NC-SARA's Annual Data Report Release

2025 Data Reported in 2026

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October 6, 2026

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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

Rachel Christeson, Ph.D.

- VP, Research & Planning

Emma Hidalgo

- Data Analyst

Agenda:

- Overview of SARA Data Collection
- 2025 Data Reported in 2026
  - Participating Institutions
  - Exclusively Distance Education Enrollment (EDEE)
  - Out-of-State Learning Placements (OOSLP)
- Changes for Future Data Collection
- Resources for Data Reporting

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Overview of SARA Data Collection

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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
State are reviewed every two years for SARA Membership

Regional Compacts (MHEC, NEBHE, SREB, WICHE)

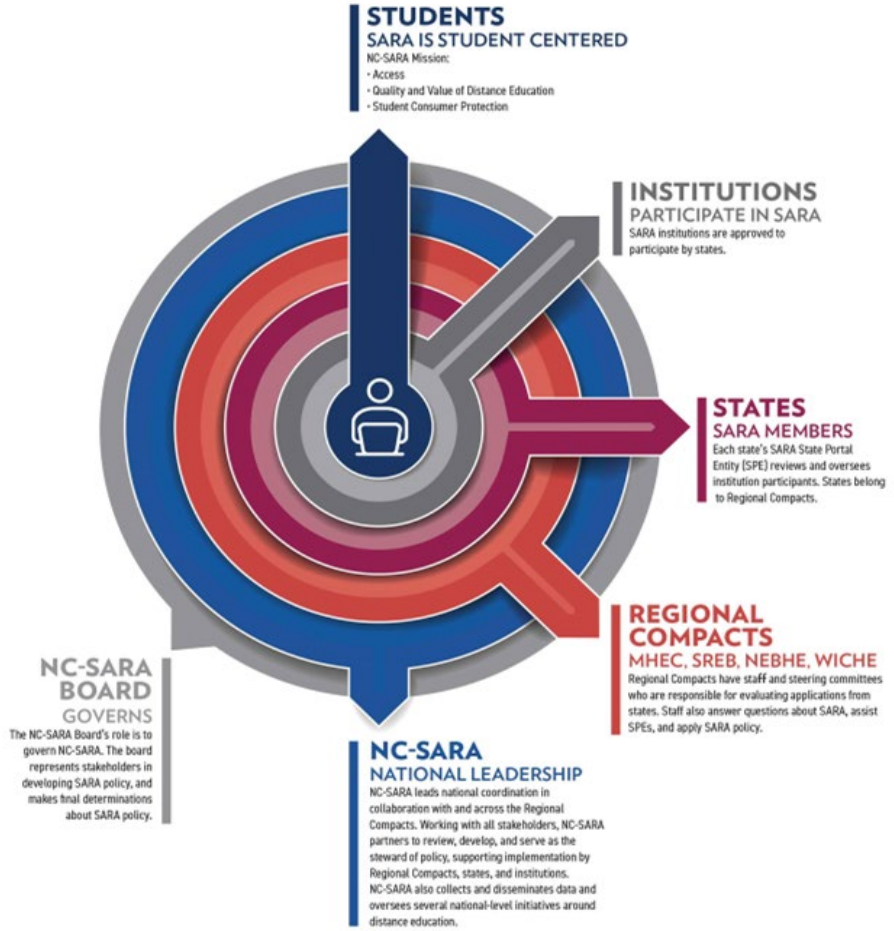
Oversee SARA in their region

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

- 11 years of reporting exclusively distance education enrollments
- 8 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

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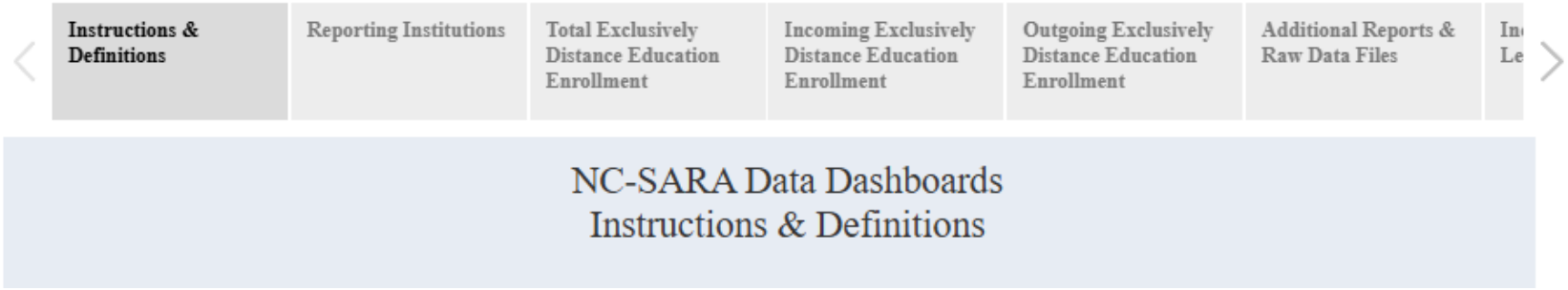
NC-SARA's Data Dashboards

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



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2025 Data Reported in 2026

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Methodology

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

2,451 Institutions were sent email requests to report

- 10 exemptions were extended
  - 8 non-renewals
  - 2 institutional closures
- 0 institutions did not report

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Participating Institutions

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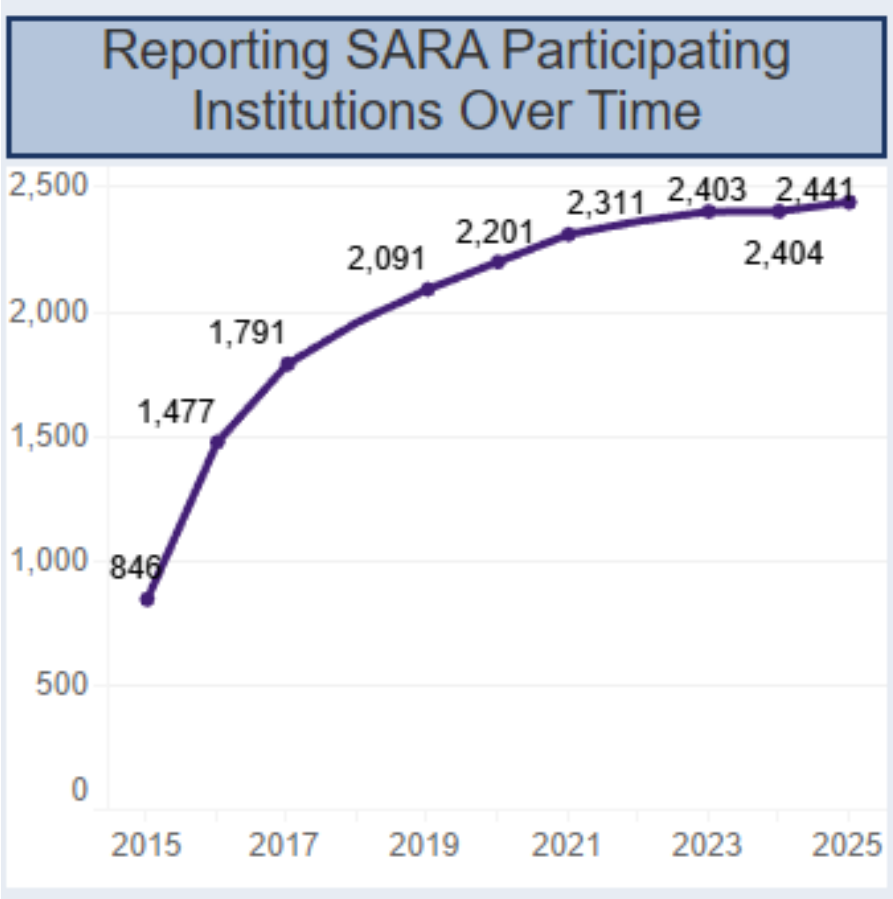
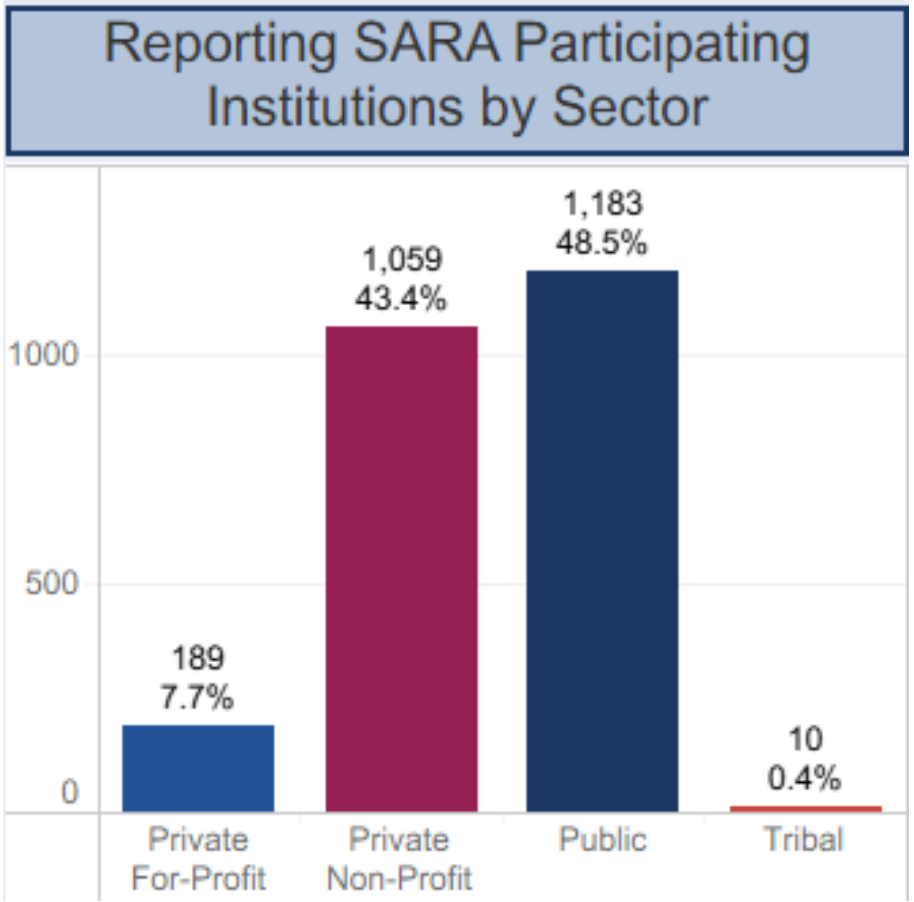
Total Number of Reporting Institutions





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Fall 2025 Exclusively Distance Education Enrollment (EDEE)

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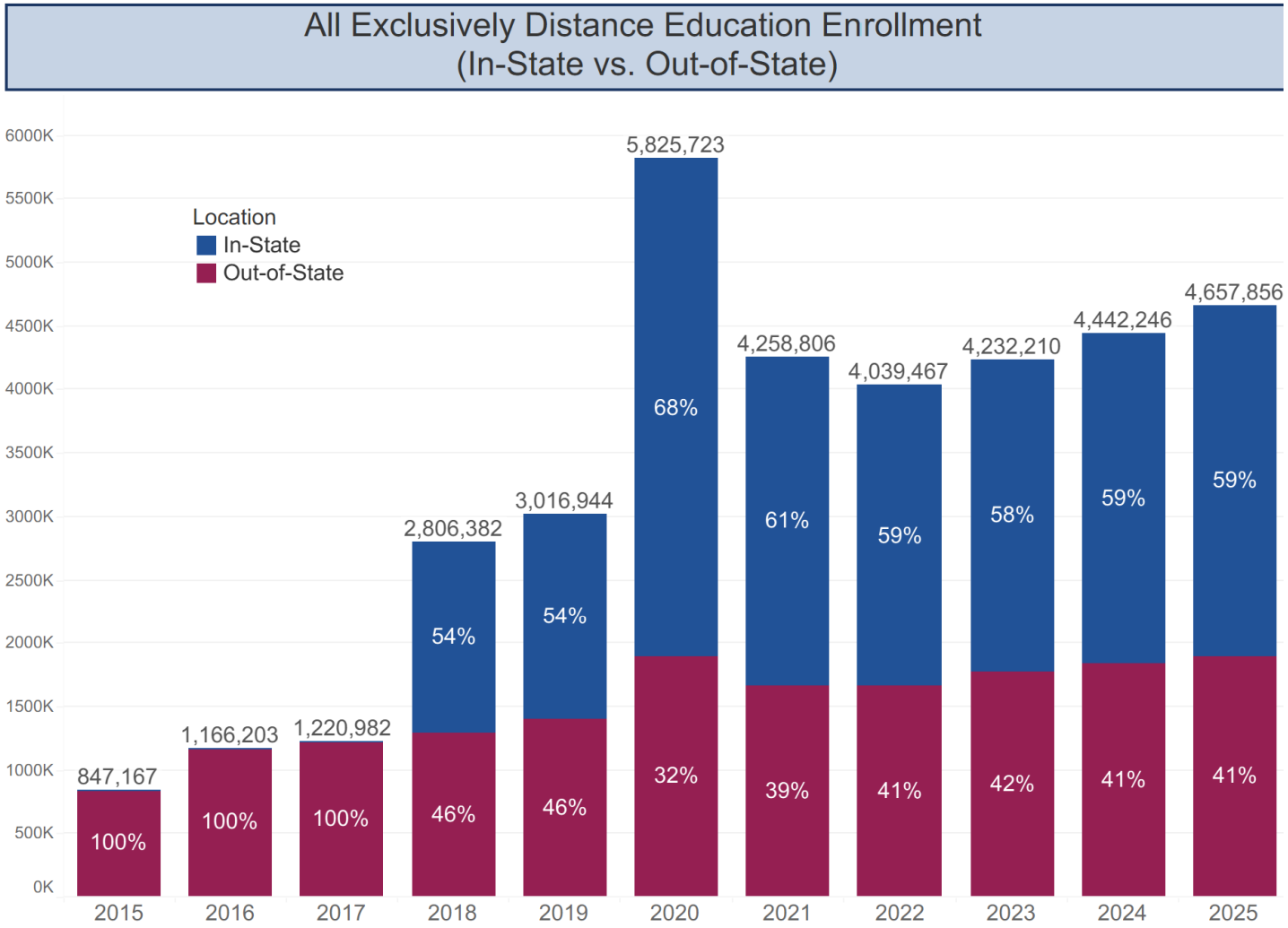
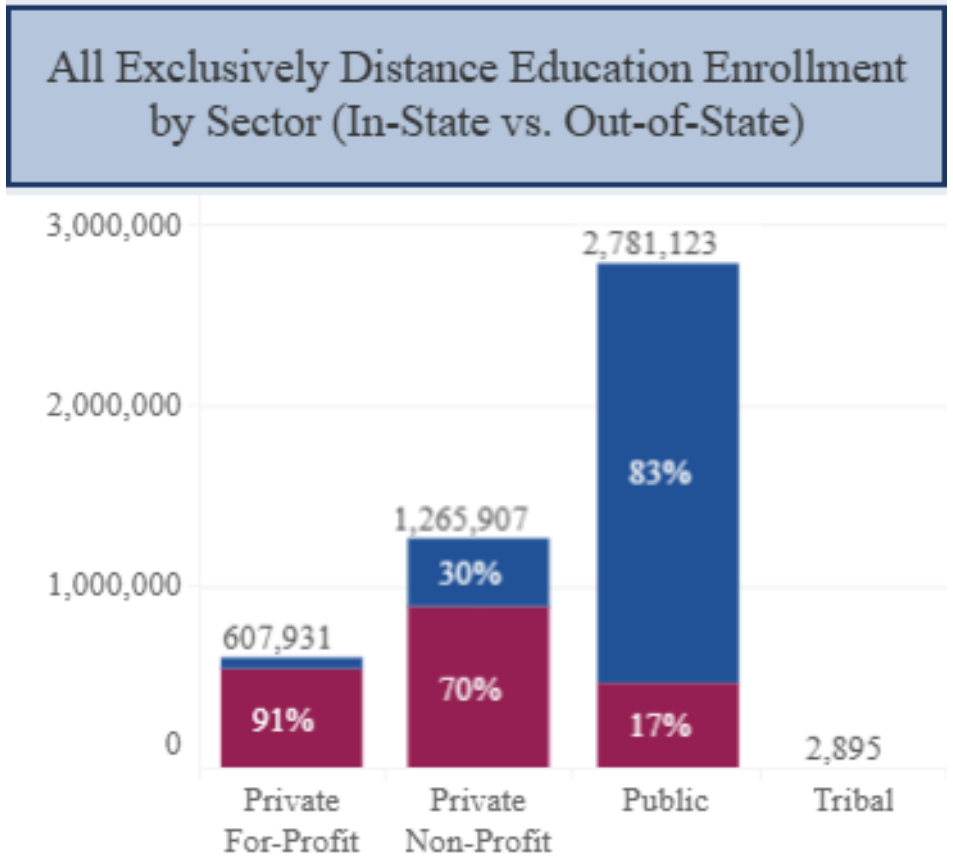
Total Reported In-State and Out-of-State EDEE 2015-2025





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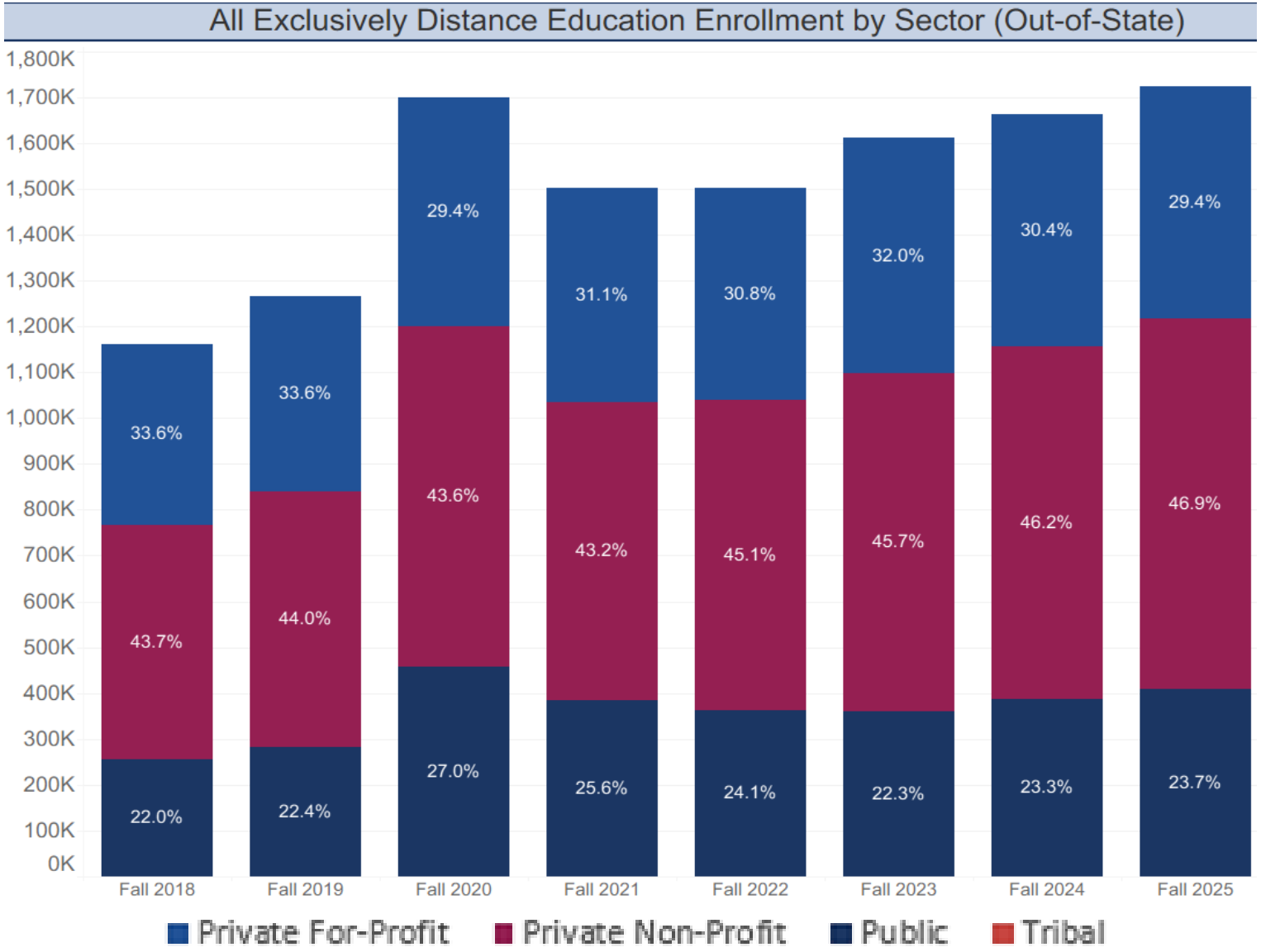
Out-of-State SARA EDEE by Sector



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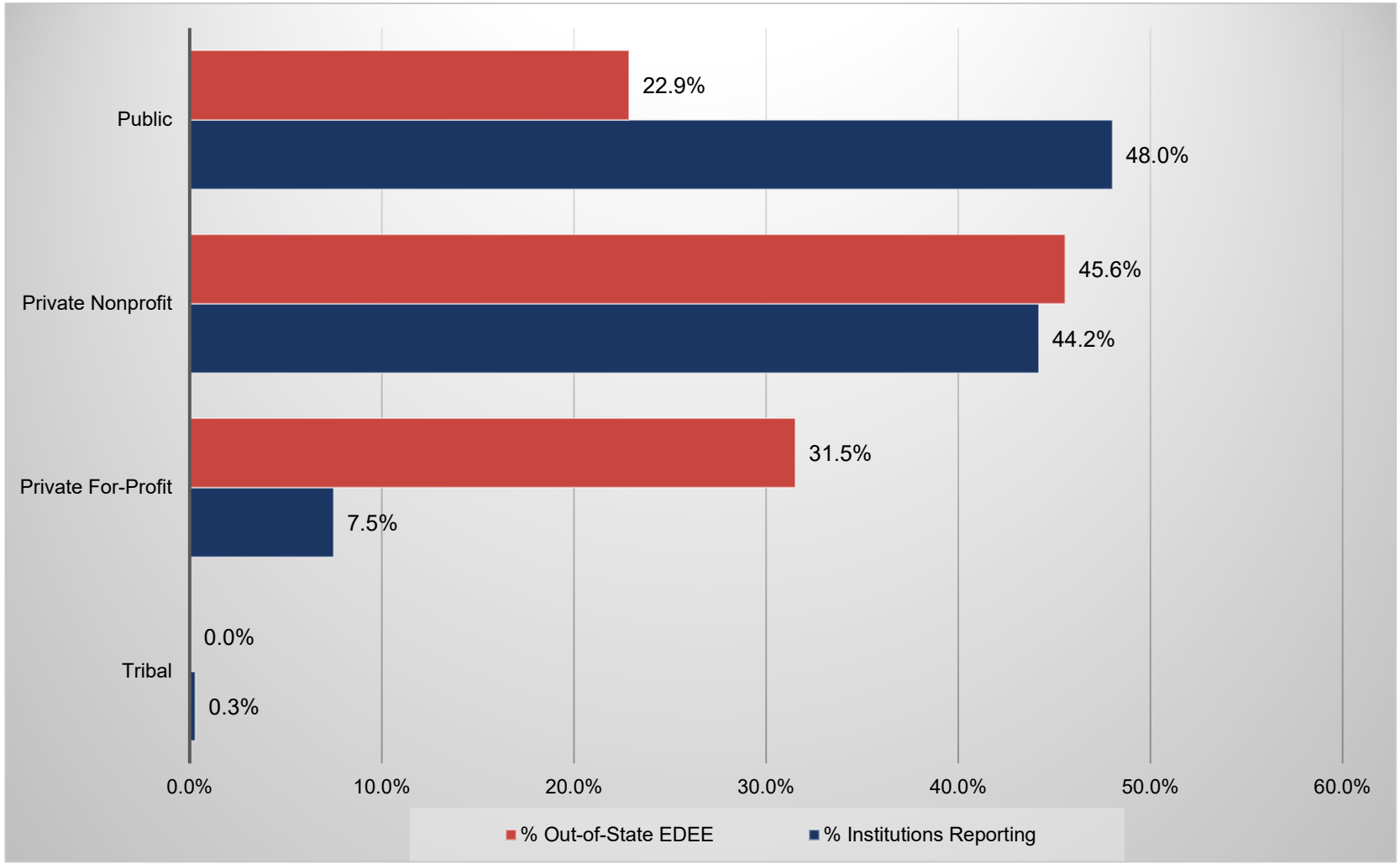
Reporting Institutions & Out-of-State EDEE by Sector



Questions about EDEE?

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2025 Out-of-State Learning Placements

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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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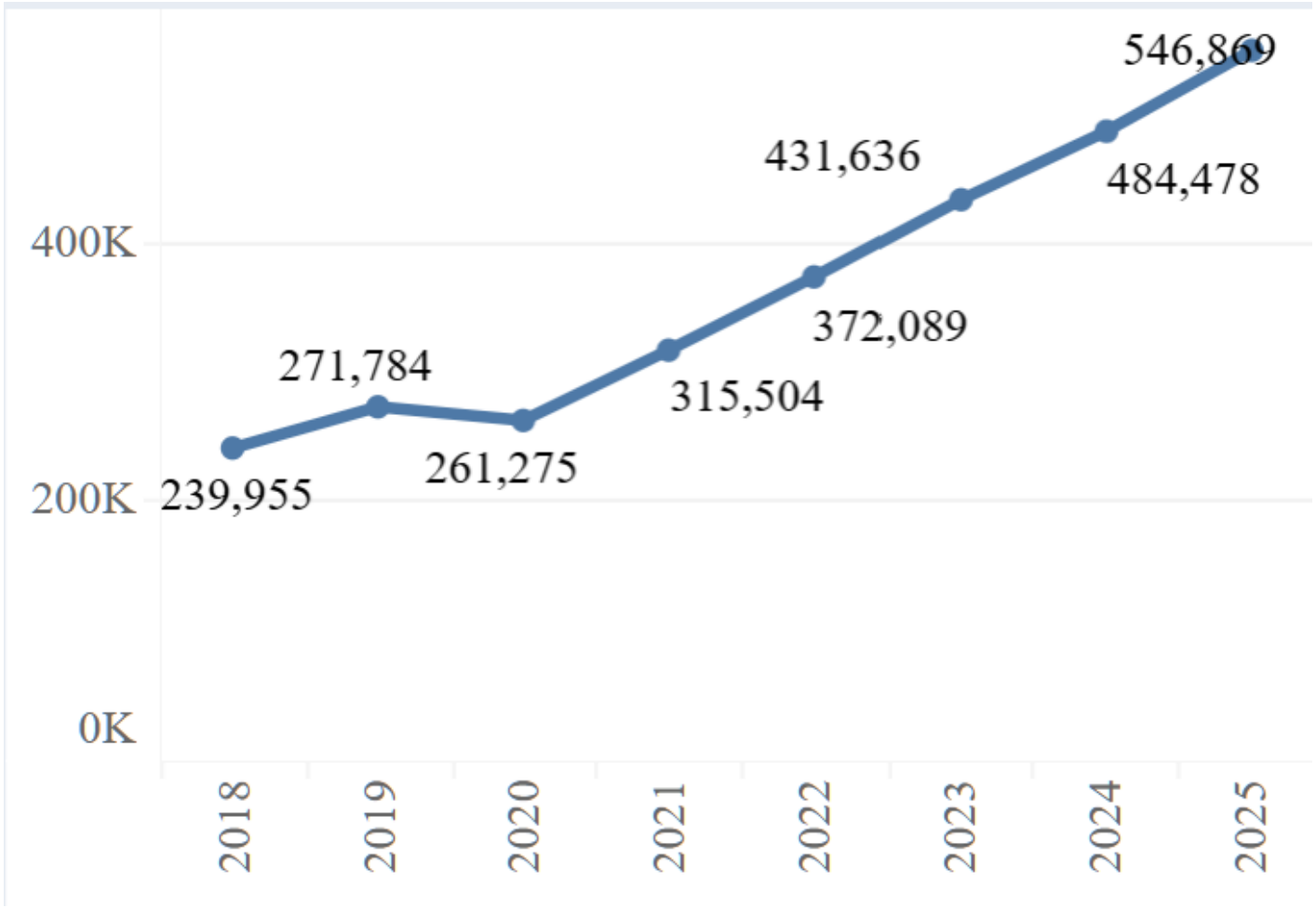
Total Reported Out-of-State Learning Placements 2018-2025



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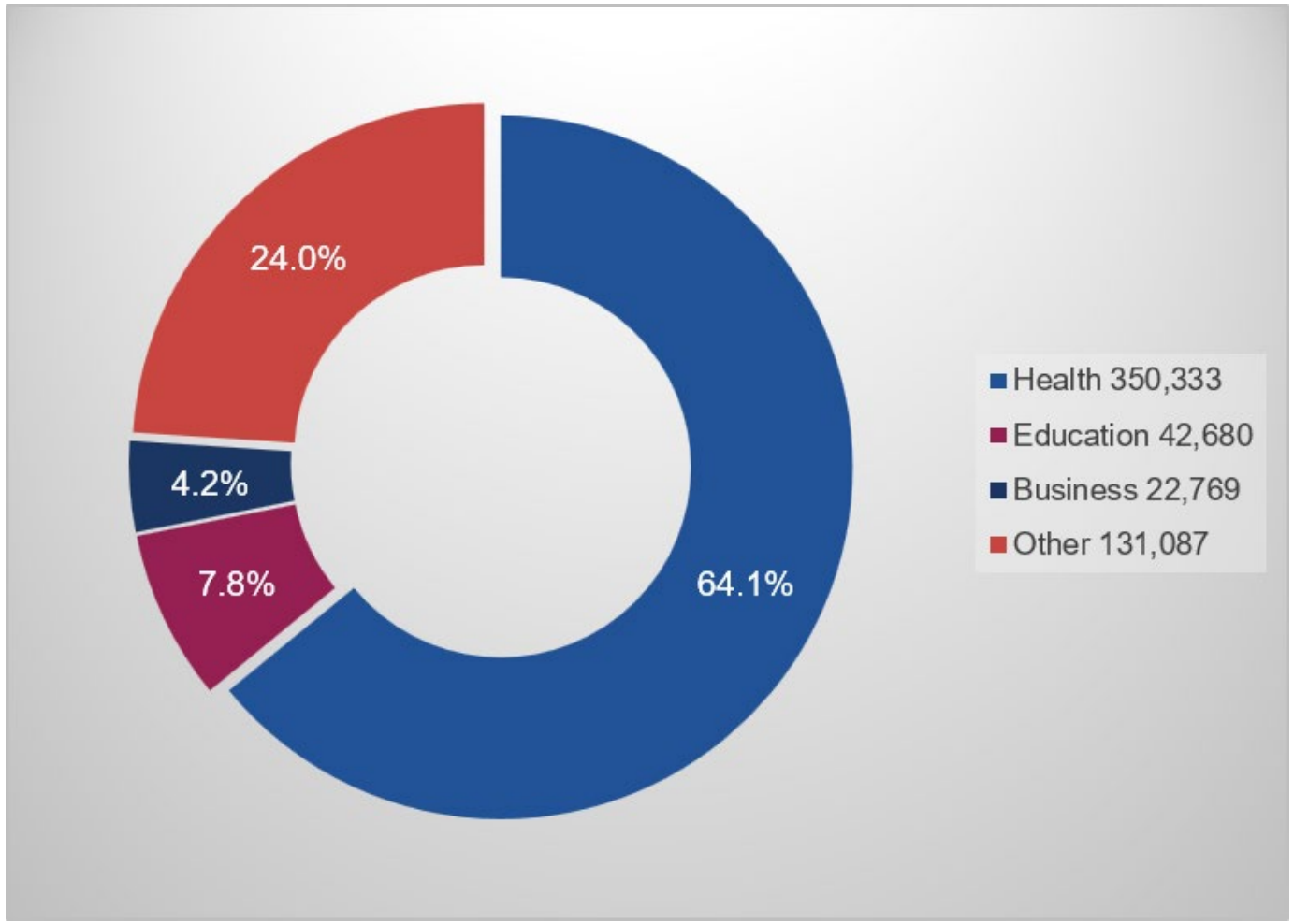
OOSLP Reported by CIP Program Areas for 2025



Questions about OOSLP?

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Changes for Future Data Collection

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Changes for Future Data Collection

Under consideration for 2029:

- 12-month EDEE
- EDEE: Student program (6-digit CIP), degree level, military status, concurrent / dual enrollment status
- OOSLP: Placement program (6-digit CIP), degree level

Future consideration:

- In-state and virtual learning placements
- OOSLP site location
- Degree or course completions
- Non-credit offerings
- Some distance education enrollment
- Additional student demographics (gender, age group, etc.)

Feedback? Take our survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCSARAExpandingDataCollection

Changes for Future Data Collection

Timeline:

- 2026 – consider options; PMP to remove dates and 2-digit CIP reference
- 2027 – finalize definitions and reporting process
- 2028 – institutions begin collecting new data; pilot reporting process; report in old format
- 2029 – begin reporting new data in new format

Feedback? Take our survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCSARAExpandingDataCollection

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Resources for Data Collection

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Institution Directions for Data Reporting: Your One-Stop Shop

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**

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SARA Cost Savings for Institutions

- SARA Cost Savings Study
- SARA Cost Savings Calculator

Both available on NC-SARA's website

SARA Source

- Based on publicly available IPEDS Completions Files
  - Includes counts of programs, by degree level and program type / area, that are offered 100% online and a student has completed.
  - Contains 20,000+ programs with graduates from 2,350 SARA-participating institutions
- Includes institutional characteristics (sector, level, etc.), web address, net price calculator, and other fields in Salesforce or IPEDS
- Refreshed monthly to include new institutions
- Updated annually by NC-SARA staff (December)

SARA SOURCE

Important Annual Data Reporting Dates

- 2026 Annual Data Handbook and Templates Available: January 2027
- 2026 Annual Data Collection Webinar: March 2027
- 2026 Annual Data Collection Window: May 15 – June 15, 2027

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

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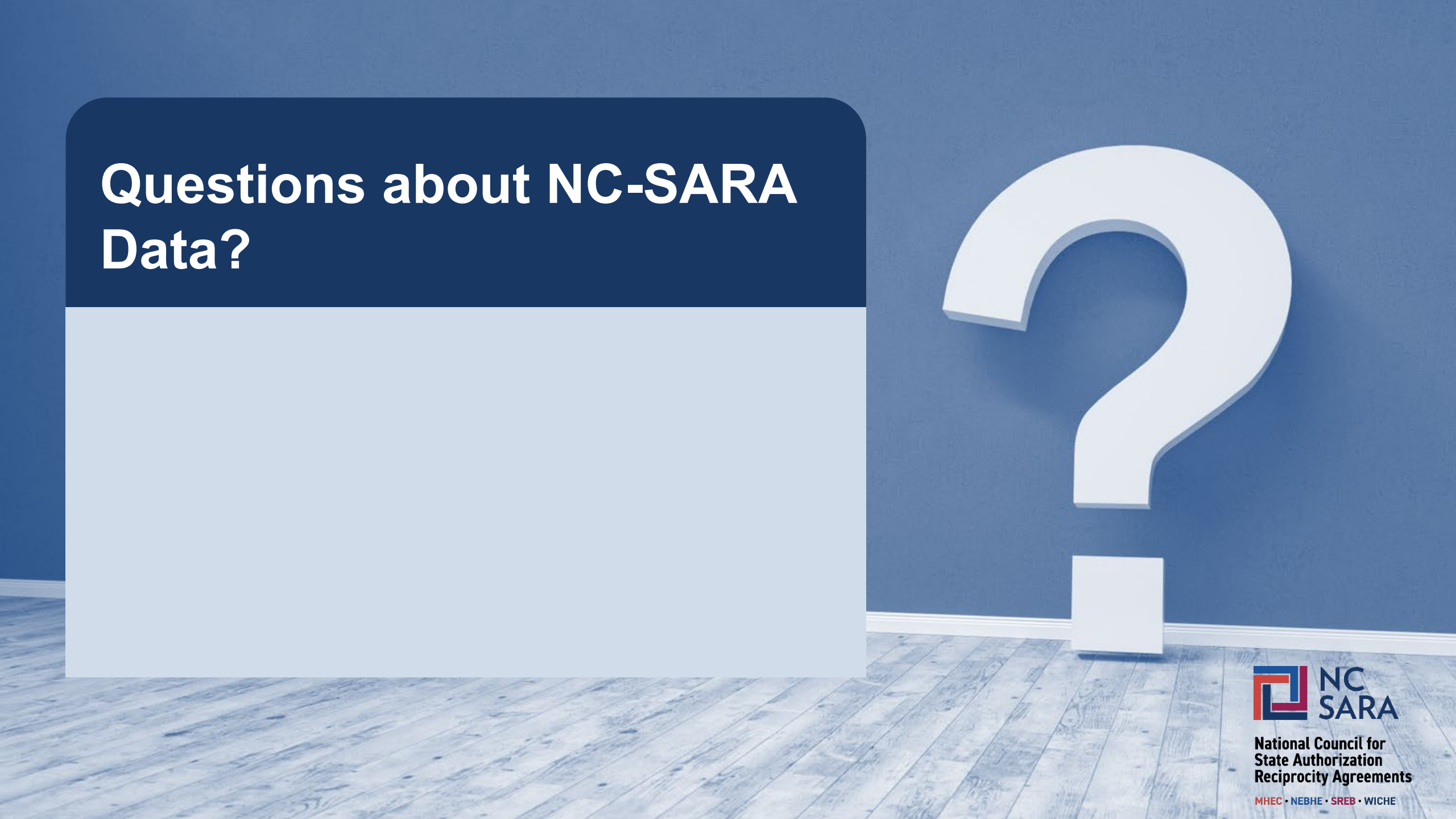
Upcoming Events / Webinars

- **NC-SARA October 2026 Board Meeting**
  Tue, Oct 27, 2026, 5:30 PM - Thu, Oct 29, 2026, 2:00 PM MDT

- **NC-SARA 2026 Board Meeting - Public Session**
  Wed, Oct 28, 2026, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM MDT

- **2026 SARA Policy Modification Process Wrap-Up Webinar**
  Mon, Nov 9, 2026, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM MST

Questions about NC-SARA Data?



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Thank You!

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