



National Council for
State Authorization
Reciprocity Agreements

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UPDATE ON THE POLICY MODIFICATION PROCESS

SARA POLICY CYCLE 2023

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How did we get here

- Summer 2021, momentum built from interregional discussions to continuous meetings of RSC leaders, representing all member states and territories
- Once a proposal was developed between the regions, NC-SARA Board and Staff helped revise and finalize this process (January 2022)
- Ongoing discussions across the country revised and honed this process, including a period of public engagement, leading to final unanimous approval by the NC-SARA Board (July 2022)

Critical Elements

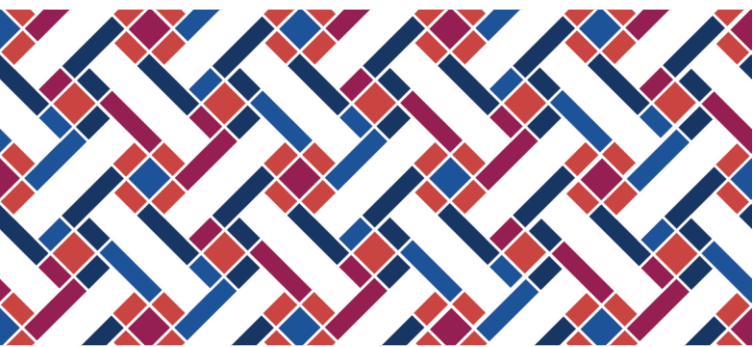
- Process begins with the opportunity for a detailed policy proposal from any interested party
- Ongoing engagement with proposers, seeking to combine and synthesize similar proposals, and opportunity for broader public feedback and ideas
- Consistently sharing process updates, public comments, and final decisions on why or why not a given proposal was eventually approved
- To finalize a policy change requires agreement by all four regions and the NC-SARA Board

Process in Action

- As soon as the Board approved the new cycle into policy, working groups of Interregional representatives, Regional Compact staff, and NC-SARA begin working closely to discuss and act on how to make this operational as quickly and seamlessly as possible
- Interregional connection of state & territory representatives, with an emphasis on broad representation and feedback, is the basis for significant decisions
- A strong focus on public engagement, broad buy-in, and achieving final policy decisions that make change as inclusively as possible of a wide range of voices and consideration of impact

Where are we going?

- For state and territory representatives, this new process and its timelines have encouraged early and steady dialogue around priorities
- Individually and collectively, regional representatives having conversations around respective priorities and policy focus has been helpful
- Strong sentiment of opportunity, working closely together, adhering to new process, and resulting in productive change



2023 POLICY CYCLE CALENDAR

1) Submission of proposed policy modifications.

<u>Jan. 3:</u>	General call for proposed policy modifications.
Feb. 3:	Deadline for submission of proposed policy <u>modifications.*</u>
Feb. 8:	NC-SARA shall make all proposed policy modifications publicly available as early as possible and no later than Feb. 8.

2) First opportunity to amend proposed policy modifications.

Feb. 15	Regional compacts shall conduct an inter-regional meeting to identify opportunities for alignment of similar proposals.
March 1:	Parties that have submitted proposed policy modifications shall have the opportunity to present those proposals at a public forum hosted by NC-SARA.
April 5:	Deadline to amend or withdraw proposed policy modifications.
April 10:	NC-SARA shall make all proposals that have not been withdrawn publicly available as early as possible and no later than April 10.

3) Public comment period.

April 17-May 17:	All public comments received shall be made publicly available within 7 days of submission.
April 17-May 17	NC-SARA shall make publicly available an impact analysis for each proposed policy modification.
May 22:	NC-SARA shall make all comments received publicly available as early as possible and no later than May 22.

4) Second opportunity to amend proposed policy modifications.

June 7:	Parties that have submitted proposed policy modifications shall have the opportunity to present those proposals at a public forum hosted by NC-SARA.
July 5:	Deadline to amend or withdraw proposals following the public comment period.

5) Regional compact review.

Sept 1: Deadline for regional compacts to review and vote to approve or not approve each proposed policy modification.

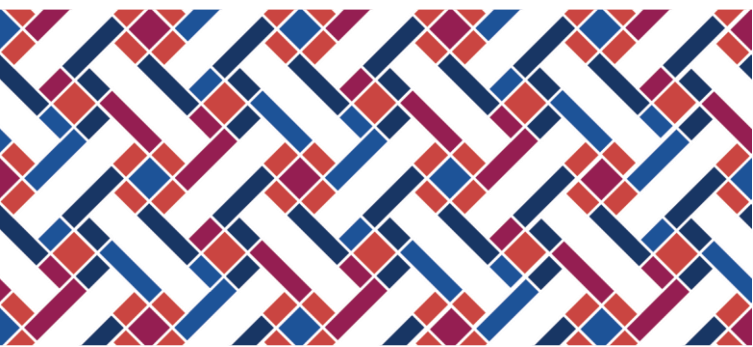
6) NC-SARA Board review.

Proposed policy modifications approved by each of the four regional compacts shall be placed on the agenda of the fall NC-SARA Board meeting.

Fall Board mtg: NC-SARA's Board shall review and vote to approve or not approve proposed policy modifications that were approved by each regional compact.

Proposed policy modifications approved by NC-SARA's Board shall be incorporated in the *SARA Policy Manual*.

Dec. 1: NC-SARA shall publish the status of all proposed policy modifications reviewed by the NC-SARA Board no later than December 1.



POLICY PROPOSAL SYSTEM

Policy Modification Request Form



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Policy Modification Request

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

What Organization do you represent? *

Next Page

Policy Modification Request

Action *

Current Policy Section *

Which Policy Section are you requesting to be modified?

[Click here to access the current policy manual: SARA Policy Manual • Version 22.1 • June 27, 2022](#)

Suggested Language Modification *

This section to include the suggested language changes or additions to the policy section.

The language should be in its proposed final form.

Rationale for Change *

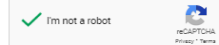
This section to include the reasons / rational for the proposal.

Additional information can be provided by uploading a file (see below).

File Upload

[Choose File](#) No file chosen

[Add an additional file](#)



reCAPTCHA helps prevent automated form spam.

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Submit

- Standardized form allowing for collection of necessary information to support a policy modification request
- Form will be available to the public via our website
- Development complete and currently in testing

Public View of Submissions

Modification (24)	Clarification (9)	New Policy (1)
PMR-0037: 3.1(b) Eligibility	PMR-0036: 2.5(c) Functional responsibi...	PMR-0017: 3.2(a) Provisional admissio...
PMR-0035: 2.6(a) State renewal	PMR-0025: 2.5(c) Functional responsibi...	
PMR-0034: 3.2(d) Provisional admiss...	PMR-0018: 3.2(g) Provisional admissio...	
PMR-0033: 3.2(c) Provisional admiss...	PMR-0011: 3.2(a) Provisional admissio...	
PMR-0032: 3.2(b) Provisional admiss...	PMR-0009: 2.1(a) Eligibility for SARA m...	
PMR-0031: 3.2(b) Provisional admiss...	PMR-0008: 1. Def	
PMR-0030: 3.4(a) SARA eligibility fol...	PMR-0007: 1. Def	
PMR-0028: 2.6(a) State renewal	PMR-0004: 1. Def	
PMR-0027: 2.5(l) Functional respons...	PMR-0003: 1. Def	
PMR-0026: 2.5(c) Functional respon...		
PMR-0024: 2.5(c) Functional respon...		
PMR-0023: 2.5(c) Functional respon...		

Policy Modification Request Name

PMR-0025: 2.5(c) Functional responsibilities of SARA States

Proposal Stage

New

Organization

NC-SARA Staff

Action Type

Clarification

Category

Policy Change

Policy Modification Request Number

PMR-0025

▼ Proposal

Policy Section Title

2.5(c) Functional responsibilities of SARA States

Policy Subsection ⓘ

[2022 - 2.5\(c\)](#)

Proposed Change ⓘ

Edit text to read above 1.0 to 1.40 within than 1.5 to clarify

- All submissions will be visible to the public via our website
- Visitors to the website will be able see details of the request
- Currently under development and review

Capabilities in Development

- Portal access to allow individual submitting the request to securely amend or withdraw requests
- Public Comment capability to support Public Comment periods (will be modeled after public request form)



Policy Modification Public Comments

Policy Modification Request

Proposed Change

Rationale for Change

Comments *

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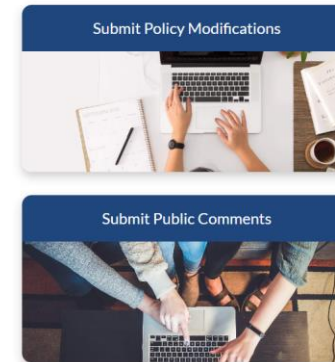
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The submit button will be disabled until you complete the CAPTCHA.

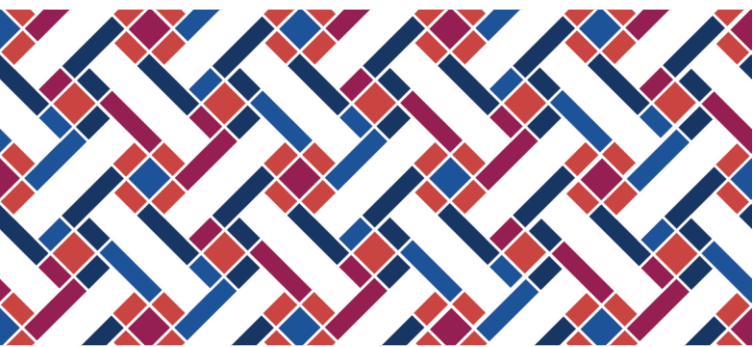
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Policy Modification: All Submissions 34 items • Sorted by Policy Modification Request Name • Updated a few seconds ago

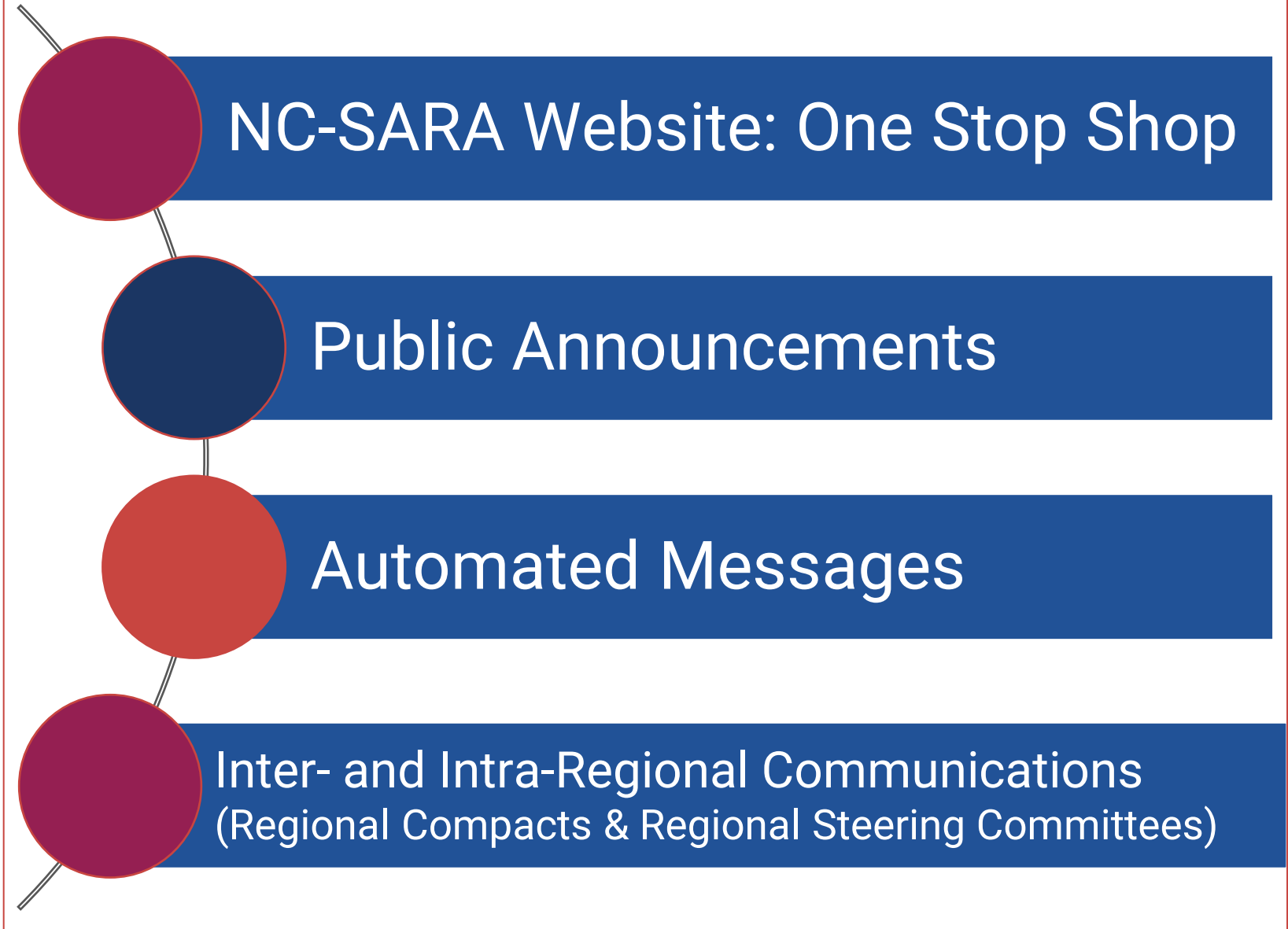
Modification (24)	Clarification (9)	New Policy (1)
<p>PMR-0005: 1. Definitions</p> <p>1. Definitions</p> <p>New Modification</p>	<p>PMR-0003: 1. Definitions</p> <p>1. Definitions</p> <p>New Clarification</p>	<p>PMR-0017: 3.2(a) Provisional admi...</p> <p>3.2(a) Provisional admission or renewal of a...</p> <p>New New Policy</p>
<p>PMR-0006: 1. Definitions</p> <p>1. Definitions</p> <p>New Modification</p>	<p>PMR-0004: 1. Definitions</p> <p>1. Definitions</p> <p>New Clarification</p>	
<p>PMR-0010: 2.5(b) Functional res...</p> <p>2.5(b) Functional responsibilities of SAR...</p> <p>New Modification</p>	<p>PMR-0007: 1. Definitions</p> <p>1. Definitions</p> <p>New Clarification</p>	





COMMUNICATIONS

4-Pronged Communications Approach



1. New NC-SARA Policy Website



ABOUTSTUDENTSSTATESINSTITUTIONSPOLICYRESEARCH & DATARESOURCESENWS & EVENTS

The State Authorization GuideLog In

SARA Policy

SARA POLICY MANUAL

SARA POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SARA POLICY MODIFICATION PROCESS

PARTICIPATE IN SARA POLICY MODIFICATIONS

Overview of SARA Policy

SARA Policy Background

SARA – the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements – provides a streamlined, reciprocity-based process for participating postsecondary institutions to gain approval to offer interstate distance education in SARA member states without individually applying to each state for such approval, subject to certain limitations. SARA centralizes the authorization process for each SARA-participating institution in a single state that SARA calls the institution’s “home state.” Institutions approved by their states to participate in SARA must be appropriately accredited and meet academic and financial requirements designed to protect and benefit students.

Policy
SARA Policy Manual
SARA Policy Announcements
SARA Policy Modification Process
Participate in SARA Policy Modifications

2. NC-SARA Public Announcements & Regular Communications

Policy Communications Calendar

- All active board, region, state, and institution contacts
- Public subscribers to NC-SARA Mailing List
- Social posts (Twitter and LinkedIn)
- Partner organizations' newsletters, etc.

Currently approx. 7,000 total contacts



NC-SARA Mailing List

First Name *	<input type="text"/>
Last Name *	<input type="text"/>
Email *	<input type="text"/>
Title *	<div>Please select... Accounting/Bursar staff Accreditation staff Assistant/Associate Dean</div>
Business or Association *	<input type="text"/>

3. Automated Communications from Policy Proposal System

Appropriate automated messages will be sent from the system to those who submit proposals at key points in the process.



4. Inter- and Intra-Regional Communications (Regional Compacts, Regional Steering Committees, States)

Those communications from and between regional and state SARA leadership necessary and helpful for managing the policy information, review, and recommendation processes.