



Working Together: NC-SARA and the SARA Community

Jared Abdirkin | Director, State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA), NEBHE

Marianne Boeke | Vice President, Research & State Partnerships, NC-SARA

Sam Loftin | Director of Consumer Protection, Washington Student Achievement Council

Welcome and Agenda

1. SARA Landscape
2. Policy Modification Process
 - History
 - Update
 - What's Next?
3. NC-SARA Board Update
4. Proposed Federal State Authorization Rule & SARA

SARA Landscape

SARA – State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements – provides a voluntary, regional approach to state authorization of postsecondary distance education.

- Institutions participate in SARA through their state
- States are members of SARA through their regional compact
- Regional Compacts implement SARA in their region
- NC-SARA works in concert with the 4 regional compacts (support, facilitation, alignment, value of SARA, data & research)

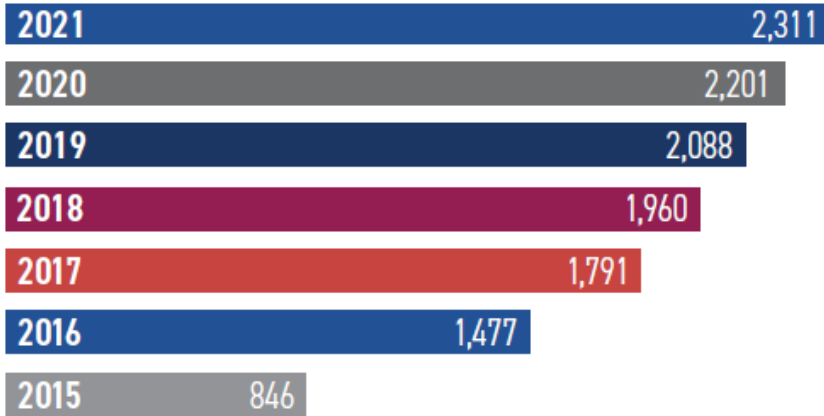
SARA Members: 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

SARA Participating Institutions: 2300+

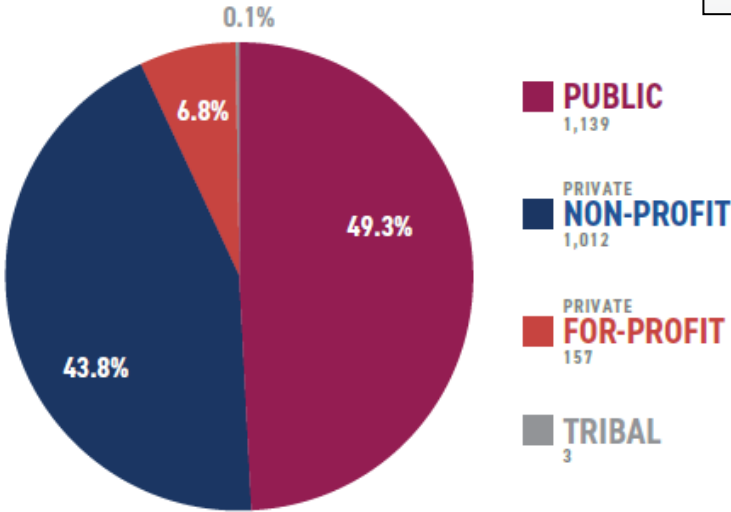
SARA-PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

SARA PARTICIPATION CONTINUES TO INCREASE

The number of institutions participating in SARA has continued to increase, with 110 more institutions reporting in 2021 than in 2020.



PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS CONTINUE TO MAKE UP LARGEST SECTOR IN SARA



1,502,171

Number of students attending out-of-state institutions exclusively via distance education through SARA in Fall 2021



SARA Policy Modification Cycle 2023

Brief History: SARA Policy Modification Process

- Current process was developed by member states in 2021/2022.
- Intended to ensure member states maintain a voice in shaping SARA's policies.
- Guiding principles: transparency, collaboration, consistency, clear and open communication.
- Involved widespread collaboration throughout the SARA community and with multiple groups who care about student success.
- We encourage you to engage:
 - Public comment period April 17-May 17
 - Second Public Forum on June 7

Where We Are

63 proposals, including from consumer advocacy groups, institutions, regional steering committees/regional compacts:

provisional status, institution eligibility, financial responsibility, state membership & responsibility, definitions, 21st century & C-RAC guidelines, professional licensure, student complaints, NC-SARA institution fees, arbitration agreements.

Since late 2022, RSCs, SPEs, Compact and NC-SARA staffs meeting multiple times per week in a variety of ongoing and purpose driven groups to direct the process and consider policy proposals.

Where We Are Going

- Ensure broad engagement, state involvement, transparency, and an adherence to the policy process.
- Outreach and Engagement has begun and will continue with proposers and interested parties via direct meetings, current public comment period, second public forum.
- **May 10th** watch the public portion of the NC-SARA Board meeting for more in-depth highlights of this cycle (NC-SARA website to register).
- RSCs will vote to move proposals to NC-SARA Board by **September 1st**.



NC-SARA Board and Federal Update

The NC-SARA Board Today

- June 2022 – Board Approved the New SARA Policy Modification Process
Section 8.2 *SARA Policy Manual*
- 19 board members / 4 board meetings yearly
- New Committees/Task Force:
 - Policy Committee
 - Strategy Committee
 - Governance and Nominations Committee
 - Consumer Protection Task Force
- Board's commitment to engagement with stakeholders
- Board's commitment to transparency and communication



Questions?

2023 NASASPS Annual Conference

April 30 – May 3 | Phoenix, Arizona



Thank you!



Marianne Boeke | mboeke@nc-sara.org

Jared Abdirkin | jabdirkin@nebhe.org

Sam Loftin | SamL@wsac.wa.gov