

Summary

SARA allows accredited degree-granting institutions to offer distance education in other member states without having to seek individual authorization from those states. This report provides an update on the status of SARA in Kansas and nationwide. May 15, 2019

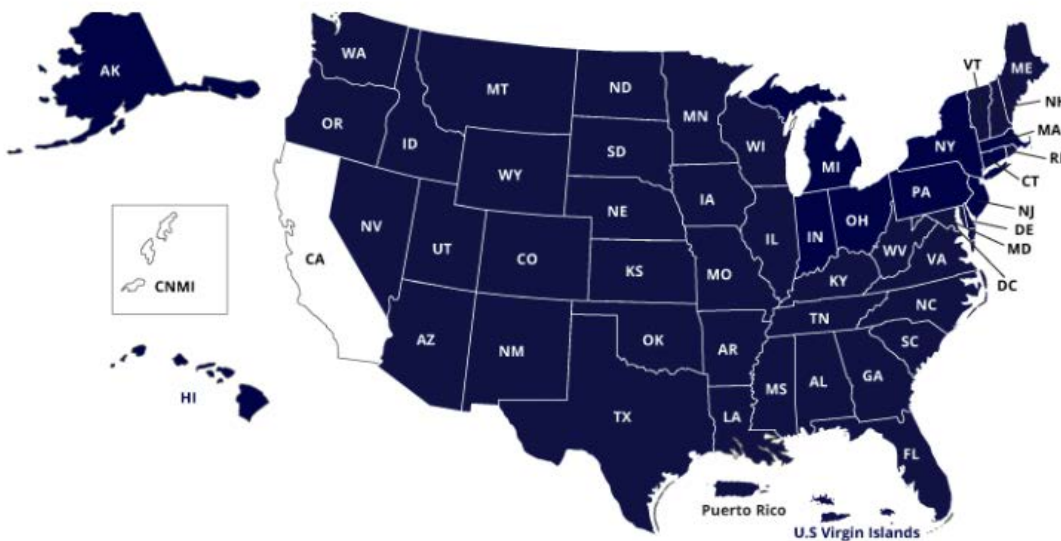
Background

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is a voluntary agreement among its member states and U.S. territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. It is intended to make it easier for students to take online courses offered by postsecondary institutions based in another state. Since 2014, Kansas has been approved as a member of the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) through the Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC). The Kansas Board of Regents serves as the State Portal Entity (SPE) for all institutions domiciled in Kansas, with staffing provided by the Academic Affairs Private Postsecondary Unit. As the portal agency for Kansas, KBOR serves as the interstate point of contact for SARA questions, complaints and other communications for institutions domiciled in Kansas and for students taking online courses from those institutions.

National Membership and Participation

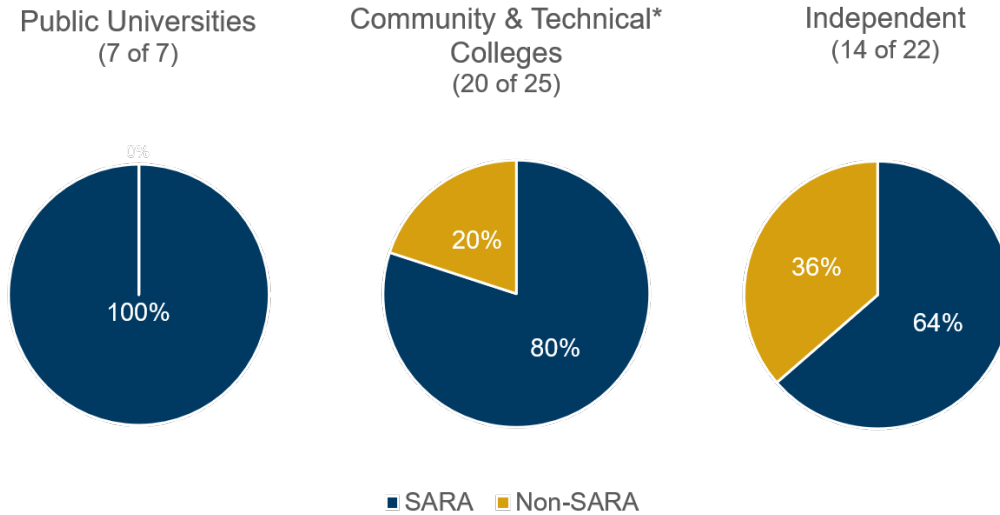
For a state to participate in SARA, its legislature must authorize it to join the Agreement. Legislative activities have increased the number of member states and allowed more institutions to participate. Currently, there are over 1,900 participating institutions representing 49 member states, two territories and one district. This is a 7% increase in participating institutions from January 2018. California continues to discuss becoming a member state although legislation enabling its membership has yet to be enacted.

As of April 1, 2019, 49 states, two territories (Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands), and the District of Columbia have joined SARA (darkened areas).



Participation in Kansas

43 Kansas institutions are participating in SARA as of April 1, 2019. The charts below illustrate participation by sector¹.

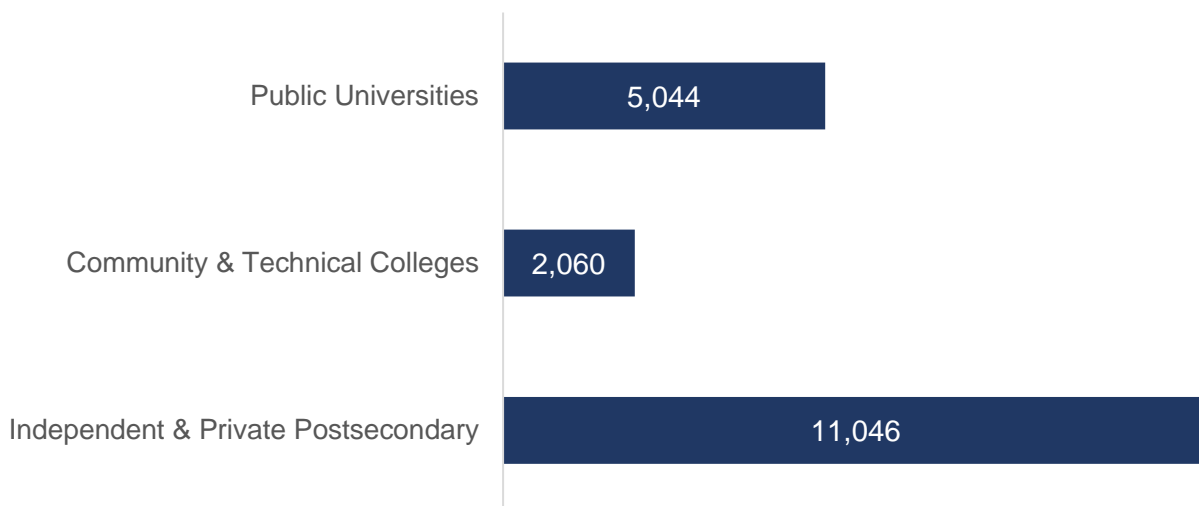


*Washburn University Institute of Technology participates under the approval of Washburn University and is not included in this count

Enrollment Data

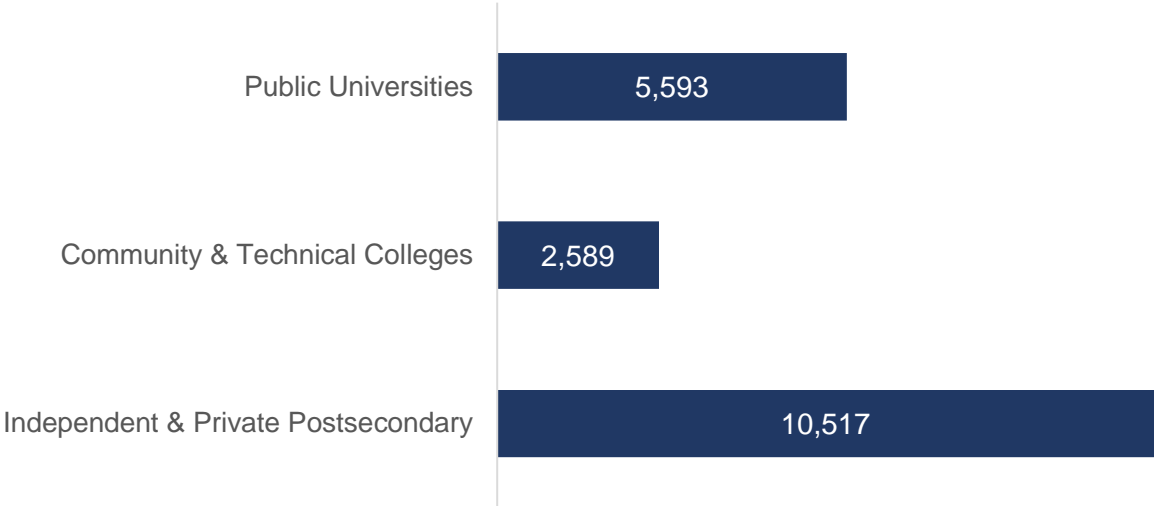
Participating SARA institutions agree to provide data representing their distance education enrollments to NC-SARA annually. In both AY 2017 and AY 2018, over 18,000 out-of-state students were enrolled in participating Kansas SARA institutions.

AY 2017 Enrollments



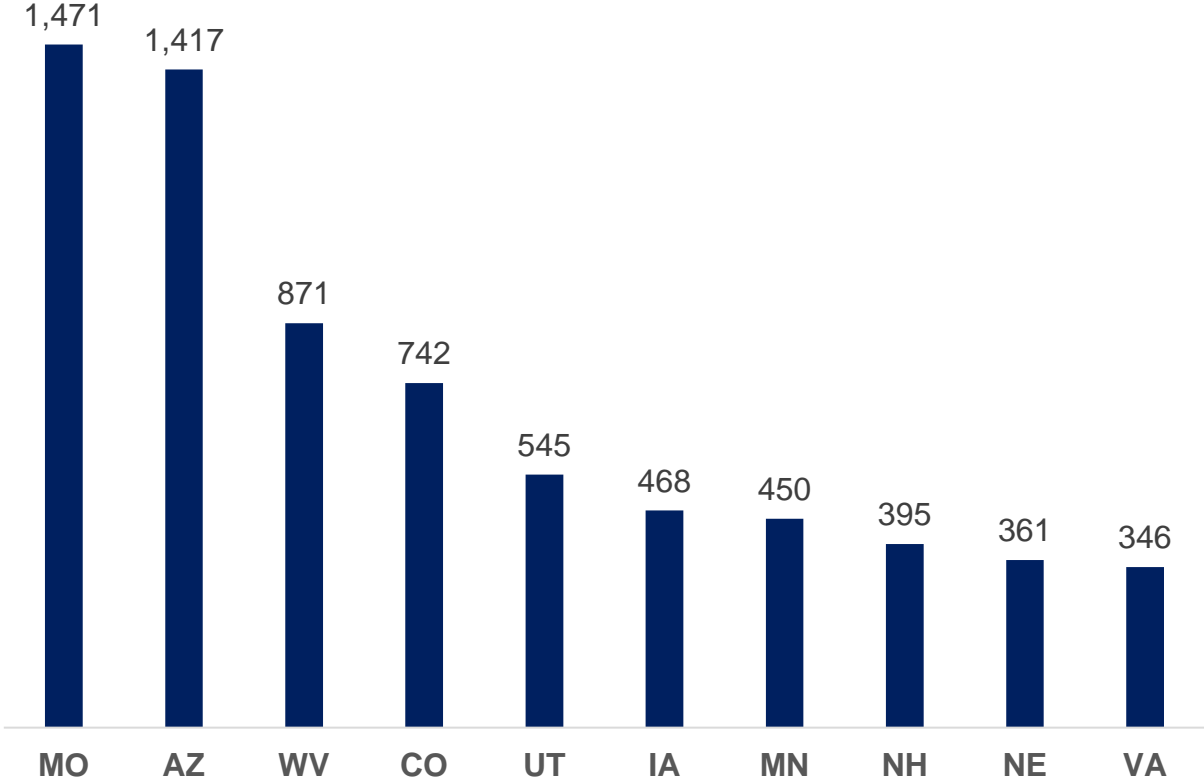
¹ Two participating institutions are private postsecondary and not reflected in the charts by sector.

AY 2018 Enrollments

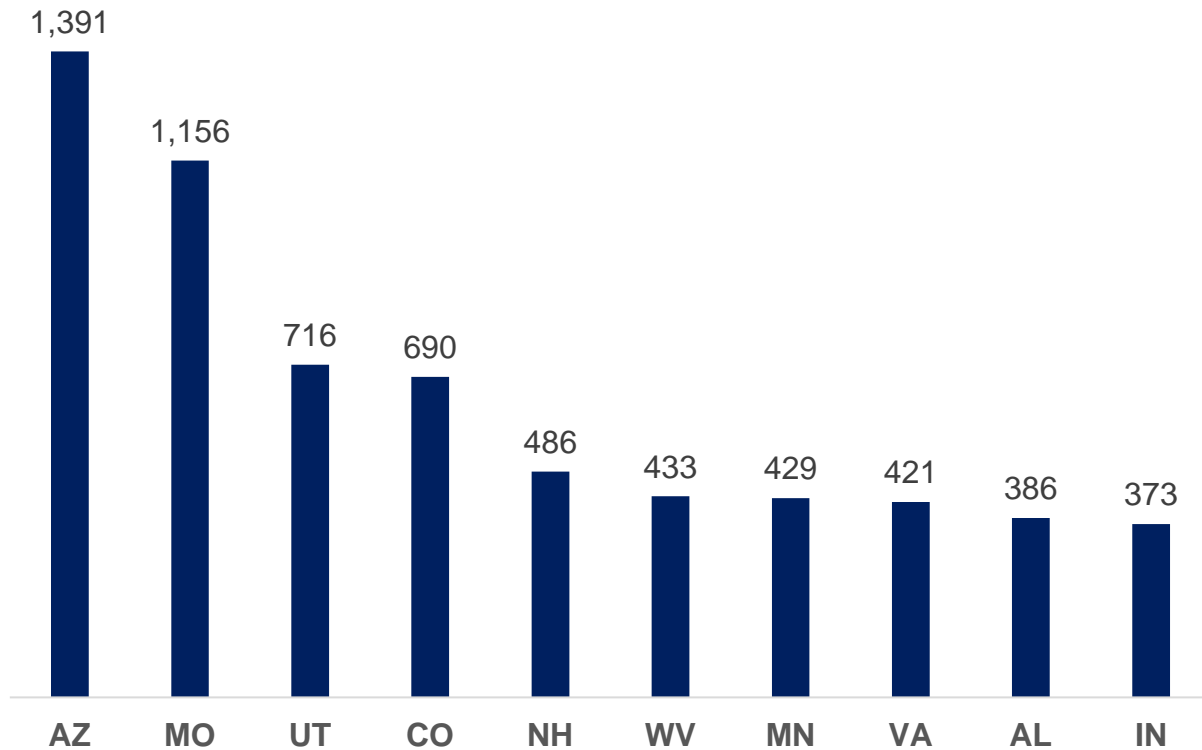


In both AY 2017 and AY 2018, over 9,000 Kansans were enrolled in distance education offered in another SARA member state. The top ten enrollments by state for each academic year are listed below.

AY 2017 Enrollments



AY 2018 Enrollments



Additional Reporting Requirements

SARA provisions cover a limited number of out-of-state learning placements except when there are additional requirements of the state's professional licensing entities. Beginning with the AY 2019 reporting period, participating institutions are required to report all out-of-state learning placements (clinical rotations, student teaching, internships, etc.) disaggregated by state and two-digit Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code.

This and previous SARA reports are available at http://kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/sara.