

- If any component of the award calculation changes, the NSP base award must be re-calculated and adjusted. Components of the NSP base award calculation include Tuition and Mandatory Fees and Gift Aid. Do not use the OHE Refund Calculation spreadsheet.
- If at the time of re-calculation, the student no longer meets the NSP eligibility requirements then the student is not eligible for future/increased NSP disbursements until they are back in compliance. For example, a student is paid NSP and then is subsequently institutionally withdrawn from all classes pursuant to the institution's policy and procedures regarding a student conduct violation. The full withdrawal prompts an R2T4 calculation which results in a reduction of other grants. The change in NSP award components prompts an NSP re-calculation, but an increased NSP award is not disbursed to the student because the conduct violation resulted in the student's admission being revoked and therefore, they are no longer admitted to a degree, diploma, or certificate program.
- If the Pell grant amount adjusts, the NSP+ award amount must be re-calculated to reflect a match of the adjusted Pell amount. Do not use the OHE Refund Calculation spreadsheet.
- If the NSP award had not disbursed before the enrollment change, the award must be (re)calculated using the updated award components after the enrollment change. (i.e. updated budget, updated tuition and fees, updated gift aid amounts). Neither NSP nor NSP+ can exceed the Cost of Attendance.
- A school must be reporting to MNAid at least 1 credit of enrollment for a student to be eligible for NSP/NSP+.
- Award recalculations may cause the award to increase, decrease, or remain the same.
- Because North Star Promise is a last dollar program, neither NSP base nor NSP+ are included in the proportional share calculation section (Part III) of the OHE Refund Calculation spreadsheet.
- If a student becomes ineligible for an NSP award after the award year is closed out, use the OHE Refund Return form process to return funds to OHE.

In addition to the guiding principles above, use the table below for more information related to specific enrollment change situations.

| Change in Enrollment | Action |
|---|---|
| Student drops some or all classes, or adds classes, or adds a "late start" class or classes <u>during the free add/drop period</u> , or through institutional appeal. | <p>If a student drops some or all of their classes during the free add/drop period, it is assumed that those courses no longer appear on the students' academic record and that the tuition and fees charged are refunded to the student.</p> <p>If the student drops all or some of their courses and the academic record has no proof of enrollment, and the student still has tuition and fees charges for that term, the tuition and fees used for the NSP award calculation must exclude what is charged for courses that do not appear on the academic record.</p> <p>If students add a class or classes after the NSP award(s) are calculated and if components of the award calculation change, the NSP awards must be re-calculated.</p> |

| Change in Enrollment | Action |
|--|--|
| A student receives W, FW, or F grades in <u>some or all</u> classes. | Even if NSP has not yet disbursed, NSP will pay for the W, FW, or F and backfill for other gift aid that may have been reduced due to the W, FW, or F grade(s), however, the updated award components and updated budget (if applicable) must be used. Because the student still has a grade(s) for these class(es), those grades are included in the enrollment reported through the NSP reporting process, and count toward the program usage. |
| A student receives failure due to non-attendance grades in <u>some or all</u> classes. | <p>NSP statute states that a scholarship may be awarded to a student who is <i>enrolled</i> in at least one credit. Grades for non-attendance are documented on the student's academic record and are considered proof of enrollment.</p> <p>Even if NSP has not yet disbursed, the student is still eligible for NSP and/or NSP Plus and the institution may award even after the non-attendance grades have posted, however, the updated award components and updated budget (if applicable) must be used.</p> <p>In these situations where a student never begins attending any of their classes, OHE strongly encourages institutions to consider dropping (retroactively) the courses from the students' record and refunding the tuition and fees. However, if the institution chooses to charge students tuition and fees even when a student never begins attending classes, NSP/NSP+ may be awarded provided the academic record shows the non-attendance grades. This enrollment is then reported via the NSP reporting process and will count toward the student's NSP program usage.</p> |
| A class, classes, or all classes are retroactively dropped by the institution. | <p>Retroactively dropping classes assumes that the class(es) is/are removed from the student's academic record and the tuition and fees for that class or classes are refunded to the student.</p> <p>Retroactively dropping a class or classes means there is no longer any proof of enrollment and thus the student is not eligible for NSP for courses that do not exist on the student's academic record.</p> |

Professional Judgement

To be eligible for North Star Promise the family AGI must be below \$80,000. The AGI reported on the student's FAFSA is the AGI used to determine if a student meets this requirement. When an aid administrator uses professional judgement resulting in a modification of the AGI data element into the range of eligibility for NSP, the institution should use the modified AGI when assessing the student for NSP award eligibility.

With North Star Promise using AGI as the means-test, campuses may see an uptick in special circumstances requests where the student is seeking an AGI modification for purposes of NSP eligibility. Campuses should use their established policies and procedures when considering these requests.

In cases where enrollment changes cause the COA to decrease such that the amount of tuition and fees charged cannot be covered with the NSP award, the aid administrator may consider using professional judgement, in accordance with the institution's existing budget adjustment policy and procedure, to adjust the budget.

Institutions cannot use professional judgement to waive NSP eligibility requirements.

Credit Limits and Unit Usage

Students are eligible to receive North Star Promise funds for up to 4 full-time semesters or the equivalent for students pursuing an associate's degree, and up to 8 full-time semesters or the equivalent for students pursuing a bachelor's degree. Students must begin the term below 48.0 (2-year) and below 96.0 (4-year), respectively, to be eligible for an award for that term.

- Associate's and certificate degree maximum units: 48.
- Bachelor's degree maximum units: 96.

Only North Star Promise base awards count toward program usage. If a student receives a North Star Promise Plus award, without receiving a North Star Promise base award, their enrollment that term will not count toward NSP program usage.

Students taking more than 15 credits per term will only utilize the 15-credit equivalent unit count. To calculate units for North Star Promise, use the following chart:

| Credits | Units for Quarter | Units for Semester |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 15+ | 8.0 | 12.0 |
| 14 | 7.5 | 11.2 |
| 13 | 6.9 | 10.4 |
| 12 | 6.4 | 9.6 |
| 11 | 5.9 | 8.8 |
| 10 | 5.3 | 8.0 |
| 9 | 4.8 | 7.2 |
| 8 | 4.3 | 6.4 |
| 7 | 3.7 | 5.6 |
| 6 | 3.2 | 4.8 |
| 5 | 2.7 | 4.0 |
| 4 | 2.1 | 3.2 |
| 3 | 1.6 | 2.4 |

| Credits | Units for Quarter | Units for Semester |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2 | 1.1 | 1.6 |
| 1 | 0.5 | 0.8 |

The Office of Higher Education's MNAid system is the record keeper of usage for North Star Promise.

A student is entitled to an additional semester or the equivalent of grant eligibility if the student withdraws from enrollment for the following reasons:

1. Active military service because the student was ordered to active military service as defined in section 190.05, subdivision 5b or 5c;
2. A serious health condition, while under the care of a medical professional, that substantially limits the student's ability to complete the term; or
3. While providing care that substantially limits the student's ability to complete the term to the student's spouse, child, or parent who has a serious health condition.

Courses taken that qualify as developmental education or below college level shall be excluded from the limit. If your institution reports courses/credits as developmental education for MN State Grant, then they should also be reported as such for North Star Promise.

Unit count will be recorded in MNAid based off enrollment reported when students receive the North Star Promise base award. When a student receives a North Star Promise base award their enrollment during that term will count toward their credit limit usage for the program.

Financial Aid administrators with appropriate access to North Star Promise data in MNAid are able to log into MNAid, look up an individual student, and view their unit count for North Star Promise. In the future, students will be able to log into their MNAid portal account to view their program usage for OHE programs.

NSP unit count information will be shared with the U of MN and Minnesota State systems on a regular basis by populating a system-wide unit count file to be retrieved by system-level IT for storage in respective financial aid management systems. Additionally, individual campus administrators with appropriate MNAid access will be able to retrieve unit counts for all the students at their institution on-demand in MNAid.

MNAid Reporting Process and Requirements

All reporting for North Star Promise is done via the MNAid portal and related SFTP reporting processes. A reporting file record layout is available upon request.

Institutions are required to report awards, disbursements, and adjustments, using the established North Star Promise file record layout. Reporting is required every 30 days; however, institutions may choose to report more frequently. OHE encourages institutions report weekly, at least for the first few weeks of each term. Both North Star Promise and North Star Promise Plus are reported in the same file.

The North Star Promise reporting process is very similar to MN State Grant. Most institutions will choose to report awards (estimated aid) first, to allow for a payment to be sent in advance of disbursing aid to students. It is recommended that awards are reported as early as possible before the start of the term so there is adequate time for review of files and correction of errors. Once awards are reported, and approved by OHE in MNAid, the institution will be able to request an NSP payment from OHE. Payments should be requested no earlier than 14 days before the start of the term. Most institutions will wait to receive their NSP payment from OHE before disbursing aid to students.

Report \$0 North Star Promise base and North Star Promise Plus awards for students otherwise eligible, but not receiving any funds.

Awards should be calculated, awarded, and reported to the hundredth cent.

A student may request to decline their North Star Promise award, however the institution must still report their \$0 award eligibility to MNAid. There is no place on the file record layout to indicate the student is declining their award, and the record will be flagged as rejected in MNAid. Because the award amount is \$0, this rejected record will not impact the student or NSP eligibility for future terms, however, the reject will not be resolved in MNAid and will remain in a rejected status.

NSP Reporting Recommended Time Line

Below is a recommended time line and procedure for NSP reporting to OHE:

- 4 weeks before the start of the term: begin reporting NSP/NSP+ awards in MNAid and continue to do so weekly.
 - After each week's report, run the NSP File Output Report and resolve the records showing on the "Rejected Awards_Payments" tab.
 - If there are records on the "Award Warnings" tab, resolve those (when possible) as well.
 - 2 weeks before the start of your institution's term use the "Request Funds" feature in MNAid to request first disbursement of NSP funds.

Reporting Adjusted Awards and Payments

Adjusted awards and disbursements are reported using the same process as initial awards and disbursements. The new disbursement date is reported when a disbursement is recalculated and the NSP amount is adjusted. The same is true for NSP+ awards that are re-calculated due to Pell Grant adjustments.

The adjusted amount and date will replace any previous amount and date for the term. Information in MNAid is only as up-to-date as the institution's reporting. If the institution has adjusted a disbursement in their system, but has not yet reported that adjustment to MNAid, MNAid will have the incorrect information.

A school must be reporting at least 1 credit of enrollment for a student to be eligible for NSP/NSP+.

Reporting Students Enrolled in More than One Eligible Institution in the Same Term

North Star Promise eligible students attending more than one eligible institution in the same term are allowed to have the tuition and fees combined for the purposes of the award calculation. A previous section of this manual offers guidance and details on how institutions calculate awards for students in this situation.

If NSP awards are calculated using tuition and fees amounts from more than one eligible institution in the same term, certain details will need to be included in the standard reporting to OHE.

- Combined tuition and fees: The NSP awarding institution is responsible for reporting the combined tuition and fees amounts used to calculate the North Star Promise award.
- Combined enrollment: The NSP awarding institution is responsible for reporting the combined enrollment at both the home and visiting school(s). This information will be used for credit usage/unit count purposes.

If the school chooses to combine enrollment and tuition and fees to calculate the NSP award for a student enrolled in more than one eligible institution, then the NSP awarding school is also responsible for updating enrollment and the NSP award if these items change at the visiting school. If a student changes their enrollment at the visiting school, the NSP awarding school will need to adjust their enrollment reported for NSP. If the change in enrollment results in a change in the tuition and fees at the visiting school, the NSP award will need to be adjusted accordingly.

Gift aid at the visiting institution(s) should be minimal given the NSP awarding institution is the same one responsible for awarding state and federal aid, therefore the NSP awarding institution is not responsible for including the gift aid from visiting institution(s). However, if the NSP awarding institution is aware of gift aid at the visiting institution, they are encouraged to include it in the calculation and report the combined gift aid total in the typical reporting process.

Reporting NSP for Dream Act Applicants

MN Dream Act students who are receiving North Star Promise and/or North Star Promise Plus are reported using the same process, same file, as FAFSA filing students. Institutions should make sure that Dream Act student SSN identifier being reported matches the SSN or proxy SSN for that student in MNAid.

Dream Act student awards should report \$0 in the Pell paid amount fields, even if an NSP+ award is present.

Students awarded State Grant via the Dream Act should have their state grant/Dream Act amount reported in the “other state/federal gift aid” field.

MNAid Reports

This section will explain some of the reports available to campus administrators with appropriate North Star Promise access.

Dream Act Students – NSP Eligible

This report is to be used by institutional users who are assessing Dream Act eligible students for potential North Star Promise and North Star Promise Plus eligibility. This report contains all students who have listed your institution on their Dream Act application, who also have an AGI under \$80,000. It also includes any Dream Act award and/or payment, and the “simulated Pell amount” in order to calculate NSP Plus awards. This report contains students who are both eligible and ineligible statuses for Dream Act application. Students with an “ineligible” status may be ineligible for Dream Act due to “no financial need” however, they have an AGI below \$80,000 and thus are potentially eligible for NSP.

Hold Report

The Hold Report is used to see SELF loan default and child support hold information for students.

NSP File Output Report

The File Output Report should be used to address rejected awards/payments and award warnings after an institution has reported a file. This report also shows accepted payments.

Student Unit Count Report

This report is used to see the total units used by all students at your institution for the following programs: State Grant/Dream Act, MN Indian Scholarship, Fostering Independence Grant, Postsecondary Child Care Grant, and North Star Promise.

Units Greater Than Threshold Report

This report is used to see the students at your institution who are over a certain threshold of unit usage within a certain program.

Appendix A: Archived Change Memo from September 2024 NSP Draft Manual

Clarification on a mandatory fee with a case-by-case institutional appeal process (p. 8).

Removed “at the time of disbursement” as it pertains to the requirement that a student must be enrolled in at least 1 credit (p. 12).

Clarified that a student who is admitted through Ability to Benefit (ATB) is meeting the requirement of GED/HS diploma as long as they are at least 17 years of age (p. 12).

Added the sentence “NSP+ awards do not count toward overall NSP program usage and cannot be waived” (p. 16).

Removed the sentence: “The institution’s policy regarding how MN State Grant is paid for repeated courses should be followed for North Star Promise. If the institutional policy allows for MN State Grant to be paid for the repeated course(s) then it can be included in the award calculation for North Star Promise” (p. 17).

Added Student Teaching Stipend Pilot to aid included as Gift Aid in NSP award calculation (p. 21).

Updates for a more inclusive list of Federal Veterans Educational Chapter benefits in addition to Ch. 33 as excluded from “gift aid” (Ch. 33, Ch. 30, Ch.31, Ch. 35, Ch. 1606) (p. 22).

MN G.I. Bill was removed from the Gift Aid included chart and added to the Gift Aid Excluded chart (p.22/p.24 (example updated as well)).

Substantial changes to Award Adjustment section (p. 30-32).

Archived Change Memo from August 2024 NSP Draft Manual

Numerous edits throughout the document to correct grammatical errors and improve clarity and readability without changing meaning.

Updates to the definition of “mandatory fee” as it pertains to study abroad experiences (p. 8 & p. 22).

Clarification on the eligibility requirement “Undergraduate Student who has Not Earned a Baccalaureate Degree” in that it conforms with the federal definition of “undergraduate student” (p. 12).

More information regarding awarding students NSP who are in default on federal or state loans (p. 13).

Award rounding rules clarified (p. 16).

Update to fee section when the fee is mandatory but charged for an activity which the student has elected to participate, i.e. athletics, club, organization, etc. (p. 18).

Added American Indian Scholars Program to Gift Aid section (p. 21).

Clarified both federal and state dislocated worker benefits are excluded from NSP award calculation (p. 22).

Updates to Awarding NSP to MN Dream Act Eligible student section (p. 26).

Updates to Reporting NSP for Dream Act Applicants (p. 34).

Updates to MNAid Reports section (p. 35).

Added Appendix B – further guidance on order of aid calculations when a student qualifies for two or more last-dollar OHE state financial aid awards (p. 37).

Archived Change Memo from June 2024 NSP Draft Manual

This change memo outlines key differences between Future Together Grant and North Star Promise.

Awards

FTG had an award maximum of \$7700/semester. NSP does not have an award maximum per semester, year, or lifetime.

FTG required award amounts to be rounded to the whole dollar. NSP awards will be calculated to the cent.

FTG required some federal last dollar programs, such as Vocational Rehab Services (VRS or Voc. Rehab), to be counted as gift aid in the award calculation. NSP award calculation will exclude any federal source of aid that is stipulated as “last-dollar” or “last-payer” in the NSP award calculation.

NSP includes an NSP Plus award that is determined based off a % of Pell grant received and can be awarded above the costs of tuition and fees. FTG had no such provision.

FTG awards could be made back to the beginning of the grant period (first term of awarding – spring 2022), NSP awards must be disbursed during the award year the term charges are incurred.

Eligibility

The AGI eligibility for NSP is under \$80,000. The AGI eligibility for FTG was up to \$99,999.

FTG required a student to be in a certain program leading to a high need/high demand occupation; each institution had an approved program list. NSP determines eligibility by whether the program leads to a degree, diploma, or certificate. Any program meeting the state aid definition of degree, diploma, or certificate is an eligible program for NSP.

FTG required students to be new students as of fall 2021 or not have been enrolled 3 semesters prior to fall 2021. NSP has no requirements like this.

Administrative

FTG required monthly, term, and quarterly reporting. NSP has same reporting requirements as MN State Grant (every 30 days or more frequently if the campus chooses).

Definition of mandatory fees: definition of “mandatory” – generally, FTG limited mandatory fees to those included in the state grant budget and/or those fees charged to “all” students. NSP defines “mandatory fee” more broadly.

FTG did not allow state or institutional gift aid designated for specific non-tuition and fees related COA items to be excluded from the award calculation. NSP allows state and institutional gift aid designated specifically for housing, food, childcare, emergency expenses, books, and/or supplies to be excluded from gift aid in the NSP award calculation.

FTG allowed to “back fill” aid that was backed out due to certain enrollment actions (W, FA grades, etc.) NSP does not back fill backed out aid – meaning NSP awards do not *increase* when students lose aid due to enrollment changes they initiated.

Appendix B: Multiple State Last Dollar Programs and Order of Aid Calculations



Over the past several legislative sessions, the Legislature has created multiple state “last dollar” financial aid programs. Last dollar financial aid programs are programs that account for, or take into consideration other financial aid when calculate the amount of aid a student is eligible for from the program.

In order to address the challenge of the existence of multiple state financial aid programs with a last dollar component, the Minnesota Revisor’s Office suggested Order of Aid Calculation language. The suggested language was included in the Higher Education Omnibus Bill, [HF4024, Ch.124](#) that passed in the 2024 legislative session.

What does the Order of Aid Calculation language mean?

The language that passed instructs state financial aid programs to be calculated in the order of their original enactment from oldest to most recent.

Order of Enactment for OHE State Financial Aid Programs

| Program | Year Enacted | Does this Program Account for Other State Aid? |
|--|--------------|---|
| Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program | 1959 | Yes (remaining need from Cost of Attendance) |
| Minnesota State Grant | 1971 | No |
| Public Safety Officer’s Survivor Grant | 1973 | No |
| Postsecondary Child Care Grant | 1989 | No |
| Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas | 2016 | Yes (remaining need from Cost of Attendance) |
| Grants for Students w/ Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities | 2017 | No |
| Underrepresented Student Teacher Grants | 2021 (a) | Yes (remaining need from Cost of Attendance) |
| Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship | 2021 (b) | Yes (remaining need from Cost of Attendance) |
| Fostering Independence Higher Education Grants | 2021 (c) | Yes (remaining need from Cost of Attendance) |
| Get Ready Student Success Scholarship | 2023 | No |
| North Star Promise Scholarship | 2023 | Yes (last dollar from tuition and fees) |

The language further instructs that when a student is:

- eligible for multiple state financial aid programs; and
- two or more of those programs calculate the award amount after accounting for other state aid,
- then the Commissioner of the Office of Higher Education can determine the order of calculating the state aid.

Unless the Office of Higher Education issues guidance that directs a particular order, the default will be the order of enactment from oldest to most recent.

**OHE State Financial Aid Programs that Account for Other State Aid
(Last Dollar or Remaining Need)**

| Program | Year Enacted |
|--|--------------|
| Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program | 1959 |
| Student Teacher Grants in Shortage Areas | 2016 |
| Underrepresented Student Teacher Grants | 2021 (a) |
| Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship | 2021 (b) |
| Fostering Independence Higher Education Grants | 2021 (c) |
| North Star Promise Scholarship | 2023 |

Example 1: Student is eligible for Minnesota State Grant (SG) and Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program (MISP)

In this example, the student is eligible for aid under only one last dollar program, so there is nothing to be resolved. Minnesota State Grant is not a last dollar aid program, so both programs are awarded as they have been in previous award cycles.

Example 2: Student is eligible for Minnesota State Grant (SG), Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program (MISP) and Fostering Independence Higher Education Grant (FIG)

In this example, the student is eligible for two last dollar programs, MISP and FIG. The order of enactment from oldest to most recent must be applied when determining state financial aid eligibility. The MISP award will be calculated and awarded first, since MISP was enacted before FIG. The MISP award will be calculated accounting for the SG award, but without accounting for the amount of the FIG award. Then, the FIG award will be calculated. The FIG award calculation will account for the amount of both the SG and MISP awards.

Example 3: Student is eligible for Minnesota State Grant (SG), Fostering Independence Higher Education Grant (FIG), and North Star Promise (NSP)

In this example, the student is eligible for two last dollar programs, FIG and NSP. The order of enactment from oldest to most recent must be applied when determining state financial aid eligibility. The FIG award will be

calculated and awarded first, since FIG was enacted before NSP. The FIG award will be calculated accounting for the Minnesota State Grant, but without accounting for the amount of the NSP award. When it comes to calculating the NSP award, the student will not be eligible because the FIG program will award up to the Cost of Attendance, so there will not be any remaining tuition and fees to be covered by NSP. While not eligible for NSP, FIG recipients could receive a North Star Promise Plus award if they also receive the Education Training Voucher and/or Extended Foster Care benefits.

Example 4: Student is eligible for Minnesota State Grant (SG), Underrepresented Student Teacher Grant (USTG), and Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship (ATC)

In this example, the student is eligible for two last dollar programs, USTG and ATC. The order of enactment from oldest to most recent must be applied when determining state financial aid eligibility. The USTG award will be calculated and awarded first, since OHE has determined that USTG was enacted before ATC. The USTG award will be calculated accounting for the Minnesota State Grant, but without accounting for the amount of the ATC award. The ATC award calculation will consider the amount of both the SG and USTG awards.

Example 5: Student is awarded NSP. Student later applies for MISP

In this example, the student is eligible for two last dollar programs, NSP and MISP. The order of enactment from oldest to most recent must be applied when determining state financial aid eligibility. Although the NSP award was originally calculated first by the school, the MISP award now must be calculated and awarded prior to NSP. This is due to the order of enactment language; MISP was enacted before NSP. The MISP award must be calculated without accounting for NSP. Then, once the MISP award is determined, the school would recalculate the NSP award, accounting for the MISP award.

Example 6: Student is eligible for the Fostering Independence Grant (FIG) and the North Star Promise (NSP)

In this example, the student has a SAI close to the student's cost of attendance or is higher than the student's cost of attendance and has an Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) under \$80,000. FIG is a need-based program that includes SAI in the calculation of awards. If the FIG award is not enough to cover tuition and fees, NSP will pay any remaining balance.

Things to Consider

- When awarding Postsecondary Child Care Grant, the Cost of Attendance may be increased to account for the amount of the childcare expense.
- When awarding Grants for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, the Cost of Attendance may be increased to account for expenses related to the student's disability.