EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

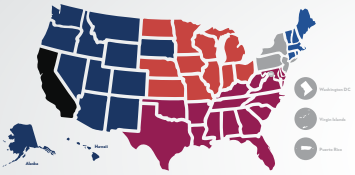
NC SARA

# DATA REPORT

Fall 2025 Exclusively Distance Education Enrollment Report & 2025 Out-of-State Learning Placements

NC-SARA's 11th annual data report and dataset provide insights into the ways that postsecondary education continues to evolve and change. SARA data reporting captures students enrolled exclusively in distance education courses and out-of-state learning placements from SARA-participating institutions.

## FAST FACTS



49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands are members of SARA

**2,441**

Data was collected from 2,441 SARA-participating institutions, a 2% increase over 2024

**1,722,640**

Number of students attending out-of-state institutions exclusively via distance education through SARA in Fall 2025

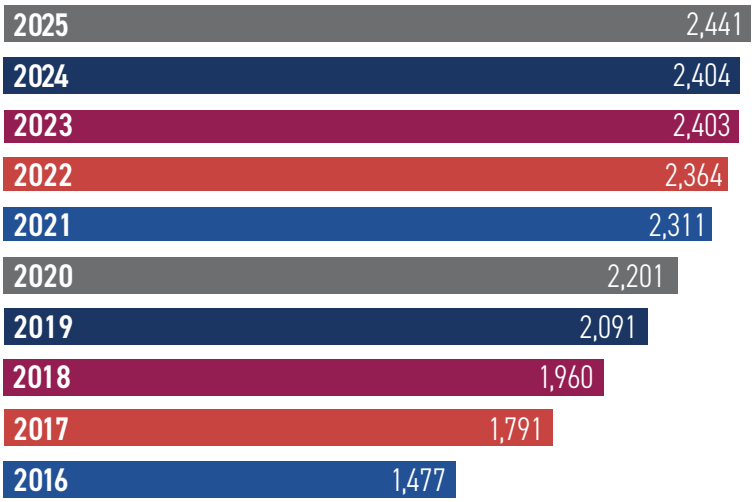
**546,869**

Number of out-of-state learning placements (OOSLP) for calendar year 2025

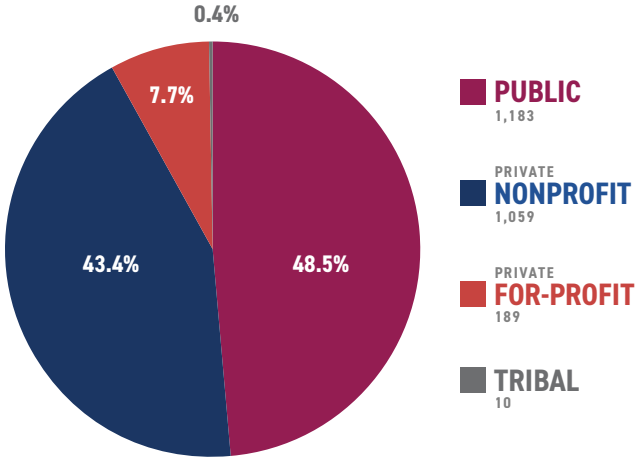
## SARA-PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

### SARA PARTICIPATION CONTINUES TO INCREASE

The number of institutions participating in SARA has continued to increase, with 37 more institutions reporting data from 2025 than from 2024.




### PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS CONTINUE TO MAKE UP LARGEST SECTOR IN SARA

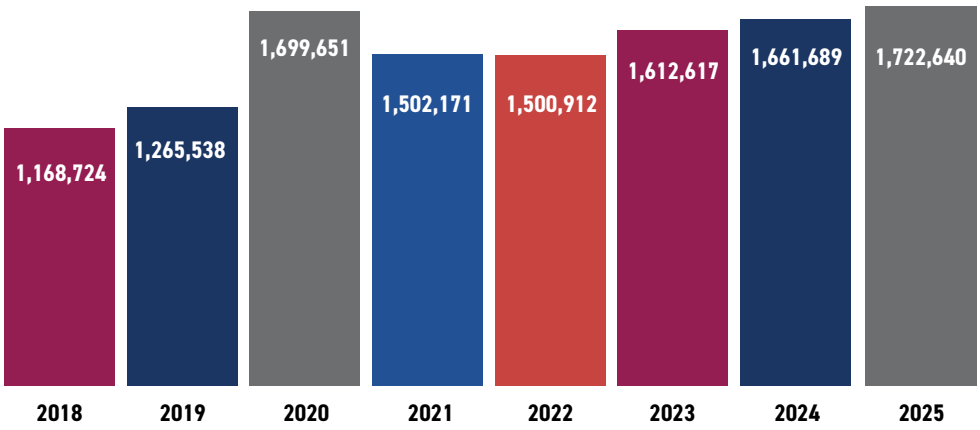



Note that percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

# EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE EDUCATION ENROLLMENTS

In Fall 2025, more than **1.7 million students** attended out-of-state institutions exclusively via distance education through SARA. This is a 4% increase from Fall 2024.

## TOTAL EXCLUSIVELY DISTANCE EDUCATION ENROLLMENTS THROUGH SARA




# OUT-OF-STATE LEARNING PLACEMENTS

**Students from reporting institutions participated in 546,869 out-of-state learning placements in 2025, up from 473,548 in 2024.**

The largest out-of-state learning placements (OOSLP) were in **healthcare-related programs (64%)**, followed by **education (7.8%)** and **business (4.2%)**. The remaining **24% of OOSLPs were in a variety of fields**, such as engineering and social sciences.

In addition to exclusively distance education enrollments, SARA allows reciprocity for certain **on-ground** out-of-state experiential learning activities called "out-of-state learning placements" (OOSLP). Out-of-state learning placements are on-site learning placements that occur in a state other than the home state of the institution. They include clinical rotations, student teaching, internships, and other similar activities, many of which are related to workforce development needs. They are also often required as part of obtaining a degree and/or license to practice in a particular profession.

**64%**
Health Professions

**7.8%**
Education

**4.2%**
Business

**24%**
Variety of Fields

**Interested in diving deeper into the data?**
Check out our interactive Data Dashboards webpage.