An Introduction to SARA

Part 2 of the NC-SARA & WCET/SAN 2-Part Webinar Series
August 4, 2022

Marianne Boeke, Ph.D., Acting President and CEO; Vice President, Research & State Partnerships

Melanie Booth, Ed.D., Vice President, Educational Programs & Communications

Jeannie Yockey-Fine, General Counsel and Vice President, Policy & Regulatory Affairs
AGENDA

Before & After SARA: The Problem SARA Solved

How SARA Works

Q&A

SARA Today & What Might Be At Risk?

Q&A

NC-SARA Resources
Before & After SARA: The Problem SARA Solved
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BEFORE</th>
<th>AFTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>COST</strong></td>
<td><strong>AFFORDABLE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPENSIVE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROCESS</strong></td>
<td><strong>SIMPLIFIED PROCESS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERWHELMING BUREAUCRACY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROTECTIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>ENHANCED PROTECTIONS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LACK OF PROTECTIONS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REGULATIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>STREAMLINED REGULATIONS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONFUSING</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPTIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHOICE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIMITED OPTIONS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DATA</strong></td>
<td><strong>BETTER DATA</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCONSISTENT DATA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How SARA Works
Essential Principles of SARA

• Voluntary for states to be members

• Voluntary for institutions to participate

• Acknowledges the traditional roles within higher education’s “accountability triad.”

• Lays out a framework for state-level reciprocity:
  • SARA Policy across state members
  • NC-SARA works in partnership with four regional compacts (WICHE, MHEC, SREB, NEBHE)
The Critical Role of the States

- States approve their “home-state” institutions to participate in SARA

- The SARA State Portal Entity (SPE) is the state agency responsible for SARA approvals and compliance
Institution Application and Renewal Process

**STEP 1**
Institution **APPLIES** to SARA State Portal Entity to participate or renew participation in SARA

**STEP 2**
SARA State Portal Entity **REVIEWS** and approves or denies application or renewal

**STEP 3**
If approved, the institution receives invoice and **PAYMENT LINK** from NC-SARA via the NC-SARA portal

**STEP 4**
Institution sends **PAYMENT** to NC-SARA

**STEP 5**
NC-SARA confirms payment, sends **CONFIRMATION** information, and lists institution on NC-SARA website

**STEP 6**
Institution must **RENEW** annually to SARA State Portal Entity to maintain participation status
Institutions Benefit
Students Benefit from SARA

- Expands access to educational offerings.
- Better resolution of complaints from students in SARA states.
- Reduces institutional cost that is in one way or another passed along to students.
NC-SARA IMPROVES STUDENT CONSUMER PROTECTION

Variable state regulation results in about half without any distance education regulation and one-third without accreditation requirements. When states join SARA, they agree to follow uniform processes for approving their eligible institutions’ participation. SARA’s policies help protect students and provide benefits to both states and institutions carrying out distance education in multiple states.
Questions and Discussion
SARA Today
More 2,300 institutions participate in SARA!

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS CONTINUE TO COMPRISE MAJORITY OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE EDUCATION ENROLLMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020 Enrollment</th>
<th>2019 Enrollment</th>
<th>Year Over Year Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PUBLIC</td>
<td>3,873,286</td>
<td>1,589,719</td>
<td>144%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRIBAL</td>
<td>1,034</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>107%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIVATE NON-PROFIT</td>
<td>1,362,700</td>
<td>924,463</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT</td>
<td>588,703</td>
<td>502,263</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Out-of-state Learning Placements

261,275

The number of out-of-state learning placements (OOSLP) for calendar year 2020 was 261,275, a decrease of 3.9% from 271,784 reported in 2019.

HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS REMAIN MOST PREVALENT OOSLP

The largest out-of-state learning placements (OOSLP) were in healthcare-related programs (56.5%), followed by education (10.3%) and business (5.2%). The remaining 28% of OOSLPs were in a variety of fields, such as engineering and social sciences.
Neg Reg & SARA
The U.S. Department of Education’s Potential Regulations That Could Impact SARA

- 34 CFR 668.14 Program participation agreement
- (32) In each State in which the institution is located or in which students enrolled by the institution are located, the institution is otherwise required to obtain State approval under 34 CFR 600.9, the institution must ensure that each program—
  - (iii) Complies with all State consumer protection laws, including both generally applicable State laws and those specific to educational institutions, except where State requirements for obtaining authorization are inapplicable pursuant to a State authorization reciprocity agreement.
What’s Next?

**NPRM**
- Publication of proposed rules (NPRM) in *Federal Register*
- April 2023 (target) for public comment
- At least 30 days comment period
- Regulations.gov

**Publication of Final Rule**
- ED responds to comments
- Publication of final rules in *Federal Register*
- Master Calendar: by November 1, 2023

**Effective Dates**
- Goal is to implement by July 1, 2024
NC-SARA’s Resources
SARA Learning Station

Powered by NC-SARA

https://nc-sara.org/sara-learning-station

• SARA Quick Start Guides (10)
• Online Courses for Institutions: SARA 101; Foundations of Data Reporting
• In the Field: NC-SARA’s Institution Conference (2021 & 2022)
SARA Quick Start Guides

1. Annual Data Reporting
2. California Students
3. Field Trips
4. Institution Applications
5. Military Bases
6. Overseas Students
7. Professional Licensure
8. Short Courses
9. Student Complaints
10. Third Party Contracts
What is SARA?

Professional Licensure Directory
State Authorization Guide
Data Dashboards & Annual Data Reports
Cost Savings Calculator
Institution Directory
Questions and Discussion
Thank You!

For questions please email: Info@nc-sara.org

NC-SARA Website: www.nc-sara.org