



SARA

State Authorization
Reciprocity Agreement for
Distance Education

SARA's Impact: Spring 2017 Enrollment Reporting

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National Council
for State Authorization
Reciprocity Agreements

*A voluntary, regional approach
to state oversight of distance education*

SARA's Enrollment Reporting Requirements

- SARA Manual, Section 6.1: Data submission by participating institutions.
 - a. Institutions participating in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA) shall annually report to the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements the number of students enrolled in the institution via distance education delivered outside the home state of the institution, disaggregated by state, territory, or district in which the students reside.

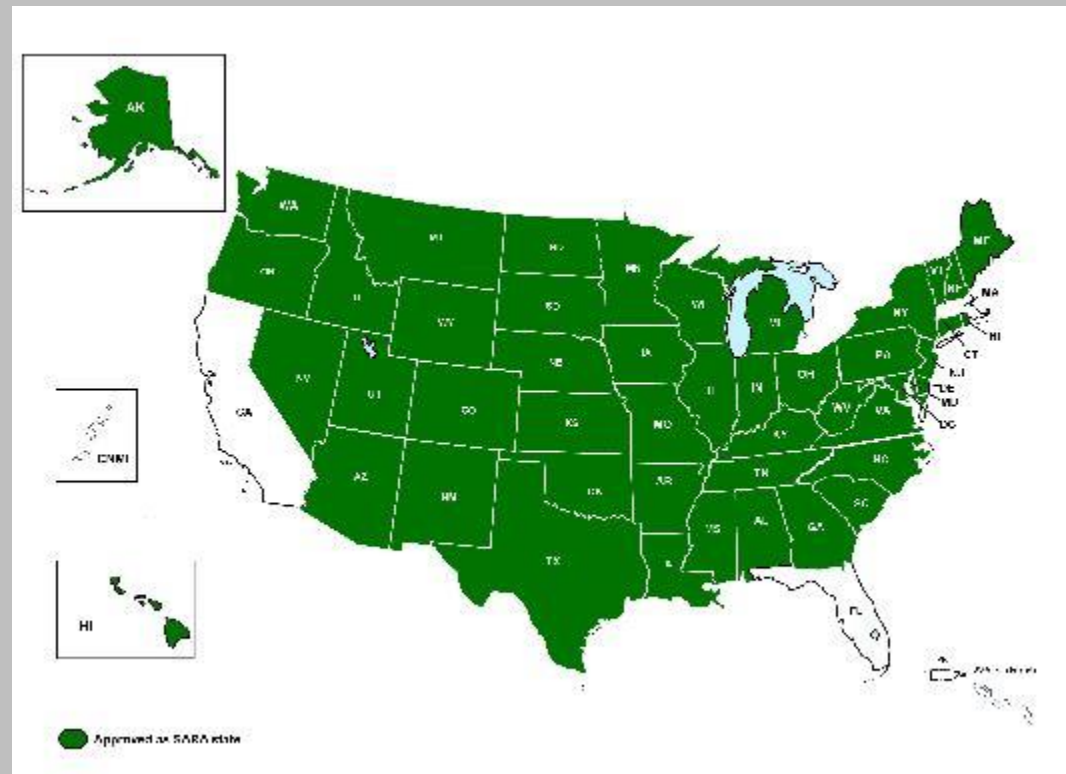
Methodology

- SARA relies on the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
 - SARA uses IPEDS definitions, which present benefits and weaknesses
 - SARA ties its enrollment reporting dates to those of IPEDS
 - Institutions report their enrollments (including distance ed enrollments) to IPEDS each fall. Out-of-state distance ed enrollments are totaled, not disaggregated by state.
 - The following May-June, SARA institutions are to disaggregate their reported distance ed enrollments by state, territory or district and then report them to NC-SARA in late spring.
 - NC-SARA provides a data reporting manual, long lead time, and multiple notices and reminders.
 - Institutions don't report their in-state distance ed enrollments to SARA.
 - NC-SARA reports those institutional enrollments on its website. Each institution's enrollments in SARA states are listed by state; their enrollments in non-SARA states are totaled and reported together as a separate category.

Two Organizing Questions

- Where are my state's institutions enrolling students?
- What institutions are enrolling students in my state?

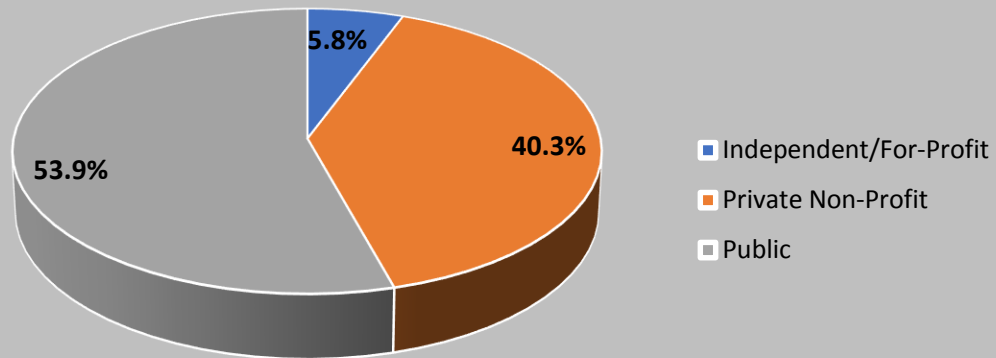
SARA at the time of spring 2017 reporting: 47 member states plus DC



SARA Institutions Reporting

Year	Number of Institutions Operating Under SARA	Number of Institutions Reporting to NC-SARA	Number of Institutions Reporting Distance Education Enrollment
2016	867	846	567
2017	1,494	1,477	1,394
Increase	627	631	827

SARA Reporting Institutions by Sector



Sector	Number of Institutions Reporting	% of Total Institutions Reporting
Independent/For-Profit	85	5.8%
Private Non-Profit	596	40.3%
Public	796	53.9%
Total	1,477	

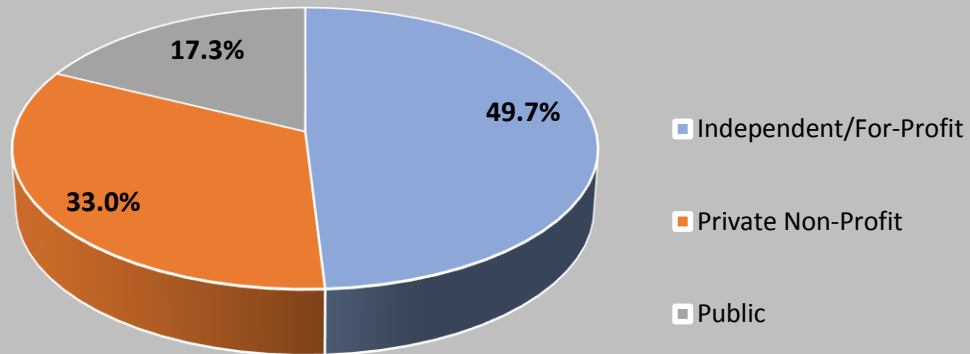
Reported Distance Education Enrollments SARA Institutions

	SARA State Reported Enrollment	Non-SARA State Reported Enrollment	Total Reported Enrollment
2017	970,548	200,177	1,170,725
2016	697,618	159,685	857,303
Increase in Reported Enrollment	272,930	40,492	313,422
% Increase	39.1%	25.4%	36.6%

SARA Reported Enrollment by Sector

Percentages

2017 NC-SARA Reported Enrollment by Sector



Enrollments

Sector	Total Reported Enrollment	Sector Total %
Independent/For-Profit	582,040	49.7%
Private Non-Profit	385,978	33.0%
Public	202,707	17.3%
Total	1,170,725	

Highly Concentrated Distance Education Enrollments

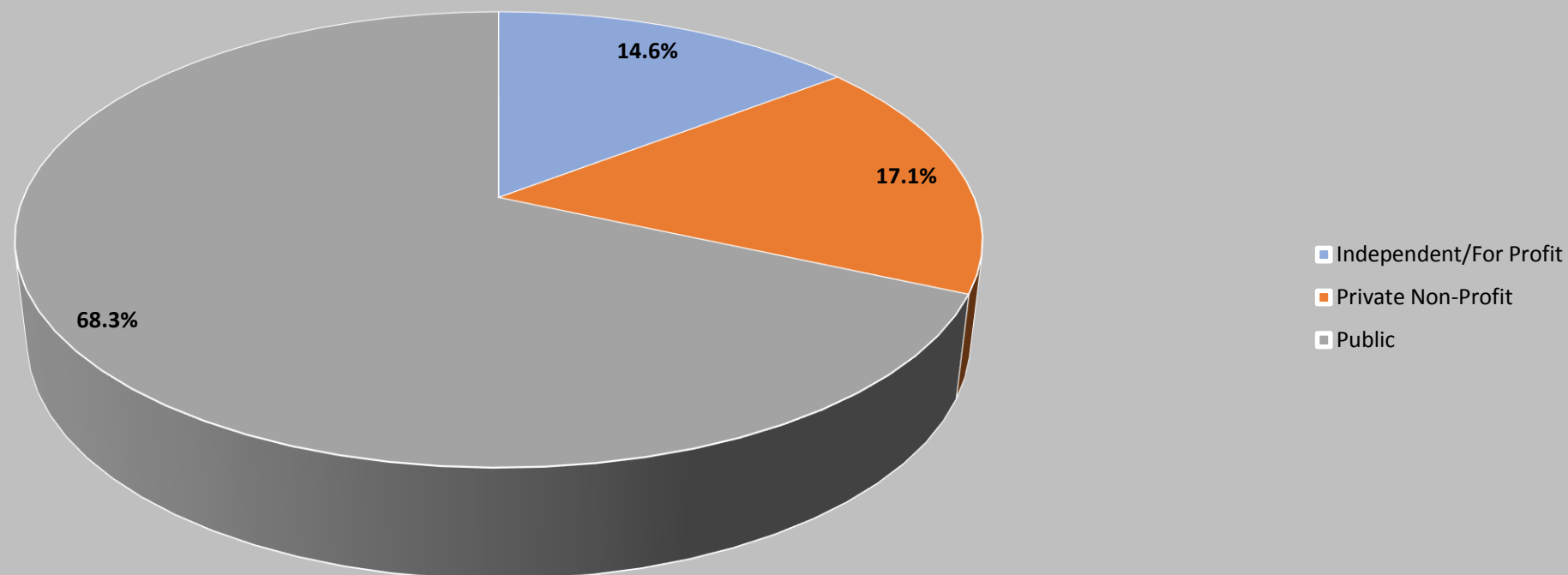
- Based on 2015 IPEDS data, “Distance education enrollments remain highly concentrated in a relatively small number of institutions. Almost half of the distance education students are concentrated in just five percent of the institutions, while the top 47 institutions, only 1.0% of the total, enroll 23.0% (1,385,307) of all distance students”. Allen, I.E. and Seaman, J. (2017) Digital Learning Compass: Distance Education Enrollment Report 2017, p. 4.
<http://digitallearningcompass.org/>
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Institutions Reporting the Largest SARA Enrollments

Institution Name	State	Sector	Reported SARA State Enrollment	Reported Non-SARA State Enrollment	Total Reported Enrollment
University of Phoenix	AZ	For-Profit	100,552	27,150	127,702
American Public University System	WV	For-Profit	78,140	14,480	92,620
Western Governors University	UT	Private Non-Profit	65,465	12,762	78,227
Southern New Hampshire University	NH	Private Non-Profit	43,210	12,192	55,402
Ashworth College	GA	For-Profit	39,222	8,344	47,566
Liberty University	VA	Private Non-Profit	41,078	6,308	47,386
Grand Canyon University	AZ	For-Profit	36,558	10,457	47,015
Capella University	MN	For-Profit	30,432	5,562	35,994
Kaplan University	IA	For-Profit	30,532	5,439	35,971
Excelsior College	NY	Private Non-Profit	28,962	5,222	34,184

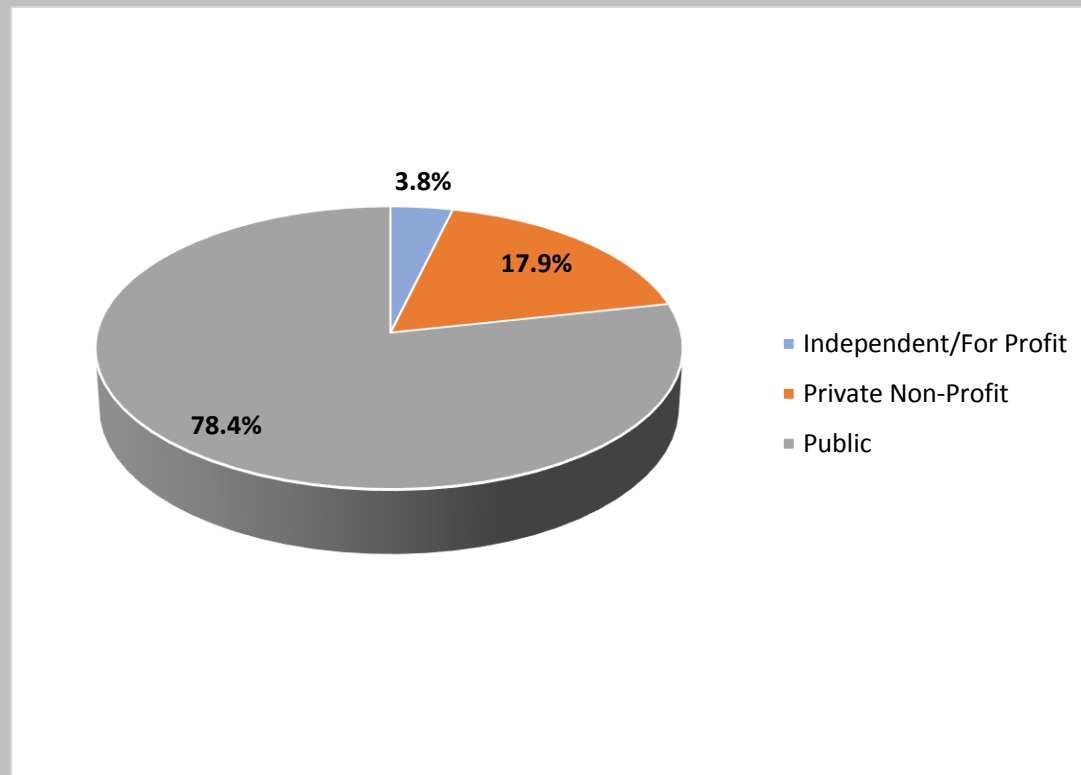
Distance Education Enrollments – IPEDS 2015

Students Enrolled in 100% Distance Education Courses: 2015 IPEDS

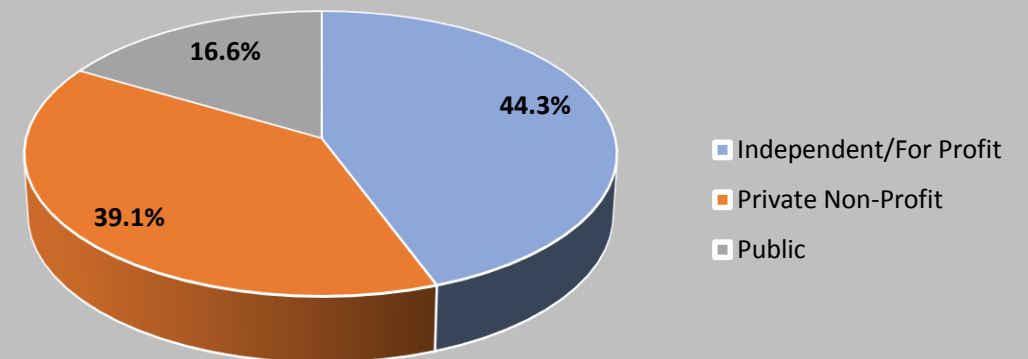


Geography and Sector – IPEDS 2015

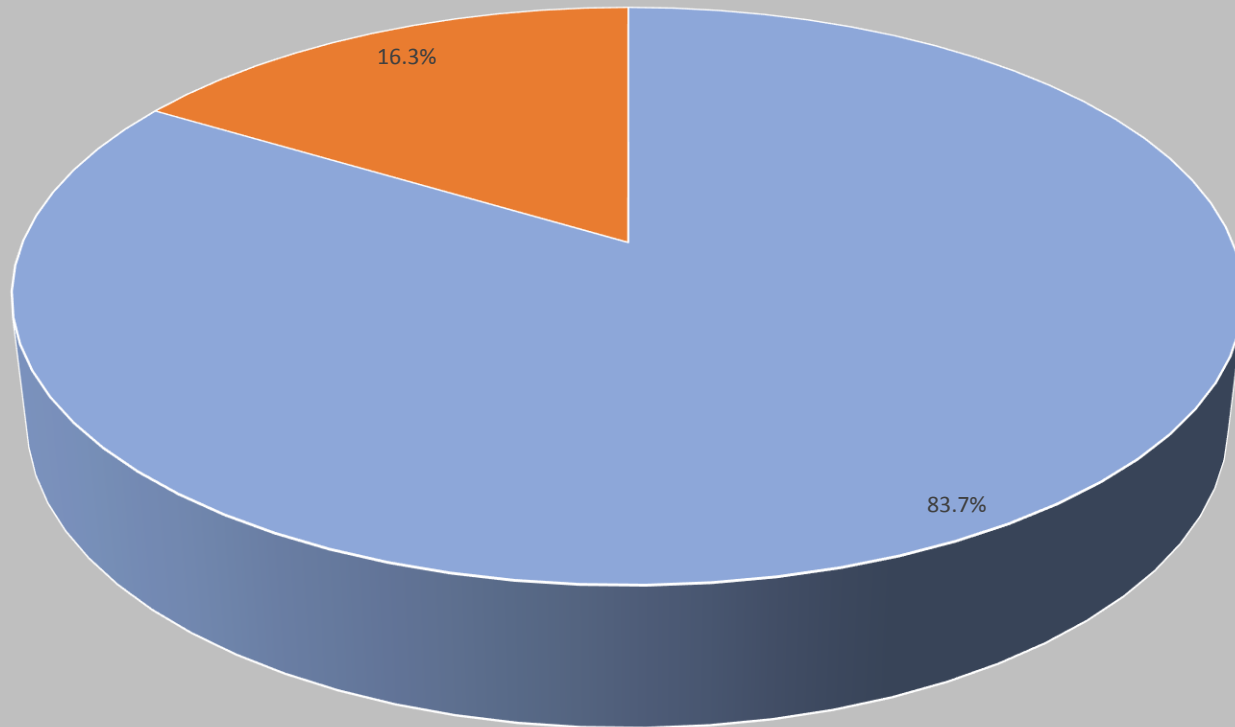
Students Enrolled Exclusively in Distance Education Courses – Students in Same State



Students Enrolled Exclusively in Distance Education Courses – Students Out-of-State



SARA Public Institutions' 2015 IPEDS Data

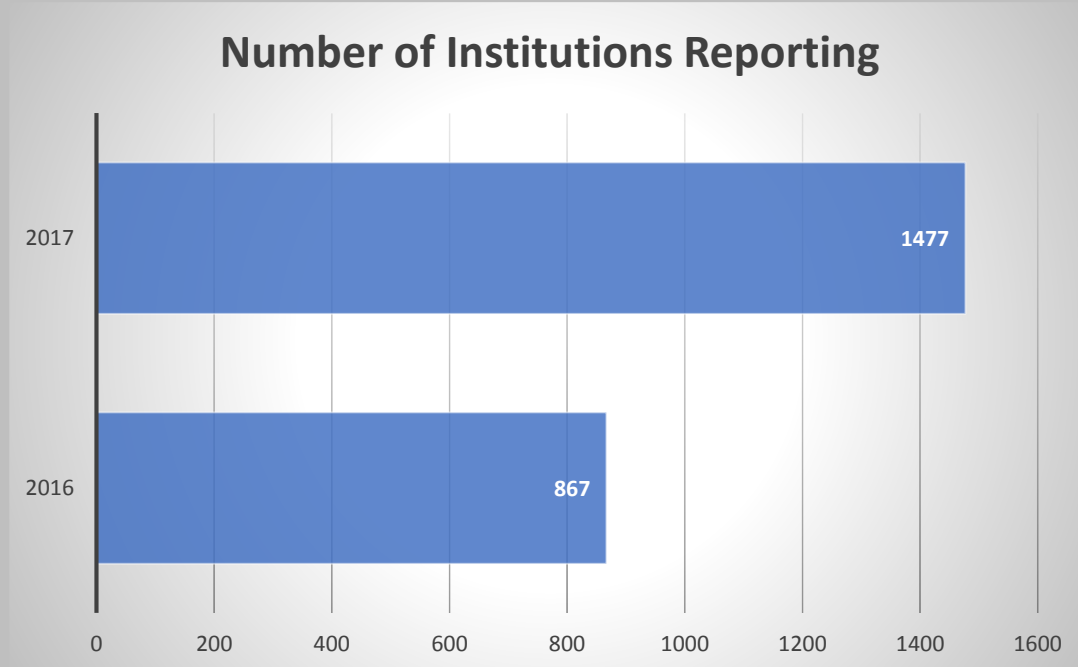


■ In-State: 737,977 Reported Enrollment

■ Out-of-State: 144,241 Reported Enrollment

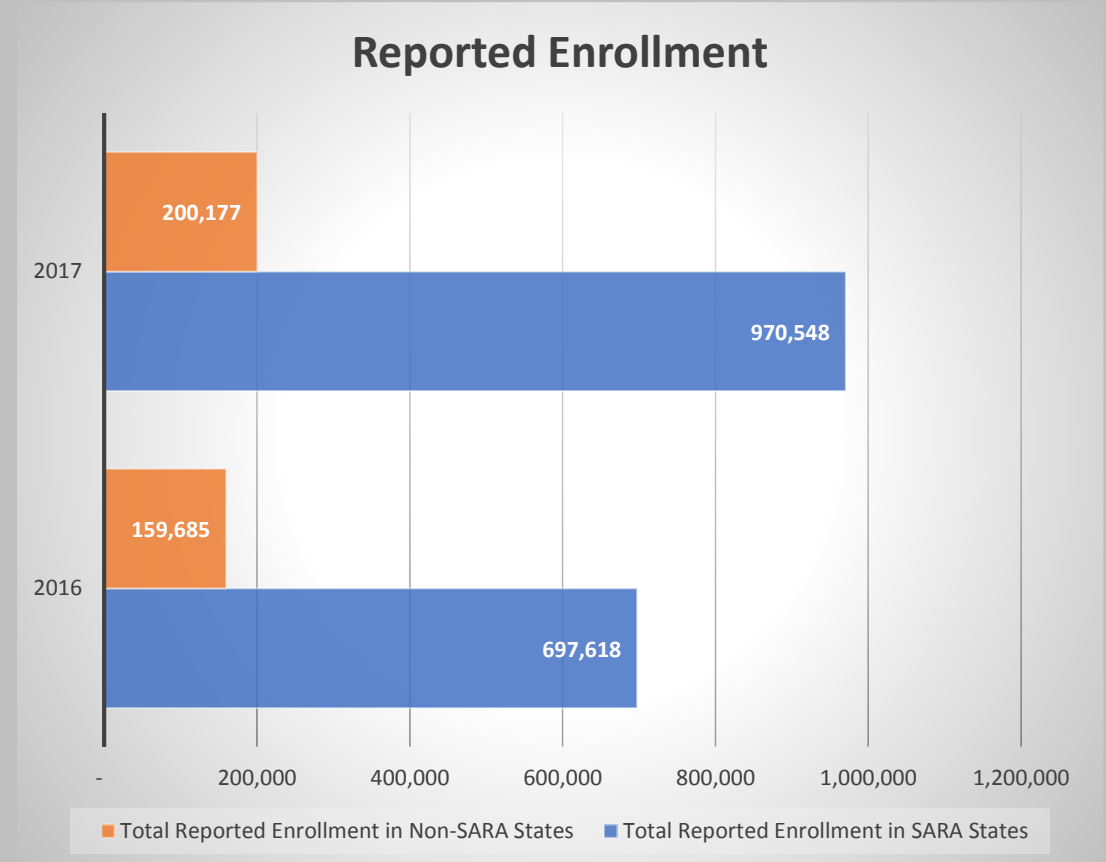
Growth in SARA Reported Enrollments 2016-2017

Growth in Reporting SARA Institutions



	Number of Institutions	% Increase
2016	867	
2017	1,477	70.4%

Growth in Reported SARA Enrollments



Reporting Challenges

- Institutional confusion or noncompliance regarding:
 - IPEDS reporting
 - IPEDS definitions
 - “Distance education course”
 - No provision for reporting “hybrid” courses
 - Student location
 - Reporting military students
 - Reporting in-state enrollments
 - Geography
 - U.S. territories and districts

Summary Points

- Though reporting challenges remain, 2017 yielded much better reporting than 2016.
- Many institutions remain confused by IPEDS reporting.
 - A majority of questions and comments received by SARA related to IPEDS reporting.
- Some institutions still have difficulty determining where their students are located.
- Nevertheless, the SARA reporting process is straightforward for most institutions, and many find the reported results useful.

Next Steps

- Review of 2017 reporting (process, results) by NC-SARA data committee
- Collection of data on experiential learning placements (clinicals, student teaching, etc.) – strongly desired by many states
 - Voluntary for spring 2018 reporting
 - Required for spring 2019 reporting
- Likely categorized by two-digit CIP codes (NCES's Classification of Instructional Programs)
 - For example, institutions would report , by state, territory or district, the number of students they have placed in:
 - CIP 13 – Education
 - CIP 44 – Public Administration and Social Service Professions
 - CIP 51 – Health Professions and Related Programs

Notes

- Charts and graphs in this presentation are taken from two reports prepared for NC-SARA by Terri Taylor Straut:
 - *NC-SARA 2017 Enrollment Report*; and
 - *NC-SARA Reported Enrollment Mirrors National Distance Education Data with Some Notable Exceptions*.
- Both are available on the NC-SARA website: www.nc-sara.org