



## Massachusetts Department of Higher Education

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Carlos E. Santiago  
*Commissioner*  
Chris Gabrieli  
*Board Chairman*

## 610 CMR 12.00: Notice of Hearing

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### **NOTICE OF HEARING**

#### **610 CMR 12.00 Operation of Massachusetts Degree-Granting Institutions under the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to [M.G.L. c. 30A § 2](#) and [c. 15A, § 9](#) that the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education will hold a public hearing relative to the adoption of 610 CMR 12.00 Operation of Massachusetts Degree-Granting Institutions under the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA).

610 CMR 12.00 will govern the Commonwealth's entry into an interstate reciprocity agreement relating to distance (primarily online) education for institutions of higher education, known as the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), for which the Department of Higher Education will serve as the portal agency for all Massachusetts institutions that wish to join. The new regulations will serve to provide institutions and members of the public with information on the Department's and SARA's requirements concerning minimum institutional eligibility requirements; the initial institutional application process; the institutional renewal application process; standards for institutional approval, disapproval, or provisional approval; institutions' loss of eligibility and removal; institutional withdrawal; student complaints against SARA institutions in Massachusetts; and fees for institutions choosing to operate under SARA.

A hearing will be held on January 22, 2018 at 10:00a.m. at the offices of the Department of Higher Education at One Ashburton Place, Room 1401, Boston, Massachusetts.

Testimony may be presented orally at the public hearing or in writing. The Office encourages all interested parties to submit written testimony to the following addresses:

**Email:**  
[awisneski@bhe.mass.edu](mailto:awisneski@bhe.mass.edu)

**Postal Mail:**  
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education  
One Ashburton Place  
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Attn: Ashley H. Wisneski, Assistant General Counsel

Please submit electronic testimony as an attached Word document and type "610 CMR 12.00" in the subject line. All submissions must include the sender's full name and address.

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on January 22, 2018.

A copy of the proposed regulations, as well as the Department of Higher Education's fiscal effect and small business impact statement, are available on the Department of Higher Education's website. Copies may also be obtained by calling Angela Williams at (617) 994-6963.

For special accommodations for the hearing or hearing information in an alternative format, please contact Angela Williams.