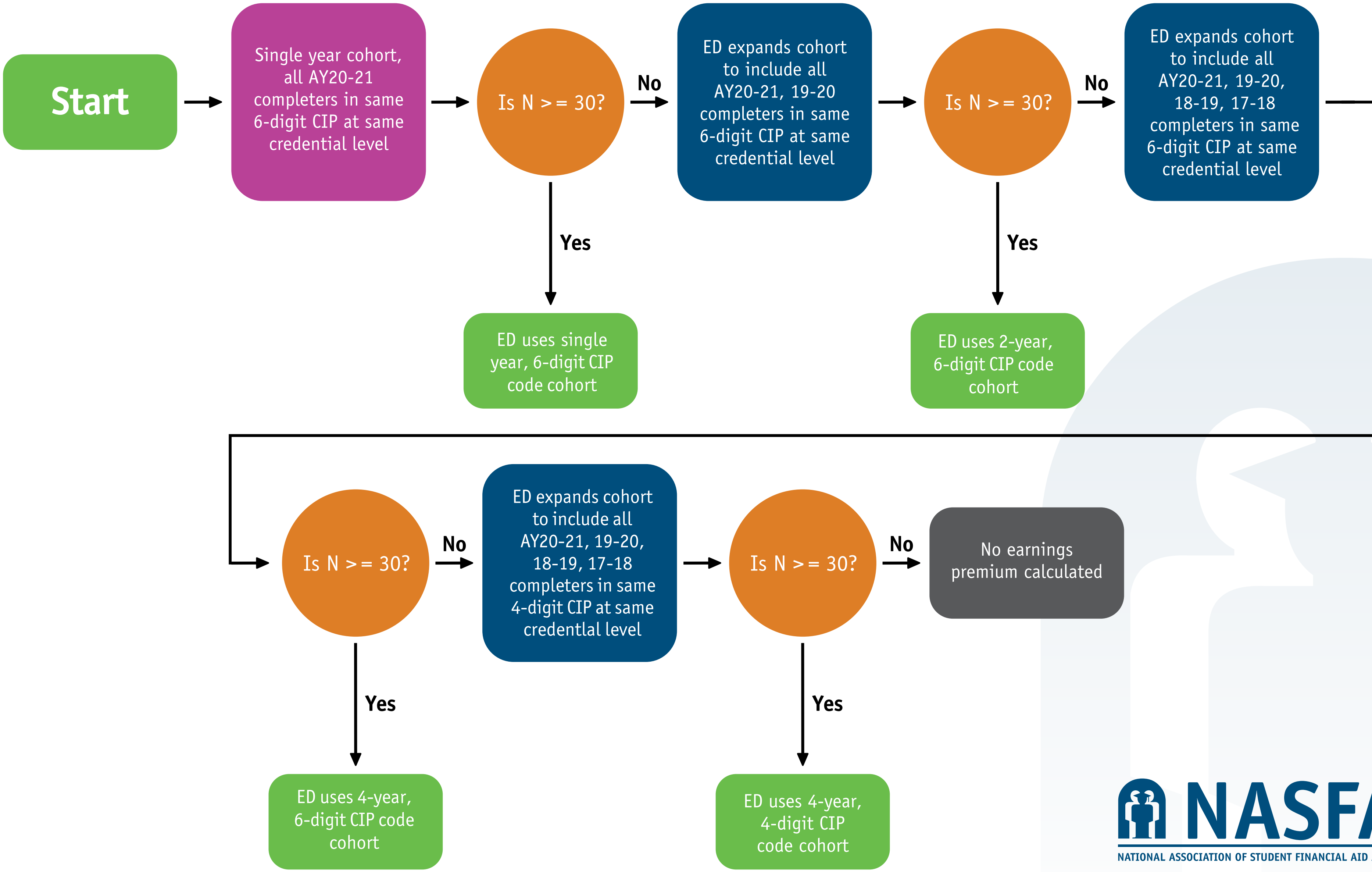
STATS/Earnings Accountability First Year (2027) Earnings Premium Metric Calculation Cohort Expansion Flowchart

This flowchart illustrates how the Department will determine the completer cohort used to calculate the First Year Earnings Premium metric for each program under the STATS/Earnings Accountability Final Rule. If a program does not meet the minimum number of 30 completers using a single-year, 6-digit CIP cohort, the Department applies a stepped expansion process, first adding additional completion years, then broadening to the 4-digit CIP level, until the minimum number of 30 threshold is met or no premium is calculated under CFR § 668.2(b). The first year calculation is based on institutional data reported by the October 1, 2026 deadline.



NASFAA
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS

The Department of Education (ED) released the Accountability in Higher Education and Access Through Demand- Driven Workforce Pell (AHEAD): Student Tuition and Transparency System (STATS) and Earnings Accountability final regulations in the July 1, 2026, Federal Register. In the preamble to the Final Rules, ED indicates that additional sub-regulatory guidance will be issued. All information provided here reflects NASFAA's current understanding of how to apply the July 1 rules based on the regulatory text and preamble discussion. Because ED has indicated that further guidance is forthcoming, the information included here may be subject to change.

 7/1/2026