



Ohio Administrative Code

Rule 126:3-1-01 Reporting requirements for state universities and colleges; fiscal watch and governance authority procedures.

Effective: July 2, 2026

(A) State university or college reporting requirements

(1) For the purposes of this rule:

- (a) "State university or college" shall have the same meaning as in section 3345.71 of the Revised Code.
- (b) "Expendable net position" (formerly "expendable fund balances") shall include the sum of all reported net position (expendable, unrestricted, restricted, and net investment in capital assets).
- (c) "Plant debt" means any liability for which the corresponding asset is investment in capital assets.
- (d) "Total revenues" mean total current fund revenues, including operating, non-operating, capital appropriations, and other additions.
- (e) "Net total revenues" are total revenues minus total expenditures.
- (f) "Total expenditures" mean all operating and interest for plant debt expenditures, including other deductions and expenditures.

(2) Fiscal year financial statements

(a) Requirements and submission deadline; extension of submission deadline

No later than October thirty-first of each year, each state university and college shall prepare and submit to the auditor of state, the chancellor, and the director of the office of budget and management fiscal year financial statements for the fiscal year ending the preceding June thirtieth. The fiscal year financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and shall be accompanied by required notes and other supplemental information as may be required by the chancellor of higher education.

The chairperson of the board of trustees of a state university or college may make a request to the auditor of state for an extension of the October thirty-first submission deadline. A request for an extension must be in writing delivered by the state university or college to the auditor of state no later than the preceding September thirtieth. The chairperson must deliver in writing a copy of the request for an extension to the chancellor, each member of the board of trustees of the state university or college, and the director of the office of budget and management. The request for an extension must include the reason the state university or college



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is unable to submit the financial statements by the submission deadline and the date that the state university or college proposes to submit the financial statements to the auditor of state. If the auditor determines that the request for an extension establishes extraordinary circumstances that prevent the state university or college from filing its fiscal year financial statements, the auditor of state may grant an extension of the submission deadline of no more than two months. The state college or university will provide notice of an extension to the chancellor and the director of the office of budget and management.

(b) Notification by auditor of state

If a state university or college does not submit the fiscal year financial statements by the submission deadline, the auditor of state shall send written notice within thirty days after the submission deadline to the governor, the chancellor, the director of budget and management, the legislative service commission, and the chairpersons and ranking minority members of the finance committees of the house of representatives and the senate.

(c) Written statement upon failure to file fiscal year financial statement

Upon receipt of the notice from the auditor of state that a state university or college did not submit the fiscal year financial statements by the submission deadline, the chancellor shall require the state university or college to provide a written statement identifying the reasons for failing to file the fiscal year financial statements by the submission deadline and a date on which the state university or college expects to submit the financial statements to the auditor of state. The written statement required under this paragraph shall not constitute an extension of the submission deadline for the fiscal year financial statement.

(3) Audited year-end report

(a) Each state university or college shall cooperate with the auditor of state to cause to be performed no later than December thirty-first succeeding the end of the fiscal year an annual audit of the financial records of the state university or college in accordance with generally accepted governmental auditing standards and the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. The auditor of state may grant an extension for the completion of the audit of no more than two months if the auditor of state determines that extraordinary circumstances justify the extension. The state college or university will



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provide notice of an extension to the chancellor and the director of the office of budget and management. Upon release of the annual audit by the auditor of state, the auditor shall provide notice to the chancellor.

- (b) If the annual audit of a state university or college by the auditor of state discloses substantive audit findings, the auditor of state shall send written notice of the substantive audit findings to the governor, the chancellor, the director of budget and management, the legislative service commission, and the chairpersons and ranking minority members of the finance committees of the house of representatives and the senate.

Substantive audit findings include but are not limited to:

- (i) The inability to make timely payments to vendors, delays in making pension retirement contributions or requests for advanced state funding;
- (ii) A significant negative variance between budgeted and actual spending for a fiscal year;
- (iii) A significant operating deficit in the restricted and unrestricted funds that could have a negative impact on the financial condition of the state university or college for the fiscal year;
- (iv) Significant deficiencies, material weaknesses, direct and material legal noncompliance or management letter comments which, in the opinion of the auditor of state, the aggregate effect of all such reported issues has a significant effect on the financial condition of the state university or college for the current and future years; or,
- (v) A modified (qualified, adverse, or disclaimer) opinion on financial statements or grant compliance which, in the opinion of the auditor of state, has significant impact on the financial condition of the state university or college.

(4) Ratio analysis

Upon receipt of the annual audit, the chancellor shall perform a ratio analysis of the financial condition of the state university or college as follows:

(a) Calculate ratios:

- (i) Viability ratio: If plant debt is less than fifty thousand dollars, assign a 5.0 as the threshold factor, but if plant debt is fifty thousand dollars



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or greater, expendable net position divided by plant debt and assign a threshold factor using paragraph (b);

(ii) Primary reserve ratio: expendable net position divided by total expenditures and mandatory transfers;

(iii) Net income ratio: net total revenues divided by total revenues.

(b) Assign threshold factors for calculated ratios:

| THRESHOLD FACTORS | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------|
| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Viability ratio | <0 | 0 to.29 | .30 to.59 | .6 to.99 | 1.0 to 2.50 | >2.50 |
| Primary re-serve ratio | <-.1 | -.1 to.049 | .05 to.099 | .10 to.249 | .25 to.49 | >.49 |
| Net income ratio | <-.05 | -.05 to 0 | 0 to.009 | .01 to.029 | .03 to.049 | >.049 |

(c) Multiply the assigned threshold factor for the viability ratio by thirty per cent. Multiply the assigned threshold factor for the primary reserve ratio by fifty per cent. Multiply the assigned threshold factor for the net income ratio by twenty per cent.

Add the products of the multiplication to obtain the composite result of the ratio analysis.

If the chancellor is unable to perform a ratio analysis because the state university or college has received a modified (qualified, adverse, or disclaimer) audit opinion, the state university or college shall be deemed to have a composite result of the ratio analysis of 1.75 or 0.75, as determined at the discretion of the chancellor, in consultation with the auditor of state and the office of budget and management, based on the relative financial health of the state university or college.

(d) The chancellor shall perform an additional ratio analysis under this paragraph using the methodology outlined above exempting pension liabilities, other postemployment benefits, and related changes in revenues or expenditures due to adjustments in the audited financial statement of a state university or college as a result of the implementation of government accounting standards board statements 68 and 75. For



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purposes of this rule, the chancellor will determine which composite result of the ratio analysis performed under this paragraph most accurately reflects the financial condition of the state university or college. The Chancellor may request additional information as needed to assess the financial condition of the state university or college.

(5) Quarterly financial report

(a) Not later than thirty days after the end of each calendar quarter, each state university and college shall submit a quarterly report signed by the president and treasurer, chief financial officer or equivalent position of the state university and college to the chancellor whom shall compile the reports and distribute them to the director of the office of budget and management, the legislative service commission, and the chairpersons and ranking minority members of the finance committees of the house of representatives and the senate. The quarterly report shall be in the form prescribed by the director of budget and management. The quarterly report shall be a "statement of revenues, expenditures, and other changes" for the year to date prepared on the same basis as that used in the budget for the state university or college.

(b) Reportable events

In addition to the requirements of paragraph (A)(5)(a) of this rule, the quarterly report shall contain a narrative statement indicating whether any of the following events have occurred during the period covered by the report:

- (i) The state university or college requested an advance of state subsidy money during the quarter covered by the report;
- (ii) The state university or college delayed or failed to make any payments to applicable retirement systems (e.g., P.E.R.S. or S.T.R.S.) required to be made during the quarter covered by the report;
- (iii) The state university or college failed to make any scheduled payroll payments payable during the quarter covered by the report;
- (iv) The state university or college failed to make any payments to vendors when due during the quarter covered by the report as a result of a cash deficiency or a substantial deficiency in the payment processing system of the state university or college;



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- (v) The state university or college failed to make any scheduled payment of principal or interest for short- or long-term debt during the period covered by the report;
 - (vi) The state university or college has revised its original budget for the fiscal year and the revision will result in a substantially reduced ending general fund balance or larger deficit;
 - (vii) The state university or college projects a significant negative variance between its most recently adopted annual budget and actual revenues or expenses at the end of the fiscal year.
 - (viii) The state university or college is identified by the federal government or a regional accrediting organization as subject to heightened reporting standards or special monitoring status, including but not limited to the United States department of education's heightened cash monitoring process.
 - (ix) The state university or college has not completed an annual audit pursuant to (A)(3) of this rule.
 - (x) There is a vacancy in the state university or college's position of treasurer, chief financial officer, or equivalent position that has lasted more than forty-five (45) days.
 - (xi) The state university or college reported less than thirty (30) days cash on hand.
- (c) If any reportable event listed in paragraph (A)(5)(b) of this rule has occurred, in addition to the requirements of paragraphs (A)(2)(a) and (A)(5)(a) of this rule, the state university or college shall describe to the chancellor in a separate document:
- (i) The reason for the reportable event;
 - (ii) The anticipated impact on the state university or college's year-end financial positions;
 - (iii) The action(s) taken by the state university or college to resolve the reportable event; and
 - (iv) The action(s) taken by the state university or college to prevent a reoccurrence of the reportable event.



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(B) Criteria for determining fiscal watch

- (1) The state university or college fails to submit its fiscal year financial statements in accordance with paragraph (A)(2)(a) of this rule;
- (2) The state university or college fails to obtain an audited year-end report as required by paragraph (A)(3)(a) of this rule;
- (3) The state university or college has a composite result of the ratio analysis calculated in accordance with paragraph (A)(4) of this rule of 1.75 or less for two consecutive fiscal years;
- (4) The state university or college has a composite result of the ratio analysis calculated in accordance with paragraph (A)(4) of this rule of 1.75 or less and the chancellor has determined that the state university or college has failed to take decisive action to improve its financial condition;
- (5) The state university or college has a composite result of the ratio analysis calculated in accordance with paragraph (A)(4) of this rule of 1.75 or less and one or more of the reportable events listed in paragraph (A)(5)(b) of this rule has occurred during the reporting period;
- (6) The state university or college has a composite result of the ratio analysis calculated in accordance with paragraph (A)(4) of this rule of 1.75 or less and the auditor of state has reported one or more substantive audit findings; or
- (7) The state university or college receives a disclaimer of opinion on its last audited financial statement.
- (8) The state university or college experiences a reportable event listed in paragraph (A)(5)(b) of this rule and the chancellor determines that immediate and decisive action is necessary to improve the state university or college's financial condition.
- (9) The conditions under which the state university or college was placed into fiscal caution have not improved in a satisfactory manner or the university or college has failed to comply with the requirements of ORC 3345.721, as determined by the Chancellor; or
- (10) Failure by a state university or college to provide the chancellor with all information requested under Section 3345.721 in a satisfactory manner, or failure to meet a deadline required by rule or statute, as determined by the chancellor.



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(C) Declaration of fiscal watch

If the chancellor determines that any of the criteria set forth in paragraph (B) of this rule applies to a state university or college for reasons other than natural disaster, the chancellor shall issue a directive declaring the state university or college to be in a state of fiscal watch. The chancellor shall certify the declaration of fiscal watch to the governor, the director of budget and management, the auditor of state, the legislative service commission, the chairpersons and ranking minority members of the finance committees of the house of representatives and the senate, and the board of trustees, president, and treasurer, chief financial officer, or equivalent position of the state university or college in a state of fiscal watch.

(D) Actions to be taken by the board of trustees and employees

(1) The board of trustees of a state university or college in a state of fiscal watch shall:

(a) Within ninety days of the declaration of fiscal watch adopt a financial recovery plan with the purpose to end fiscal watch within three years, and submit the plan to the chancellor. The chancellor will evaluate the initial financial recovery plan, in consultation with the director of the office of budget and management, and either approve or disapprove it within thirty calendar days from the date of its submission. If the initial financial plan is disapproved, the chancellor will provide a summary of the modifications necessary to render the financial recovery plan acceptable, which the state university or college will incorporate into the plan and return to the chancellor in revised form within thirty calendar days from the date of receipt. No state university or college may implement a financial recovery plan submitted to the chancellor under this section unless the chancellor has approved the plan. The financial recovery plan shall contain:

- (i) An analysis of the financial difficulty of the state university or college and the causes of all significant revenue or expenditure problems;
- (ii) A description of efforts or initiatives proposed or undertaken by the state university or college to address the financial difficulties, including an estimation of the time required to resolve the financial difficulties;
- (iii) An analysis of how these efforts or initiatives have resolved or will resolve the financial difficulties;



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- (iv) A description of contingency plans designed to address the financial difficulties, and other potential circumstances that could worsen the financial difficulties;
 - (v) A financial forecast for three years, including a description of key assumptions and methodology which will correct all fiscal conditions at the end of the three year period;
 - (vi) Such other information, reports, and documentation as the chancellor may request.
- (b) Consult with the auditor of state regarding any necessary or appropriate steps to bring the books of account, accounting systems, and financial procedures and reports of the state university or college into compliance with requirements prescribed by the auditor of state, regarding desirable modifications and supplementary systems and procedures pertinent to the university or college. The auditor of state shall provide a written report to the board of trustees outlining the nature of the financial accounting and reporting problems of the state university or college and recommendations for actions to be undertaken to correct the financial accounting and reporting problems.
- (c) Direct the state university or college to develop an effective financial accounting and reporting system by promptly bringing its existing system of financial accounting and reporting into compliance with the standards required by the auditor of state.
- (d) Establish a process by which the board of trustees or a committee thereof will undertake monthly reviews of revenues, expenditures, and encumbrances consistent with the financial recovery plan required by paragraph (D)(1)(a) of this rule.
- (e) Approve and monitor the monthly levels of expenditures and encumbrances and require supporting documentation to substantiate any departure from any approved level.
- (2) The employees of the state university or college shall diligently and promptly assist the board of trustees in the performance of its duties under this rule, including the furnishing of any supporting documentation or other information requested.
- (E) Reporting obligations of state university or college in a state of fiscal watch and board of trustees



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- (1) Each quarter during the fiscal watch, a state university or college in a state of fiscal watch shall provide to the board of trustees and the chancellor the quarterly financial report required in paragraph (A)(5)(a) of this rule, the narrative required in paragraphs (A)(5)(b) and (A)(5)(c) of this rule, and any significant changes to the financial recovery plan adopted pursuant to paragraph (D)(1)(a) of this rule or significant areas of noncompliance with the financial recovery plan.
- (2) On or before the anniversary of the declaration of fiscal watch by the chancellor and annually thereafter during the fiscal watch, the board of trustees shall make reports to the governor, speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the chancellor, the auditor of state, the legislative service commission, and the director of the office of budget and management detailing the progress of the state university or college to eliminate fiscal watch conditions, failures of the state university or college to comply with this rule, and plans for further actions to attain the objectives of this rule. The board of trustees may make such interim reports as it may determine to be appropriate for such purposes or as may be requested by the governor, either house of the general assembly, the director of the office of budget and management, or the chancellor.

(F) Criteria for termination of fiscal watch

- (1) The chancellor, after consulting with the auditor of state and office of budget and management, shall terminate the fiscal watch of a state university or college when in its opinion:
 - (a) The state university or college in a state of fiscal watch achieves a composite result of the ratio analysis calculated in accordance with paragraph (A)(4) of this rule of at least 2.40 for a fiscal year;
 - (b) The state university or college has remediated all of the conditions that led to the fiscal watch, including any cash flow problems, the inability to prepare fiscal year financial statements in a timely manner, substantive audit findings, an audit that discloses no substantive findings, or reportable events; and
 - (c) No other condition exists or is likely to materialize that could result in a declaration of fiscal watch.
- (2) If in the opinion of the chancellor the fiscal watch should be terminated, the chancellor shall issue a directive declaring the termination of the fiscal watch and shall certify the termination to the governor, the speaker of the house of



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representatives, the president of the senate, chairs and ranking members of the house and senate finance committees, the legislative service commission, the director of the office of budget and management, and the board of trustees of the state university or college.

(G) Conservatorship

(1) Criteria for certifying appointment of conservator

- (a) The state university or college either has a composite result of the ratio analysis calculated in accordance with paragraph (A)(4) of this rule of 0.75 or less or does not have a composite result due to an audit not yet available for the institution, and, in the judgment of the chancellor, after consultation with the office of budget and management, the state university or college is experiencing a serious failure of financial administration and has failed to take decisive action to restore financial health or have been unsuccessful in their efforts to restore financial health; or
- (b) The state university or college has been in a state of fiscal watch for three full consecutive years, and in the judgment of the chancellor, after consultation with the office of budget and management, the state university or college is experiencing serious failure of financial administration or.
- (c) The state university or college has one or more reportable events listed in paragraph (A)(5)(b) of this rule, or was placed on fiscal watch under paragraph (B)(2) or (B)(7) of this rule, and in the judgment of the chancellor, after consultation with the office of budget and management, the state university or college is experiencing serious failure of financial administration and has failed to take decisive action to restore financial health or has been unsuccessful in their efforts to restore financial health.

If any of the criteria in paragraph (G)(1)(a) through (G)(1)(c) of this rule are met, the chancellor shall determine that the state university or college in a state of fiscal watch is experiencing sufficient fiscal difficulties to warrant the appointment of a conservator. If the chancellor determines a conservator is warranted the chancellor shall request certification from the office of budget and management that the state university or college is experiencing sufficient fiscal difficulties to warrant the appointment of a conservator. Upon receipt of the certification from the office of budget



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and management, the chancellor shall then certify this determination to the governor.

(2) Development of a financial stability plan by governance authority

Within ninety days after the appointment of the governance authority for a state university or college pursuant to section 3345.75 of the Revised Code, the governance authority shall develop a financial stability plan, the provisions of which are subject to the approval of the chancellor, after consultation with the director of budget and management. The financial stability plan shall be designed to achieve the objectives established by paragraphs (G)(3)(b) to (G)(3)(e) of this rule as expeditiously as possible, thereby permitting the termination of the conservatorship for the state university or college.

(3) Termination of governance authority

The governance authority shall certify to the governor that the state university or college is experiencing sufficient fiscal stability to warrant termination of the governance authority when:

- (a) In the opinion of the governance authority, the state university or college has prepared a financial recovery plan required by paragraph (D)(1)(a) of this rule and has satisfied all of the conditions stated in the financial recovery plan;
- (b) In the opinion of the governance authority, the state university or college has demonstrated the ability to produce materially accurate and complete financial statements and other reports of account balances and transactions for internal and external use on a timely basis, as certified by the governance authority;
- (c) In the opinion of the governance authority, key financial administration positions at the state university or college are filled by appropriately qualified and trained personnel;
- (d) In the opinion of the governance authority, there is a material improvement in the fiscal stability of the state university or college as indicated by the viability, primary, and net income ratios as calculated in paragraph (A)(4) of this rule. For the purposes of this paragraph, "material improvement" means that, in the judgment of the governance authority, a reasonable financial stability plan is in place to achieve a composite result of the ratio analysis of 2.40 for the state university or college within three fiscal years; and



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- (e) In the opinion of the auditor of state, in its annual audit report, there are no material weaknesses in the internal controls of the state university or college.