WELCOME!

• Please use the Question and Answer feature for questions.

• The Closed Caption option is available.

• The webinar will be recorded.

• This PowerPoint and any other resources referenced will be available next week to all who registered, and will be posted on the NC-SARA website.
PRESENTERS

Lori Williams, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
NC-SARA

Emily M. Jacobson
Associate Director of M-SARA
MHEC

Jeannie Yockey-Fine
General Counsel
NC-SARA
SESSION AGENDA

• Welcome and Introductions
• Proposed SARA Policy Modifications:
  • Changes to SARA Policy (4)
  • Clarifications to SARA Policy (5)
• Next Steps
• Questions and Discussion
WELCOME FROM LORI WILLIAMS
Proposed SARA Policy Modifications
Proposed SARA Policy Modifications

- Changes to SARA Policy (4)
- Clarifications to SARA Policy (5)

Here we go!
Change to SARA Policy (1 of 4)

Additional language for Section 3.2(a)(8) to extend provisional status under certain circumstances

Section 3.2 Provisional admission or renewal of an Institution

a. A state, at its discretion, may approve an institution applying for initial or renewal participation in SARA to participate on Provisional Status in any of the following circumstances:

8. The Institution has a change of ownership as determined by the Home State. Additional changes of ownership of the same institution constitute a separate basis for a state’s determination of provisional status. Each such determination begins a new period of provisional status under Section 3.2(e).

➢ This modification was proposed by MHEC and NC-SARA staff.
Change to SARA Policy (2 of 4)

Additional language at Section 3.2(e) to extend provisional status specific to change of ownership or for ongoing investigation.

Section 3.2(e). In no event shall such an extension of Provisional Status exceed one additional year. An extension of provisional status shall not exceed one additional year unless a change of ownership has occurred during the current period of provisional status and additional time is needed to demonstrate compliance with federal requirements, or there is an ongoing investigation as described in Section 3.2(4) and (5).

➤ This modification was proposed by MHEC and NC-SARA staff.
Change to SARA Policy (3 of 4)

Modification to Section 3.2(g)(2) to align with recommended edits to Section 3.2(e)

Section 3.2(g)(2): If an Institution on SARA Provisional Status is found by its home state to not meet the requirements of SARA, the home state shall disallow any further enrollments under SARA, shall notify its Regional Compact and NC-SARA, and:

1. Remove the institution from SARA participation, or

2. Allow the institution a period of time not to exceed 12 months in which to come into compliance with SARA policies under state supervision. Only one such time period is allowed in any three-year period, unless the extension is due to an ongoing investigation or as a result of a change of ownership during the current period of provisional status and additional time is needed to demonstrate compliance with federal requirements.

➢ This modification was proposed by MHEC and NC-SARA staff.
Change to SARA Policy (4 of 4)

Combine Sections 8.2 & 8.3 to become Section 8.2

Section 8.2 (minor modifications) & 8.3 (significant modifications)
  • Remove Section 8.3 to combine with Section 8.2
  • Ensures all modifications are treated the same – Transparency and Feedback.

➤ This modification was proposed by NC-SARA staff with input from regional compact staff, SARA State Portal Entity staff, and other stakeholders.
Clarification to Section 2.5: federal FRCS language - parent entity

Section 2.5 Language for financials and parent companies (for instances where there is no federal FRCS for the parent company).

- For institutions owned or controlled by another entity (i.e., a parent entity), the relevant Composite Score will be the Composite Score of the parent entity, as published at https://studentaid.gov/data-center/school/composite-scores, in accord with current U.S. Department of Education (ED) practice.

- This clarification was proposed by NC-SARA staff.
Modifications to Clarify SARA Policy (2 of 5)

Clarification to Section 2.5(d) to ensure notifications in a timely manner – institutional appeals

Ensure that compacts and NC-SARA are notified of an institutional appeal in a timely manner.

• Section 2.5(d): States shall notify their regional compacts within 5 business days of the initial appeal. Regional compacts shall notify NC-SARA within 5 business days of notification by the state.

➢ This clarification was proposed by NC-SARA staff.
Modifications to Clarify SARA Policy (3 of 5)

Clarification to Section 2.6(c) to ensure notifications in a timely manner – state appeals

Section 2.6(c) State appeals—ensuring that NC-SARA is notified.

- Section 2.6(c): Regional compacts shall notify NC-SARA within 5 business days of the initial appeal.

➢ This clarification was proposed by NC-SARA staff.
Clarification to Section 5.10(b)(5) remove the word “academic”

Section 5.10(b)(5) Remove the word academic to avoid states having to differentiate between types of staff.

• Section 5.10(b)(5): Having faculty, adjunct faculty, mentors, tutors, recruiters or other academic personnel residing in a member state and working from their homes or another private, non-institutional site, provided that such staff is not engaged in activities that would otherwise constitute physical presence as defined by SARA policies;

➢ This clarification was proposed by NC-SARA staff with input from the compacts.
Modifications to Clarify SARA Policy (5 of 5)

Section 6.2 Remove non-policy screenshots and clarify language from the Data Section of the SARA Policy Manual

The process is detailed in the NC-SARA Data Reporting Handbook for Institutions.

• Section 6.2 Data use by NC-SARA
  a. NC-SARA on its website will report distance education enrollment data, by institution. in a manner similar to the following format:
  b. NC-SARA on its website will report out-of-state learning placement data by institution, in similar format.

➢ This clarification was proposed by NC-SARA staff.
Institutions may submit any feedback to NC-SARA on these proposed modifications by February 26, 2021.

- Please email feedback to info@nc-sara.org

State Portal Entities and Regional Steering Committee Members will receive a deadline to submit feedback to their regional compacts.

The NC-SARA Board meets May 4-5, 2021.

- The public portion of this meeting, with registration information, will be forthcoming.

NC-SARA and regional compacts will host a public webinar on May 18, 2021 to review the approved modifications. Registration information will be forthcoming.
Questions and Discussion

THANK YOU!

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

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

Twitter:
@NCSARA_News

LinkedIn:
https://www.linkedin.com/company/nc-sara