



# Direct Admissions Minnesota Information for High Schools

## Agenda

- Introductions
- Project Overview and Background
- Role of High Schools in the Pilot Year
- Project Requirements and Funding
- Getting Involved
- Questions



# Direct Admissions Project Overview and Background

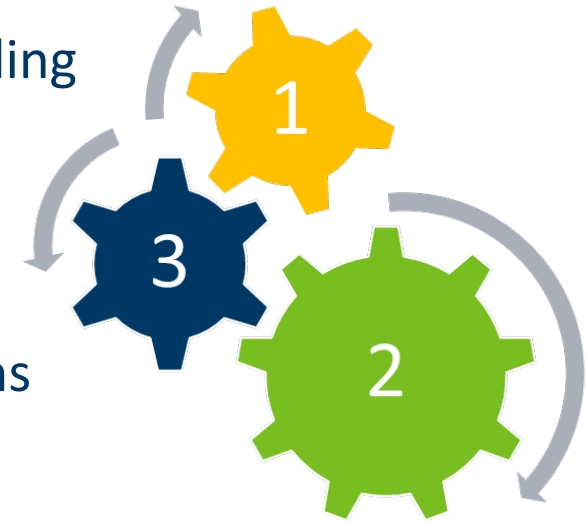
- Goal: To encourage all high school seniors to think of themselves as “college material” and to offer them a “direct admissions” opportunity. This pilot will try to reduce the anxiety around the “Will I get in?” question and encourage exploration of Minnesota colleges and universities
  - Direct admissions is designed to spark and supplement other college exploration activities and isn’t designed to tell students which college or university they should attend
  - Participating colleges will include Minnesota State system schools, U of M (Duluth, Morris, and Crookston only), and private, non-profit colleges including Augsburg University
- Partnership between the state, high schools, colleges, and technology vendors. Project is modeled after a successful pilot in Idaho <https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/resources/direct-admissions-initiative>
- No cost for high schools or colleges to participate. Additional funding available to cover costs for high school staff time, high school and college technology costs

# Project Overview: The Details

- Colleges and universities will opt-in to participate and agree to GPA threshold for participating in the program
  - Students with higher GPA will have letters/emails that include more selective institutions
  - All students who are on track to graduate in spring will be included with letters listing open access institutions
- Students will be informed in Direct Admissions communication that they:
  - Must complete admissions application for colleges they are interested
  - Should complete FAFSA for financial aid consideration
  - Are not required to apply to any of the colleges that are listed on their letter nor are they limited to applying to just those colleges
  - Are expected to graduate in spring 2023

# Role of High Schools in the Pilot Year

- Complete MOU, data sharing agreements, and contracts as need for funding
- Work with Direct Admissions planning group to determine final timeline for May – September
- Assist with informing high school faculty and staff about Direct Admissions to help field questions from students and parents
  - OHE will provide FAQ and OHE personnel available to attend staff meeting or other forums to answer questions
- Troubleshoot and quality control for academic review process
- Assist with communications review
- Provide feedback to OHE along the way: What was easy? What was challenging? What are students and families saying?





# Project Requirements - How does it work?

1. Review end of junior year GPA and course grades to see if the student meets the admission criteria of the participating colleges and universities.
2. Each fall, high school seniors and their parents or guardians will be notified by formal letter/email of their “acceptance” and encouraged to learn more about the programs offered throughout the participating colleges. The types of letters to be sent include:
  - Students attending 4-year colleges with higher academic standards
  - Students attending 4-year colleges with moderate academic standards
  - Students attending open access 2- and 4-year colleges
3. Students will be prompted to choose the institutions they wish to directly be admitted to as a next step in the admissions process. Students can choose one or more of Minnesota’s colleges or universities. Once selected, the specified colleges will reach out with admissions information, including the application.

# Project Requirements – Funding for High Schools

- Funding will be available to compensate for staff time to assist with implementation during summer months.
- High schools should incur no additional expenses for participating in the program
- Technology costs will be paid by the Office of Higher Education to the SIS vendors for software and system requirements.



# Getting Involved



- OHE is looking for a geographically diverse sampling of high schools for the pilot year
- Special preference for schools that are above 30% for free and reduced lunch participation and/or have 30% or more students from historically underserved populations
- Contact the Office of Higher Education by May 24<sup>th</sup> to nominate your school for consideration
  - Meredith Fergus ([Meredith.Fergus@state.mn.us](mailto:Meredith.Fergus@state.mn.us)) or Wendy Robinson ([Wendy.Robinson@state.mn.us](mailto:Wendy.Robinson@state.mn.us))
  - Nomination should come from principal or superintendent
  - If a large number of schools opt-in, schools chosen will be based on size, location, student demographics and student information system compatibility



Questions?

## Contacts

**Wendy Robinson, Assistant Commissioner**

[Wendy.Robinson@state.mn.us](mailto:Wendy.Robinson@state.mn.us)

**Meredith Fergus, Director of Research and SLEDS**

[Meredith.Fergus@state.mn.us](mailto:Meredith.Fergus@state.mn.us)

