



SARA Quick Start Guide

How to Work with Students in California

What is the best way for a SARA-participating institution to work with students in California?

SARA State Membership and Student Access

SARA addresses state authorization reciprocity among member states (see the [SARA Policy Manual](#) Section 2. States and Membership). A state must be a member of SARA for institutions in that state to participate in SARA. Students in that state will be able to access distance education from SARA-participating institutions in other SARA member states, and institutions will also be able to gain the benefits of SARA participation.

California is not a member of SARA. Therefore, students in California who would like to attend a SARA-participating institution in another state are not considered to be “covered” by SARA. SARA-participating institutions will need to comply with any applicable California state laws to enroll students located in California.

Furthermore, California institutions are not eligible to participate in SARA and therefore must comply with applicable state laws in states they would like to enroll students.

Additional Information about California

- Review the [Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education Schools website](#) for more information including this link to [“Out-of-State Institution Registration.”](#)
- See also NC-SARA’s [State Authorization Guide](#) for additional resources.
- If the institution has programs leading to professional licensure, and is approved to offer education to students in California, check with each of the professional licensure boards regarding requirements. See [NC-SARA’s Professional Licensure Directory](#) for additional resources. See also the California [Department of Consumer Affairs](#).
- Institutions that decide not to offer distance education to students in California are encouraged to put a notice on their website to this effect so that prospective students in California have clear information about their ability to enroll.
- Institutions should regularly track all their students’ locations.

Still Have Questions?

1. Contact California’s [Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education](#) (BPPE).
2. This information is intended to be general guidance for institutions. Institutions should be in regular contact with their [SARA State Portal Entity](#) for specific requirements, directions, and guidance.

About SARA Quick Start Guides: When institutions participate in SARA, they agree to a set of compliance requirements as detailed in the [SARA Policy Manual](#). SARA Quick Start Guides are intended to help institution personnel understand a particular requirement to help them maintain compliance, communicate with colleagues regarding SARA requirements, and explain the requirement to students and other stakeholders. Institutions should always check for any state-specific requirements with their [SARA State Portal Entity](#).

3. Feel free to email NC-SARA: info@nc-sara.org

Resource:

- [SARA Policy Manual](#), Section 2. States and Membership

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