



NC-SARA's Annual Data Report Release

2024 Data Reported in 2025

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September 29, 2025

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**National Council for
State Authorization
Reciprocity Agreements**

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NC-SARA Webinar Logistics

- ✓ Please use the **Question and Answer** for questions.
- ✓ The **Closed Caption** option is available.
- ✓ The webinar will be recorded.
- ✓ The slides, webinar recording, and any other resources referenced will be available on the NC-SARA website.



NC-SARA Annual Data Report Release



NC-SARA Data Team

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Agenda:

- Overview of SARA Data Collection
- 2024 Data Reported in 2025
 - Participating Institutions
 - Exclusively Distance Education Enrollment (EDEE)
 - Out-of-State Learning Placements (OOSLP)
- SARA Cost Savings Study
- Resources for Data Reporting



Next Topic

Overview of SARA Data Collection

What is SARA & NC-SARA

SARA

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a voluntary **agreement** among member states, districts, and territories that establishes standards for the reciprocal authorization of institutions providing distance education across state lines. As of 2025, 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have voluntarily joined SARA. More than 2,400 institutions have received approval from their home state to participate in the agreement.

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 the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) in collaboration with the four regional, interstate education compacts:

- Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC)
- New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE)
- Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)
- Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

NC-SARA supports the regional education compacts and states as they implement the agreement and carry out their SARA-related work. Additionally, NC-SARA facilitates information exchange among the regional compacts, member states, and SARA institutions regarding participation and compliance.



SARA Partners and Impact

Institutions

Over 2,400 institutions voluntarily **participate** in SARA
Institutions are reviewed for renewal annually by the SPE

States (states/districts/territories)

52 states are **members** of SARA
States are reviewed every two years for SARA Membership

Regional Compacts (MHEC, NEBHE, SREB, WICHE)

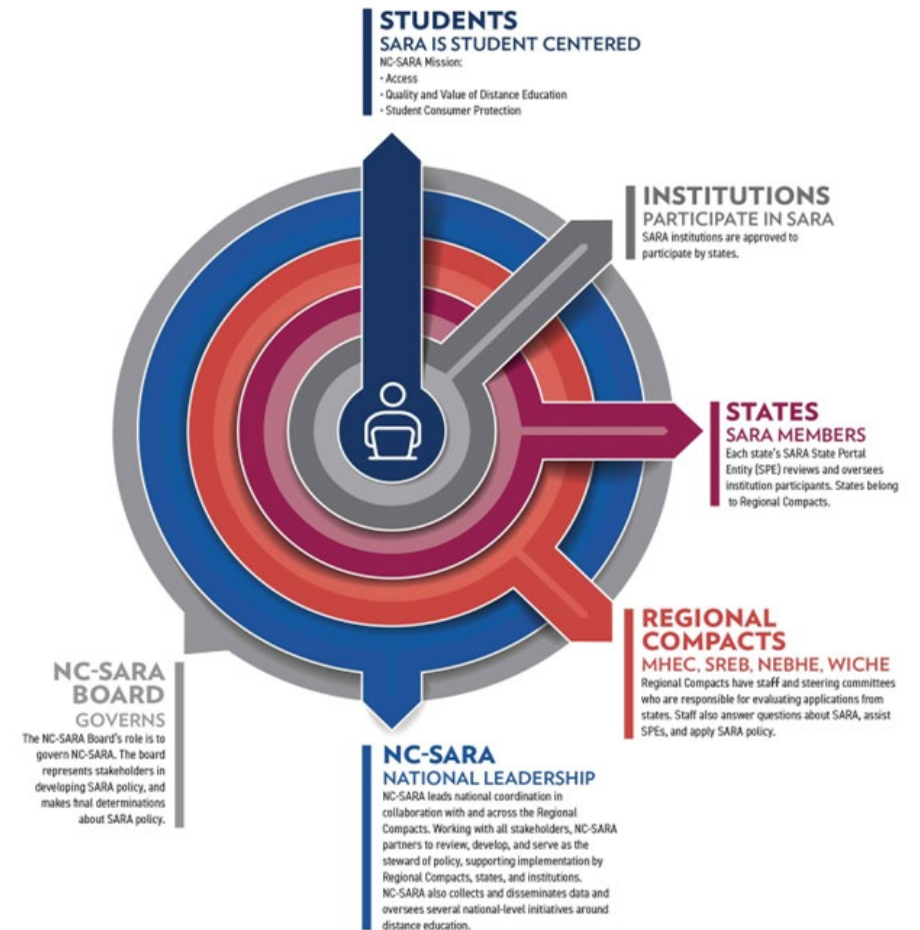
Oversee SARA in their region

State Portal Entities (SPE)

One SPE for each SARA member state

Regional Steering Committees (RSC)

One RSC for each regional compact



What is the SARA Data?

Exclusively Distance Education Enrollment (EDEE)

- The number of students engaged exclusively in distance education during the fall term – 100% online enrollments, regardless of program.
- Consistent with IPEDS Fall EF reporting – but disaggregated by state
- Includes in-state and out-of-state

Out-of-State Learning Placements (OOSLP):

- Learning placements are on-ground, out-of-state experiential learning activities.
- OOSLP includes clinical rotations, student teaching, internships, and other similar activities.
- OOSLP are often a required part of obtaining a degree and/or license to practice a particular profession.
- Reporting includes on-ground students as well as distance education students.



Why Does SARA Collect Data?

The Promise of Data Collection to States

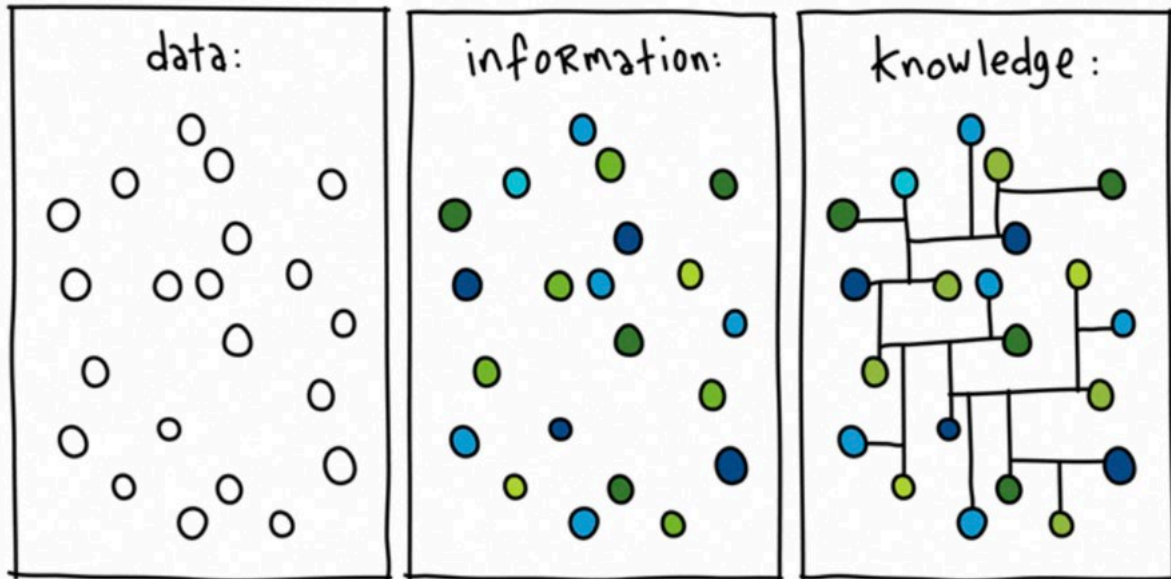
- Standard across country
- Public and shared
- Used to ensure compliance

History of SARA Data Reports

- 10 years of reporting exclusively distance education enrollments
- 7 years of reporting out-of-state learning placement data



How You Might Use the SARA Data



- The data describe the distance education landscape in your state or region
- They hold historical trends and may provide insights that could inform key decisions about distance education offerings
- These data may be used as your institution plans for new distance education programs to meet student needs and institutional goals
- These data may be used by your state to ensure institutional compliance

NC-SARA's Data Dashboards

Data Dashboards

NC-SARA is pleased to share new interactive data dashboards, below. These dashboards include all the data NC-SARA has been sharing publicly all along (and includes the most recent data collected from Fall 2023), but in an easier format for your access and use. Begin with the Instructions & Definitions tab, below, to learn how to use the dashboards and what the terminology means, and then feel free to move through the dashboards by using the tabs at the top. If you are seeking the previously shared downloadable data files, or if you need additional assistance with these dashboards or NC-SARA data in general, please contact: data@nc-sara.org.

To download any of the charts or data tables, select the image of the square with downward pointing arrow in the bottom right corner of the dashboard. The dashboards can be downloaded as an image, PDF, PowerPoint, or where applicable, a crosstab in Excel or CSV format.

Explore the interactive data dashboards: <https://nc-sara.org/data-dashboards>

Instructions & Definitions	Reporting Institutions	Total Exclusively Distance Education Enrollment	Incoming Exclusively Distance Education Enrollment	Outgoing Exclusively Distance Education Enrollment	Additional Reports & Raw Data Files	In Le
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NC-SARA Data Dashboards
Instructions & Definitions



Next Topic

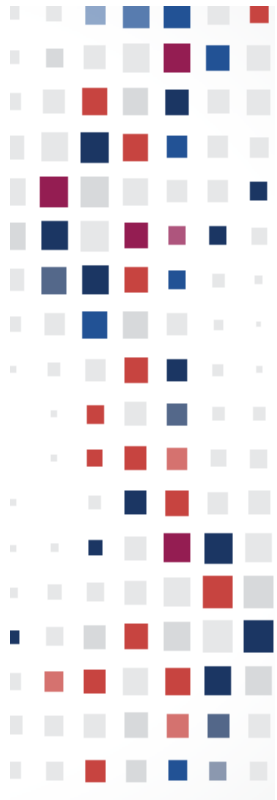
2024 Data Reported in 2025



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Methodology



SARA Data Reporting Window is May 15 – June 15 each year

2,429 Institutions were sent email requests to report

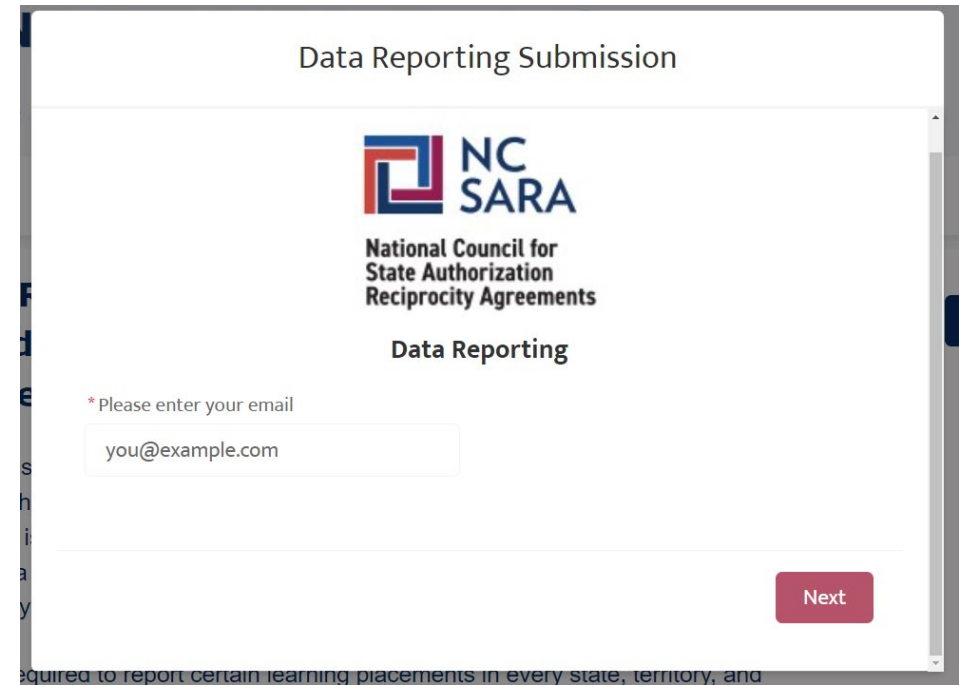
- 25 exemptions were extended
 - 24 non-renewals or institutional closures
 - 1 joined near the end of 2024
- 0 institutions did not report



Changes made in 2025 Data Collection

Contact Verification

- Only users assigned as an institutional contact in Salesforce were able to upload data.
- Users not in Salesforce needed to be verified by a current Salesforce contact for their institution (then entered by NC-SARA staff).
- Data reporting portal was one public link, rather than individual institution links.
- Contacts for multiple institutions were able to select the institution to submit for.



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Data Reporting Submission". At the top center is the NC SARA logo, which consists of a stylized square icon with red and blue lines, followed by the text "NC SARA" and "National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements" below it. Underneath the logo is the heading "Data Reporting". A text input field is present with the placeholder text "you@example.com" and a red asterisk followed by the text "* Please enter your email". To the right of the input field is a red button with the text "Next". At the bottom of the form, there is a line of small text that reads "required to report certain learning placements in every state, territory, and".



Changes made in 2025 Data Collection

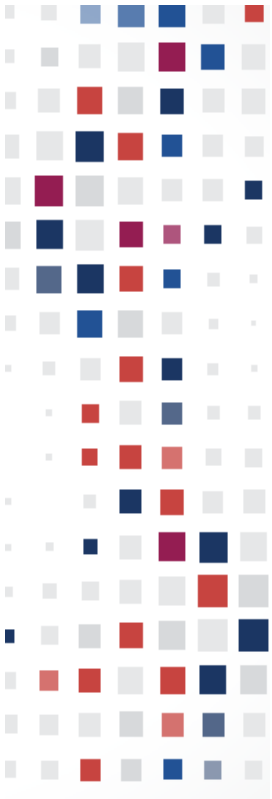
File Upload vs. Manual Entry

- Users were provided with two templates to compile their EDEE and OOSLP data.
- Data was upload in a .csv file, rather than manually entered in the web form.
- Institutions were given the chance to confirm data and resubmit a file in case of errors.
- Confirmation emails included counts and submitter name.
- Users could easily see when they had a submission outstanding.

The screenshot shows a web interface titled "Data Reporting Submission". At the top center is the NC SARA logo, which consists of a stylized square icon with red and blue lines, followed by the text "NC SARA" and "National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements". Below the logo, the heading "Data Reporting" is centered. There are two main columns of information. The left column is titled "Exclusively Distance Education Enrollment (EDEE)" and shows the status "INCOMPLETE" in red. Below this, it says "You have 2 Institutions with incomplete EDEE data" and a red button labeled "Start EDEE". The right column is titled "Out-of-State Learning Placement (OOSLP)" and also shows "INCOMPLETE" in red. Below this, it says "You have 2 Institutions with incomplete OOSLP data" and a red button labeled "Start OOSLP". At the bottom right of the interface is a red button labeled "Exit".



Changes made in 2025 Data Collection



Feedback received:

- Institutions support the verification of contacts.
- Many users found the new process easy, though for smaller schools the templates were more cumbersome.
- EDEE file would be better long than wide (one row per state vs one row total).
- Address blocked emails before the data reporting window.
- Provide annual calendar of important institution dates.

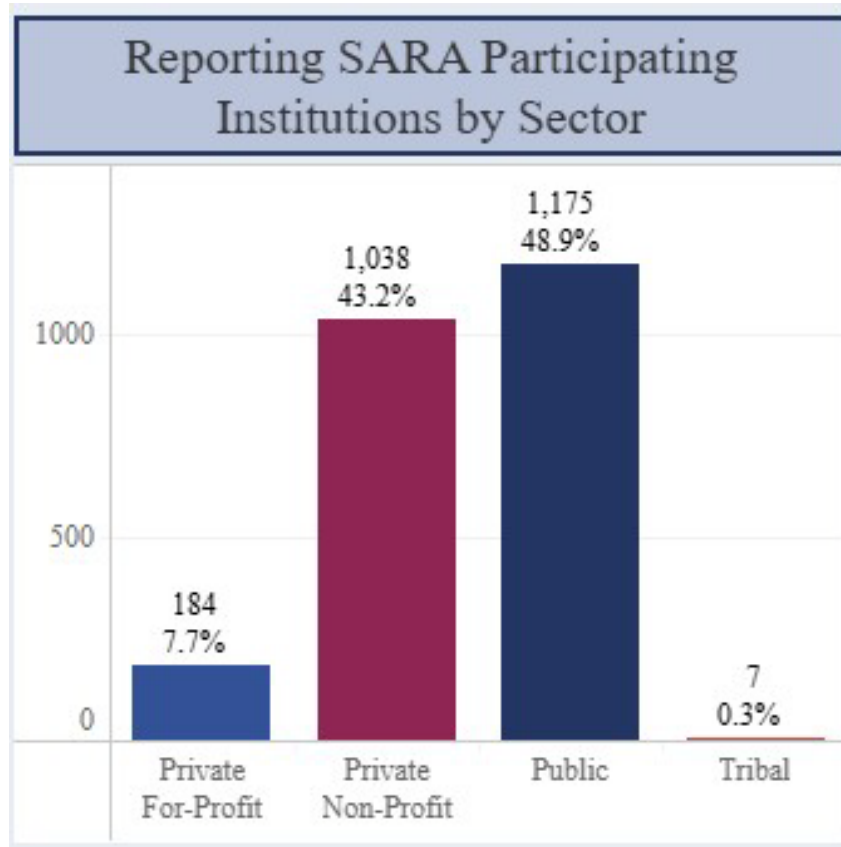
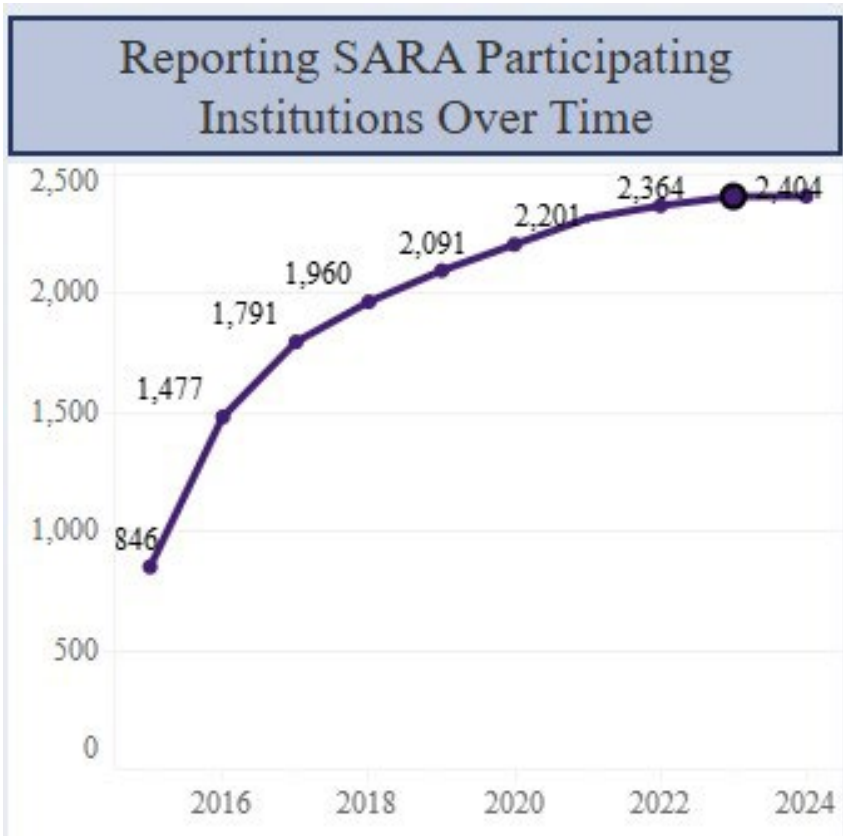




Next Topic

Participating Institutions

Total Number of Reporting Institutions





Next Topic

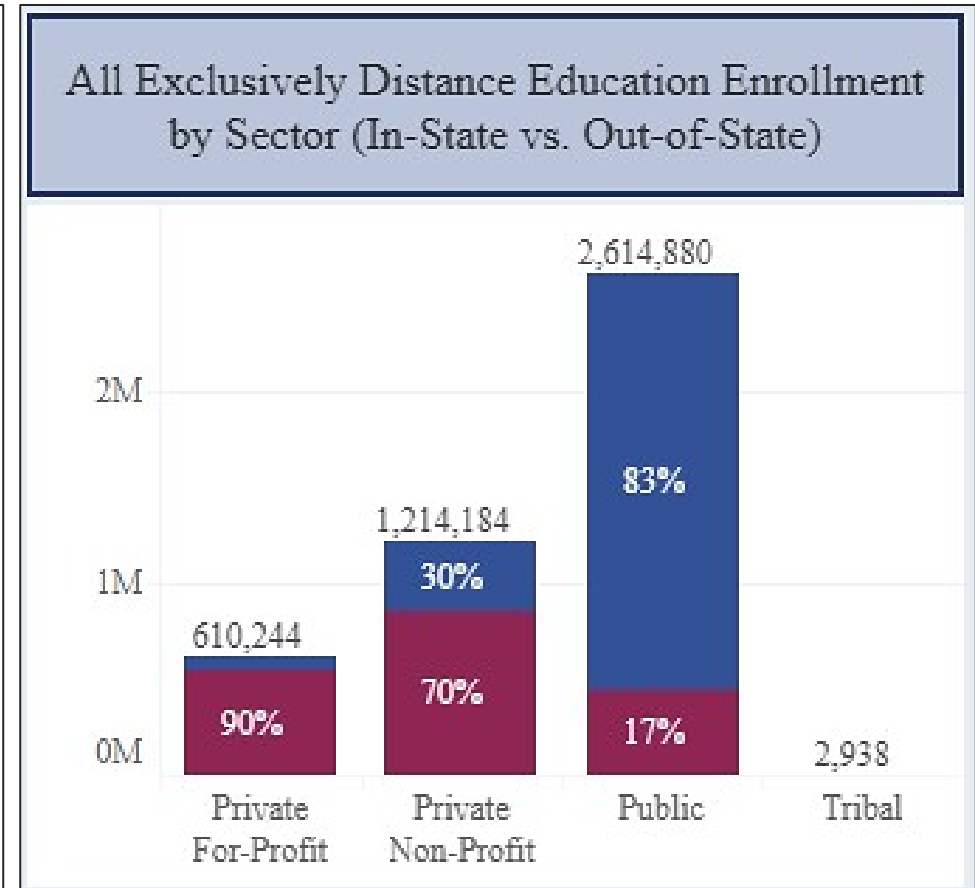
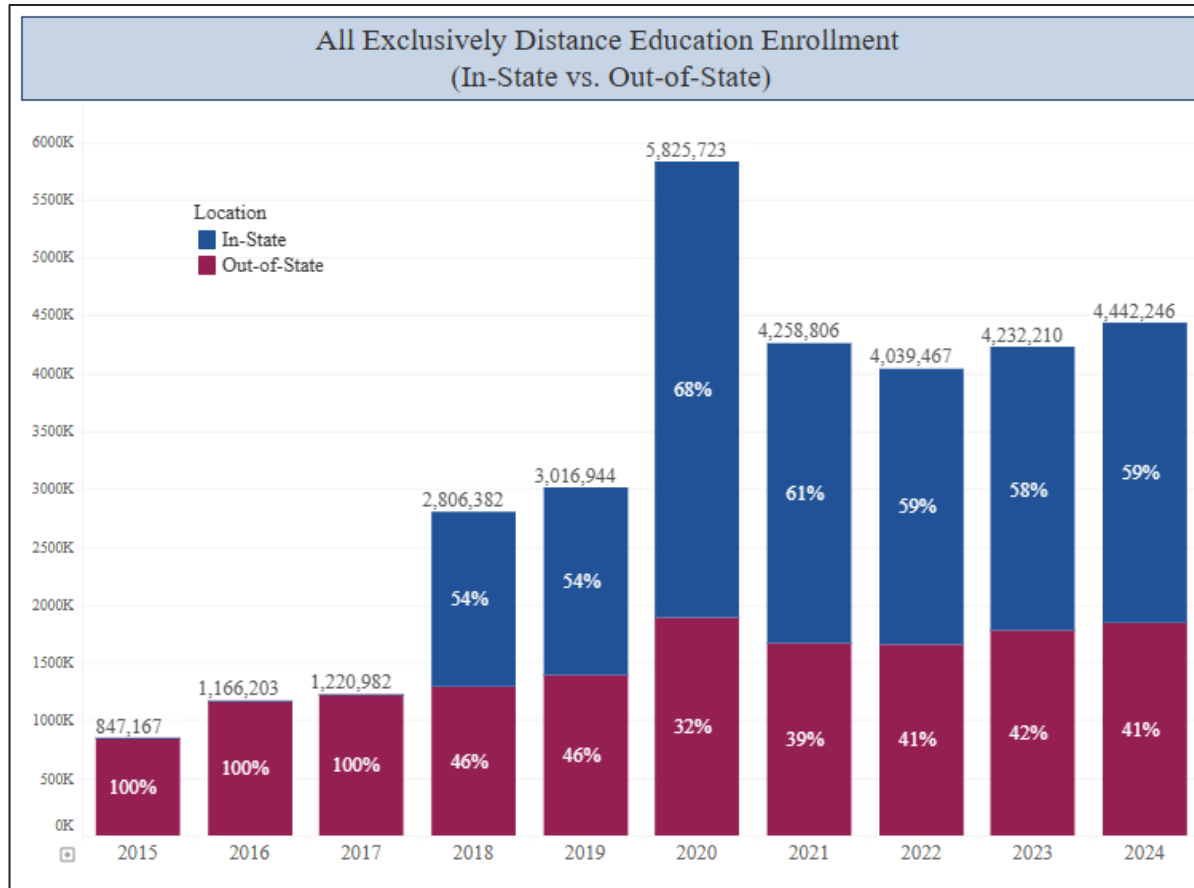
Fall 2024 Exclusively Distance Education Enrollment (EDEE)



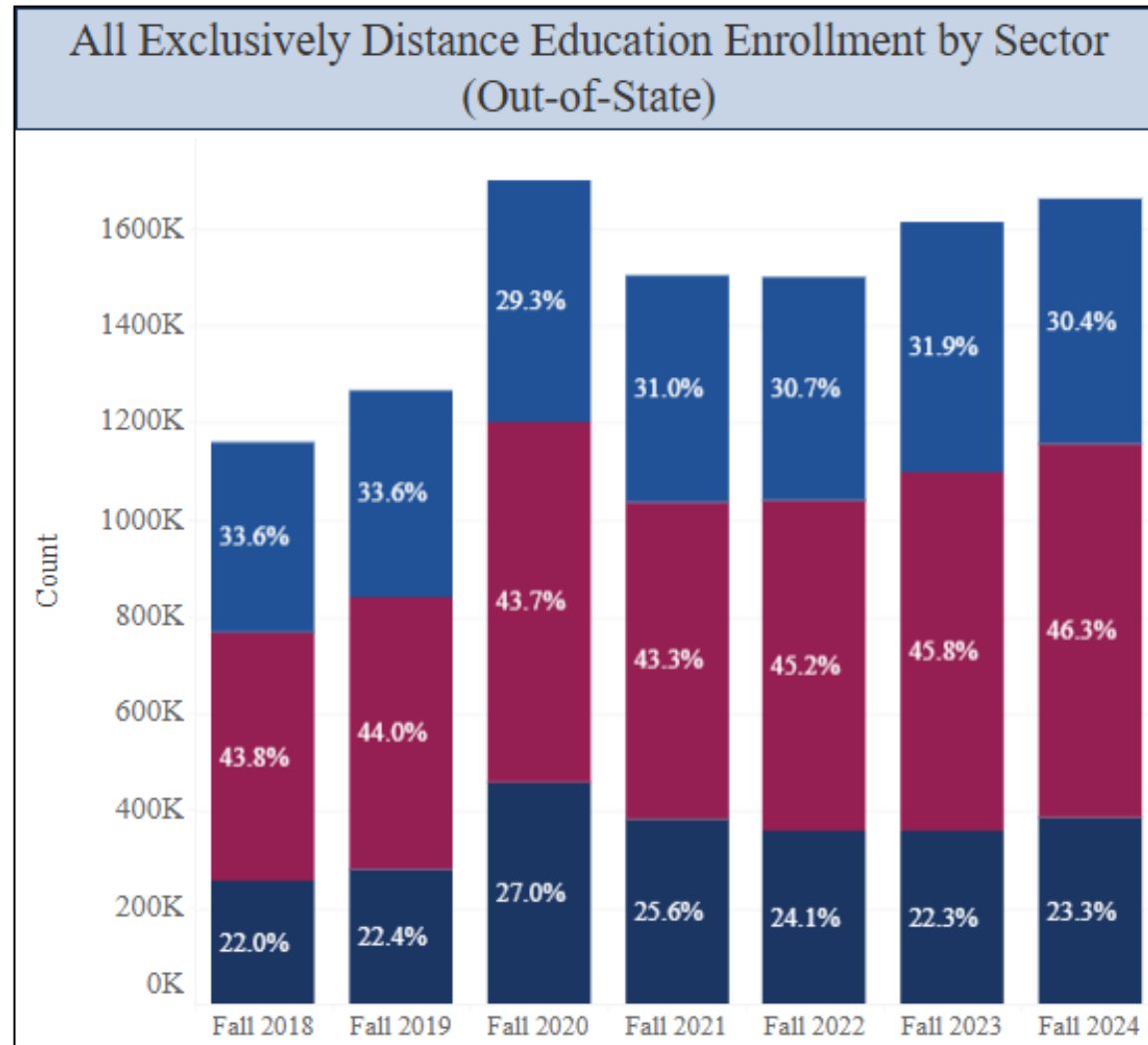
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Total Reported In-State and Out-of-State EDEE 2015-2024



Out-of-State SARA EDEE by Sector



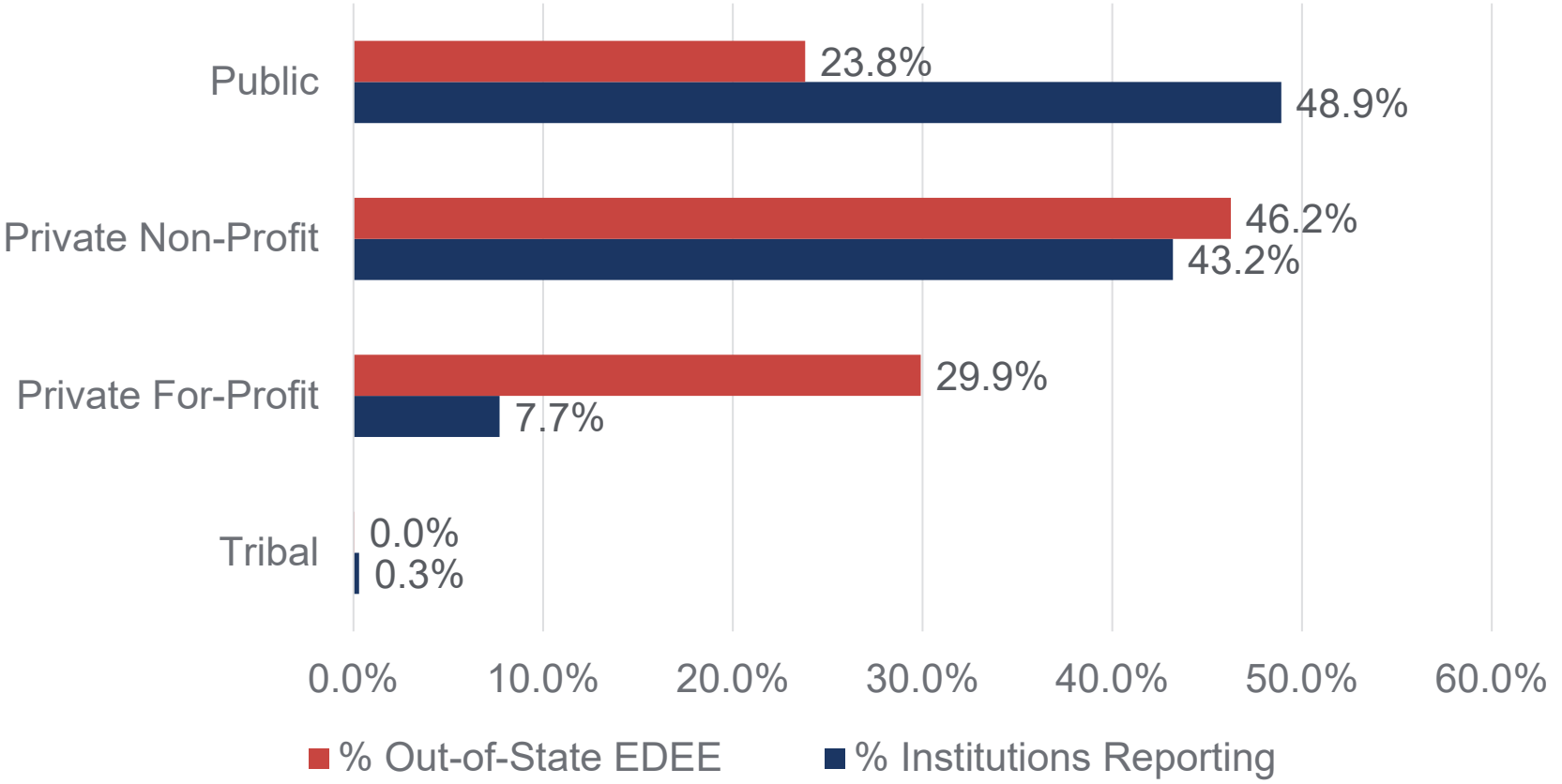
■ Private For-Profit ■ Private Non-Profit ■ Public ■ Tribal



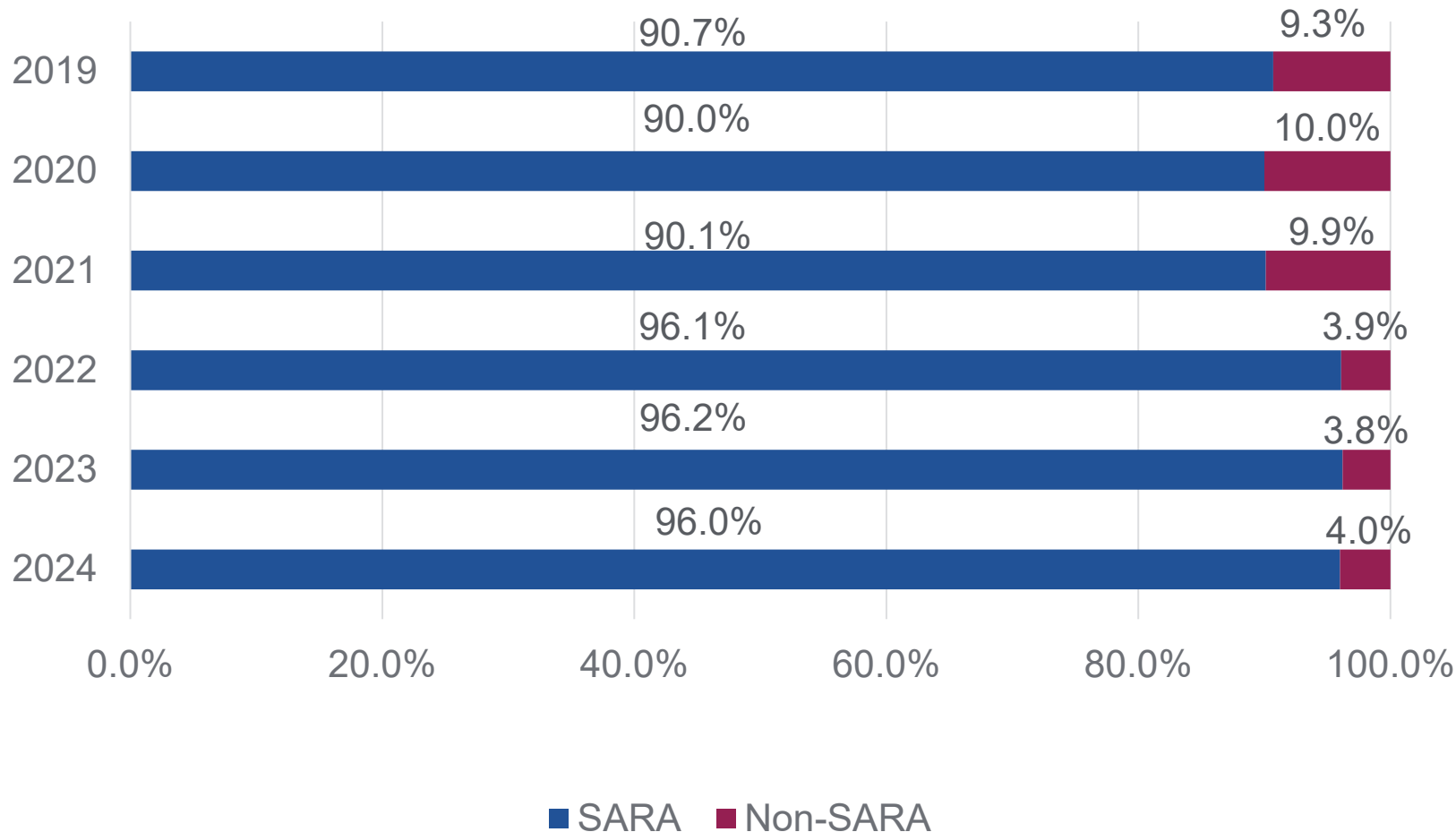
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Reporting Institutions & Out-of-State EDEE by Sector



Reported EDEE in SARA & Non-SARA State's 2019-2024



Questions about EDEE?





Next Topic

2024 Out-of-State Learning Placements

Out-of-State Learning Placements (OOSLP)

What are OOSLP?

- Learning placements are on-ground, out-of-state experiential learning activities
- OOSLP include clinical rotations, student teaching, internships, and other similar activities
- OOSLP are often a required part of obtaining a degree and/or license to practice a particular profession
- Note that reporting includes on-ground students as well as distance education students

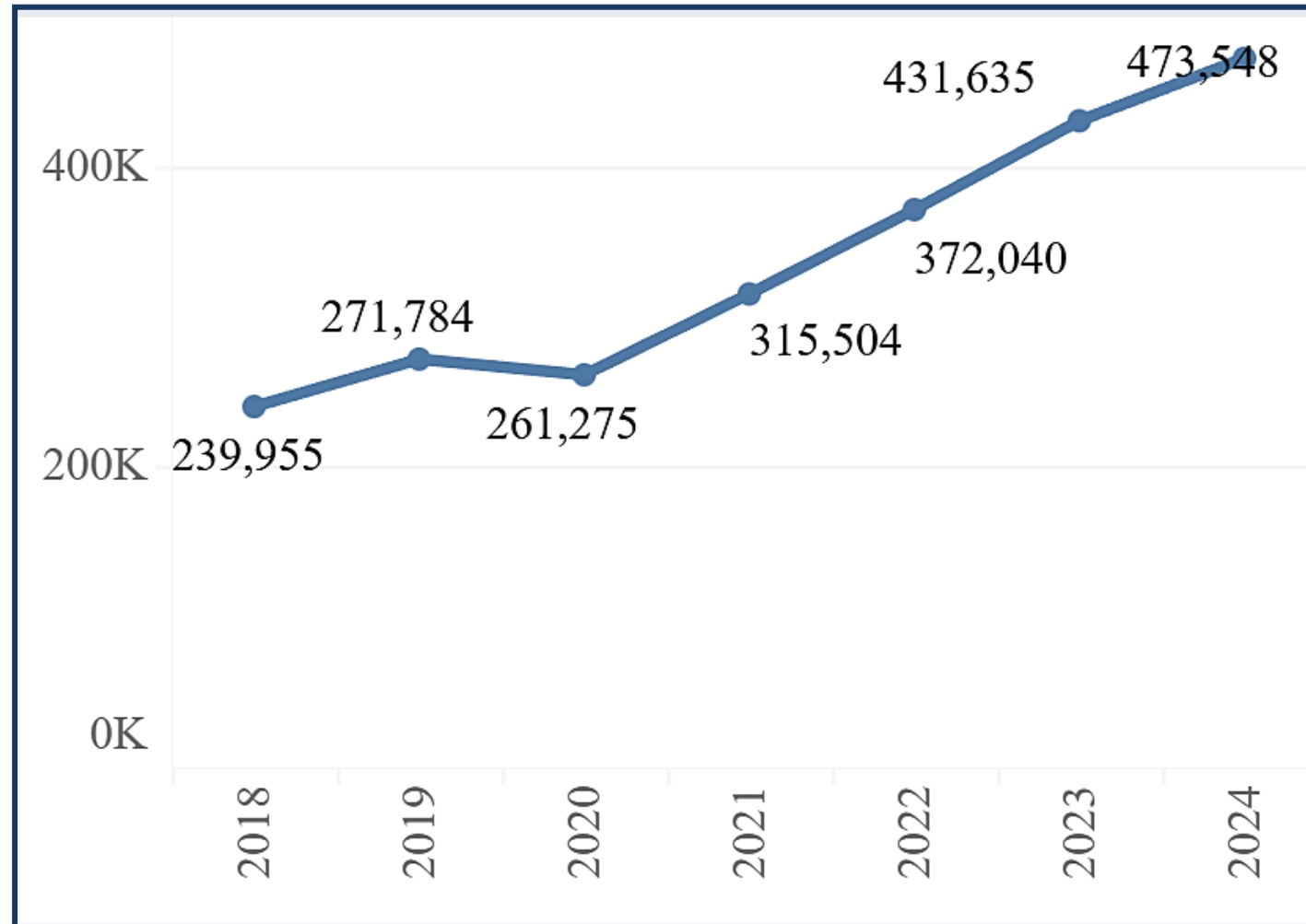


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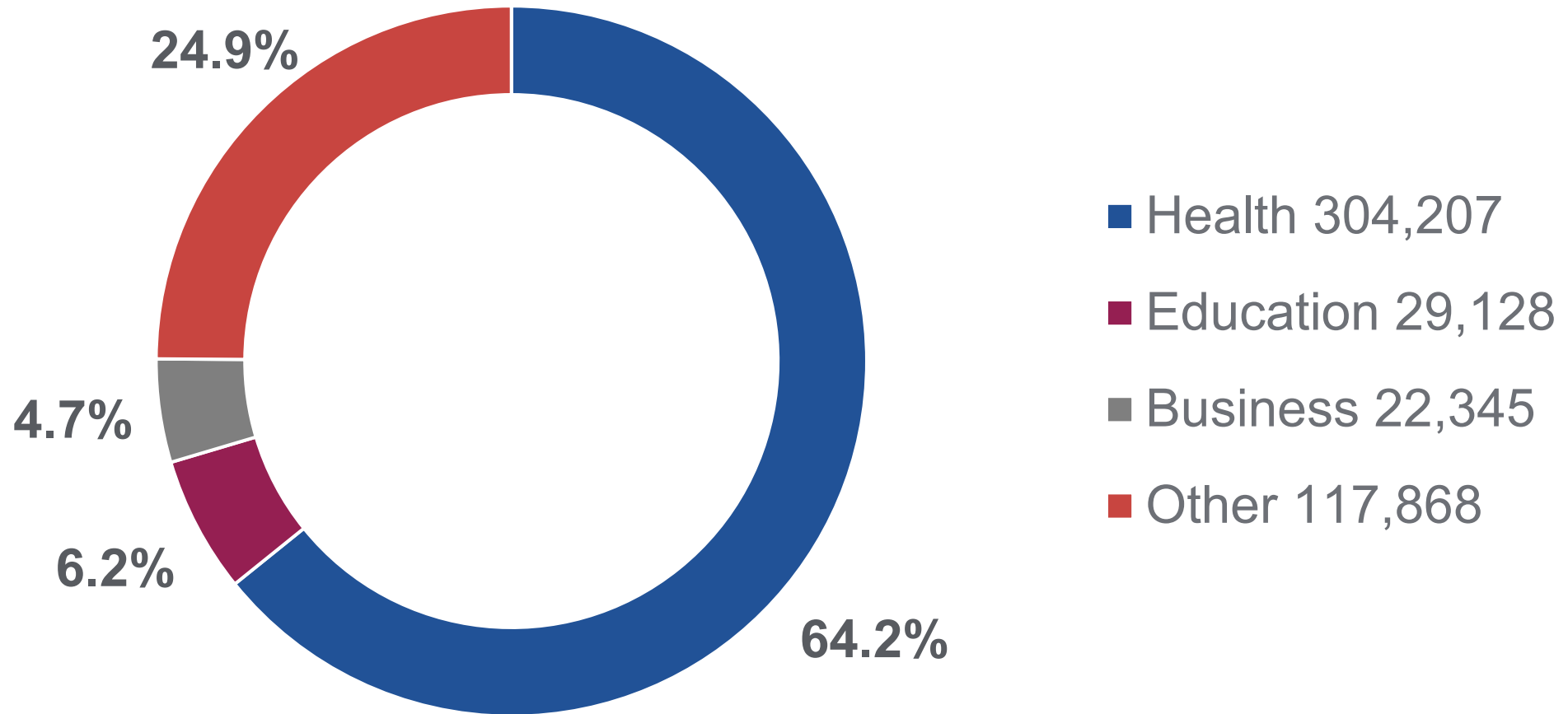
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Total Reported Out-of-Learning Placements 2019-2024



OOSLP Reported by CIP Program Areas for 2024



Questions about OOSLP?





Next Topic

SARA Cost Savings Study



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SARA-participating institutions save an average of **\$202,051** each year.

NC-SARA Participation Fees

Note – this is separate from and in addition to any fees state-specific fees charged

Enrolled FTE	Annual Fee
Less than 2,500	\$2,200
2,500 - 9,999	\$4,400
10,000 - 29,999	\$6,600
30,000 or more	\$8,800

SARA Institution Cost Savings

2025 SARA Cost Savings Report:

- All participating institutions surveyed; 537 complete responses received.
- Results show that on average, initial authorization would cost institutions \$268,829 outside of SARA, and \$156,950 annually for renewal.
- Overall, the average institution would spend more than 60 times as much for initial authorization and 35 times as much annually on renewal if it did not participate in SARA.

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>



SARA Institution Cost Savings - 2025

	Initial			
	Estimated Costs	State & NC SARA Costs	SARA Affiliation Fee	Estimated Savings
MHEC	\$220,678,561	\$3,456,550		\$217,172,011
NEBHE	\$223,193,169	\$3,312,450	\$50,000	\$219,870,719
SREB	\$417,744,312	\$6,206,550	\$160,000	\$411,387,762
WICHE	\$106,541,971	\$1,531,650		\$105,010,321
	\$968,158,013	\$14,507,200	\$260,000	\$953,390,813

	Renewal			
	Estimated Costs	State & NC SARA Costs	SARA Affiliation Fee	Estimated Savings
MHEC	\$115,612,435	\$3,318,550		\$112,243,885
NEBHE	\$114,884,660	\$3,287,450	\$50,000	\$111,587,210
SREB	\$218,048,708	\$6,206,550	\$160,000	\$211,692,158
WICHE	\$54,357,251	\$1,531,650		\$52,825,601
	\$502,903,054	\$14,344,200	\$260,000	\$488,298,854



Differences between the 2025 and 2021 Cost Saving Estimates

- The 2025 multipliers are larger than the 2021 multipliers
- Major reasons for changes in cost estimates include:
 - More institutions responded to the 2024 survey (537 vs. 171)
 - More states served in the 2024 survey
 - More large institutions that enroll 30,000 or more students responded to the survey
 - More programs offered by the responding institutions, especially by the institutions with large enrollment totals
 - Several states have revised their fee structure since 2021
 - Online education has become more popular since the COVID-19 pandemic



Questions about Cost Savings?





Next Topic

Resources for Data Collection

Institution Directions for Data Reporting

Your One-Stop Shop for Required Annual Data Reporting

[NC-SARA Data Reporting Portal](#)

The [NC-SARA Data Reporting Portal](#) is currently open for email verification. The portal will open for data submission on May 15, 2025.

2025 Data Reporting Templates: There are significant changes to the data submission process for the 2025 data collection cycle. Rather than entering data in a web form, institutions will upload their data as a .csv file. The templates that institutions will be required to use can be found below:

- [Exclusively Distance Education Enrollments \(EDEE\) Template](#)
- [Out-of-State Learning Placement \(OOSLP\) Template](#)

Bookmark for reference:
<https://nc-sara.org/institutional-data-reporting/>

2025 Data Reporting Dates

The 2025 timeframe to report Fall 2024 exclusively distance education enrollments and calendar year 2024 out-of-state learning placements will be May 15, 2025 through June 15, 2025.

2025 Must-Have Data Reporting Resources for SARA-Participating Institutions

- [NC-SARA Data Reporting Handbook for Institutions \(2025\)](#): The Data Reporting Handbook provides all the information and requirements for data reporting. It is updated annually.
- [2025 Data Sharing Agreement](#): The NC-SARA Data Sharing Agreement provides a framework that allows the exchange of specified data and clarifies how data will be submitted and used. It is updated annually to reflect any changes in the data reporting requirements. The CEO or CAO of participating institutions confirms adherence with this agreement at the time of initial institution application and annual renewal of participation in SARA.
- [NC-SARA's Annual Data Reporting Webinars for Institutions for 2025](#)
 - [2025 NC-SARA Annual Data Reporting: Exclusively Distance Education Enrollments and Out-of-State Learning Placements](#)

SARA Learning Station



Powered by NC-SARA



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

Tools & Resources: SARA Learning Station

- Institution Welcome Kit
- SARA Quick Start Guides
- *SARA Policy Manual*
- Videos
- Articles
- “Explainers”
- Graphics & Infographics

Events / Programming

- Webinars
- Webcasts
- Conferences and Other Presentations

<https://nc-sara.org/sara-learning-station>

Important Annual Data Reporting Dates

- **NC-SARA Annual Data Report & Cost Savings Study Release:** Monday, September 29, 2025
- **2025 Annual Data Handbook Available:** January 2026
- **2025 Annual Data Collection Webinar:** March 2026
- **2025 Annual Data Collection Window:** May 15 – June 15, 2026



Questions about NC-SARA Data?



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Thank You!

 www.nc-sara.org

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