



Preparing for the 2024 Cycle of the SARA Policy Modification Process

December 11, 2023



WELCOME!

**Marianne Boeke, President,
National Council for State Authorization
Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA)**



Webinar Guidance

- Please use the Question & Answer feature for questions.
- The Closed Caption option is available.
- This webinar will be recorded.
- This presentation and other resources referenced will be posted on the NC-SARA website under News & Events > Webinars.



TODAY'S AGENDA & PANELISTS

2024 Cycle Co-Chair Introductions & 2024 Cycle Updates

- Molly Hall-Martin, Director, W-SARA, Policy Analysis and Research, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)
- Julie Woodruff, Senior Compliance Counsel, Tennessee Higher Education Commission

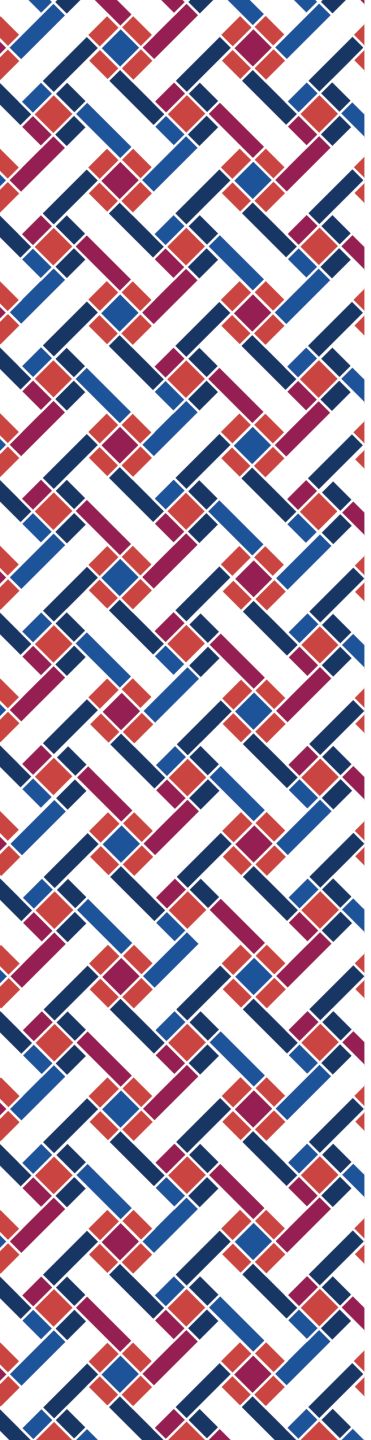
Technology Updates

- Ray Audett, Director of Information Technology, NC-SARA

Recommendations for Proposing New or Modified Policy

- Julie Woodruff, Senior Compliance Counsel, Tennessee Higher Education Commission
- Sam Loftin, Director of Consumer Protection, Washington Student Achievement Council
- Cheryl Dowd, Senior Director, State Authorization Network and WCET Policy Innovations, WICHE

Q&A

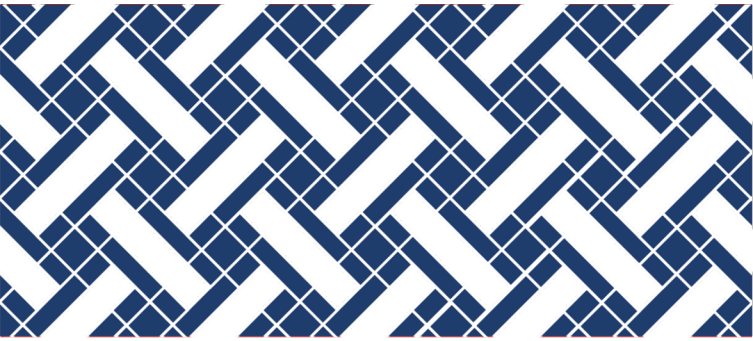


What is SARA?

State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) is an **agreement** amongst member states, districts, and territories that establishes comparable national standards and streamlines regulations, fees, and approvals for institutions offering interstate distance education programs. More than 2,400 institutions in 49 member states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands all **voluntarily** participate in SARA.

What is NC-SARA?

The National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) is a private nonprofit **organization** [501(c)(3)] that in partnership with the four regional compacts coordinates the implementation of SARA nationally. NC-SARA supports, facilitates, and serves the regional compacts, the regional steering committees, the State Portal Entities, and SARA participating institutions.



2024 Cycle Updates and Co-Chair Introductions

Molly Hall-Martin

Director, W-SARA, Policy Analysis & Research, WICHE

Julie Woodruff

Senior Compliance Counsel, Tennessee Higher
Education Commission



Dates to Remember

Proposal submission window: January 16-February 2, 2024

First Amendment Period: March 7-April 5, 2024

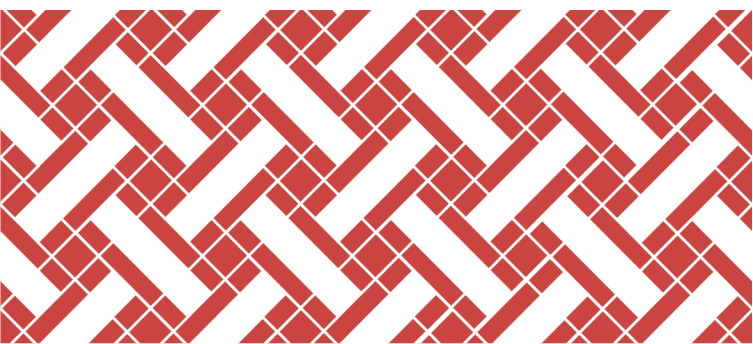
Public Comment Period: April 15-May 17, 2024

Second Amendment Period: June 3-July 19, 2024

Deadline for Regional Compact and Regional Steering Committee Review of Proposals: September 6, 2024

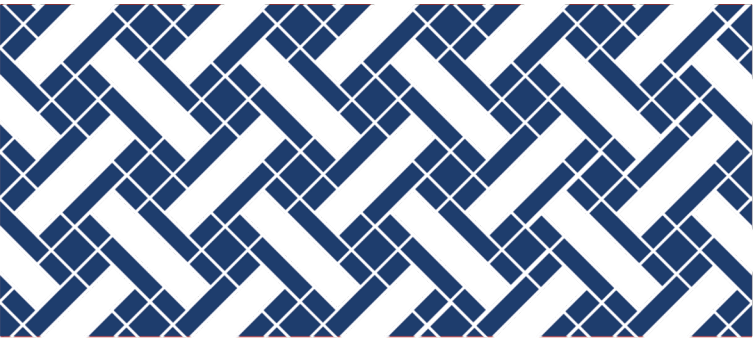
NC-SARA Board Meeting: October 23-25, 2024

*****Public Forum: TBD*****



2024 Technology Updates

Ray Audett, Director of Information Technology, NC-SARA



Recommendations for Proposing New or Modified Policy

Sam Loftin, Director of Consumer Protection, Washington Student Achievement Counsel

Julie Woodruff, Senior Compliance Counsel, Tennessee Higher Education Commission

Cheryl Dowd, Senior Director, State Authorization Network and WCET Policy Innovations, WICHE

Examples

Proposal That Meets Requirements

Modifying existing policy:

Section 3.1(c)

An institution must be accredited by a recognized accrediting agency (not “pre-accredited,” or in “candidacy”) to qualify for participation in SARA; **unless the “pre-accredited” or “candidacy” status is the result of a change of accreditor due to state or federal action requiring such a change. In those instances, participating institutions may be renewed on Provisional Status until such time they gain full accreditation with their new accreditor.**

Proposal(s) That Do Not Meet Requirements

- “The FRCS is a flawed measure and should not be used for eligibility requirements.”
 - Does not include a specific section of the *Policy Manual* to be amended; does not include specific amendatory language
- Suggested amendments to submitted proposals.
 - Does not seek to modify existing language in the *Policy Manual*.
- SARA is the best thing ever!
 - Is an opinion or talking point. Not an actual policy suggestion. (But we agree)



Policy Modification Proposals: Information required

Proposed policy modifications shall clearly specify the following information:

- (i) section(s) of the *SARA Policy Manual* that will be amended or impacted by the proposal;
- (ii) specific amendatory language for each proposal;
- (iii) rationale for the proposal; and
- (iv) identification of the person or entity submitting the proposal.

SARA Policy Manual, Section 8.2(f)(ii), p. 61.



Identifying sections of the *Policy Manual* that will be amended or impacted

- Review sections of the *Policy Manual* related to your proposal.
- What are the potential impacts to SARA policy?

Developing policy language

- Policy language should be **clear** and **succinct**.
- Research existing policy that might be helpful.
- Be an editor and be open to change.

Rationale for the Proposal: Recommendations

The *SARA Policy Manual* requires the policy modification submission include the “rationale for the proposal.”

WHAT?

- State the rationale for all suggested revisions, additions, or deletions.

WHY?

- Identify the objective or goal of the proposal.

HOW?

- Explain how the revisions will result in the objective or goal.

The complete rationale should be entered in the portal field and not appended as an attachment.

Tips & Lessons Learned from a Proposer

Part 1

Proposal development suggestions:

1. Consider the impact on students.
2. Create language that is clearly defined and clearly implemented.
 - Did you create new terms?
 - Do you see the pathway to implementation?
3. Provide a persuasive rationale that will help the RSCs understand the proposal's goals.
4. Seek a trusted colleague or two to review your proposal for clarity.

Tips & Lessons Learned from a Proposer

Part 2

The proposer's role after the proposal is submitted:

1. Review the other proposals submitted.
 - To find other proposals with similar themes for you to collaborate and create 1 proposal.
 - To support other proposals for which you have interest.
2. Do not assume that you will receive feedback on your proposal.
 - Advocate for your proposal and seek input by reaching out to members of the SARA community, including a SPE, a SARA regional director, or a member of an RSC.
 - Participate in the Public Forum and offer your name and email for the forum attendees to contact with you with their comments.



Questions & Answers

Thank You!

Please complete the evaluation in your email. Your feedback will help us shape future webinars!



**National Council for
State Authorization
Reciprocity Agreements**

MHEC • NEBHE • SREB • WICHE



@NCSARA_News



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/nc-sara>