



Summary of the May 6, 2020 NC-SARA Board Meeting

NC-SARA Webinar: Summary of the May 2020 Board Meeting

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Please Note:

The webcast will begin at the top of the hour.

There is no audio being broadcast at this time.

NC-SARA Logistics

Welcome!

Please use the **Question and Answer** box for questions.

The webinar will be recorded.

This PowerPoint and any other resources referenced will be emailed next week to all who registered and made available on our website.

Presenters

- **Lori Williams**, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer, NC-SARA
- **Sara Appel**, Manager, Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit; Midwest Student Exchange Program, SARA (MHEC)
- **Wanda Barker**, Director, Education Technology, Multistate Cooperative Programs, & SARA (SREB)
- **Marianne Boeke**, Ph.D., Director for Policy Research and State Support, NC-SARA
- **Christina Sedney**, Director, Policy Initiatives and State Authorization (WICHE)
- **Rachael Stachowiak**, Associate Director, SARA (NEBHE)
- **Jeannie Yockey-Fine**, J.D., Director for Regulatory Relations and Policy Support, NC-SARA

Agenda

- **Reflections on the Board Meeting**
- **Federal Financial Responsibility Composite Scores**
- **NC-SARA Strategic Plan**
- **Modifications to Align with Federal Regulations**
- **Modifications to Clarify Processes**
- **Questions and Discussion**

Reflections on the NC-SARA Board Meeting

- **Virtual Zoom Meeting**
- **Speakers**
- **Public – Call in Component**



Federal Financial Responsibility Composite Scores

Message to the U.S. Department of Education urging them to review and update the Federal Financial Responsibility Composite Scores

“Since the impact of COVID-19 will not show in the scores for two years, and since NC- SARA permits states to provide a degree of flexibility in considering additional financial information in decision making, NC-SARA reaffirms its reliance on the use of the federal financial responsibility scores. In the meanwhile, NC-SARA urges the U.S. Department of Education to act promptly to complete its review of and improve its standards and procedures for assessing financial stability and responsibility and make improvements for both the short and long term.”

NC-SARA Strategic Plan

NC-SARA contracted with Brainard Strategy beginning in October 2019 to design and facilitate the creation of a strategic plan for NC-SARA.

The plan gives NC-SARA:

- Understanding of what we do well and not well.
- Defines what we want to become, and have a cogent plan to get there.
- What we don't do – it draws boundaries around the scope of intentions.
- Offers goals and direction for management and resources.
- Drives behavior and brand.



NC-SARA Strategic Plan

The Committee developed a three-year plan with the following strategic objectives:

1. Develop and communicate a clear, compelling message to constituents regarding the value proposition of NC-SARA.
2. Employ NC-SARA's broad collaborative relationships with accreditors, states, and institutions to promote improvements in access to, and quality of distance education programs.
3. Achieve operational excellence.
4. Continuously strengthen the partnership with regional compacts and states to seamlessly align and deliver value.

Key performance indicators (KPIs) were also developed.

NC-SARA Strategic Plan – Next Steps

- NC-SARA staff will determine which goals can be met in which of the three years associated with the plan.
- Mid Summer release Strategic Plan Summary.



Modifications to Align with Federal Regulations

(ACTION): Approve Section 2.5 (h.1.) adjustment to align with Federal Regulations that were inadvertently left out of the *SARA Manual*. **(passed)**

(ACTION): Approve Section 5.2 adjustment regarding programs leading to Professional Licensure to correlate to new Federal Regulations. **(tabled)**

Modifications to Align with Federal Regulations

Proposed:

For SARA purposes, institutions that are unable to determine whether a program will meet state professional licensure requirements shall provide the student or applicant with current contact information for any applicable licensing boards, and advise the student or applicant to determine whether the program meets requirements for Licensure in the State where the student or applicant is located.

Modifications to Clarify Processes

(ACTION): Approve Section 2.5(c) clarification on the need for all states to have a process to review institutions with a Federal Financial Responsibility Composite score between 1.0 and 1.5. **(passed)**

(ACTION): Approve Section 2.5 (q), addition of this sentence. “States shall have a process for considering applications for provisional status.”
(passed)

Modifications to Clarify Processes

(ACTION): Approve Section 2.5(e) clarification of language regarding to which agency or body an institution may appeal a decision regarding participation in SARA. **(passed)**

(ACTION): Approve Section 5.3 clarification of policy regarding field trips and seasonal residential activity, with adjustment of language in Explanatory Note: SARA covers class field trips that do not involve multi-night residency. **(passed)**

Modifications to Clarify Processes

(ACTION): Approve Section 2.5(i)(7) clarification of SARA student complaint venue if attending an out-of-state **branch campus. (tabled)**

(ACTION): Approve Section 4.4 (d) modifications of treatment of SARA student complaints from a branch campus. **(tabled)**

Modifications to Clarify Processes

(ACTION): Approve Section 2.5(o) clarification of regulation of online/Distance Education activities by the **Host State. (tabled)**

(ACTION): Approve Section 5.7(a), to align with SARA Policy, add, “and section 2.5, subsections n and o.” **(tabled)**

Modifications to Clarify Processes

(ACTION): Approve Section 6.1(b) and (c) modification to reflect data policy and remove process information. **(passed)**

(ACTION): Approve Section 6.2 modification to reflect data policy and remove process information. **(passed)**

Questions and Discussion



Resources



For Questions: Info@nc-sara.org

NC-SARA Website: www.nc-sara.org