



June 2021 NC-SARA Policy Revision Cycle Memo

Between June 2021 and May 2022, NC-SARA, along with its regional compact partners (MHEC, NEBHE, SREB, and WICHE), will transition from a biannual policy review and revision cycle to an annual policy review and revision cycle. SARA policy development has matured over the last eight years, and it is now at a point where constituents would benefit from more time for substantive policy discussions prior to NC-SARA's Board voting on proposed policy modifications. An annual cycle will allow greater transparency and engagement for all stakeholders, and NC-SARA and regional compact staff will be better able to attend to the administration of the cycle while Regional Steering Committees, State Portal Entities, and SARA participating institutions will have more time for engaging in the process. Per the NC-SARA board's by-laws, time-sensitive policy issues may be addressed by the NC-SARA board at any time should more urgent issues arise.

This memo provides an overview of this transition schedule and next steps. Please email info@nc-sara.org with any questions about this process.

Transition Schedule: 2021-22

**Transition from Biannual to Annual Cycle for SARA Policy Review and Revision:
May 2021 – May 2022**



Timeline

June 2021 – August 2021: Two Month Combined Comment and Suggestion Phases

During this phase, comments on the 21st Century Guidelines for accreditors for the October 2021 board meeting as well as new suggestions for policy modifications for the May 2022 board meeting may come forward.

August – October 2021: Preparation for October Board meeting

During this phase, NC-SARA and regional compacts will collaborate to finalize the proposal and rationale for the 21st Century Guidelines policy modification for the October 2021 board meeting. Initial discussions regarding new suggestions for policy modifications that were proposed will also take place among stakeholders.

October 28-29, 2021: NC-SARA October Board Meeting

The NC-SARA board will convene for its October 2021 meeting and discuss and vote on the 21st Century Guidelines' inclusion in the SARA Policy Manual and implementation timeline.

November 1, 2021 – April 1, 2022: Final New Proposal Development

During this phase, NC-SARA and regional compacts will continue discussions regarding new proposals for policy modifications, and will finalize these proposals for the May 2022 board meeting. Some policy items that come forward during this transition time may not fit within this timeframe; proposed policy items may need further discussions and therefore may be moved forward to future NC-SARA board meetings.

May 2022: NC-SARA May Board Meeting

The NC-SARA board will convene for its May 2022 meeting and discuss and vote on proposed policy modifications suggested and developed starting in June 2021.

Beginning in May 2022, NC-SARA and regional compacts will start the next annual cycle, leading to policy items for the May 2023 NC-SARA board meeting.

Next Steps

Monday, August 2, 2021: Deadline for the submission of comments on *the 21st Century Guidelines* for accreditors for the October 2021 board meeting and new proposals for policy modifications for consideration for the May 2022 board meeting.

- SARA state members will receive specific guidance from their regional compacts about the process by which to share comments on *the 21st Century Guidelines* for October 2021 and new proposals for policy modifications for consideration for May 2022.
- SARA participating institutions will be emailed a survey link in order to submit comments on the *21st Century Guidelines* for October 2021 and new proposals for policy modifications for consideration for May 2022.

- Members of the public may submit comments on the *21st Century Guidelines* or new proposals for policy modifications to NC-SARA by emailing info@nc-sara.org. Please include a detailed rationale for your suggestions or comments.