

Good afternoon SREB SARA Steering committee members and State Portal Entity contacts. Below is a note that was distributed Friday. I wanted to ensure you were aware NC-SARA leadership and the NC-SARA Board aware of the situation and developing a 'next steps' plan.

Colleagues,

I suspect that most of you are aware that the U.S. Department of Education staff have recommended that the Department withdraw recognition of ACICS as a recognized accreditor. (Institutions must be accredited by a recognized accreditor in order to participate -- and have their students participate -- in federal Title IV financial aid programs.)

Jenny Parks, the MHEC SARA director, has reviewed SARA records and those of ACICS and determined that there are about a dozen SARA schools accredited by ACICS. (We'll soon enroll our 1000th institution.)

If the Secretary of Education does indeed withdraw recognition of ACICS (which I personally think is likely), schools would be given an extended period to obtain accreditation from another recognized accreditor. Accreditation by a recognized accreditor is required for participation in SARA.

Please let me know if you have questions or comments.

Best,

Marshall A. Hill, Ph.D.
Executive Director
NC-SARA
3005 Center Green Drive, Suite 130
Boulder, CO 80301
303-597-0237
mhill@nc-sara.org