NC SARA
National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements

SARA Quick Start Guide

SARA and State-Mandated Tuition Refund Policies

How do state-mandated tuition refund policies apply to SARA-participating institutions?

What is a state-mandated tuition refund policy?

A state-mandated tuition refund policy is a policy, which may be required by your institution's home state, that discloses the conditions under which students

would be eligible for tuition refunds.

What does the *SARA Policy Manual* say?

Subsection 2.5.k, "The state agrees that, if it has requirements, standards, fees, or procedures for the approval and authorization of non-domestic institutions of higher education providing distance education in the state, it will not apply those requirements, standards, fees, or procedures to any non-domestic (out-of-state) institution that participates in SARA; instead, the state will apply those specifically prescribed in or allowed by SARA policies."

SARA-participating institutions must apply the tuition refund policies of their home state to their SARA students located in other SARA member states.

What does my institution need to do?

- ❑ Confirm that your institution has a refund policy that meets your home state's requirements.
- ❑ Monitor for students in need of tuition refunds.
- ❑ Verify that students in need of tuition refunds are located in a SARA member state.
- ❑ Contact your state's SARA State Portal Entity for specific guidance or directions on your state's tuition refund policies.

Still have questions?

1. SARA State Portal Entities have the responsibility and authority to hold institutions in compliance with SARA policy. 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.
2. Feel free to email NC-SARA: info@nc-sara.org

Resource:

- *SARA Policy Manual,* Subsection 2.5.k

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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.