

# SECRRRA and SARA Updates

The screenshot shows the SREB Electronic Campus website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the SREB logo and 'Electronic Campus' on the left, and links for 'GET STARTED', 'COURSES & PROGRAMS', 'FINANCIAL AID', 'FAQS', and 'CONTACT' on the right. Below the navigation bar is a banner image of two women sitting on a couch, each using a laptop. To the right of the image is the text 'College begins (or resumes) here!' and the SREB Electronic Campus logo. Below the banner is a main heading 'Welcome to the SREB Electronic Campus' followed by a paragraph: 'The Electronic Campus is for Adult and e-learners seeking e-learning courses or programs and information to start or resume their college education or to satisfy a job requirement. Here is your one stop access to opportunities and services designed to meet your needs.' To the right of this text is a vertical menu with links: 'Financial Aid', 'SREB Initiatives', 'State Initiatives', 'Federal Initiatives', and 'Calculator Links'. Below the main text is a search bar with the text 'Find the Courses and Programs That are Right for You!' and a magnifying glass icon. At the bottom, there are two sections: 'The Adult Learner' with a photo of a smiling woman in a graduation cap and gown, and 'Latest News' with a list of news items and a photo of an older woman looking at a smartphone.

**SREB | Electronic Campus** GET STARTED COURSES & PROGRAMS FINANCIAL AID FAQS CONTACT

College begins (or resumes) here!

**SREB | Electronic Campus**

## Welcome to the SREB Electronic Campus

The Electronic Campus is for Adult and e-learners seeking e-learning courses or programs and information to start or resume their college education or to satisfy a job requirement. Here is your one stop access to opportunities and services designed to meet your needs.

**Find the Courses and Programs That are Right for You!**

**The Adult Learner**

Do you think that finishing your degree might improve your employment prospects? Search for Degree Completion Opportunities at [TheAdultLearner.org](http://TheAdultLearner.org)

**Latest News**

- SREB Electronic Campus helps students finish degree online (A/C.com)
- Academic Common Market: Out-of-State Degrees, In-State Rates
- How Affordable Is College? Check Your State's Profile
- Nationwide Reciprocity Stands to Lower

**Financial Aid**

SREB Initiatives  
State Initiatives  
Federal Initiatives  
Calculator Links

February 23, 2016

# www.ElectronicCampus.org

Southern Regional Education Board

SREB

Electronic  
Campus

GET STARTED COURSES & PROGRAMS FINANCIAL AID FAQs CONTACT



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SREB

Electronic  
Campus

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### Latest News

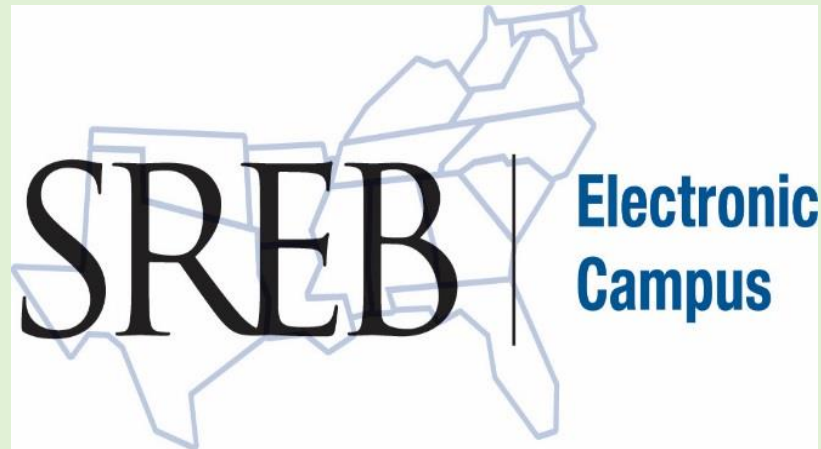
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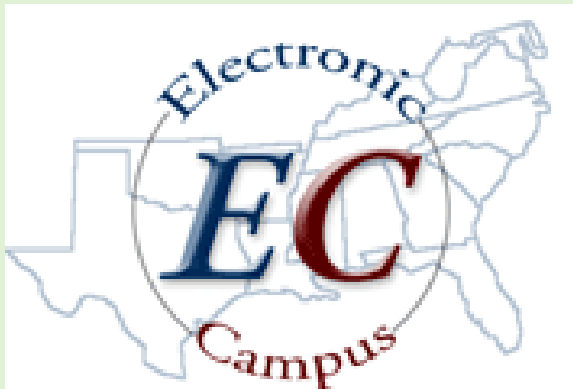
SREB

Student Access  
Programs and Services

# Electronic Campus Updates



2015



2004



1998 – Why?

# What Is State Authorization?

- **States have laws and regulations governing the “operation” of higher education institutions within their borders to include out-of-state institutions enrolling residents in distance education courses and programs**

# State Authorization

- **The DOE requires a higher education institution to be *authorized, licensed or registered* in the state where it is located or risk losing Title IV eligibility**
  - **34 CFR 600.9 a and b**
  - **Effective July 1, 2015**

# The Distance Rule

- **34 CFR 600.9 c**
- **Distance education providers must obtain authorization in every state where students reside**
- **Online students will lose Title IV eligibility if they reside in states where their institutions do not have state authorization**

# State Authorization The State Requirements

- **Some states have unique requirements:**
  - **Refund policies**
  - **Disclosures**
  - **Enrollment document content**
  - **Catalog content**
  - **Externship/clinical sites**
- **Applicable to out-of-state institutions!!**

# Out of Compliance?

## What Happens?

- **Cease and desist orders**
- **Possible fines and institutional sanctions, etc.**
- **Very unpleasant situations, including lawsuits**
- **Student lawsuits**
- **Domino effect with accreditors and DOE**
- **Damaged reputation!!**



# SREB's Electronic Campus Regional Reciprocity Agreement (SECRRRA)

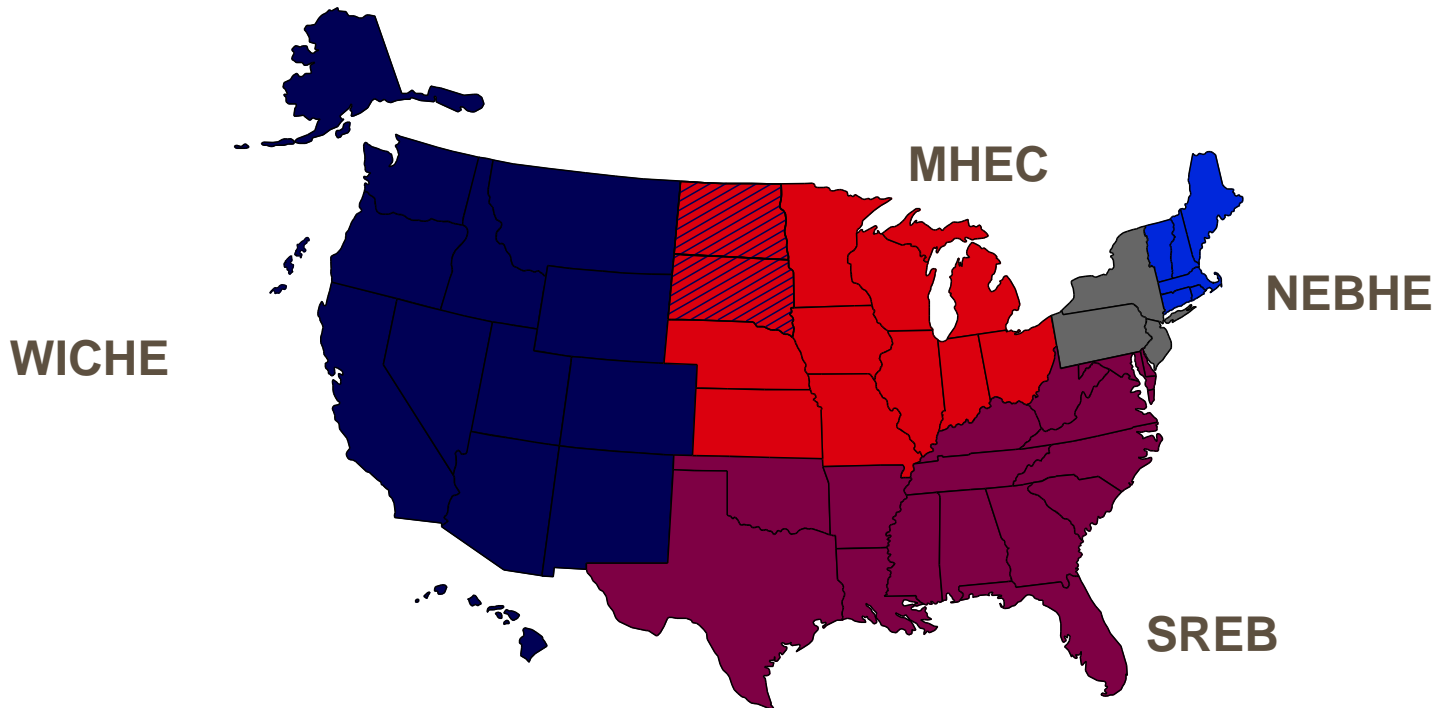
- All 16 SREB states participate in SECRRRA
- Voluntary for states and institutions
- Institutions participate only if state joins
- Limited to **for-credit** online courses and programs *activated* on the Electronic Campus
- SECRRRA was the only regional reciprocity agreement in the nation until 2014

# SREB's Electronic Campus (EC)

- Launched in 1998 with 100 courses.
- Academic Year 2014-2015
  - Almost 37,000 courses for Fall 2014
  - more than 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 SARA solution

A nation-wide system of reciprocity administered by the four existing regional compacts



# 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: A Negotiated Compromise

- **Institutions' goals**
- **Regulators' concerns**
- **Others**
  - **Accreditors**
  - **Regional compacts**
  - **National commission**

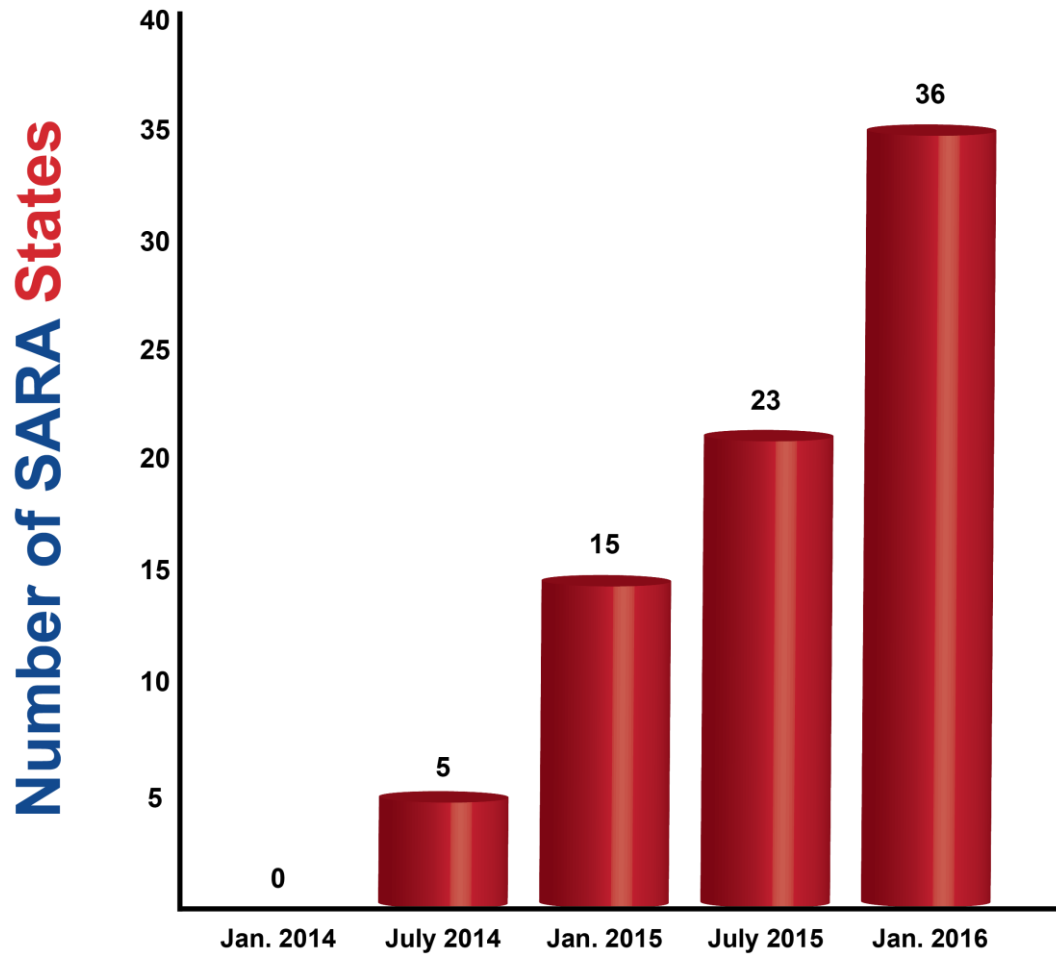
# Essential Principles of SARA

- **Open to degree-granting postsecondary institutions from all sectors: public colleges and universities; independent institutions, both non-profit and for-profit.**
- **Sets forth a reasonable, uniform set of triggers of “physical presence”.**
- **Preserves state approval and oversight of on-the-ground campuses.**

# SARA Ongoing Activities

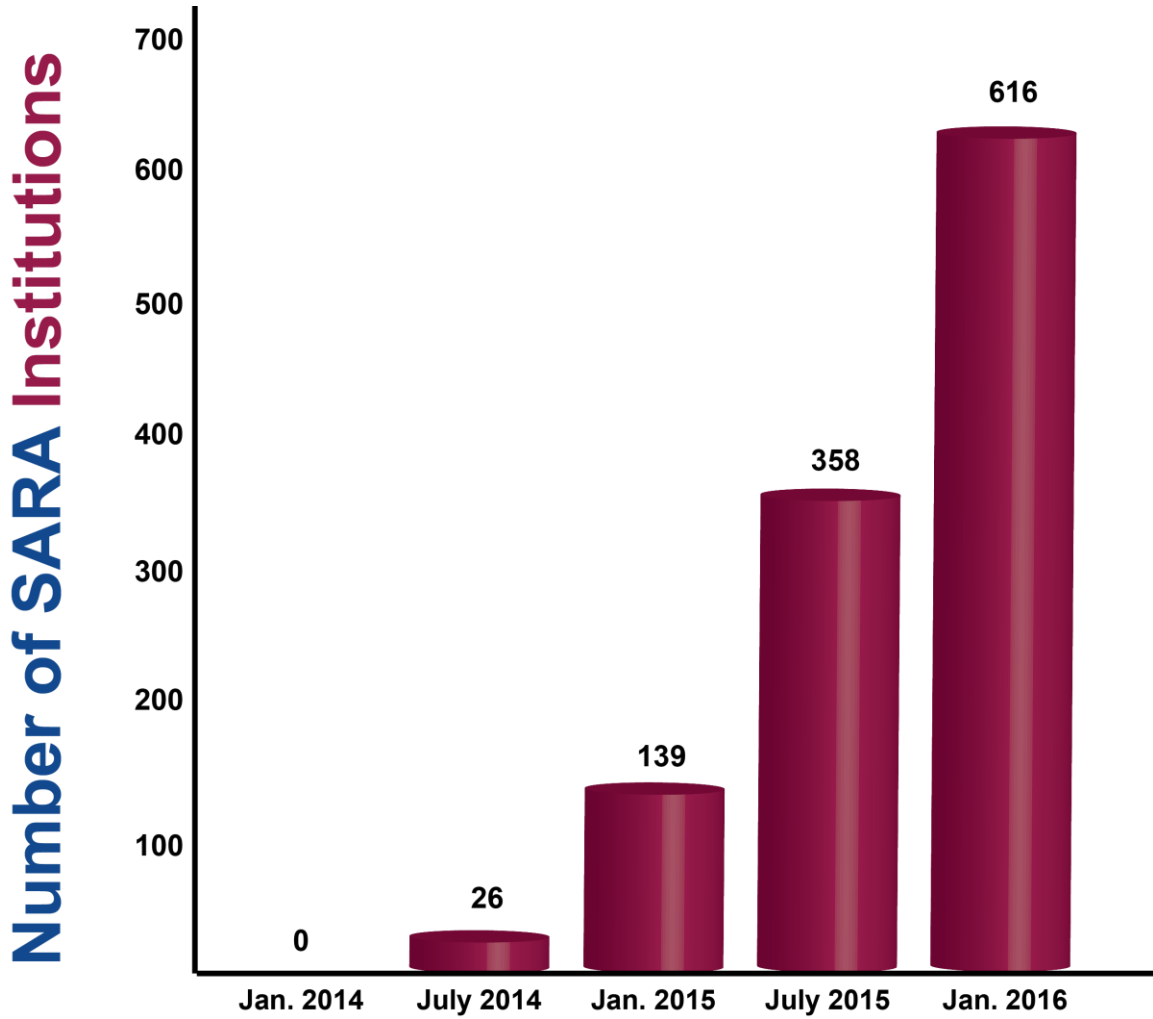
- **State membership and institutional participation and renewal**
- **Complaint system reporting**
- **Data reporting manual and sharing agreement**
- **SPA manual**
- **Enrollment reporting**
- **Supervised field experiences**
- **SECRRA to SARA**

# SARA Member States

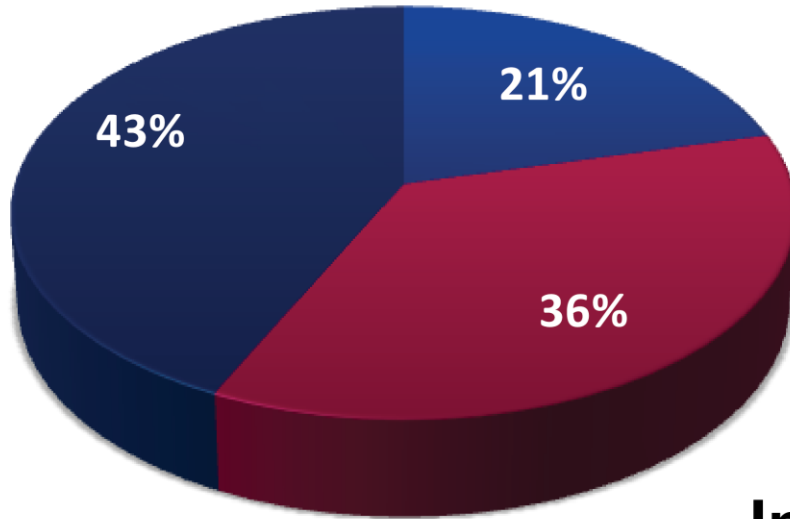




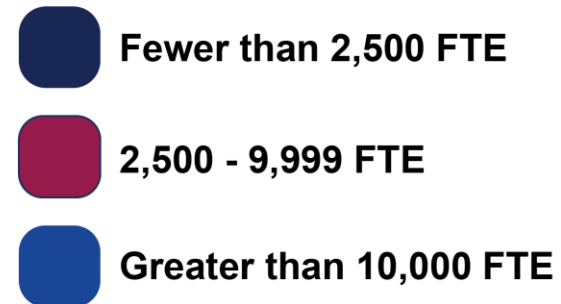
# SARA Institutions



# Types Of Institutions



## Institutions by **SIZE**



# Professional Licensure

- **Professional licensing board requirements are independent of state authorization**
- **Some state higher education authorizing agencies will not approve a program until a licensing board approves the program**
- **Program approvals may be in addition to that of the higher education agency**

# Moving from SECRRA to SARA – Differences

- **Consistent use of Physical Presence**
  - **NC-SARA FAQ's and Policies & Standards documents**
- **All degree-granting postsecondary institutions from all sectors**
- **Student Complaint Process formalized**
- **Institution approved**
  - **Not specific courses and programs**
- **Reduced authorization “costs” both financial and staff time**

# SECRRA to SARA



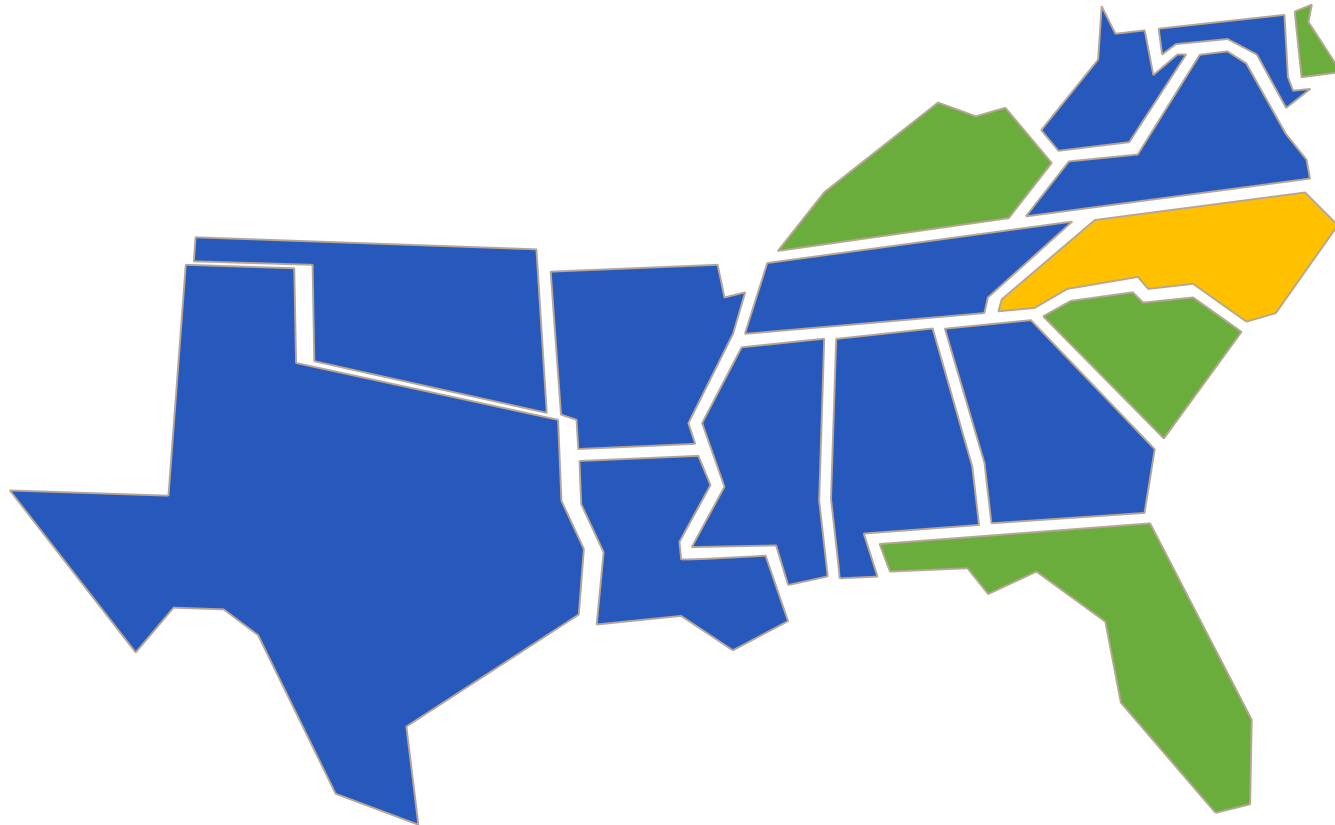
**SREB is fully supportive of the national State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA)**

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

# When – The Specifics

- **SARA implementation in the SREB region is ongoing.**
- **In January 2014 announced 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.**

# 11 SREB states are now SARA states. SECRRA will dissolve June 30, 2017.



*Blue – SARA state*  
*Green – Legislation needed*  
*Orange – SARA application in process*

**District of Columbia,  
Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico  
anticipate affiliating with SREB**

# Transitioning to SARA

- **Reciprocity for students continues**
  - **Institutions maintaining SECRRA and transitioning to SARA will result in parallel operations.**
    - **States and Institutions will continue with current processes and procedures to maintain participation in SECRRA and reciprocity with the other SREB states.**



# After June 30, 2017

- **Institutions in SREB states that do not join SARA after SECRRRA dissolves will need to seek authorization from all states including the SREB region.**
- **Non-SARA institutions in SREB region after SECRRRA will need to seek authorization from all states including the SREB region.**

# Financial Status of the SARA Initiative

- **SARA working with all SARA partners (NC-SARA, MHEC, NEBHE, SREB and WICHE) is now almost fully dependent on fee revenue**
- **Current and projected revenues are sufficient to support SARA**
- **Consequently, NC-SARA has determined to keep fees at current levels through June, 2018**

# What's Ahead For SARA?

- **Complaint and enrollment reporting and publication:**
  - Continuation of complaint reporting every quarter;
  - SARA institutions will report their out-of-state enrollments in May, 2016, with publication shortly thereafter;
- ***SARA's Electronic Campus***
- **Nationwide all SARA institutions may participate in [www.TheAdultLearner.org](http://www.TheAdultLearner.org)**

# **Adult Degree Completion Guiding Principles (TAL.org)**

- 1. Programs must be offered in an online or blended (hybrid) format**
- 2. Program courses must be offered in an flexible academic format**
- 3. Institutions offering degree completion programs must be “adult-friendly” (ALFI Principles)**
- 4. Institutions must provide options for Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) and should recognize and apply previously earned credits toward eligible degree programs.**
  - Prior Learning Assessment is not just one method or tool**
  - Prior Learning Assessment is more than the acceptance of transferable credits.**

# Now That We're Past the “Easy” Stuff...

- **Continue to add states and institutions**
- **Implications and implementation of IRS 501 (c)(3) status for NC-SARA**
  - Establish independent budgeting, accounting, auditing and IT systems
  - Establish appropriate staffing levels
- **Responding to “down-in-the-weeds” questions and policy issues**
  - Physical presence
  - Experiential learning
  - Etc., etc., etc.

# For More Information

- For more information: [www.nc-sara.org](http://www.nc-sara.org)
- To receive the NC-SARA newsletter, sign up at: [www.nc-sara.org](http://www.nc-sara.org)
- To receive the SREB State Authorization e-mail contact [SARA@sreb.org](mailto:SARA@sreb.org) or [mary.larson@sreb.org](mailto:mary.larson@sreb.org)

## SREB SARA Websites

[www.sreb.org/SARA](http://www.sreb.org/SARA) or [ide.sreb.org](http://ide.sreb.org)

# Questions?

A word cloud of terms related to SREB's programs and services. The words are arranged in a roughly rectangular shape, with 'Reciprocity' and 'Voluntary' being the largest and most prominent. Other words include 'State', 'Experiences', 'SARA', 'Campus', 'Authorization', 'SECRRRA', 'Regional', 'Agency', 'Tuition', 'Field Access', 'SREB's', 'Happen', 'Accreditation', 'Online', 'Savings', 'Internships', 'Nationwide', 'Postsecondary', 'Score', 'Clinical', 'Electronic', 'Distance', 'Regulations', 'Follow', and 'Education'.

State Experiences SARA Campus  
Authorization SECRRRA Regional  
SREB's Agency  
Field Access Reciprocity Tuition  
Happen Voluntary SECRRRA  
Accreditation Online Savings Internships  
Nationwide Postsecondary Score Clinical  
Electronic Distance Regulations Follow Education