

BEFORE & AFTER NC-SARA

BEFORE

EXPENSIVE: The process of compiling and processing applications to offer distance education across state lines imposed costs on both institutions and states – costs that could be passed on to students in the form of higher tuition or fees.

OVERWHELMING BUREAUCRACY: Adhering to varying state requirements and regulations created enormous bureaucracy for institutions.

LACK OF PROTECTIONS: Because states had varying degrees of accountability requirements for institutions, students could not rely on a consistent set of consumer protections to help assure quality distance education programs.

CONFUSING: Institutions struggled to understand and juggle varying state requirements for distance education regulations, fee structures, and data reporting on different annual calendars.

LIMITED OPTIONS: Because institutions could not offer distance education programs across state lines without first obtaining specific approvals from each state, students' distance education programming options were limited.

INCONSISTENT DATA: States collect different data sets about higher education programs and outcomes, leading to inconsistent reporting on distance education programs.



AFTER

AFFORDABLE: NC-SARA has maintained low fees for states to become members and for institutions to participate in order to more easily offer distance education opportunities across state lines.

SIMPLIFIED PROCESS: Because NC-SARA streamlined the application process for all SARA member states, it is now easier for institutions and states to ensure adherence to state authorization requirements for distance education across the country.

ENHANCED PROTECTIONS: SARA member states must adhere to a consistent set of requirements to help guarantee appropriate protections for students.

STREAMLINED REGULATIONS: SARA establishes one uniform set of state distance education regulations, ensuring more efficient and effective oversight of distance learning programs.

CHOICE: Because 49 states and three territories are SARA members, and more than 2,160 institutions are participating institutions in SARA, students now have a wide variety of interstate distance education programming options.

BETTER DATA: NC-SARA requires institutions to annually report in-state and out-of-state online enrollments and out-of-state learning activities such as practice teaching, clinical work, etc., and compiles that information into a publicly accessible database.