



## SARA Policy Modification Process Implementation Team 2026

### Purpose:

The SARA Policy Modification Process Implementation Team is represented by Regional Steering Committee (RSC) members and Regional Education Compact SARA Staff from all four regions, members of the NC-SARA Board of Directors, and NC-SARA staff. Members of this committee meet every other month during the PMP cycle, providing input and feedback. They also ensure engagement and bring back discussion topics and updates to the broader RSC groups in each region.

### PIT Crew Members:

- o 2026 PMP Co-chairs:
  - o **Elisa Jaden**, Regional SARA Director, Office of Postsecondary Access and Student Success, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)
  - o **Kate McCartan**, Institution Monitoring Specialist, Minnesota Office of Higher Education
- o Regional Steering Committee (RSC) and Regional Education Compact Staff members:
  - o MHEC SARA
    - **Sara Appel**, Director, M-SARA, Policy and Research, Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC)
    - **Jennifer Armour**, Associate Director Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents
    - **Jonathan McNicholes**, Manager of Policy and Stakeholder Engagement Policy & Research, Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC)
    - **Paige Smith**, Chief Compliance and Risk Officer, Universities of Wisconsin
  - o NEBHE SARA
    - **Charlotte Ochs**, Director, State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA), NEBHE
    - **Alexander Nally**, Deputy General Counsel, Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
    - **Kush Patel**, Program Coordinator, Tuition Break and State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA), NEBHE
    - **Michael Perry**, Director of Higher Education & Educator Support Services, Maine Department of Education
    - **Sean Seepersad**, Division Director of Academic Affairs, Connecticut Office of Higher Education
  - o SREB SARA

- **Laurence Blake**, Director of Institutional Research Planning, University of the Virgin Islands
  - **Andrew Lessman**, Associate Director for Quality Assurance and State Authorization: Office of Digital Education, Temple University
  - **Terrence Scarborough**, Director of SARA North Carolina, North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority
  - **Elizabeth Walker**, Coordinator for Academic Affairs Administration, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
- WICHE SARA
    - **Alicia Armijo**, Constituent Services Coordinator and New Mexico NC-SARA Coordinator, Legal Division, New Mexico Higher Education Department
    - **Terina Caserto**, Senior Analyst, Academic and Student Affairs Nevada System of Higher Education
    - **Molly Hall-Martin**, Director, State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA), Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)
    - **Sam Loftin**, Director of Consumer Protection, Washington Student Achievement Council
    - **Shelley Plutto**, Project Manager, W-SARA, Policy Analysis and Research, Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)
- NC-SARA Board Directors
    - **Sarah Armstrong-Tucker**, Chancellor, West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission
    - *Note: Alexander Nally* (N-SARA), **Terrence Scarborough** (S-SARA), and **Sean Seepersad** (N-SARA), all listed above, are also NC-SARA board directors
- NC-SARA Staff Coordinator:
    - **Jared Abdirkin**, Senior Director, Institutional Engagement & Initiatives