
NC-SARA's July 2024 SARA SPE Newsletter



Dear SARA State Portal Entities,

As the long, warm days of summer stretch out before us, there's a sense of endless possibility in the air. Despite the heat we've been feeling here in Colorado and elsewhere around the country lately, we have stayed busy both with our SARA work and taking advantage of all that summer has to offer.

In this month's newsletter, you will find information about:

- 2024 SPE Conference and 10-Year Celebration of SARA – Please Register by August 2
- New! *Preparing for and Maintaining SARA Participation*: Online Course for Institution Staff
- 2024 SARA Policy Modification Process (PMP) – Second Amendment Period Closes July 19
- Negotiated Rulemaking 2023-2024 and SARA Call to Action
- Upcoming Events and Webinars: Save the Dates!
- REMINDERS:
 - SPE Onboarding Process
 - Tech Support for SPEs
 - SPE Website Access

Thank you for taking time to review these important items!

Marianne

2024 SPE Conference and 10-Year Celebration of SARA – Register by August 2

Planning is underway and registration is open for the 2024 SPE Annual Conference, taking place September 11 – 12 in Indianapolis, IN. **If you have not yet registered for the conference you will receive an individualized invitation to register from Zoom Events (noreply-zoomevents@zoom.us)**

within the next 24 hours. If you need support with registering, please email Shannon Walker at swalker@nc-sara.org.

Please refer to the Schedule At-A-Glance on the [SPE Website](#) for an overview of the conference. You'll also find a list of places you might want to explore while you're in Indy. The full agenda will be provided as we get closer to the date.

There will be a celebratory ***Denim and Diamonds*** themed dinner and recognition program at this year's conference as we continue celebrating 10 years of SARA. Bring your denim, bring your (faux) diamonds, and get ready to celebrate with your colleagues!

Please keep in mind these details as you register and book your travels:

- **Meeting format:** The SPE Annual Conference will be face-to-face. There will be no virtual option as the conference is interactive by design.
- **Where:** **Conrad**, Indianapolis, IN. NC-SARA staff will secure your hotel reservation after you register.
- **Who is invited/attends?** Up to two SPEs per state, regional compact SARA staff, NC-SARA staff, NC-SARA board members, and presenters/facilitators.
- **Registration fee?** There is no registration fee associated with the conference for any attendee, but participants do need to register. **Please be sure to register by Friday, August 2.**
- **NC-SARA pays for travel expenses for up to two SPEs per state, including:**
 - Two nights of hotel
 - Airfare
 - Other travel expenses (tips, tolls, miles to airport, parking at airport, meals, etc.)

Once your conference registration is complete, you have the option to book your flight with Amex Travel at (669) 272-1301 or you may book your flight on your own to be reimbursed once the conference is complete. We look forward to welcoming you to Indianapolis and celebrating 10 years of SARA with you!

New! *Preparing for and Maintaining SARA Participation: Online Course for Institution Staff*

NC-SARA recently launched a new online course which was shared with participating institutions in an eblast in late June. Participants in the course will learn about the initial SARA institution application and annual renewal process. Topics include how to apply the policies in the *SARA Policy Manual* to the preparation of the initial institution application and annual renewal process, as well as how to prepare an institution application for SARA. We hope this is a valuable tool for institutions as they begin using the [revised Application and Approval Form for Institution Participation in SARA](#).

SPEs, institution staff, and other interested stakeholders may register for NC-SARA online courses in the [SARA Learning Station](#).

Period Closes July 19

The second and final amendment period in this year's SARA Policy Modification Process will close July 19. We encourage SPEs and anyone else who is interested to share feedback about proposals by reaching out directly to the proposal submitter(s), ideally before the amendment period closes. Regional compacts and their Regional Steering Committees will then have until September 6 to vote whether to approve or not approve each proposal. For further assistance with, or questions about, the SARA Policy Modification Process, please visit the [Participate in SARA Policy Modifications webpage](#), or you may contact info@nc-sara.org.

Negotiated Rulemaking 2023-2024 and SARA Call to Action

NC-SARA staff and board members remain in close communication with our partners in the SARA community to respond to the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) spring negotiated rulemaking. Please see the [SARA Call to Action webpage](#) for a summary of key issues that could have significant ramifications for SARA and students across the country. You'll also find information about the Call to Action we put out in May for SARA-participating institutions to reach out to ED to voice concerns.

It's not too late for you to encourage institutions in your state to send emails or letters to share their perspectives with ED representatives whose contact information is provided in our [Call to Action post](#). We will continue to provide updates on our [Call to Action webpage](#) as this important work progresses in the coming weeks and months.

Upcoming Events and Webinars: Save the Dates!

Webinar – Specialized/Programmatic Accreditation: Ensuring Educational Quality

August 21, 2024, Noon – 1:00 p.m. Mountain Time

Join us for a dynamic and insightful webinar hosted by NC-SARA with the Association of Specialized and Professional Accreditors (ASPA) and Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). In this webinar you will have the opportunity to:

- Gain an understanding of specialized/programmatic accreditation and its pivotal role in ensuring educational quality and professional standards.
- Review the role of specialized/programmatic accrediting bodies in ensuring graduate competence in fields like healthcare, business, engineering, and more.

As the educational landscape continues to evolve, understanding the intricacies of accreditation has never been more important. [Registration is open!](#)

2024 Fall NC-SARA Board Meeting

The Fall NC-SARA Board meeting will be held October 23-25, 2024, in Boston, MA. We are planning a two-hour public session during the meeting. Watch for more details this summer on [NC-SARA's Fall Board Meeting webpage](#) and in newsletters and announcements.

REMINDER: SPE Onboarding Process

Do you have a new SPE in your region, or do you want to brush up on SARA processes, SPE responsibilities, and the SARA Portal? Our SPE Onboarding Process is open to all and includes:

- **SPE Welcome Call (60 minutes)** – Overview of SARA & NC-SARA, review of resources for SPEs, and a SARA Portal overview.
- **SARA Portal Training (90 minutes)** – Navigating the SARA Portal to manage institution reviews, approvals, and related processes and an overview of administrative forms and their uses.

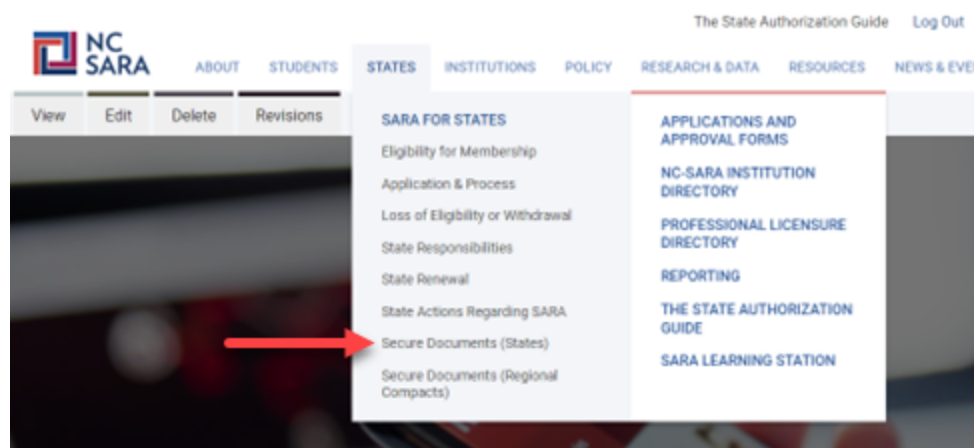
Please contact Kirsten Lamensdorf at klamensdorf@nc-sara.org to participate in upcoming sessions. For more details on SPE work, please refer to the *SPE Welcome Kit* and *SPE Essential Duties* documents on the [SPE Website](#).

REMINDER: Tech Support for SPEs During Open Office Hours – SARA Portal, Website, and Other NC-SARA Tech Systems

The NC-SARA IT team continues to hold open office hours for SPE support on the last Thursday of each month from 11:00 a.m. Mountain Time to 12:30 p.m. Mountain Time to help SPEs with any technology needs regarding the SARA Portal, our website, or other NC-SARA technology systems. The link to join the open office Zoom call is available on the [SPE Website](#). There is no need to sign up in advance. Just pop in and get the help you need!

REMINDER: SPE Website Access

For those of you who are new (or if you need a friendly reminder): In this email we reference the “SPE website.” This is the “[Secure Documents for States](#)” area of the website. *You must first log in to the website in the upper right corner, and then look under the STATES tab for this section.*



Thank you!



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