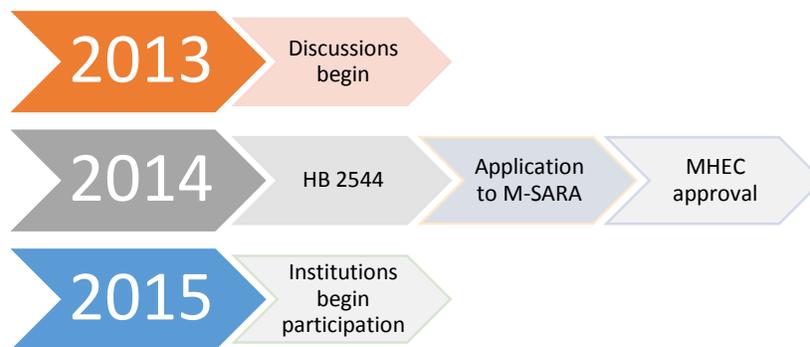


STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT (SARA)

The Board approved application for membership to the Midwest State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA) at its June 2014 Board meeting. In November 2014, following a change in Kansas state law, MHEC officially approved that application and Kansas is now the official “State Agency Portal” for purposes of administering the M-SARA Agreement. In order to fulfill the duties associated with that role, SARA related functions were assigned to the PPS unit.¹ Institutional applicants that wish to become institutional members of M-SARA must be based in Kansas (the college’s main campus or central unit holds its principal legal domicile in Kansas) and intends to offer online degree programs to students located in other SARA member states.

Kansas was the first state to provide an online application process for SARA institution applicants and is considered by MHEC to be the flagship state for this process. As of August 25, 2015, twenty-eight states and Twenty-five Kansas postsecondary institutions are now participating in SARA, as shown in the following charts.



SARA System:

- One application
- One set of criteria
- Increase student enrollment
- Data collection and sharing
- One system of complaint resolution
- More compliance
- NC-SARA Fee (\$2K,\$4K & \$6K/YR, (defined by student enrollment); No state SARA application fee in Kansas

¹ In the spring of 2013 the Board’s Standing Committee on Academic Affairs updated the Board on the status of interstate reciprocity and the proposed State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). Representatives from the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) and SARA presented information about the SARA Agreement to the Board in September 2013. The Regents approved moving forward with legislation that was needed in order to participate in the Agreement and introduced House Bill 2544 in January 2014. The bill passed and became effective July 1, 2014.

