

# INSTITUTION NEWSLETTER



Issue 1

January 2025

***From the Desk of Jared Abdirkin**  
Director, Institutional Engagement & Initiatives*

## **Quarterly Newsletter - a New Initiative**

Welcome to the first edition of our quarterly newsletter for SARA-participating institutions!

As NC-SARA looks forward, one of our top priorities is to enhance engagement and information sharing with SARA-participating institutions. We hope that the quarterly newsletters will be a way to collect and share timely messages and resources to assist in your continued seamless SARA participation. We hope you'll find the newsletters, along with webinars, eblasts, written materials, the NC-SARA website and more, to be valuable in those efforts. We'll be back in your inbox with another newsletter later this spring!

Happy Reading!

## **2025 Policy Modification Cycle**

The 2024 cycle of the SARA Policy Modification Process (PMP) concluded when the NC-SARA Board approved 10 proposals which received unanimous approval by all four regional compacts via their regional steering committees (RSCs). A recent webinar summarized the approved policies and provided implementation dates for each. Please find the recorded webinar on our website (link further down). The 2025 cycle opened for submissions on **January 21, 2025**. You can continue to keep up to date with and engage in the 2025 PMP cycle by following our [PMP webpage](#).

## **Institution Application Updates**

In addition to the new version effective January 1, 2025, there will be new versions of the institution application for participation and renewal coming in July 2025 and January 2026. These versions will reflect new policy approved through the annual PMP cycle that goes into effect July 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026. We will inform you of a new application at least six weeks in advance of the effective date, and will provide a "redline" version so you can see what has

changed. ***You will only complete the latest renewal application at the time of your annual participation renewal.*** Your SARA State Portal Entity (SPE) can answer any questions you may have. You will always find the latest application and timely guidance on the [NC-SARA Applications and Approval Forms webpage](#).

### **Professional Licensure Webinar**

**Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. MT**

NC-SARA and the State Authorization Network (SAN) are co-sponsoring a [webinar](#) to provide the latest insights into this important topic. We will review the foundations and information pertinent to many institutions, provide the latest guidance on this topic regarding SARA policy, and take your questions. [Registration is now open!](#)

### **Annual Data Reporting File Uploads**

We are excited to announce that this year's data reporting will feature file uploads for both Exclusively Distance Education Enrollment (EDEE) and Out-of-State Learning Placements (OOSLP). The templates are currently available; the *Data Reporting Handbook* for 2025 will be available by the end of January. For staff unfamiliar with NC-SARA data reporting, the free online course, [Foundations of NC-SARA Annual Data Reporting](#), is also available. All materials can be found on the [Institution Directions for Data Reporting](#) page of the NC-SARA website. NC-SARA will also be hosting a webinar on the 2025 data collection cycle at 11:30 a.m. MT on Wednesday, March 5. [Registration is now open!](#)

### **SARA Source Redesign**

In February, NC-SARA will be implementing a new process for maintaining [SARA Source](#), our catalog of distance-education programs offered by SARA-participating institutions. Instead of requiring institutions to submit and periodically update their program information, NC-SARA staff will now pull that information annually from data institutions submit to ED through the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). This new process will reduce workload for institution staff, and SARA Source will be a much richer source of information, as it will include programs from all SARA-participating institutions (more than 20,000 programs!).

### **NC-SARA, SARA, and SAN: The Power of Collaboration**

You can find out more about the history and collaboration of NC-SARA and SAN as national, nonprofit organizations established to improve the quality, accessibility, and reach of postsecondary education opportunities for learners across the nation in this recent [WCET Frontiers blog](#).

### **SARA Learning Station**

The [SARA Learning Station](#) is your one-stop shop to access NC-SARA's resources for learning about SARA, including quick-start guides, SARA 101, and

other online courses for those who are new and experienced with SARA. Learning resources for institutions have been developed in collaboration with our regional compact partners and [SARA SPEs](#). Institutions should always check with their SPE for any state-specific requirements.

### NC-SARA Webinars

While we'd love for you to join our webinars live, if your schedule doesn't allow it or if you want to revisit any portion of these programs, please look for the recording and slides to be posted on our [Webinars webpage](#) soon after each program date.

### SARA State Portal Entity (SPE)

You can find the current contact information for your state's SPE(s) on our [SPE Contacts webpage](#).

### SARA-Participating Institutions

You can find all actively-participating SARA institutions in each state and territory at any given time in the [SARA-Participating Institution Directory](#).

### Distance Education News and Research

[Report - Voice of the Online Learner \(2024\) - Risepoint](#)

[The \(Online\) Program that changed the University of Maine System's Fate - Inside Higher Ed](#)

[Report - Can Fully Online Degree Programs Boost College Completion - AcadeMix Upshot](#)

**We welcome your thoughts, ideas, and questions.  
Thank you for reading!**

	<b>Contact Us</b>	<b>Stay Informed</b>	<b>Follow Us</b>
	3005 Center Green Drive Suite 130 Boulder, Colorado 80301 (720) 680-1600  Email: <a href="mailto:info@nc-sara.org">info@nc-sara.org</a> Media Inquiries: <a href="mailto:media@nc-sara.org">media@nc-sara.org</a>	<a href="#">Sign Up</a>	  <a href="#">Terms and Conditions</a> © 2025 All Rights Reserved

Click to [Unsubscribe](#)