

An Introduction to SARA

Part 2 of the NC-SARA & WCET/SAN 2-Part Webinar Series

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National Council for
State Authorization
Reciprocity Agreements

MHEC • NEBHE • SREB • WICHE



AGENDA

Before & After SARA: The Problem SARA Solved

How SARA Works

Q&A

SARA Today & What Might Be At Risk?

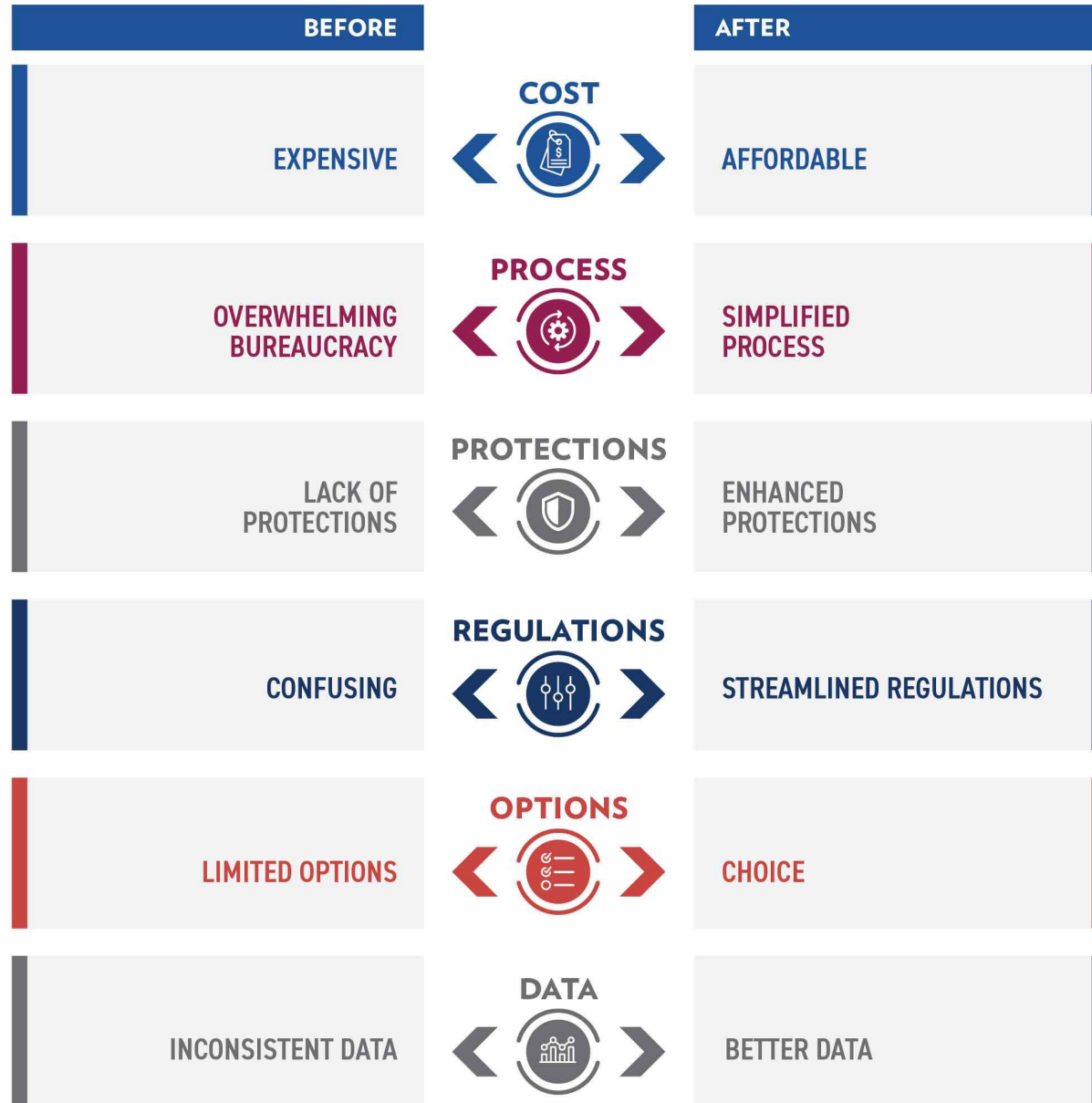
Q&A

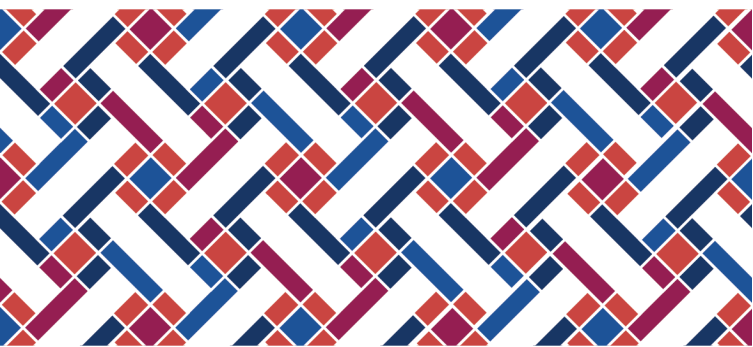
NC-SARA Resources

Before & After SARA: The Problem SARA Solved



BEFORE & AFTER NC-SARA





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

MHEC • NEBHE • SREB • WICHE



PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION

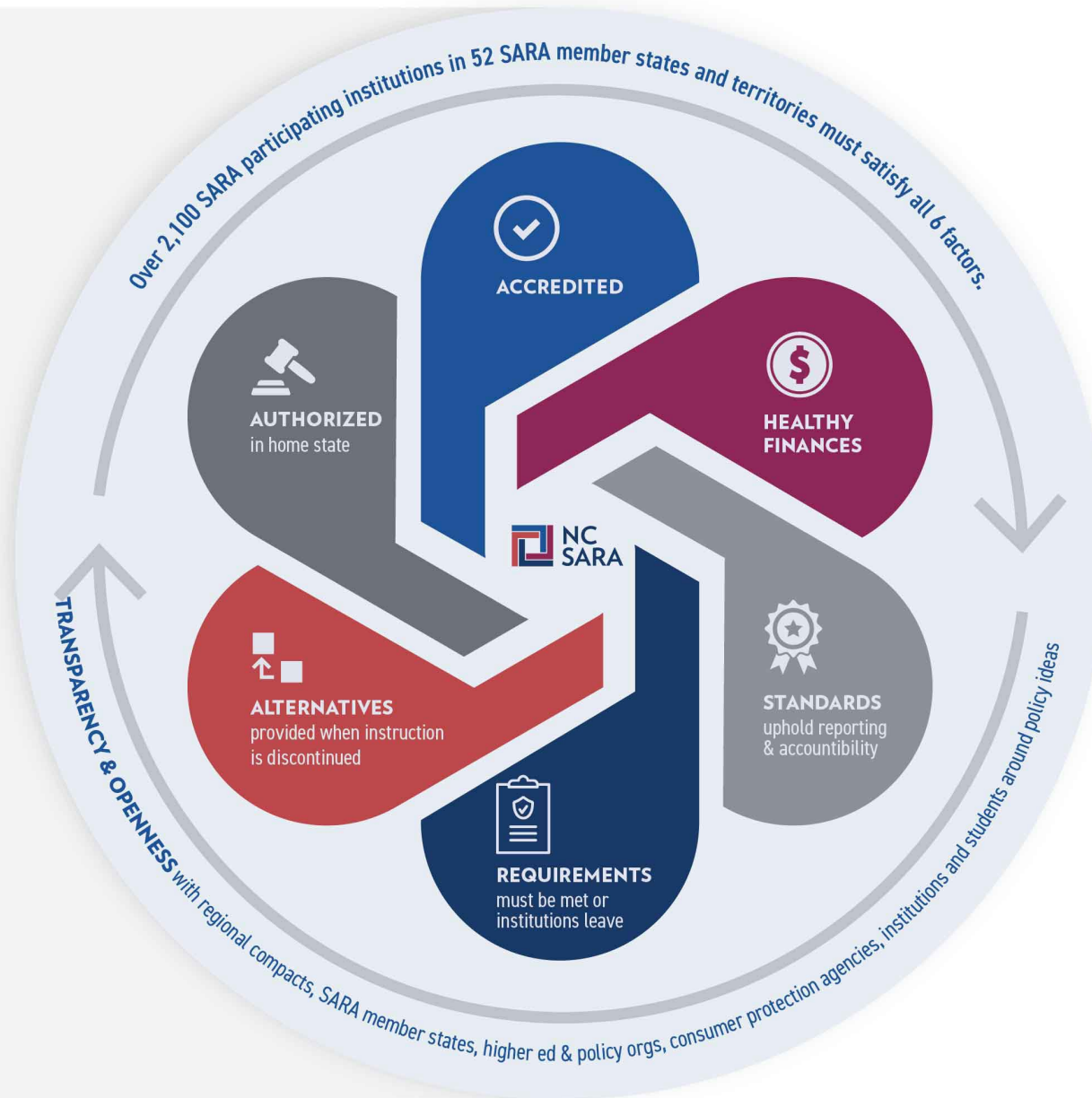
Students Benefit from SARA



- 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.

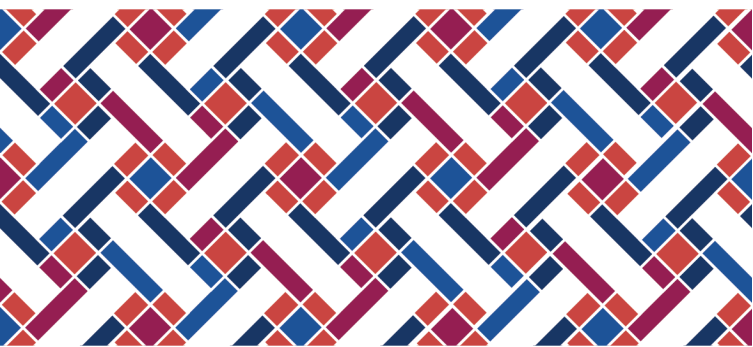
NC-SARA IMPROVES STUDENT CONSUMER PROTECTION

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



SARA Member States

LEGEND

MHEC

NEBHE

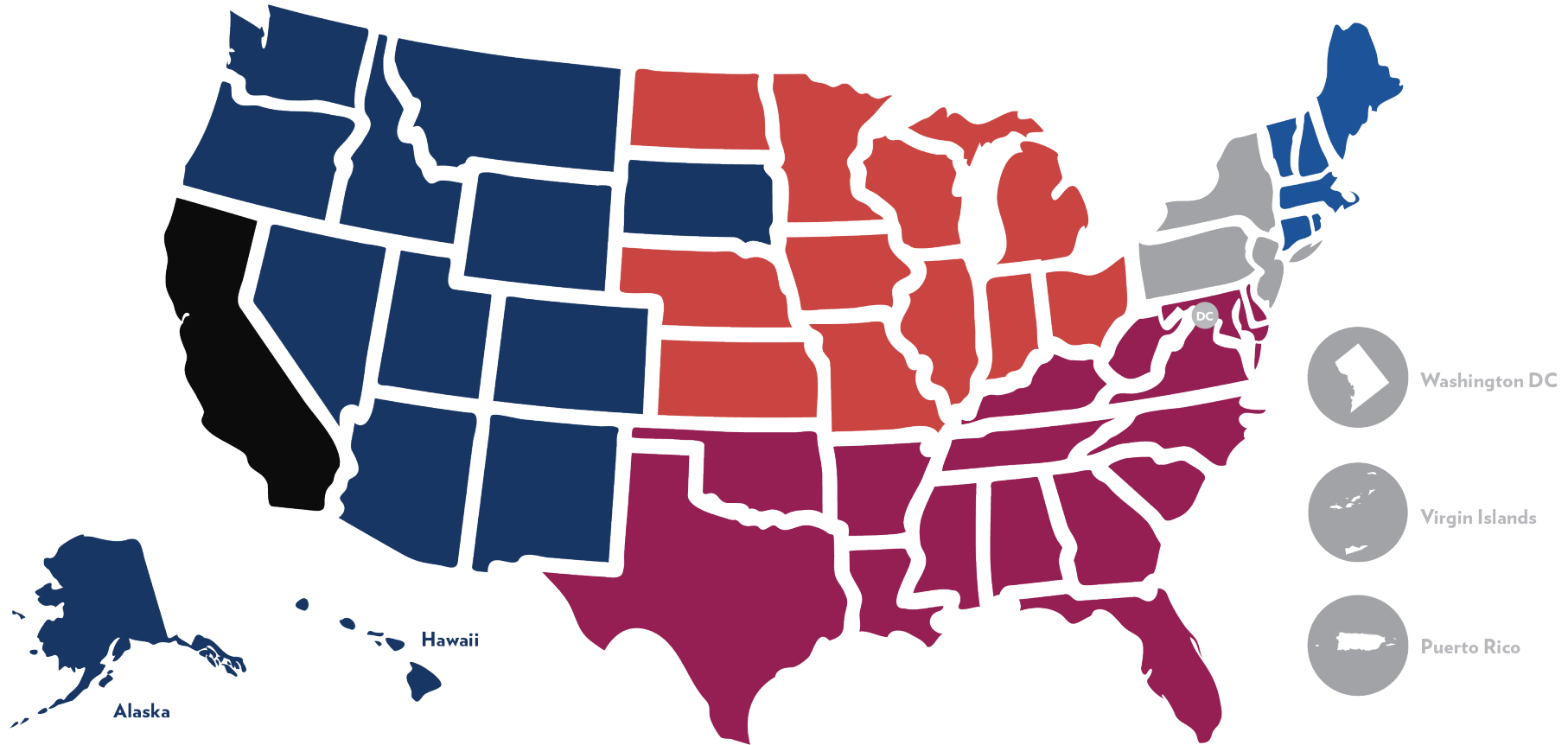
SREB

WICHE

MEMBERS

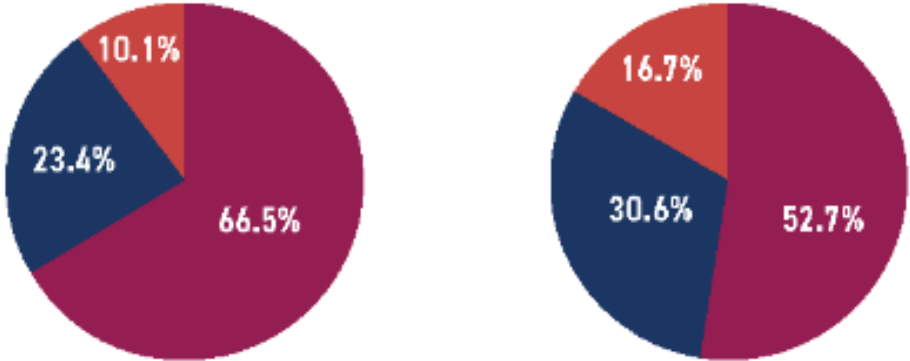
of SARA; Not in a Compact

NON MEMBER



More 2,300 institutions participate in SARA!

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS CONTINUE TO COMPRISE MAJORITY OF EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE EDUCATION ENROLLMENTS



2020 Enrollment

2019 Enrollment



ENROLLMENT	2020	2019	YEAR OVER YEAR INCREASE
PUBLIC	3,873,286	1,589,719	144%
TRIBAL	1,034	499	107%
PRIVATE NON-PROFIT	1,362,700	924,463	47%
PRIVATE FOR-PROFIT	588,703	502,263	17%

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.



56.5%

Health Professions



10.3%

Education



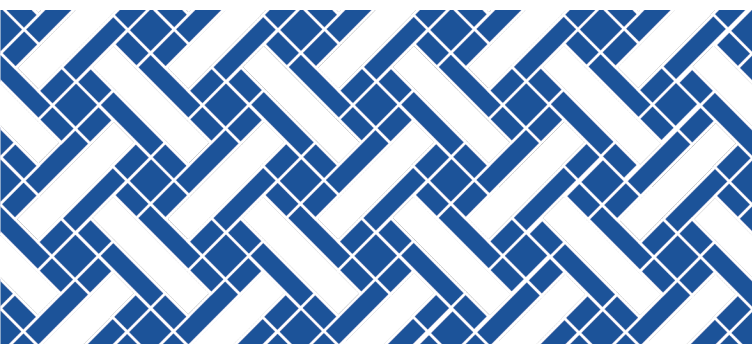
5.2%

Business



28%

Variety of Fields



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



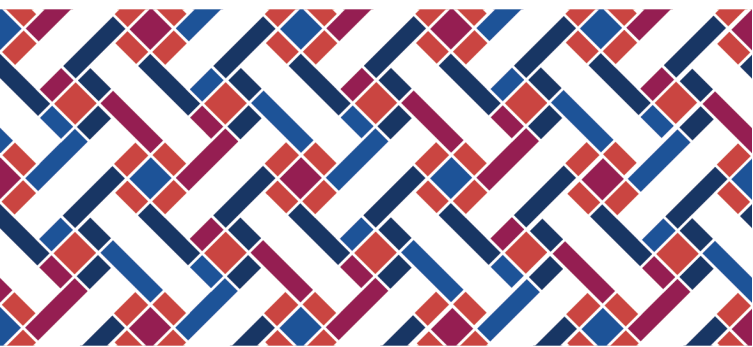
Publication of Final Rule

- 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