SARA’s 10-Year Anniversary: A Decade of Opportunity

July 17, 2024
Welcome

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

Jared B. Abdirkin
Director, Institutional Engagement and Initiatives
NC-SARA
Webinar Guidance

• Please use the Question & Answer feature for questions

• The Closed Caption option is available

• This webinar will be recorded

• The webinar recording and slides will be posted on the NC-SARA website
TOPICS & FEATURED SPEAKERS

SARA History: Vision and Impact
- Cheryl Dowd, State Authorization Network (SAN)
- Russ Poulin, WICHE Cooperative for Education Technologies (WCET), Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

States + Institutions = Student Opportunity
- Tyson Heath, Western Governors University
- Ed Klonoski, Charter Oak State College
- Erika Linden, Des Moines University
- Tammy McClain-Smith, Virginia State University (former)
- Tanya Spilovoy, former North Dakota SARA SPE

SARA Data and NC-SARA Resources
- Trends and Highlights: from the beginning to the present
- How we support you
- Coming soon!

🌟 Trivia Breaks 🌟

Please submit questions at any time, we’ll answer toward the end of the program.
WELCOME, SARA INSTITUTIONS!

Who is joining us today?

• More than 360 institutions represented (as well as NC-SARA Board members and staff, regional compact staff, accreditors, and organizations)

• 52 states and territories represented

• Collectively you have over 1,700 total years experience in SARA

• The average individual has over 4 years working on SARA, with some newer and many who have been in this work even before SARA began (10+ years)!
Trivia Break I

Please answer the questions as they appear on the screen
1) Which state was the first SARA Member?

Answer: **Indiana** *(February 2014)*
North Dakota (April 2014), Virginia (October 2014), New Hampshire (December 2014)

2) What does OOSLP stand for?

Answer: **Out of State Learning Placements**

3) How many institutions currently participate in SARA?

Answer: **2,423**
Russ Poulin
Executive Director, WCET &
Vice President for Technology-Enhanced Education, WICHE

• Frequent author on state authorization and reciprocity.
• Participated in the Presidents Forum and WICHE committees that formed the initial basis for what is now SARA, including proposing the name along with SREB's Bruce Chaloux
• Created the State Authorization Network (SAN) to bring people together to address state authorization for distance education issues.
Cheryl Dowd
Senior Director
State Authorization Network (SAN)

• Prior to SARA, managed interstate compliance at an institution for three years and helped coordinate bi-annual state networking meetings.

• Nine years in her current role with WCET | SAN.

• Invaluable partner for institutions, states, NC-SARA, and more in offering continuing education, expert analysis, and an ongoing commitment to improving state authorization for postsecondary education for the ultimate benefit of current and future students.
SARA History - Vision and Impact

Cheryl Dowd
Senior Director, State Authorization Network (SAN)
and WCET Policy Innovations

Russ Poulin
Executive Director, WCET
& Vice President for Technology-Enhanced Education, WICHE

What was it like before SARA?
Getting Organized
Importance and Benefit
Member States + Participating Institutions = Student Choice

Rachel Christeson
Director, Research & Data Analysis

- SARA Data History and Current Highlights
- First ten (10) participating institutions in each region
- Enrollment & Placement Trends
- Cost Savings Study
More than 2,400 institutions participate in SARA today!

SARA-PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

SARA participation continues to increase. The number of institutions participating in SARA has continued to increase, with 54 more institutions reporting data from 2022 than from 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>2,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>2,311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2,201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>846</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS CONTINUE TO MAKE UP LARGEST SECTOR IN SARA

- Public Institutions: 1,152
- Private Non-Profit: 1,059
- Private For-Profit: 157
- Tribal: 8

Number of out-of-state institutions exclusively via distance education through SARA in Fall 2022:

- 1,500,912

Number of out-of-state learning placements (OOSLP) for calendar year 2022:

- 372,042
First Institutions to Participate in each Region

Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC)
Valley City State University (1st overall)
Minot State University
Lake Region State College
University of North Dakota
North Dakota State College of Science
Bismarck State College
Dakota College at Bottineau
Indiana State University
Anderson University
Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana

Western Interstate Commission Higher Education (WICHE)
Lewis-Clark State College
Great Basin College
Colorado Mesa University
Boise State University
Truckee Meadows Community College
College of Southern Nevada
College for Financial Planning
Adams State University
The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology
The University of Montana

Fact: 17/20 Public
First Institutions to Participate in each Region

**Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)**
- American Public University System
- Northern Virginia Community College
- University of Mary Washington
- BridgeValley Community and Technical College
- ECPI University
- University of Charleston
- West Virginia University at Parkersburg
- West Virginia University
- West Virginia Northern Community College
- Salem University

**New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE)**
- Southern New Hampshire University
- University of New Hampshire
- Rivier University
- Plymouth State University
- Colby-Sawyer College
- Community College of Vermont
- University of Vermont
- Norwich University
- School for International Training
- Franklin Pierce University

*Fact: 17/20 either public or private/non-profit*
SARA Enrollment & Placement Trends

All Exclusively Distance Education Enrollment (In-State vs. Out-of-State)

All Incoming OOSLP Over Time
### SARA Institution Cost Savings

#### 2023 Estimated Renewal Savings by Region:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Number of SARA Member Institutions</th>
<th>Estimated Costs</th>
<th>State and NC SARA Costs</th>
<th>SARA Affiliation Fee</th>
<th>Estimated Savings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MHEC</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>$39,197,355</td>
<td>$2,912,100</td>
<td></td>
<td>$36,285,255</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEBHE</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>$35,764,100</td>
<td>$2,683,563</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$32,980,538</td>
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<td>SREB</td>
<td>1,067</td>
<td>$73,354,450</td>
<td>$5,408,000</td>
<td>$160,000</td>
<td>$67,786,450</td>
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<tr>
<td>WICHE</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>$18,217,525</td>
<td>$1,328,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>$16,889,525</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>2,330</td>
<td><strong>$166,533,430</strong></td>
<td><strong>$12,331,663</strong></td>
<td><strong>$260,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$153,941,768</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SARA Cost Savings Calculator**

The SARA Cost Savings calculator may be used by colleges and universities offering interstate distance education to:

- Estimate the costs associated with state authorization, both for SARA and non-SARA participants.
- Project changes to costs based on the addition of new distance education programs or expansion of existing programs.
- Evaluate the cost savings and the return on investment of SARA participation.

https://nc-sara.org/sara-cost-savings-calculator
Member States + Participating Institutions = Student Choice

Member States and Territories are the foundation of SARA. To share more about SARA’s beginnings and exemplify the relationship between member states and participating institutions you’ll now hear from:

- The first SARA State Portal Entity (SPE) to approve participating SARA institutions
- An institution representative from each of the four regions to share their history and perspective
Tanya Spilovoy

Former North Dakota SARA State Portal Entity (SPE)

- Former state regulator for North Dakota, led legislative revisions to laws governing out of state institutions seeking to do business in the state
- Approved first-ever SARA-participating institutions
- Established state authorization policies, procedures, and software for the state as the SARA SPE
- Served on the MHEC-SARA steering committee and national SARA commission as a state delegate.
- Received award from MHEC in 2020 for SARA work
- Over a decade focused on Open Education at WICHE and the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resource Coalition (SPARC)
- Currently at the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB)
Erika Linden  
Chief Compliance Officer (12 years) 
Des Moines University Medicine and Health Sciences  
Iowa – MHEC

- Pre-SARA, received authorization (or exemptions) for distance learning for DMU in 25 states; partnered with MHEC and Iowa Student Aid Commission to educate and champion for Iowa institutions on state authorization and reciprocity

- Worked with Iowa Governor’s Office, Attorney General’s Office, Iowa College Student Aid Commission and legislature to advocate and promote legislation to allow for reciprocity and state membership in SARA enabling DMU to become the first SARA participating institution from Iowa

- In 2023, engaged with Iowa Governor’s Office and legislators advocating for continuing Iowa’s membership in MHEC and preserving benefit of SARA

- In 2024, Primary Negotiator representing Private Non-Profit Institutions on Program Integrity and Institutional Quality for U.S. Department of Education rulemaking
Ed Klonoski
President (16 years)
Charter Oak State College
Connecticut – NEBHE

• Chair of the Board for the Presidents Forum, during his tenure supported the original framework for what would become SARA

• Inaugural NEBHE SARA Regional Steering Committee (RSC) Chair and current RSC member

• In 2021 published a paper titled “SARA: A Monument to Sanity and Rational Policymaking”
Tammy McClain-Smith

Executive Director of Distance Education (former) (5 years)

Virginia State University
Virginia – SREB

- VSU SARA contact for four years, including presenting at Virginia SARA state convening and SAN meeting
- Leader in Online Program Development & Operations, Instructional Design, and Curriculum Development
- Frequent presenter and featured speaker at state, regional, and national convenings focusing on course and program development for student success and completion
Tyson Heath  
**Director, Academic Standards and Policies**  
Western Governors University  
Utah - WICHE

- Senior Manager of University Compliance (2.5 years) and Manager of State Authorization and Accreditation (6 years).
- Before WGU become a SARA participant, led a team to secure and maintain formal authorization in over 30 states/commonwealths/territories. Hosted multiple state authorization site visits and had a budget of around $500,000.
- Actively involved in Utah SARA group to advocate for legislation and raise awareness about the importance of Utah becoming a SARA state.
- 5 years on NC-SARA Data Advisory Committee.
- Over the years has co-presented with NC-SARA staff to highlight the institutional benefits and advancements in educational opportunities that come with participating in SARA.
Trivia Break II

Please answer the questions as they appear on the screen
Triva II Answers

1) Approximately how many students are currently enrolled in SARA institutions outside their home state?

   Answer: 1.6 million (Fall 2023)

2) Which SARA member state currently has the most SARA-participating institutions?

   Answer: New York (153)
   Texas (149), Illinois (110), Florida (101)

3) Which SARA member state’s participating institutions collectively have the most out-of-state SARA enrollment? (Fall 2023)

   Answer: Arizona (271,876)
   Utah (163,874), New Hampshire (156,935), Indiana (66,783)
NC-SARA Resources

Terri Taylor-Straut
Senior Director, Educational Programs
Educational Resources

Learning in Communities of Practice

Learning with Tools & Resources

Learning through Options & Opportunities

Tools & Resources: SARA Learning Station
- Institution Welcome Kit
- SARA Quick Start Guides
- SARA Policy Manual
- Videos
- Articles
- “Explainers”
- Graphics & Infographics

Online Courses
- SARA 101
- Institution Courses
  - Foundations of NC-SARA Annual Data Reporting
  - Preparing for and Maintaining SARA Participation
- SPE Courses
  - An Overview of Essential Duties of SPE Staff Related to SARA
  - Managing Initial and Renewal Applications

Events / Programming
- Webinars
- Webcasts
- Conferences and Other Presentations

https://nc-sara.org/sara-learning-station
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 coordinates the implementation of SARA nationally. In partnership with four regional compacts, NC-SARA helps states, institutions, policymakers, and students understand the purpose and benefits of participating in SARA. The administration of the annual data reporting process is a function of NC-SARA.
Institution Engagement

• Institution Advisory Committee (IAC)
• Data Advisory Committee
• SARA Policy Modification Process
• Webinars on timely topics
NC-SARA: Looking Forward

• eForms
• Data Submission
• Institution Application
• Educational Initiatives
With gratitude and looking forward to another 10 years and beyond!

- Institutions
- SARA State Portal Entities (SPEs)
- Regional Compacts
- And all those committed to reciprocity via SARA!
Questions
Thank you!

For all inquiries: info@nc-sara.org

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