

SREB

**SREB Educational
Technology Cooperative**

**2015 Spring Workshop Series
State Authorization Update**

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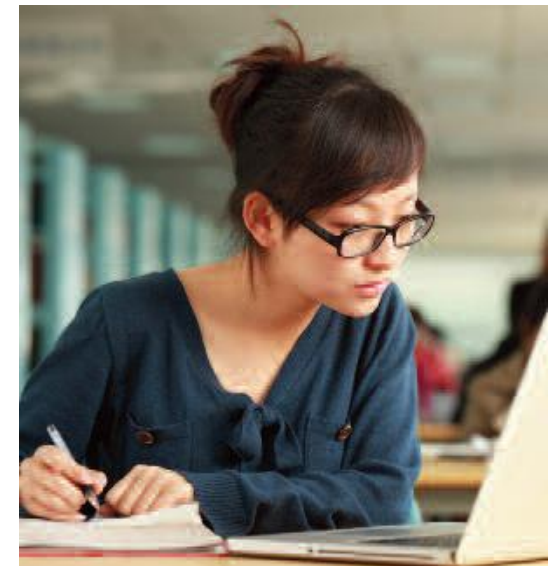
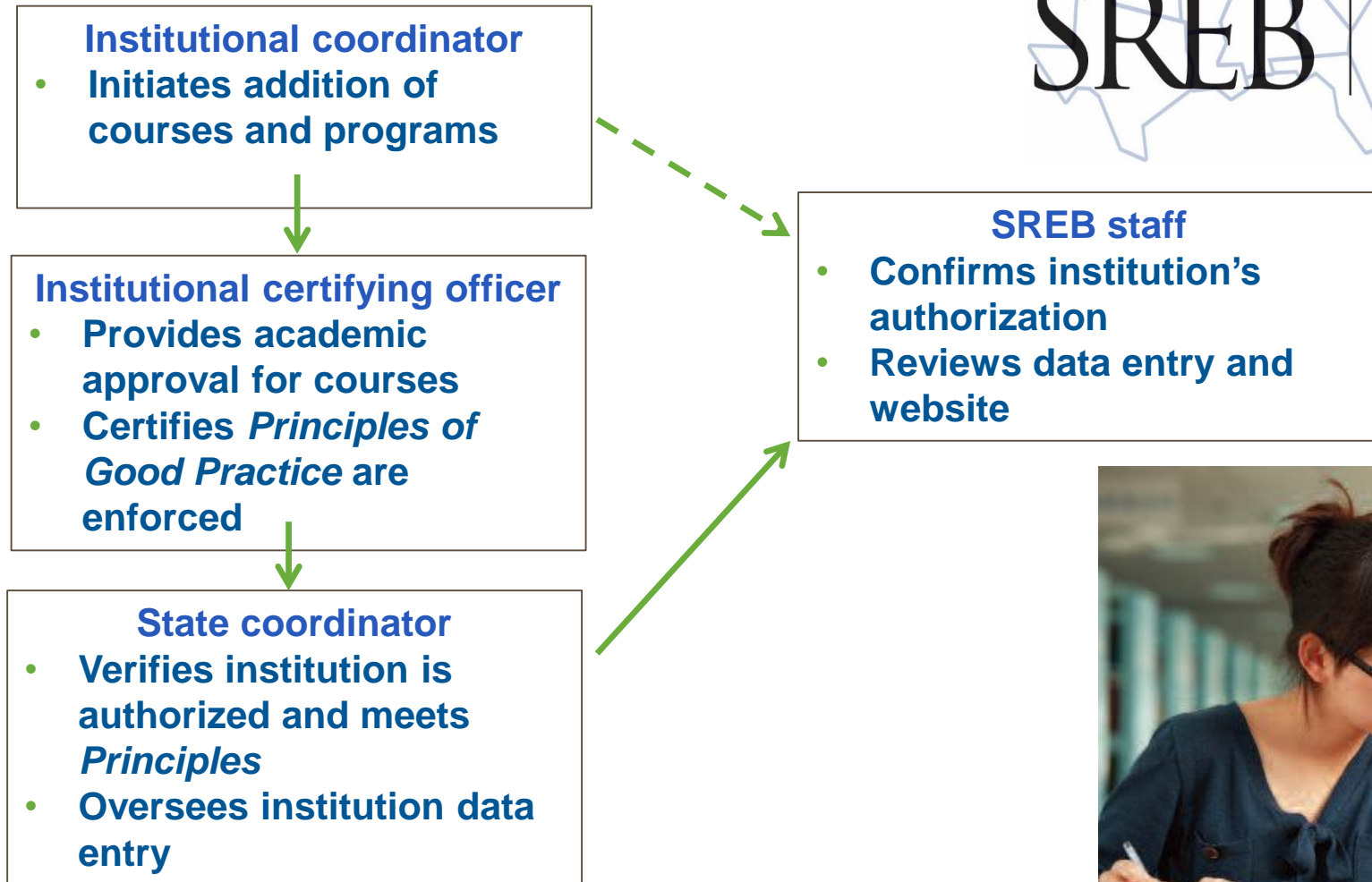
SREB's Electronic Campus (EC)

- Launched in 1998 with 100 courses.
- Academic Year 2014-2015
 - Almost 37,000 courses and 3,500 programs
- Institutions are regionally accredited, not-for-profit and chartered in a SREB state
- State review and approval
- Institutions meet *Principles of Good Practice* and *Common Standards*

The screenshot shows the SREB Electronic Campus website. The header includes the SREB logo, 'Electronic Campus', and navigation links: GET STARTED, COURSES & PROGRAMS, FINANCIAL AID, FAQs, CONTACT. A banner image shows two women using laptops with the text 'College begins (or resumes) here!'. Below the banner is the SREB Electronic Campus logo. A 'Welcome to the SREB Electronic Campus' section contains a paragraph about the site's purpose and a search bar with the text 'Find the Courses and Programs That are Right for You!'. To the right, a 'Financial Aid' section lists 'SREB Initiatives', 'State Initiatives', 'Federal Initiatives', and 'Calculator Links'. At the bottom, there are two sections: 'The Adult Learner' with a photo of a graduate and text about employment prospects, and 'Latest News' with a list of recent updates and a photo of an older man using a tablet.

Electronic Campus

Overview of the Approval Process, 1998-2015



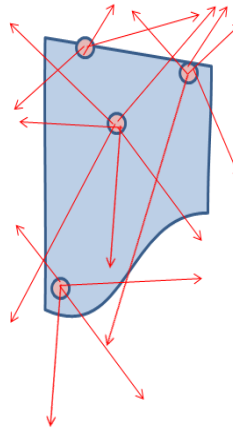
- - - -> Notification -> Submission

What's the problem?

- **Our country lags many others in the educational attainment of our 18-34 age population.**
- **Distance education can play an important role in increasing attainment. We need to maximize its contributions.**
- **States and territories regulate higher education within their borders, with varying requirements for out-of-state institutions that want to do business in the state.**
- **At present there is no alternative to each institution separately pursuing any needed approvals (state authorization) in each state and territory where it enrolls students.**

What's the problem?

- **Consequently, thousands of institutions must contact and work with as many as 54 states and territories, and, sometimes, with multiple regulatory agencies in those states.**
- **That process is inefficient, costly, and not effective in supporting access to high quality distance education throughout the country.**



SARA GOALS

SARA establishes a state-level reciprocity process that will support the nation in efforts to increase the educational attainment of its people by making state authorization:

- **more efficient, effective, and uniform in regard to necessary and reasonable standards of practice that could span states;**
- **more effective in dealing with quality and integrity issues that have arisen in some online/distance education offerings; and**
- **less costly for states and institutions and, thereby, the students they serve.**

SARA Key Elements

Through reliance on established community expectations and its own expectations, SARA provides consistent standards and procedures for:

- **Academic Integrity**
- **Financial Responsibility**
 - **“Physical Presence”**
- **Data Collection and Sharing**
 - **Catastrophic Closings**
- **Student Complaint Processes**

Overseen by a National Council

NC-SARA

National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements

Go

Home

About ▾

FAQs ▾

Documents ▾

News ▾

Events ▾

Links ▾

Contacts ▾

Blog

States ▾

Reports ▾

What does my state need to do to join SARA?

What does my institution need to do?

What are my benefits as a student?

SARA ESTABLISHES NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR INTERSTATE OFFERING OF DISTANCE-EDUCATION COURSES AND PROGRAMS.



FAQs

- Basic Questions About SARA
- SARA and the U.S. Government
- SARA and the states
- SARA and the licensed professions
- SARA and institutions
- SARA and students
- SARA and the physical presence standard
- FAQs printable pdf file 

Resource Items

- Bringing SARA from Design to Implementation A Guide for State Policymakers 
- State and Federal Regulations on 'State Authorization' of Distance Education 

State Actions Regarding SARA

[Click here](#) for details on legislation and application status of states in the regional education compacts.

Approved States/Institutions



[Click map for details.](#)

NC-SARA Blog

New Mexico, Vermont and Wyoming join SARA; National SARA board meets

Submitted by Igreco on Tue, 05/12/2015 - 14:49

New Mexico and Wyoming have been approved by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) to become members of the WICHE State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (W-SARA). In addition, Vermont has been approved by the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) as the second state in the region to join the New England State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (N-SARA).

[Read more](#)

SARA institutions by sector

Submitted by Igreco on Mon, 04/06/2015 - 12:36

From time to time, national and regional SARA staff are asked questions about the types of institutions that are participating in SARA.

[Read more](#)

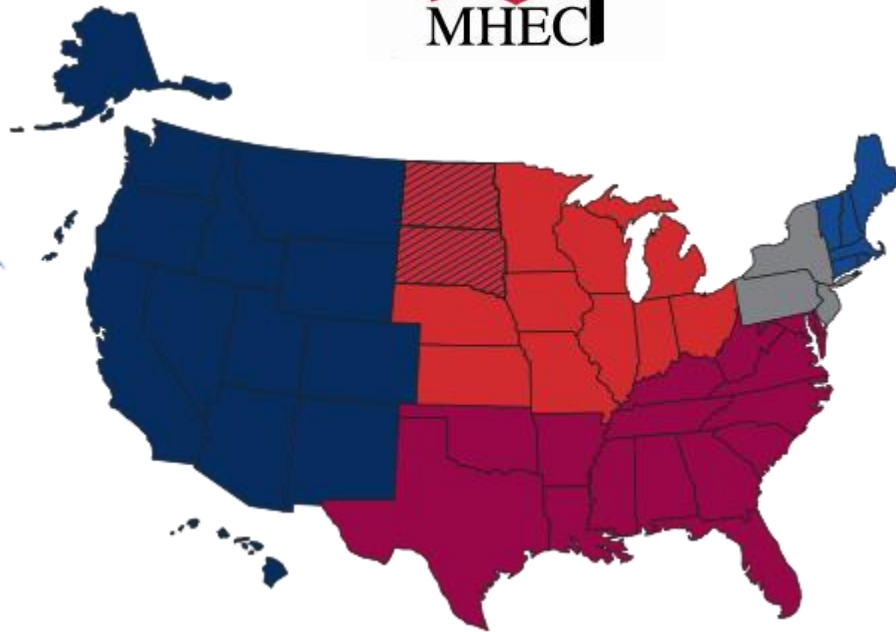
Administered by the Regional Compacts



WICHE



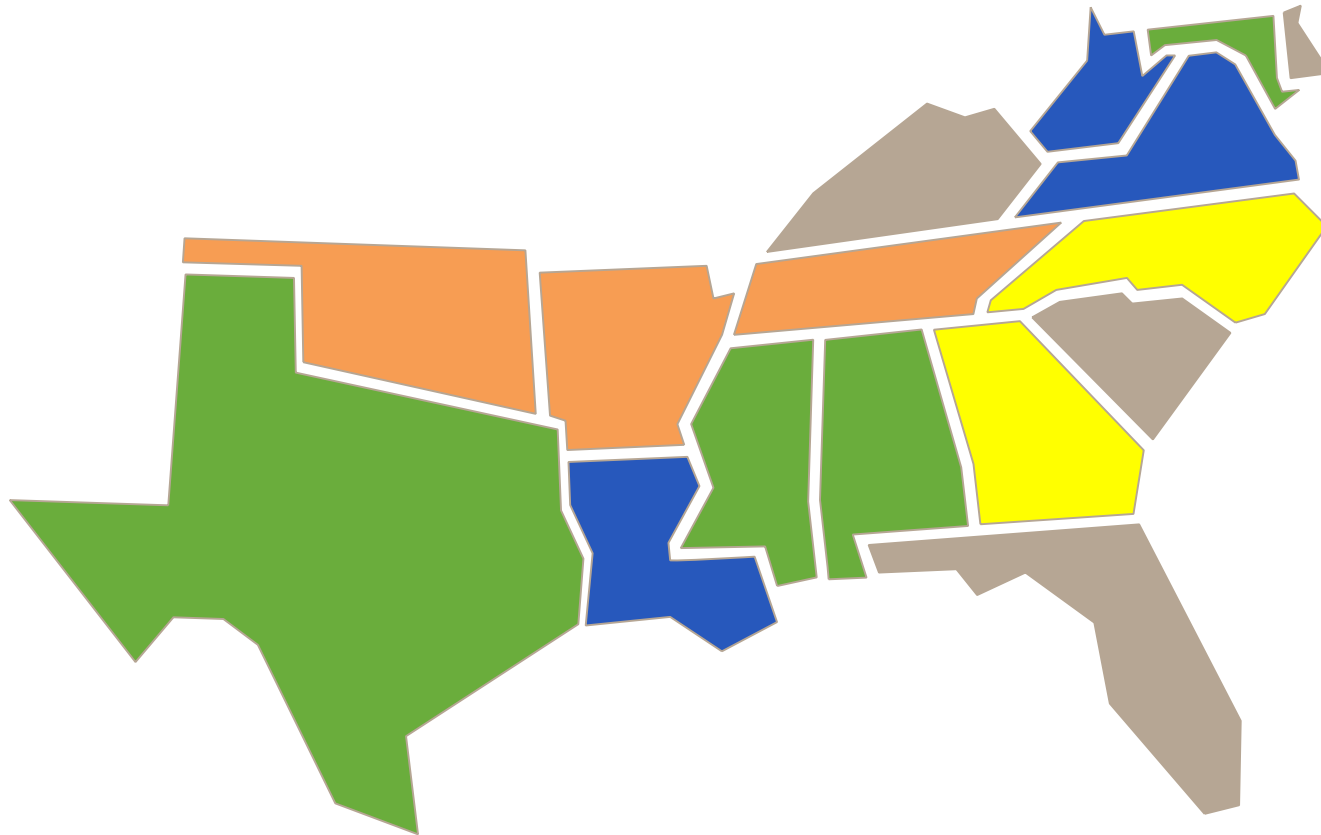
NEW ENGLAND
BOARD OF
HIGHER EDUCATION



SREB | Southern Regional
Education Board

SREB | Student Access
Programs and Services

SREB STATES & SARA



Blue – SARA state

Green – Legislation passed

Orange – SARA application in process

Yellow – Legislation not needed

District of Columbia & Pennsylvania

SECRRA to SARA Differences

- **Consistent use of Physical Presence**
- **All degree-granting postsecondary institutions from all sectors**
- **Student Complaint Process formalized**
- **Institution approved**
 - **Not specific courses and programs**
- **Reduced authorization “costs” outside the region**

Moving from SECRRA to SARA

SREB is fully supportive of the national State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA)

- **Cannot have a ‘competing’ process for reciprocity**
- **Transition will impact the Academic Common Market/Electronic Campus**
- **Regional Compact for Health Professions**

Moving from SECRRA to SARA - When

When eight SREB states have joined SARA, SREB will announce the date SREB's Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement (SECRRA) will be dissolved and remove the reciprocity agreement for the region.

- Maintaining SECRRA and transitioning to SARA will result in parallel operations.
- Electronic Campus States and Institutions will continue with current processes and procedures to maintain participation in SECRRA and reciprocity with the other SREB states.
- Institutions in SREB states that do not join SARA after SECRRA dissolves will need to seek authorization from all states including the SREB region.
- It is anticipated eight SREB states will have joined in SARA by the end of the first quarter of 2016.

For More Information

- www.nc-sara.org
- To receive the NC-SARA newsletter, sign up at: www.nc-sara.org
- To receive the SREB State Authorization e-mail contact SARA@sreb.org or mary.larson@sreb.org

SREB SARA Websites

www.sreb.org/SARA or ide.sreb.org