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# SECTION 1—INTRODUCTION

## SUBMITTING AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL’S OFFICE

The Comptroller General's Office (CGO) expects to receive draft and final financial statements in accordance with contractual arrangements between the auditors and the State Auditor’s Office. If the audit was not contracted by the State Auditor’s Office, the CGO expects to receive financial statements for the most recently ended fiscal year **no later than October 1**. If applicable, refer to the contract between your agency, the State Auditor’s Office, and your auditors, as your due date might be sooner than October 1. **If your contract date is sooner than October 1, the earlier date is your due date. Please submit a draft of your audited financial statements 15 days prior to your final due date.**

Proviso 117.55 of the State’s 2024-2025 Appropriations Act regarding late submissions of audited financial statements became effective July 1, 2024. The Proviso reads:

Agencies, institutions, and other reporting entities required to submit annual audited financial statements for inclusion in the State’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report must submit final audited financial statements to the Comptroller General not later than October first for those with fiscal year-end June thirtieth. The South Carolina Retirement Systems, Insurance Benefits, and Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Funds administered by the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority must submit their final audited financial statements no later than October fifteenth. For institutions and reporting entities with fiscal year-ends other than June thirtieth, final audited financial statements must be submitted to the Comptroller General within 120 days of that fiscal year-end. The Comptroller General shall provide a written report of each agency, institution, or other reporting entity not in compliance with this provision to the State Fiscal Accountability Authority by November thirtieth.

To minimize review comments and review time taken by the CGO, agencies and their auditors are strongly encouraged to apply the CGO’s Financial Statement Checklist before submitting their draft statements to the CGO for review. (Go to [http://www.cg.sc.gov/](http://www.cg.state.sc.us/); click on *State Agency Info*, then on *GAAP Reporting*, then on *Agencies That Submit Financial Statements*.)

**For audits contracted by the State Auditor’s Office, the draft and final financial statements must be sent directly to that office for subsequent transmittal to the CGO.**

For audits not contracted by the State Auditor’s Office, the CGO asks that only an electronic copy be sent of the draft and final financial statements directly to our office. Contact information is as follows:

E-mail: ACFR@cg.sc.gov

If you are unable to send the financial statements in the preferred electronic format, send one hard copy to the following address:

Comptroller General’s Office

Financial Reporting Division

1200 Senate Street, Room 305

Columbia, South Carolina 29201

In person deliveries may be made to Third Floor of the Wade Hampton Office Building, Capitol Complex (directly behind the State House). The division’s main telephone number is   
(803) 734-2128.

## ABOUT THIS MANUAL

### Purpose of This Manual; Limitations

This policy manual is designed to provide policies and guidance to the accountants and auditors of those State agencies, higher education institutions, and other entities that have separate audits of their financial statements and that submit their audited reports to the State of South Carolina’s Office of the Comptroller General for incorporation in the statewide annual comprehensive financial report (ACFR).

This policy manual is not intended to constitute a comprehensive guide to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) applicable to entities reported as part of the State of South Carolina. In fact, it assumes that users are thoroughly knowledgeable about basic GAAP for governmental entities. Instead, this manual focuses on selected complex GAAP issues that have caused problems in the past and on reporting requirements that derive from the State’s participation in the Government Finance Officers Association’s Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program and go beyond the requirements of GAAP pronouncements.

Further, this manual is limited to matters that directly affect incorporation of agency financial statements into the State of South Carolina’s ACFR. For example, the manual does not address other post-employment benefit disclosures because the CGO obtains information for these statewide ACFR disclosures directly from the South Carolina the Employee Insurance Programs. Stand-alone agency financial statements must be produced in such a way as to satisfy the requirements of the State Auditor’s Office as well as the requirements of the CGO.

### Scope of Application of This Manual’s Policies

In accordance with State law[[1]](#footnote-1), the Comptroller General’s Office (CGO) determines and issues policies that will apply to entities within the State’s primary government submitting financial statements for incorporation into the statewide ACFR. These policies also apply to component units that meet the GASB 14 (as amended by GASB 39 and GASB 61) criteria for blending.

Discretely presented component units are encouraged, but not required, to adopt the same accounting policies that apply to the State primary government. Regardless of possible differences in policies, the Comptroller General’s Office depends on the management of discretely presented component units to supply supplementary data needed for inclusion in the statewide ACFR if not supplied in the component unit’s stand-alone financial statements.

The guidance in this policy manual does not apply to the audited financial statements for agencies that are included in the statewide ACFR through submission of Reporting Packages (such as Department of Public Safety, Governor’s Office, and Department of Disabilities and Special Needs).

### Organization and Format

This policy manual is divided into eight sections. The sections related to the Department of Transportation and to colleges and universities (Sections 7 and 8) are specific to those agencies and apply exclusively to those agencies. The remaining sections (Sections 1 through 6, plus this introductory section) apply to *all* State agencies, colleges and universities, and other entities that submit audited financial statements for inclusion in the statewide ACFR.

### Policies Printed within a Boxed Border

State policies for entities incorporated into the statewide ACFR from audited financial statements are formatted with a boxed border for emphasis.

### Citations Referencing the GASB Codification and GASB Statements

Most references to the GASB’s *Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards* are cited by specific paragraph—for example, GASB Cod. Sec. 2300.103 (Section 2300, paragraph .103), rather than by reference to a specific GASB, NCGA, or AICPA pronouncement.

If a particular GASB statement is referenced, the short, abbreviated form such as “GASB 34” rather than “GASB Statement No. 34” is typically used.

### June 30 vs. December 31

Policies within this manual focus on reporting at June 30 because the State’s fiscal year ends on   
June 30. Some entities incorporated into the statewide ACFR from audited financial statements have a fiscal year ending December 31. When reading this manual, those entities generally should substitute “December 31” for “June 30.”

### Annual Updates; Questions about Policies

The CGO updates this policy manual annually for new authoritative literature, changes in State policy and clarifications on issues identified in the preceding year. The manual is posted to the Comptroller General’s Office’s website at [http://www.cg.sc.gov/](http://www.cg.state.sc.us/).

Agencies should address questions related to State accounting policies to the staff of the Financial Reporting Division of the Comptroller General’s Office.

## OTHER HELPFUL MATERIALS

### Comptroller General’s Office’s Financial Statement Review Checklist

Under an agreement with the State Auditor’s Office (SAO), certain staff members of the Office of Comptroller General (CGO) review draft financial statements for each agency incorporated into the statewide ACFR from separately issued financial statements. To facilitate its review process, the CGO has developed a checklist that it applies to each set of draft financial statements reviewed. The CGO has made this checklist available to the public on its website. Agency personnel and their auditors are ***strongly encouraged*** to complete the checklist themselves before the draft financial statements are submitted to the SAO and CGO for review. Use of the checklist will help to identify many problems that, if left uncorrected, will result in review comments.

### The State of South Carolina’s ACFR

The most recently issued ACFR for the State of South Carolina is available at [http://www.cg.sc.gov/](http://www.cg.state.sc.us/). The CGO recommends that accountants responsible for preparing financial statements incorporated into the statewide ACFR (as well as their auditors) refer to the most recently issued statewide ACFR in conjunction with their use of this policy manual and the above-described checklist.

# SECTION 2—APPLICATION OF PROFESSIONAL LITERATURE

## STATEWIDE ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) require that governments establish various policies. Some of these policies must be disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

In accordance with the Annual Appropriations Act[[2]](#footnote-2), the Office of the Comptroller General (CGO) determines and issues policies that will apply to entities in the State primary government that submit financial statements for inclusion in the statewide Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). These policies also apply to component units that meet the GASB 14 (as amended by GASB 39 and GASB 61) criteria for blending.

## THE GAAP HIERARCHY’S APPLICATION TO GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

The GAAP hierarchy[[3]](#footnote-3) determines the status of various professional pronouncements with respect to their application to governments. All GASB statements and interpretations that have not been amended or superseded apply to all activities, funds, and governmental component units (but *not* to *non*-governmental component units) reported in the State of South Carolina’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).

## APPLICABILITY OF FASB PRONOUNCEMENTS

Agencies must apply all GASB pronouncements as well as all applicable FASB Statements (Codification[[4]](#footnote-4) additions or modifications) and Interpretations, APB Opinions, and ARBs issued on or before November 30, 1989, to their governmental and business-type activities (reported in government-wide financial statements), and their enterprise and internal service funds (reported in fund financial statements), unless those pronouncements conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles[[6]](#footnote-6) do not require (but allow) enterprise funds to elect to apply FASB Statements (Codification additions or modifications) and Interpretations issued after November 30, 1989. Paragraph 94 encourages governments to use the same application of FASB pronouncements for *all* of its enterprise funds. The State of South Carolina chooses not to apply any FASB Statements (Codification additions or modifications), or Interpretations issued after November 30, 1989, to enterprise funds within its primary government.

Activities and funds reported within the State’s primary government should ***not*** adopt FASB Statements (Codification additions or modifications) and Interpretations issued after   
November 30, 1989. This policy should be disclosed in the notes to the basic financial statements if the agency reports any enterprise funds.

The following are among the most important private-sector standards that apply to governmental and business-type activities as reported in the government-wide statements and to enterprise funds as reported in the fund financial statements because the GASB (or its predecessor organization, NCGA) has incorporated them “by reference”:

* APB 20, *Accounting Changes* applies to governments in many situations, but Footnote 13 of GASB 34 states the following exception: “Changes in accounting principles, addressed in APB Opinion No. 20, *Accounting Changes*, as amended, should be reported as restatements of beginning net position, not as a separately identified cumulative effect in the current-period Statement of Activities or proprietary fund Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position.”
* APB 22, *Disclosure of Accounting Policies* (requiring presentation of a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies).
* APB 30, Reporting the Results of Operations—Reporting the Effects of Disposal of a Segment of a Business, and Extraordinary, Unusual and Infrequently Occurring Events and Transactions, relating to extraordinary items.
* FASB 5, *Accounting for Contingencies*, guidance on recognizing loss liabilities.
* FASB 6, *Classification of Short-Term Obligations Expected to be Refinanced*, in connection with the proper classification of bond anticipation notes.

As noted previously, the above pronouncements do ***not*** apply to governmental *fund* statements—but they do apply to governmental *activities* reported in the government-wide statements.

The provisions of FASB 34, *Capitalization of Interest Cost,* as amended, are applicable to business-type activities and to enterprise funds but *not* to governmental funds or activities.[[7]](#footnote-7)

Agencies and their auditors are encouraged to visit the GASB’s website at <http://www.gasb.org/>. The FASB’s website is at <http://www.fasb.org/>. These websites provide information on obtaining copies of pronouncements and other valuable information of interest to financial statement preparers and their auditors.

## NEW GASB PRONOUNCEMENTS AND DATES FOR STATE AGENCIES AND COMPONENT UNITS TO IMPLEMENT NEW GASB PRONOUNCEMENTS

It is generally advisable, and sometimes required by GAAP, for all state agencies and component units to initially implement new GASB pronouncements on a schedule that is specifically coordinated with the State of South Carolina’s implementation plans. This is especially true if the new pronouncement changes accounts or account balances presented in the financial statements and/or reduces or eliminates previously required disclosures. The Comptroller General has issued the directive that new pronouncements will be implemented on the required date and there will be **no early implementations**.

The new GASB pronouncements that apply to fiscal year 2025 are as follows:

Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences,* requires that liabilities for compensated absences be recognized for (1) leave that has not been used and (2) leave that has been used but not yet paid in cash or settled through noncash means. A liability should be recognized for leave that has not been used if (a) the leave is attributable to services already rendered, (b) the leave accumulates, and (c) the leave is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means.

Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures,* establishes financial reporting requirements for risks related to vulnerabilities due to certain concentrations or constraints

## GFOA CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

The State of South Carolina’s policy is to prepare the statewide ACFR in accordance with the requirements for the Government Finance Officers Association’s (GFOA’s) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The 2005 edition of *Governmental Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting* (otherwise known as the “Blue Book”) is an excellent resource to use in ensuring compliance with GFOA’s reporting requirements.

The Comptroller General’s Office encourages preparers and auditors to apply the appropriate Certificate of Achievement Program’s checklist to the stand-alone financial statements of State of South Carolina entities that will be incorporated into the statewide ACFR.

To access the GFOA checklists, go to [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org), from the left selection box under Award Programs, select ACFR Program. The Checklists appear at the bottom of the links. The State of South Carolina utilizes the General-Purpose Governments list primarily. However, the other checklists provide excellent references for promulgated literature on other specific topics.

# SECTION 3—FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS’ OPINION

The Independent Auditors’ Report (the opinion) should accurately identify your agency’s or institution’s status relative to the State of South Carolina in the introductory paragraph. For example, the opinion should *not* state that your agency is a component unit of the State if, in fact, it is part of the State’s primary government. The opinion also should accurately reflect the method of presentation within the statewide ACFR of any component units (i.e., blended vs. discretely presented). Check to be sure that the assertions within the opinion regarding the status of the agency/institution and/or its component units match their presentation in the State’s ACFR. (The preceding year’s statewide ACFR is available at [http://www.cg.sc.gov/](http://www.cg.state.sc.us/).)

Additional guidance on appropriate reference in the opinion is available from AICPA resources including its *Audits of State and Local Governments.*

## MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (MD&A)

### Minimum Requirements for MD&A

Paragraph 11 (including subparagraphs *a* through *h*) of GASB 34 as amended by GASB 37 establishes the general requirements for MD&A. As noted in Question 10 of the first GASB 34 Implementation Guide[[8]](#footnote-8) (Question 7.5.7 in the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*), the information presented should be limited to areas required in subparagraphs *a* through *h*. Nevertheless, each specific requirement, if applicable, in paragraph 11 should be addressed at a minimum as described in the respective subparagraphs *a* through *h*.

That is, agencies *may* provide additional details about the required elements in subparagraphs *a* through *h* within MD&A. Information that does not relate to the required topics may not be included in MD&A but may be provided elsewhere, such as in the letter of transmittal or in other forms of supplementary information.

MD&A is considered to be Required Supplementary Information (RSI).

### Comparative Data

Paragraph 9 of GASB 34 indicates that MD&A should discuss the current year results in comparison with the prior year, with emphasis on the current year. This fact-based analysis should discuss the positive and negative aspects of the comparison with the prior year. The use of charts, graphs, and tables is encouraged to enhance the understandability of the information.

The information required by paragraph 11b should be presented in the form of condensed financial statements*.* Charts and graphs may be used to supplement, or elaborate on, information in the condensed financial statements, but should not be used in place of them.

### Focus on the Primary Government

GASB Cod. Secs. 2200.108 and 2100.110 require that MD&A focus on the *primary government*, including the *blended* component units. Comments in MD&A should distinguish between information pertaining to the primary government and that of its discretely presented component units. Determining whether to discuss matters related to a discretely presented component unit is a matter of professional judgment and should be based on the individual component unit’s significance to the total of all discretely presented component units and that component unit’s relationship with the primary government. When appropriate, the reporting entity’s MD&A should refer readers to the discretely presented component unit’s separately issued financial statements.

## GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Requirement to Present Government-Wide Financial Statements

The State’s policy is that agencies reporting any governmental funds must present government-wide statements within their basic financial statements as required by GASB 34. The purpose of agency government-wide statements is to present the agency’s balances that should be incorporated into the State’s government-wide statements. A note disclosure may be included to explain how the reader should interpret the agency’s government-wide statements and the fact that the agency is merely a part of the State, not a separate independently operated government.

Stand-alone business-type activities if not required by GAAP to present government-wide financial statements must comply with the policies set forth in Section 6, FOOTNOTE DISCLOSURES, of this manual within the sub-section on REQUIRED INFORMATION ON BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES FOR THE GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES .

### Governmental and Business-Type Activities Defined

Governmental activities of the State of South Carolina include general, special revenue funds, capital projects funds, permanent funds, and internal service funds.[[9]](#footnote-9) Business-type activities of the State include only enterprise funds. Agency financial statements should reflect this policy.

## FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

All agencies submitting financial statements to be incorporated into the statewide ACFR must prepare fund financial statements to comply with GAAP.

### Presentation of Combining Financial Statements for Non-Major Funds and Multiple Fiduciary Funds

The State of South Carolina participates in the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program of the Governmental Finance Officers Association. To be eligible for the Certificate of Achievement, the State must present combining statements for non-major funds and for multiple fiduciary funds as supplementary information, even though this is not required by GAAP. As a result, the State’s policy is to present combining financial statements for its nonmajor funds and for its fiduciary funds.

State agency financial statements incorporated in the statewide ACFR must present combining statements for all non-major funds (including non-major blended component units) and for multiple fiduciary funds, if applicable.

## STATEMENTS OF POSITION

### Government-wide Statement of Net Position—Classified Format

The State of South Carolina’s policy is to use a classified format (rather than an order-of-liquidity format) for its government-wide Statement of Net Position.[[10]](#footnote-10)

Agencies should use the classified format for their government-wide Statement of Net Position if they are required to present that statement.

Agencies using the format of example A-4 in Appendix C of GASB 34 must submit a separate schedule showing the current and non-current portions of assets and liabilities for the government-wide Statement of Net Position column.

The CGO believes that the State’s financial statement users will find the classified format easier to comprehend because that format is required for certain other financial statements. The classified format distinguishes between current and long-term assets as well as between current and long-term liabilities.

### Government-wide Statement of Net Position—Net Position Format

Paragraph 8 of GASB 63 encourages governments to present the government-wide Statement of Net Position using a format that displays Total Assets, plus Deferred Outflows of Resources, less Total Liabilities, less Deferred Inflows of Resources, equals Net Position, rather than a traditional balance sheet format. The CGO plans to present a statewide Statement of Net Position using a net position format.

The CGO, however, has concluded that the difference between the two formats is a purely formal difference and that it can determine the information it needs for the statewide ACFR from agency financial statements, regardless of which format agencies use.

Agencies that present a government-wide statement of position may use either the net position format or the traditional balance sheet format.

### Governmental Fund Balance Sheets—Minimum Level of Detail for Fund Balances

Under the balance sheet format, as revised by GASB 63, assets plus deferred outflows of resources equal liabilities plus deferred inflows of resources plus fund balances.

Classification of governmental fund balances shall be segregated in accordance with GASB 54 including nonspendable fund balance, restricted fund balance, committed fund balance, assigned fund balance, and unassigned fund balance. Nonspendable should be shown separately on the face of the statements for not in spendable form and legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. Details in the disclosure must distinguish between the major restricted purposes within the restricted fund balances and specific purposes for the committed and assigned fund balance classifications. Any deficits in unassigned fund balance must be explained in the notes to the financial statements.

### Proprietary Funds Statement of Net Position—Classified Format

Paragraph 97 of GASB 34 requires that assets and liabilities of proprietary funds be presented in a classified format to distinguish between current and long-term assets and liabilities.

Paragraph 8 of GASB 63 allows the State to use either a net position format or a balance sheet format to report the State’s proprietary funds. The State of South Carolina will use the net position format (rather than the balance sheet format) for its proprietary fund statement of position.

The CGO, however, has concluded that the difference between the net position format and the balance sheet format is a purely formal difference and that it can determine the information it needs for the statewide ACFR from agency proprietary fund financial statements, regardless of which format agencies use.

Agencies that present proprietary funds must present a *classified* statement of position but may use either the net position format or the traditional balance sheet format.

### Fiduciary Funds Statement of Net Position

Paragraph 8 of GASB 63 requires that fiduciary funds present a Statement of Fiduciary Net Position using a net position format (i.e., assets plus deferred outflows of resources, less liabilities less inflows of resources equal net position).

## OPERATING STATEMENTS AND STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

### Government-wide Statement of Activities—Intergovernmental Expenses, Grants and Revenue-Sharing

States may include an "intergovernmental" functional category on their government-wide Statement of Activities (as shown on page 169 of the first GASB 34 Implementation Guide) rather than reporting state grants issued to local governments and state revenues shared with local governments in their other functional categories.

Agency financial statements that report governmental funds must report any grants or State shared revenues disbursed to non-State governmental entities separately from other “programs” or “functions” that they include on their Statement of Activities.

### Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances—Level of Detail

Revenues should be presented by source. Expenditures in governmental funds should be presented by character and function within character. Additional detail (such as department, object of expenditure) may be presented but is not required by GAAP.

The expenditure’s character is based on the periods it is presumed to benefit. Expenditures that benefit the present period (current expenditures) are distinguished from those that benefit both present and future periods (debt service expenditures) and from those presumed to benefit both the present and future fiscal periods (capital outlay expenditures). GASB Cod. Sec. 1800.120 states: “'Intergovernmental,' a fourth character classification, is appropriate where one governmental unit transfers resources to another, such as when states transfer ‘shared revenues’ to local governments or act as an intermediary in federally financed programs.” The State of South Carolina uses the “intergovernmental” functional category on its Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances, Governmental Funds.

Agency financial statements that report governmental funds must report grants or State shared revenues disbursed to external parties separately from other expenditures that they include in their fund operating statement.

### Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position—Proprietary Fund Revenues

Paragraph 100 of GASB 34 and footnote 41 of that paragraph requires revenues be presented by major source on the operating statements for proprietary funds. Paragraph 100 further requires that the operating statement for proprietary funds identify revenues used as security for revenue bonds.

Further, the presentation of revenues should reflect the effect of discounts and allowances. This must be accomplished in one of two ways. One approach is to report revenues on a net basis, with discounts and allowances disclosed separately, either parenthetically or in the notes to the financial statements. The other approach is to report gross revenues followed immediately by deductions for discounts and allowances to arrive at net revenues.

The State’s policy is to report revenues on a net basis with a detailed note on receivables. Please see [RECEIVABLES FOOTNOTE](#_RECEIVABLES_FOOTNOTE—MINIMUM_LEVEL) in Section 6 for agency presentation requirements.

### Statement of Changes in Assets and Liabilities—Agency Funds

The GFOA Certificate of Achievement Program[[11]](#footnote-11) requires that the State of South Carolina prepare, as supplementary information, a combining statement of changes in assets and liabilities for all agency funds. For each agency/institution that has agency funds and issues audited financial statements, the Comptroller General’s Office must be able to obtain this information from the separately issued audited financial statements.

Separately issued agency financial statements for GAAP agency funds must include a supplemental statement of changes in assets and liabilities.

## STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

### Statements of Cash Flows—Direct Method

Paragraph 105 of GASB 34 requires presentation of a Statement of Cash Flows for proprietary funds based upon the provisions of Statement 9, as amended by GASB 34. The direct method of presenting cash flows from operating activities (including a reconciliation of operating cash flows to operating income) is required.

The GASB 9 Implementation Guide and Exercise #7 on pages 241 through 243 of the first GASB 34 Implementation Guide provide additional guidance relative to preparing the   
direct-method cash flows statement.

### Statements of Cash Flows—Focus on Cash and Cash Equivalents

The focus of the statewide statements of cash flows is Cash and Cash Equivalents (also see Cash Equivalents in Section 5).

The focus of agency cash flows statements to be incorporated into the statewide basic financial statements must be Cash and Cash Equivalents.

### Statements of Cash Flows—Appreciation/Depreciation in Investments

Paragraph 37, “Information about Noncash Investing, Capital, and Financing Activities,” of GASB 9, *Reporting Cash Flows of Proprietary and Nonexpendable Trust Funds and Governmental Entities That Use Proprietary Fund Accounting*, requires that your agency’s financial statements report all noncash investing, capital, and financing activities that affect recognized assets or liabilities (i.e., investing, capital, and financing activities that affect recognized assets or liabilities but do not result in cash receipts or cash payments in the period). Paragraph 37 further requires that such activities be presented in either narrative or tabular form in a separate schedule accompanying the Statement of Cash Flows.

An often-overlooked example of a noncash transaction that must be reported in accordance with the above guidance is the net appreciation/depreciation in the value of investments reported at fair value but *not* classified as cash and cash equivalents.[[12]](#footnote-12)

Agencies must include any net appreciation/depreciation in the fair value of any investments *not* classified as cash and cash equivalents in a narrative or tabular schedule of noncash activities accompanying the Statement of Cash Flows.

## RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENTS TO FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Paragraph 77 of GASB 34 requires governments to present a summary reconciliation to the government-wide financial statements at the bottom of the fund financial statements or in an accompanying schedule. In many cases, brief explanations presented on the face of the statements will be sufficient to allow users to assess the relationship between the statements. However, if aggregated information in the summary reconciliation obscures the nature of the individual elements of a particular reconciling item, governments should provide a more detailed explanation in the notes to financial statements.

Generally, the amounts reported as net position and changes in net position in the proprietary fund statements for total enterprise funds will be the same as the net position and changes in net position of business-type activities in the government-wide Statement of Activities. However, if there are differences (for example, in connection with consolidating the activities of internal service funds), they should be explained on the face of the fund financial statement or in an accompanying schedule as discussed in paragraph 77 of GASB 34.

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles do not specify the minimum level of detail required for a summary reconciliation. The CGO has concluded that the minimum level of detail should be at least that described in paragraph 90 of GASB 34. That is the State’s summary reconciliation will separately address the following:

Reporting revenues on the accrual basis.

Reporting annual depreciation expense instead of expenditures for capital outlays.

Reporting long-term debt proceeds in the Statement of Net Position as liabilities instead of other financing sources; also, reporting debt principal payments in the Statement of Net Position as reductions of liabilities instead of expenditures.

Reporting other expenses on the accrual basis.

Adding the net revenue (expense) of internal service funds, as discussed in paragraph 62 of GASB 34.

Each agency presenting government-wide financial statements must present a reconciliation that meets the above specifications. An agency also must present a reconciliation that meets the above specifications if it presents only business-type activities and the amounts reported as net position and changes in net position in the proprietary fund statements for total enterprise assets differ in any way from the net position and changes in net position of the agency’s business-type activities to be reported in the State’s government-wide Statement of Activities.

## ELIMINATIONS

### Eliminations within Government-wide Financial Statements

The statements should include the primary government and its component units, except for the fiduciary funds of the primary government and component units that are fiduciary in nature. Those funds and component units should be reported only in the statements of fiduciary net position and changes in fiduciary net position. Paragraphs 57 through 62 of GASB 34 specify certain eliminations and reclassifications that are to be performed with respect to government-wide financial statements.

### Eliminations within Fund Financial Statements

Although GAAP do not require *inter*fund eliminations (between funds), GAAP implicitly require *intra*fund eliminations (within the same fund) by virtue of the fact that all GASB references to internal activity and balances reported in the basic financial statements discuss only interfund activity and balances and by virtue of its use of the word "consolidation" in a number of places. Another indication that the GASB intends governments to eliminate intrafund activity and balances is the answer to Question 7.47.23 in the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*.

The State's policy is to eliminate revenue/expenditure activity and receivable/payable balances that exist wholly internal to a single reported fund (i.e., to perform *intra*fund eliminations), but to record no *inter*fund eliminations except for certain assets held for others (certain deposits, for example). Agency financial statements must reflect this policy.

# SECTION 4—COMPONENT UNITS

Governments are required to report their component units in accordance with GASB 14 as amended by paragraphs 124-128 of GASB 34, GASB 39 and GASB 61, and the guidance outlined in Chapter 4 of the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*.

## GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL COMPONENT UNITS

Component units may be *governmental* or *non-governmental*. Financial statement preparers should classify each component unit based on the following definition that has been agreed upon by the FASB and the GASB[[13]](#footnote-13):

Public corporations and bodies corporate and politic are governmental organizations. Other organizations are governmental organizations if they have one or more of the characteristics listed below:

1. Legally Separate Organization

* The financial statements are material to the primary government’s financial statements.
* Possess corporate powers (i.e., ability to have its own name, the right to sue and be sued without recourse to the state government and right to buy, sell, lease and mortgage property in its own name).

1. Financial Accountability

* Popular election of officers or appointment (or approval) of a controlling majority of the members of the organization’s governing body by officials of one or more state or local governments.
* Ability by the state or local government to impose will to significantly influence programs, activities or level of service.
* Fiscally dependent on the state or local government.
* Financial benefit or financial burden on the state or local government.

Furthermore, organizations are presumed to be governmental if they have the ability to issue directly (rather than through a state or municipal authority) debt that pays interest exempt from federal taxation. However, organizations possessing only that ability (to issue tax-exempt debt) and none of the other governmental characteristics may rebut the presumption that they are governmental if their determination is supported by compelling, relevant evidence.

Component units that meet the above definition of governmental are required to follow GASB accounting. It is unacceptable for a governmental component unit to use a not-for-profit reporting model. Question 140 of the second GASB 34 Implementation Guide (Question 7.103.2 in the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*) provides guidance on this issue. Non-governmental organizations (ones that do not meet the above definition of governmental) follow FASB accounting but can qualify as component units of state government entities.

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| It is the policy of the Comptroller General’s Office (CGO) that agencies preparing financial statements for inclusion in the statewide ACFR provide to the CGO the following information about component units that meet the GASB 14 (as amended by GASB 39 and GASB 61) criteria for blending: |
| The identity of each *non-governmental* component unit and why it does not meet the above FASB/GASB definition of a governmental entity; and |
| An assertion that the remaining component units that meet the criteria for blending are *governmental.* (A list that identifies each component unit that meets the criteria for blending as governmental or non-governmental also would satisfy this second requirement.) |
| If the State agency and/or its auditor do not wish to include the above data within the audited financial statements (such as within the notes to the financial statements or as other supplementary information), the agency must submit a letter detailing this information to the CGO at the same time as it submits financial statements to that office. |

## SEPARATE COLUMN REQUIRED FOR EACH BLENDED COMPONENT UNIT

Financial statements to be incorporated into the statewide ACFR must display each blended component unit in a separate column of either the basic financial statements or combining   
non-major financial statements. This requirement applies whether the blended component unit is governmental or non-governmental.

Additional details regarding this policy are provided below.

### Governmental Blended Component Units

In accordance with Question 7.56.1 in the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*) and GASB Cod. Sec. 2600.114, governmental component units presented as governmental or enterprise funds must be evaluated under the major fund criteria if they meet the GASB 14 (as amended by GASB 39 and GASB 61) criteria for blending set forth in   
GASB Cod. Sec. 2600.113. That is, in the basic financial statements, component units that both meet the criteria for blending and qualify as major funds must be presented as separate columns, while component units that meet the criteria for blending but *do not* qualify as major funds must be aggregated (along with any other non-major funds) into the single non-major funds column.

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program of the Government Finance Officers Association also requires that each blended component unit be presented in a separate column—in the basic financial statements if it qualifies as a major fund and otherwise in combining financial statements for non-major funds. (The Certificate Program requires combining statements for non-major funds even though this is not a requirement of GAAP.) *Governmental Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting,* published by the Government Finance Officers Association in 2005 (pages 301-302), expresses this as follows:

Normally, a government has considerable flexibility in determining what constitutes a “fund” for external financial reporting purposes. Such is not the case, however, for funds that represent blended component units. In such cases, the activity’s status as a separate fund for external financial reporting purposes is established automatically by virtue of its status as a legally separate entity.

By definition, information on each individual fund and component unit must be provided in either the basic financial statements or the combining financial statements.

### Non-Governmental Blended Component Units

Question 4.33.1 in the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012* and paragraph 55 in Appendix E (*Illustrations*) of GASB 39 provide guidance regarding the mechanics of incorporating a non-governmental component unit that uses a GAAP financial reporting model that is inconsistent with or incompatible with the governmental model. An example would be a non-governmental blended component unit that reports using the FASB’s not-for-profit financial reporting model (FASB Statement 117). In accordance with the GASB’s answer to Question 4.33.1, the State’s policy is as follows:

When it is possible to do so, the financial statements for non-governmental blended component units should be presented within the governmental, proprietary, or fiduciary fund financial statements in the basic financial statements. Any “noncompatible” or additional statements required by the component unit’s reporting model, however, should *not* be combined with either governmental or proprietary funds or component units but instead should be presented as separate financial statements within the basic financial statements.

### “The Number of Funds Principle” and the Notion of “Functional Basis Combining”

As stated above, blended component units generally must be presented in separate columns in financial statements. However, GAAP’s “number of funds principle” reads as follows: “The general rule is to establish the minimum number of separate funds consistent with legal specifications, operational requirements, and the principles of fund classification. Using too many funds causes inflexibility and undue complexity ... and is best avoided in the interest of efficient and economical financial administration.”[[14]](#footnote-14) The Government Finance Officers Association advises governments to carefully consider the proper application of the number of funds principle to its particular situation before proceeding to present a large number of individual funds in its ACFR. The GFOA has provided similar guidance in its recommended practice, *Improving the Effectiveness of Fund Accounting*.[[15]](#footnote-15)

The Comptroller General’s Office encourages agencies to consider whether any of their blended component units might serve an identical purpose and, therefore, in accordance with the notion of “functional basis combining,” be combined, for agency financial reporting purposes and/or for statewide financial reporting purposes, into a single fund. If an agency believes that two or more of its blended component units serve an essentially identical purpose, it is asked to disclose this fact in the notes to the financial statements or as supplemental information.

## RESOURCE FLOWS INVOLVING BLENDED COMPONENT UNITS

Resource flows between the primary government and *blended* component units should be reclassified as internal activity (i.e., interfund loans, interfund services provided and used, interfund transfers, or interfund reimbursements) in the financial statements of the reporting entity.[[16]](#footnote-16) Lease arrangements between the primary government and blended component units (or between blended component units) should not be reported as leases in the financial reporting entity’s financial statements. Instead, the blended component unit’s lease-related debt and assets should be reported as a form of the primary government’s debt and assets.[[17]](#footnote-17) In the accounting records the blended component unit carries a balance as a lease receivable and the lease-related principal and the primary government carries a balance for the lease principal and capital assets. For presentation purposes a consolidation entry should be made to reduce the lease receivable in the blended component unit column and reduce the lease obligation in the primary government column.

## SEPARATE COLUMN REQUIRED FOR EACH DISCRETELY PRESENTED COMPONENT UNIT

Financial statements to be incorporated into the statewide ACFR must display each discretely presented component unit **in a separate column** of either the basic financial statements or the combining non-major financial statements. This requirement applies whether the discretely presented component unit is governmental or non-governmental.

GASB Cod. Sec. 2600.107 states that “discrete column(s) should be located to the right of the financial data of the primary government, distinguishing between the financial data of the primary government (including its blended component units) and those of the discretely presented component units by providing descriptive column headings”.

Additional details regarding this policy are provided below.

### Non-Governmental Discretely Presented Component Units

Question 4.33.1 in GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012* provides guidance regarding the mechanics of incorporating a *non-governmental* component unit that uses a GAAP financial reporting model that is inconsistent with or incompatible with the governmental model. An example would be a non-governmental discretely presented   
component unit that reports using the FASB’s not-for-profit financial reporting model (FASB Statement 117). In accordance with the GASB’s answer to Question 4.33.1 in its *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*, the State’s policy is as follows:

When it is possible to do so, a state agency should present its non-governmental discretely presented component units on the same pages as its normal basic financial statements. (By “normal basic financial statements” we mean the basic financial statements that the agency would present if it had no discretely presented component units.) Any “noncompatible” or additional statement required by the component unit’s reporting model, however, should instead be presented on a separate page immediately following the appropriate normal basic financial statement.

### Statements of Cash Flows Not Presented

Under the current financial reporting model, governments present their discretely presented component units only in their government-wide financial statements, not in their fund financial statements. Statements of cash flows are required only in fund financial statements, not in government-wide financial statements. Accordingly, governmental entities normally do not present statements of cash flows for their discretely presented component units.

However, the GFOA Certificate of Achievement Program requires a government to present a statement of cash flows for any discretely presented component unit that does not issue its own separate set of audited financial statements.[[18]](#footnote-18)

## AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED FOR EACH DISCRETELY PRESENTED COMPONENT UNIT

Component units that do not meet the GASB 14 (as amended by GASB 39) criteria for blending are called *discretely presented component units*. The GAAP rules for reporting discretely presented component units are extensive, and they can be complicated.

Agencies must notify the CGO as soon as they learn that a *new* discretely presented component unit is to be presented within their agency’s financial statements.

Discretely presented component units are encouraged, but not required, to adopt the same accounting policies that apply to the State primary government. Regardless of possible differences in policies, the CGO depends on the management of discretely presented component units to supply to it supplementary data needed for inclusion in the statewide ACFR but not supplied in the component unit’s stand-alone financial statements.

## RESOURCE FLOWS INVOLVING DISCRETELY PRESENTED COMPONENT UNITS

Resource flows (except those that affect the balance sheet only, such as loans and repayments) between a primary government and its *discretely presented* component units should be reported as if they were external transactions—that is, as revenues and expenses. However, amounts payable and receivable between the primary government and its discretely presented component units or between those components should be reported on a separate line.[[19]](#footnote-19) Lease arrangements between the primary government and discretely presented component units (or between those component units) should be treated in the same manner as any other lease agreement of a state or local government. These agreements, therefore, should be considered long-term contracts for accounting and financial reporting purposes and afforded lease treatment if they meet the criteria of GASB 87. However, related receivables and liabilities should not be combined with other amounts due to/from component units or with lease receivables and liabilities with organizations outside the reporting entity.[[20]](#footnote-20)

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR DISCRETELY PRESENTED COMPONENT UNITS

GASB Cod. Sec. 2600.121 requires that the notes to the financial statements “distinguish between information pertaining to the primary government (including its blended component units) and that of its discretely presented component units.”

Financial statement users must be able to trace amounts for the primary government (including any blended component units) from the notes to the “total primary government” columns on the financial statements. Further, the notes for each discretely presented component unit must be presented separately; it would be inappropriate to aggregate balances for two or more discretely presented component units in displays within the notes to the financial statements because *each* discretely presented component unit is a separate legal entity.

GASB Cod. Sec. 2600.122 states that notes essential to fair presentation include those relating to “major discretely presented component units considering both: (1) the unit’s significance relative to the total discretely presented component units and (2) the nature and significance of the unit’s relationship to the primary government.” That section further states: “Determining which discretely presented component unit disclosures are essential to fair presentation is a matter of professional judgment and should be done on a component unit-by-component unit basis. A specific type of disclosure might be essential for one component unit but not for another depending on the component unit’s significant relative to the total component units included in the component units column(s) and the individual component unit’s relationship with the primary government.”

# SECTION 5—FINANCIAL STATEMENT COMPONENTS

## RESTRICTED ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles require that externally restricted assets and liabilities be reported separately from other assets and liabilities on the face of the financial statements.[[21]](#footnote-21) For example, assets being used to repay maturing debt may need to be reported as restricted assets because of the existence of certain bond covenants.

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| The GFOA’s Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program requires that governmental entities using a classified format report Restricted Assets and Liabilities Payable from Restricted Assets in the same classified category (i.e., current or non-current).[[22]](#footnote-22) For example, if restricted assets are being used to repay debt, a portion of the restricted assets equal to the current portion of debt payable should be reported as current assets. |
| Agency financial statements must separately report, by specific asset category (e.g., cash, investments, etc.), any of the following that are applicable: |
| Current restricted assets. |
| Liabilities payable from current restricted assets. |
| Non-current restricted assets. |

Page 160 of the 2005 edition of Governmental Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting (GAAFR) states the following regarding statements of net position using the classified format: “When restricted assets are being used to repay maturing debt, the appropriate portion of each should be treated as a current asset and a current liability. To report the debt as current, but the restricted assets that will be used to repay it as non-current, would result in a distortion of working capital (i.e., current assets less current liabilities = working capital).” (Authoritative guidance on classifying assets and liabilities as current or non-current is found in ARB 43, Chapter 3A, particularly paragraphs 6 and 8.)

## CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles require that the State's balance sheet/statement of net position include all cash and investments under State control at midnight, June 30. This includes all:

Cash and investments that the State or its agencies own.

Cash and investments that the State or its agencies hold as trustee or agent for others.

Agencies will provide data regarding cash and investments not under direct State Treasurer's Office control. This includes:

Petty cash accounts (on hand, change funds, or in banks).

Composite reservoir bank accounts.

All other cash and investment accounts that agencies control.

Agencies will report cash and investments on June 30 that are:

On hand.

On deposit in financial institutions.

Held by a financial institution or other party for the agency or State.

In accordance with GASB 31, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Investments and for External Investment Pools*, the State values its securities and other instruments held for investment purposes at fair value. Also see the subsection on Cash Equivalents in the Footnote Disclosure section.

## DISAGGREGATION OF RECEIVABLE AND PAYABLE BALANCES

Paragraph 13 of GASB 38, *Certain Financial Statement Note Disclosures*, addresses the fact that balances of receivables and payables reported on the statements of net position and balance sheet may be aggregations of different components, such as balances due to or from taxpayers, other governments, vendors, customers, beneficiaries, and employees. Compliance with GASB 38 requires disaggregation of receivable and payable balances, either on the face of the financial statements or in the notes to the financial statements. See Section 6 [RECEIVABLES FOOTNOTE-MINIMUM LEVEL OF DETAIL](#_RECEIVABLES_FOOTNOTE—MINIMUM_LEVEL) and PAYABLES FOOTNOTE—MINIMUM LEVEL OF DETAIL for specific information.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS RECEIVABLES/REVENUE

Agencies and higher education institutions should report Capital Improvement, Economic Development, and Research Infrastructure Bonds receivable from the State’s capital projects fund (and a corresponding revenue) ***only*** if they are entitled to submit a valid request to the State Treasurer’s Office to draw down proceeds on or before the balance sheet date, but they have not yet received the related cash by that date.

In the past, some agencies/institutions have reported revenue and receivable as soon as a Capital Improvement Bond Bill mentioning a planned project for that agency/institution was signed. When the agency/institution is incorporated into the statewide ACFR, however, such a receivable must be converted to an Interfund Receivable (From Capital Projects Fund) and a corresponding Interfund Payable balance in the State’s General Fund. If the related bonds have not yet been issued, this process would create an artificial deficit in the State Capital Projects Fund. (Existing technical guidance[[23]](#footnote-23) prevents the State’s capital projects fund from recording revenue related to a bond issue until the bond sale closing date—i.e., on or after the sale date for the bonds.)

The Comptroller General’s Office (CGO) takes the position that the “capital budget” included within a Capital Improvement Bond Bill does not represent a legal liability of the State’s Capital Projects Fund to the accounts of the particular State agencies mentioned in such Bond Bill and, therefore, also does not represent a receivable of the particular State agency mentioned in such Bond Bill. The primary reasons for this position are as follows:

The total amount of bonds “authorized” in bond bills for the State often would cause the Constitutional limit on debt service to be exceeded if *all* such “authorized” bonds were actually issued when authorized. It is the Budget and Control Board’s responsibility to control actual bond issuances in such a manner as to ensure compliance with the Constitutional limitation. The Constitutional limitation takes precedence over the authorizing statutory bond bills.

A bond bill merely authorizes the *eventual* issuance of bonds, possibly several years in the future. Operating agencies lack substantial control over when bond proceeds will become available to them. Code of Laws Section 11-1-100 specifically directs the Budget and Control Board and the Joint Bond Review Committee to “regulate the starting date of the various projects approved for funding through the issuance of Capital Improvement Bonds” so as to ensure that the appropriations for debt service on these bonds are sufficient.

In effect, federal arbitrage regulations prevent the State from issuing bonds as soon as they are authorized by preventing the State from investing bond proceeds for any substantial amount of time until needed to pay for construction projects. In practice, the existence of these federal regulations means that the State issues bonds only to meet its immediate cash flow needs.

Projects and amounts to be funded are subject to change after a bond bill is signed. As an example, Code of Laws Section 11-9-140 provides for the transfer of certain project balances determined “not to be usable or needed.”

In practice, agencies/institutions are entitled to seek reimbursement for costs, including construction costs, only when they have bills that are “owing and due.” (This principle is set forth in each year’s Annual Appropriations Act.)

## INTERFUND RECEIVABLES AND PAYABLES

Paragraph 112a of GASB 34 describes reciprocal interfund activity within and among the three fund categories (governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary) as the internal counterpart to exchange and exchange-like transactions which include interfund receivables in lender funds and interfund payables in borrower funds. See also Questions 7.59.2 and 7.82.1 in the   
GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*)*.* This activity should not be reported as other financing sources or uses in the fund financial statements. If repayment is not expected within a reasonable time, the interfund balances should be reduced and the amount that is not expected to be repaid should be reported as a transfer from the fund that made the loan to the fund that received the loan.

State budgetary accounting practices require that the State record revenues, expenditures, and interfund receivables or payables in the fiscal year in which your agency received goods or services from, owes a refund of revenue to, or owes grant funds to, another State agency or another GAAP fund within your agency.

The State will record Interfund Payables (Interfund Receivables) as current liabilities (current assets) in the appropriate individual GAAP funds.

## INVENTORY REPORTING METHOD

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles specifically provide for the use of the *purchase method* to account for inventories in governmental funds. Since inventories are commonly consumed during a relatively short period after purchase, GAAP also permits inventories in governmental funds to be reported using the *consumption approach* characteristic of accrual accounting. That is, governments may initially report the inventories they purchase as an asset and defer the recognition of expenditure until the period in which the inventories actually are consumed.

GAAP specifically allow governments to account for the inventories and prepaid items in governmental funds using either the purchase method or the consumption method.

It is the State’s policy to report inventories using the consumption method in all funds. Financial statements incorporated into the statewide ACFR should be prepared using the same policy. Also see Section 6 Inventory Policy Disclosures.

## PREPAID EXPENSES

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles allow governmental funds in the fund financial statements (a) to apply the consumption approach to reporting prepaid expenses or (b) to apply the purchase method to prepaid expenses and *not* report balances of prepaid items in the governmental fund financial statements at all. However, governmental activities must report prepaid items using the consumption approach in the government-wide financial statements.

It is the State’s policy to report prepaid expenses using the consumption method in all funds. Financial statements incorporated into the statewide ACFR should be prepared using the same policy.

## CAPITAL ASSETS DEFINED

Capital assets are defined as land, improvements to land, buildings, building improvements, vehicles, machinery, equipment, works of art and historical treasures, infrastructure, and all other tangible or intangible assets that are used in operations and that have initial useful lives extending beyond a single reporting period (GASB Cod. Sec. 1400.103). Capital assets also include assets purchased with federal funds in which the federal government retains a reversionary interest. In order to be considered capital assets, however, the assets must meet the State’s established capitalization policies (see the CAPITALIZATION CRITERIA section that follows.)

## CAPITAL ASSETS—CATEGORIES FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The State will report the following categories of capital assets in its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report: Land and Non-Depreciable Land Improvements, Depreciable Land Improvements, Infrastructure, Buildings and Improvements, Construction in Progress, Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment, Non-Depreciable Works of Art and Historical Treasures, Depreciable Works of Art and Historical Treasures, Non-Depreciable Intangible Assets, and Depreciable Intangible Assets. Agency financial statements also should separately report the above categories of capital assets.

### Land and Non-Depreciable Land Improvements

Agencies should report parcels of real estate, including rights-of-way that they own as Land.

A right-of-way is land, property, or interest therein, often in a strip, acquired for infrastructure such as a highway, rail bed, pipeline, electric power lines, or telephone facilities.

Non-depreciable land improvements are improvements that produce *permanent* benefits, primarily related to preparing land for its intended use. Examples include filling and grading costs.

### Depreciable Land Improvements

Depreciable land improvements are those that are considered part of a structure or that deteriorate with use or with the passage of time. Examples include fencing, landscaping, parking lots, pavements, and signs.

### Infrastructure

GASB Cod. Sec. 1400.103 defines infrastructure as long-lived capital assets that normally are stationary in nature and normally can be preserved for a significantly greater number of years than most capital assets. Examples include roads, bridges, tunnels, drainage systems, water and sewer systems, dams, and lighting systems.

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| The State of South Carolina’s primary government will report only the Department of Transportation’s roads and bridges as Infrastructure in the State’s basic financial statements. All other State agencies that have assets that *appear* to meet the definition of infrastructure should report those assets as Depreciable Land Improvements or Buildings and Improvements if their cost exceeds the applicable capitalization limit. | | | |
| The following list is not all-inclusive but provides examples of assets that State agencies should report in the Depreciable Land Improvements or the Buildings and Improvements categories of capital assets: | | | |
|  | Access roads | Power lines/electrical systems |  |
|  | Drainage systems | Fiber optic cable networks |  |
|  | Water and sewer systems | Fencing |  |
|  | Lighting systems | Parking lots |  |
| Agencies should choose the Buildings and Improvements category if the asset is associated with a particular building or group of buildings. In contrast, agencies should use the Depreciable Land Improvements category if the asset would continue to retain its usefulness without the presence of any existing building. | | | |

### Buildings and Improvements

Buildings are permanent structures housing persons or personal property.

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| Building improvements are subsequent additions to, or renovations to, existing buildings that meet any *one* of the following three criteria: |
| The improvement adds square footage to the existing building. |
| The improvement is a major renovation that prepares an existing building for a **new use**. |
| The improvement extends the useful life of the existing building. (Documentation should be retained that provides evidence of the extension of the useful life. A formal engineering assessment as to whether the building’s useful life has been extended is an example of documented evidence. ) |

Ordinary repairs and maintenance, such as a roof replacement, or extensive repairs and maintenance from neglect or deferral of regular maintenance are not building improvements, even though they could cost a significant amount.

When a building is improved, the improvement should be capitalized as a separate asset from the original building and assigned its own useful life for depreciation, which may or may not be the same as the original building’s useful life.

Leasehold improvements include capitalizable improvements to a leased building rather than to an owned building. Agencies must report leasehold improvements in the Buildings and Improvements category. The depreciation period for leasehold improvements may be limited by the lease term. If renewal of the lease is likely, and the useful life of the leasehold improvement extends beyond the lease term, the depreciation period should include all or part of the renewal period. If renewal of the lease is uncertain, the depreciation period is limited to the remaining lease term, and the salvage value is the amount, if any, that the lessor will pay to the lessee at the end of the lease term.

Equipment that becomes a permanent fixture of a building and is not easily separable from the building should be recorded in Buildings and Improvements; otherwise, it should be recorded in Machinery and Equipment.

### Construction in Progress

The balance reported in Construction in Progress represents the costs incurred through June 30 for construction of capital assets that are not yet substantially complete as of June 30. Do not depreciate Construction in Progress. When construction is substantially complete and the asset(s) is/are placed into service, you must reclassify Construction in Progress to the appropriate capital asset categories.

The Construction in Progress balance your agency reports must include contract retentions, if any. On some construction project contracts (or other long-term project contracts, such as systems projects), a portion of the completion value is retained or withheld from payment until the project is complete. These amounts are contract retentions.

### Vehicles

The Vehicles category includes all cars, trucks, vans, buses, aircraft, boats, trailers, and other vehicles used for operations.

### Machinery and Equipment

Machinery and Equipment consists of all movable tangible assets used for operations. Examples include furniture and fixtures, office equipment, and other miscellaneous movable equipment. Equipment that becomes a permanent fixture of a building and is not easily separable from the building should be recorded in Buildings and Improvements; otherwise, it should be recorded in Machinery and Equipment.

Report breeding livestock in Machinery and Equipment. The State’s policy is to report its Vehicles separately from other types of Machinery and Equipment. Agency financial statements likewise should reflect these policies.

### Works of Art and Historical Treasures

The requirements of GAAP regarding capitalization and depreciation of *individual* works of art and historical treasures differ from the requirements for *collections* of such items (GASB Cod. Sec. 1400.109 and 1400.111.)

Agencies must capitalize individual works of art or historical treasures that exceed $5,000. Agencies must record depreciation on exhaustible individual works or treasures. A work or treasure is considered exhaustible if its useful life is expected to be diminished by its display or by its educational or research uses.

Agencies must continue to capitalize collections of works of art or historical treasures that exceed $5,000 if those collections were capitalized as of June 30, 1999.

Agencies should apply the $5,000 capitalization threshold to a collection, as a whole, only if the individual cost of collection items cannot be easily determined. When adding an asset to a capitalized collection, agencies should apply the $5,000 threshold to the individual collection item.

A collection not capitalized as of June 30, 1999, is not required to be capitalized if it meets all three of the following conditions:

The collection is held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, rather than for financial gain.

The collection is protected, kept unencumbered, cared for, and preserved.

The collection is subject to an organizational policy that requires the proceeds from sales of collection items to be used to acquire other items for collections.

Agencies must record depreciation on exhaustible collections.

GASB Cod. Sec. 1400.110 requires agencies to recognize as revenue donations of works of art and historical treasures, in accordance with Section N50, “Non-exchange Transactions.” When donated collection items are added to noncapitalized collections, agencies should recognize program expense equal to the amount of revenues recognized.

### Intangible Assets

Intangible assets generally lack a physical existence. This category includes such items as computer software[[24]](#footnote-24), easements, land use rights (water and timber), trademarks, copyrights, and patents.

An easement gives one party (party *A*) the right to go onto, and/or to use, another party’s (party *B*’s) property for specified purposes without disturbing party *B*’s ownership of, or ability to use, the property for other purposes. For example, a conservation easement is a legal agreement a property owner makes to restrict the type and amount of development that may take place on his or her property. The easement spells out the rights the landowner retains and the restrictions on use of the property. Each of these rights and restrictions is negotiated between the landowner and the State agency that holds the easement.

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| State agencies are required to capitalize purchased software, websites, and internally generated software which is developed in-house by agency personnel or by a third-party contractor.  The following criteria should be used to determine which internally generated software costs should be capitalized:   * Preliminary Project Stage – **Expense costs as incurred** * Conceptual formulation and evaluation of alternatives * Determination of existence of needed technology * Final selection of alternatives * Application Development State – **Capitalize once criteria have been met; cease capitalization when software is operational** * Design of the chosen path * Coding * Installation to hardware * Testing and parallel processing * Post-Implementation/Operation Stage – **Expense costs as incurred** * Application user training * Software maintenance   Note that data conversion costs should be considered an activity of the application development stage (and capitalized) only to the extent it is determined to be necessary to make the computer software operational; otherwise, data conversion should be considered an activity of the post-implementation/operation stage (and expensed). |

Agencies should view the purchase of a single software program as the purchase of a single intangible asset subject to the $100,000 capitalization threshold, regardless of the number of licensed seats the agency purchases. (The Comptroller General’s Office views the seats as components of the cost of a single piece of intellectual property rather than viewing each seat as a separate capital asset.) If your agency purchases additional seats after initial capitalization, you should not capitalize the cost of the additional seats unless their cost exceeds $100,000 in total. (The Comptroller General’s Office would consider seat costs totaling more than $100,000 as representing a substantial addition to the initial software purchase that should be capitalized.

State agencies sometimes purchase software modules that are attached to a base software program owned by their own agency or another State agency. Because the base software can operate without the module, and because the module increases the capabilities of the base software, the module should be accounted for as an asset separate from the base software. Agencies should capitalize a software module if its cost exceeds the $100,000 capitalization threshold.

Agencies should capitalize software upgrades that exceed $100,000 only if the upgrades increase the software’s functionality.

Agreements to use software that expire each year and are renewed on a year-to-year basis are not capitalizable.

Most intangible assets are depreciable, including purchased and internally generated software, but an intangible asset may be non-depreciable if it is considered to have an infinite useful life. Easements typically have an infinite useful life and are therefore non-depreciable.

## CAPITAL ASSETS—CAPITALIZATION CRITERIA

Short-lived assets and those costing small amounts are not capital assets. "Capitalization criteria" are policies regarding the minimum useful life and minimum dollar value of capital assets.

The State’s capitalization policy requires agencies to capitalize assets that ***meet both*** the minimum dollar value and minimum useful life requirements described below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Asset Category | ITEMS TO CAPITALIZE |
| Land (including rights-of-way) | All, regardless of cost |
| Non-Depreciable Land Improvements | All, regardless of cost |
| Depreciable Land Improvements | Any costing more than $100,000 |
| Infrastructure (DOT Roads and Bridges Only) | Any costing more than $500,000 |
| Buildings and Building Improvements | Any costing more than $100,000 |
| Vehicles | Any costing more than $5,000 |
| Machinery and Equipment | Any costing more than $5,000 |
| Breeding Livestock | Any costing more than $5,000 |
| Works of Art and Historical Treasures\* | Any costing more than $5,000 |
| Intangibles (except easements)  Easements | Any costing more than $100,000  All, regardless of cost |

\* GAAP requirements regarding capitalization and depreciation of *individual* works of art and historical treasures differ from the requirements for *collections* of such items. See the definition of Works of Art and Historical Treasures above for explanation of requirements.

Do ***not*** capitalize any assets with a cost below the thresholds described above.

The State’s policy is to apply the above capitalization thresholds to *individual items* rather than to groups. This means that if you purchase several items of the same type at one time (for example, 5 computer workstations, 25 library books, or 15 pieces of modular furniture (cubicles)), the cost of each individual item must be examined to determine if it should be capitalized.

For consistency in reporting capitalized assets, all assets with useful lives greater than 2 years are required to be capitalized if the dollar threshold is met[[25]](#footnote-25).

### Implementation of a Change in Capitalization Threshold or Minimum Useful Life

Upon implementation of a change in capitalization criteria, you must remove all existing assets that do not cost in excess of the new capitalization thresholds or have a minimum useful life that meets the new requirements from your agency’s books. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (Footnote 3, GASB Cod. Sec. 1600) require that this change in policy be reported retroactively as a change in principle (i.e., as adjustments to the beginning balances of capital assets). If your agency has depreciated an asset that is being removed from the capital assets ledger, the associated accumulated depreciation also must be removed.

### Internal Control

Agency directors will be responsible for maintaining appropriate controls over all agency assets, including items costing less than the capitalization threshold. In addition to tagging reported movable capital assets, agencies will be required to tag all movable assets between $2,500 and $5,000, and maintain a listing of these assets. The listing must include information such as tag number, description, location, and cost and must be made available upon request. Other Assets (including computer software (which was effective June 30, 2001)) costing between $2,500 and $100,000 that is purchased after June 30, 2011, also should be included on this control listing; tags should be applied to the other assets only if practicable. No depreciation should be recorded on these assets. This listing is for control purposes only.

## CAPITAL ASSETS—BOOK VALUE

Book value is the dollar amount of a capital asset that appears on the agency's (and the State's) financial statements and ledgers. A capital asset’s book value depends on how the agency acquired the asset.

### Book Value of Purchased or Constructed Capital Assets

Capital assets that are purchased or constructed must be recorded at historical cost. Historical cost equals the original cost of the asset, including all charges necessary to place the asset into service. For example, taxes, freight charges, site preparation costs, and professional fees are included in the historical cost of a capital asset (GASB Cod. Sec. 1400.102). If actual cost records are not available, agencies should estimate the cost as of the date acquired. If the agency estimates the cost, it should fully document its estimate and the estimation methods it used.

### Book Value of Donated Capital Assets

In the case of a capital asset given to a State agency by a non-State party, the asset should be recorded at its fair value on the date of donation (GASB Cod. Sec. 1400.102). Fair value is the price at which an asset would change hands if both buyer and seller are willing parties and have knowledge of all related facts.

Record depreciation for a depreciable donated asset using its estimated remaining useful life at the date of donation.

### Book Value of Capital Assets Acquired by Forfeiture or Condemnation

The book value at acquisition of an asset acquired by forfeiture or condemnation is the lesser of:

The asset's fair value.

The amount the former owner owes plus amounts the State pays to obtain the forfeiture and put the asset into use.

Record depreciation for a depreciable asset acquired by forfeiture or condemnation using its estimated remaining useful life at the date of forfeiture or condemnation.

### Book Value of Capital Assets Received through Intra‑State Transfers

An agency may receive capital assets through an intra-State transfer from another agency within State government. The receiving agency should record the capital asset and accumulated depreciation at the same amount the transferring agency or fund removes from its books.

As explained in the “Depreciation Requirements” section, the State’s general policy is to record a full year of depreciation in the first year a capital asset is in service and to record no depreciation in the final year of the asset’s useful life. To be consistent with this depreciation policy as it relates to intra-State transfers, agencies should record no depreciation on a capital asset during the year that it is transferred out to another agency. You should record depreciation during the current year for capital assets that were transferred in from another agency during the current year. (An exception to this policy may occur if your agency calculates depreciation monthly.)

The most important part of accounting for transfers between agencies is making sure the dollar amounts for book value and accumulated depreciation being added to the receiving agency are the same dollar amounts being removed from the transferring agency. Communication between agencies is extremely important when accounting for intra-State transfers.

Question 7.74.4 in the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*) provides guidance regarding the recording of transfers of capital assets between and among a government’s various funds. That guidance specifically requires that the State report a transfer of capital assets from a governmental fund to an enterprise fund as an inflow of resources in the “capital contributions” section of the enterprise fund’s financial statements and as a transfer in and out in the government-wide Statement of Activities.

### Book Value of Capital Assets Acquired through Trade‑in

The book value of an asset acquired through trade-in is:

The invoice or contract price of the new asset.

Less the trade-in value of the old asset.

Plus the net book value of the old asset.

Record depreciation for a depreciable asset acquired through trade-in using its estimated remaining useful life at the date acquired.

### Carrying Value of Capital Assets Acquired through Leases

Per GASB 87, a lease asset generally should be adjusted by the same amount as the corresponding lease liability when that liability is remeasured based on paragraphs 25–29. However, if that change reduces the carrying value of the lease asset to zero, any remaining amount should be reported in the resource flows statement (for example, a gain).

Sale-leaseback transactions involve the sale of an underlying asset by the owner and a lease of the property back to the seller (original owner). A sale-leaseback should include a transaction that qualifies as a sale (see paragraphs 287–319 and 321–323 of Statement 62) to be eligible for sale-leaseback accounting. A sale-leaseback transaction that does not include a qualifying sale should be accounted for as a borrowing activity by the seller-lessee and a lending activity by the buyer-lessor.

Assets acquired by leases are capital assets of the State, even if the State does not legally own them. A lease transfers substantially all the benefits and risks of asset ownership to the State.

Amortization of leased capital assets depends on the type of leased asset (see the depreciable lives of Capital Asset types starting on page 48).

## CAPITAL ASSETS—DEPRECIATION REQUIREMENTS

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles require depreciation of capital assets, including those acquired from governmental funds. Governments must report both depreciation expense for the current fiscal year and accumulated depreciation at the beginning and end of the current fiscal year.

### Calculation of Depreciation Using the Straight-Line Method

The State will record depreciation for its depreciable capital assets using the straight-line method over the asset’s useful life.

Effective July 1, 2011, the State has adopted a monthly depreciation convention for the straight-line method. Under this convention depreciation is recognized in the month of purchase on a prorata basis of days placed in service. At the end of the life of the asset, a prorated amount of depreciation is recognized for the days within the month until the assets are removed from service. Agencies must use straight-line depreciation, but may apply a convention other than this monthly convention previously described or choose a useful life based on months rather than whole years if it has a valid reason to do so and the policies are applied consistently. Salvage value should ***not*** be considered in the calculation of depreciation unless it is substantial.

### Selection of Useful Life for Depreciation Purposes

The useful life chosen should fall within the range provided in the schedule below for the particular type of asset. Express the useful life as a whole number of years. If you disagree with the range of useful lives for a particular type of asset as listed on the useful lives schedule, please contact the Comptroller General’s Office so that we may agree on an appropriate useful life.

If your agency owns a type of asset not listed on the useful lives schedule, please select a useful life that falls within the range provided for the broad category of capital assets under which the asset in question will be reported. For example, if the type of asset in question belongs in Machinery and Equipment but is not listed on the schedule, choose a useful life that falls within the range of 2 to 25 years (i.e., the range from the shortest to the longest useful life allowable for Machinery and Equipment). *Please restrict the use of this procedure, however, to situations where the type of asset is not listed on the useful lives schedule.* In addition, when using this procedure, documentation should be prepared and maintained for the reasoning of the specific useful life decision (for example, a statement that, in your agency’s experience, the type of asset in question generally lasts for *X* years as well as any other documentation you may have to support this statement.)

Use the following schedule to determine the useful life over which to depreciate a capital asset:

**Depreciable Land Improvements:**

Fencing 10-20 years

Landscaping 5-15 years

Lighting 15-20 years

Parking Lots 15-20 years

Paving (Access Roadways and Walks) 10-15 years

Signs 10-15 years

Ports Authority Wando River

Channel Dredging Project 50 years

Other Land Improvements (drainage systems,

water and sewer systems, power lines, etc.) 3-60 years

**Infrastructure:**

DOT’s Bridges 50 years

DOT’s Roads 75 years

**Buildings and Improvements:**

Hospitals Determine individually

Maintenance Facilities/Garages/

Machine Shops 20-40 years

Military Facilities (Armories) Determine individually

Office Buildings 40-50 years

Prison Facilities Determine individually

Recreational Buildings Determine individually

Residential Buildings 20-30 years

Schools and Libraries Determine individually

Storage Facilities/Warehouses:

Wooden Sheds/Metal Buildings 10-20 years

Concrete/Masonry Buildings 20-40 years

Other Buildings 5-50 years

Hydroelectric Utility Plants 55 years

Other Utility Plants 22-37 years

Building Improvements Determine individually

**Vehicles:**

Airplanes and Helicopters 15-20 years

Automobiles 3-6 years

Light General Purpose Trucks and Vans 4-8 years

Heavy General-Purpose Trucks and Vans 6-15 years

Tractors 4-10 years

Trailers 6-10 years

Boats 5-10 years

Buses 5-15 years

**Machinery and Equipment:**

Computer Equipment (Hardware) 3-7 years

Office Equipment (Copiers, Fax Machines,

Paper Shredders, Filing Systems, etc.) 3-10 years

Office Furniture (Desks, Chairs, Bookcases,

Cabinets, Credenzas, Tables, etc.) 10-20 years

Other Furnishings and Equipment 2-25 years

Hospital Equipment Determine individually

Breeding Livestock Determine individually

Assets for the Storage of Petroleum Products 10-20 years

Assets Used in the Manufacture of Fabricated

Metal Products 5-15 years

Assets Used in the Manufacture or Repair of

Furniture 5-15 years

Assets Used in Printing Activities 5-15 years

Nurseries, Greenhouses, and Related Equipment 10-15 years

**Works of Art and Historical Treasures:**

Patriots Point Naval Museum Exhibits 10-25 years

All Other Items Determine individually

**Intangible Assets:**

Externally Acquired Computer Software 3 years

Internally Generated Computer Software Determine individually

Other Intangible Assets Determine individually based on   
 type of asset or life of related   
 contract

### Re-evaluation of Assets’ Useful Lives

At some point in time after an agency has placed a capital asset into service, the agency may realize that the asset will not last for the remaining assigned useful life. Many factors may contribute to an asset not meeting its originally estimated useful life, including damage to the asset or failure to perform periodic maintenance. It is important for the useful life of an asset to approximate its true service life because the purpose of depreciation is to spread an asset’s cost over the period of time in which it is used.

Agencies are required to re-evaluate the useful lives of their reported assets annually and adjust them downward if necessary to reflect the remaining service life.

A change in the estimated useful life of a capital asset is considered a change in accounting estimate, which must be accounted for prospectively (i.e., the change in estimate is accounted for and reported in current and future periods). The following example demonstrates the proper way to account for a change in the estimated useful life of a capital asset:

Assume you purchased equipment for $50,000 in FY2004 and assigned it a useful life of 10 years. Depreciation expense would be $5,000 per year ($50,000 divided by 10 years). At June 30, 2007, the asset has a net book value of $30,000, calculated as follows:

Original cost $50,000

Accumulated depreciation ($5,000/year x 4 years) (20,000)

Net book value $30,000

During FY2008, you realize that the asset’s usefulness will end during FY2011 (total useful life is expected to be only 7 years instead of the original estimate of 10 years). Depreciation expense for FY2008 and later years is calculated as follows:

Book value at beginning of FY2008 ($30,000)

= $10,000/year

Remaining life based on new estimate (3 years)

By recognizing depreciation expense of $10,000 per year for the remainder of the asset’s useful life, the accumulated depreciation will reach $50,000 in FY2011. (Remember that because we took a full year of depreciation in the year of acquisition, we do not take depreciation in the year of disposition.) The asset will be fully depreciated after 7 years instead of the original estimate of 10 years.

## CAPITAL ASSETS—GAIN/LOSS ON SALES

The State’s policy for reporting gains and losses on sales of capital assets in the government-wide Statement of Activities is to report losses as general government-type expenses and to report gains as general revenues. Agency financial statements should reflect this State policy.

In enterprise fund financial statements, agencies should report gains as nonoperating revenues and losses as nonoperating expenses.

## CAPITAL ASSETS—IMPAIRMENT AND INSURANCE RECOVERIES

GASB Cod. Sec. 1400.144 defines asset impairment as a significant, unexpected decline in the service utility of a capital asset. Therefore, a capital asset should be considered impaired only if both (a) the magnitude of the decline in the service utility of the capital asset is significant and (b) the event or change in circumstance is outside the normal life cycle of the capital asset. Neither a small, unexpected decline in service utility nor loss of service capability due to normal aging would be considered impairments. Generally, impairments should be considered permanent.

GASB Cod. Sec. 1400.151 describes three acceptable methods for measuring impairment losses for capital assets that should be used by agencies:

Restoration cost approach.

Service units’ approach.

Deflated depreciated replacement cost approach.

GASB Cod. Sec. 1400.156 requires entities to report the loss from impairment in the Statement of Activities and the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position, if appropriate, as a program or operating expense, special item, or extraordinary item in accordance with the guidance in GASB Statement 34 and Accounting Principles Board Opinion No. 30, *Reporting the Results of Operations—Reporting the Effects of Disposal of a Segment of a Business, and Extraordinary, Unusual and Infrequently Occurring Events and Transactions*. Impairment losses reported as program expense generally should be reported as a direct expense of the program that uses or used the impaired capital asset.

GASB Cod. Sec. 1400.160 states the impairment loss should be reported net of the associated insurance recovery when the recovery and loss occur in the same year. Insurance recoveries reported in subsequent years should be reported as a program revenue, nonoperating revenue, or extraordinary item, as appropriate. Insurance recoveries should be recognized only when realized or realizable.

## GOVERNMENTAL FUND LIABILITIES

GASB Interpretation 6 clarifies the application of standards for modified accrual recognition of certain liabilities and expenditures in areas where differences have arisen, or potentially could arise, in interpretation and practice.

For governmental funds, a series of specific accrual modifications have been established pertaining to the reporting of certain forms of long-term indebtedness. For example:

Debt service on formal debt issues (such as bonds and leases) generally should be recognized as a governmental fund liability and expenditure when due (matured)—with optional additional accrual under certain conditions, as interpreted in paragraph 13, regarding debt service funds.

Compensated absences, sick leave, claims and judgments, special termination benefits, and landfill closure and post closure care costs should be recognized as governmental fund obligations and expenditures to the extent the liabilities are "normally expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources.” In all cases, the criterion for modified accrual recognition is whether and to what extent the liability has matured, independent of the method and timing of resource accumulation.

The Comptroller General’s Office agrees with the GFOA interpretation of these requirements for governmental funds. Accordingly, no expenditure and liability ordinarily should be reported in a governmental fund in connection with the unmatured principal and interest of long-term debt. Similarly, no expenditure and liability should be reported in a governmental fund for compensated absences, sick leave, claims and judgments, special termination benefits, and landfill closure and post closure care costs. Such amounts are considered to function as unmatured liabilities of the general government. Agencies, however, must report the current and non-current portions of these long-term obligations for the Governmental activities in the government-wide statements as well as in the Changes in Long-Term Obligations note.

## LONG-TERM DEBT—LEVEL OF DETAIL

The State's policy is that audited financial statements to be incorporated into the State's basic financial statements must, at a minimum, separately present Bonds Payable, Notes Payable, Certificates of Participation Payable, Loans Payable, Leases Payable, Claims and Judgments Payable, Compensated Absences Payable, Sick Leave, etc., on the face of the financial statements.[[26]](#footnote-26)

Bonds Payable and Notes Payable information must be separated further into General Obligation and Revenue debt for the note disclosures. This includes the debt service to maturity schedules. Any liability for Arbitrage Rebates actually owed to the federal government at the end of the fiscal year must be disclosed in the notes if not presented separately on the face of the financial statements. This disclosure must identify which line(s) of the financial statements include the arbitrage liability and the amount(s). (Also see LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS in Section 6, FOOTNOTE DISCLOSURES.)

## POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS

The State's benefits plans are cost sharing multiple-employer plans. As with the State’s SCRS and PORS pension plans, the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) will send all participating entities a schedule with their percentages of related net OPEB liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and OPEB expenses as of the previous fiscal year end. As with the pension plans, the prior fiscal year end is reported with contributions made after the measurement date (the current year’s OPEB contributions) being reported as a deferred outflow of resources. See GASB 75 for further detail and for a template of the related note and required supplemental information section.

## COMPENSATED ABSENCES

Accumulated employee balances of annual leave, sick leave, compensatory time, and holiday compensatory time are compensated absences, regardless of whether employees will be compensated in the form of paid time off work or extra pay. In accordance with GASB 101, *Compensated Absences*, the basic compensated absence liability should equal the employee’s accumulated compensated absence balance at the balance sheet date that is attributable to services already rendered, the leave accumulates, and the leave is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means.

The compensated absence liability for an employee is based on the daily or hourly pay rate that is in effect at June 30. The pay rate in effect at June 30 does not include one-time lump sum bonuses that do not increase the employee's base salary. The employer payments for fringe benefits associated with those salaries/wages should be calculated and included in the compensated absence liability.

## STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS AND NET INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL ASSETS

State Capital Improvement Bonds are general obligation bonds repaid from State general government resources rather than from resources of particular agencies. That is, individual agencies may own capital assets acquired with State Capital Improvement Bond proceeds, but those same agencies are not responsible for repaying the Capital Improvement Bonds.

The Net Investment in Capital Assets account that an agency reports in its financial statements should include any capital assets acquired with State Capital Improvement Bond proceeds *unreduced* by the related debt.

The Comptroller General’s Office will offset the agency-reported Net Investment in Capital Assets with the related Capital Improvement Bond debt in the statewide ACFR. Annually, the Comptroller General’s Office may contact agencies and ask them to provide certain information regarding assets acquired with State Capital Improvement Bond proceeds.

## RESTRICTED Position

### Definition

Paragraph 34 of GASB 34 (as amended by GASB 63) requires that net position should be reported as restricted when restrictions are either:

Externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments

Imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

In addition, paragraph 35 of GASB 34 (as amended by GASB 63) requires that when permanent endowments or permanent fund principal amounts are included, “restricted net position” should be displayed in two additional components, expendable and nonexpendable. The nonexpendable category of net position relates to permanent endowments.

As outlined in GASB 54 definitions of fund balance classifications may be different in governmental fund statements. Nonspendable, committed, restricted, and assigned will generally be different from amounts reported as restricted in the Statement of Net Position.

Each restriction on net position should be based solely on the criteria of paragraph 34 of GASB 34 noted above. Additionally, each restriction on fund balance should be based solely on the criteria of paragraph 8 of GASB 54.

### Purpose Categories of Restricted Net Position to be Reported

The State will report the following restricted net position purpose categories:

Insurance Programs

Loan Programs

Unemployment compensation benefits

Education

Health

Transportation

Capital Projects

Debt Service

Administration of Justice

General Government

Waste Management

Other

Agencies should use purpose categories at least as detailed as those listed above. Titles for purpose categories in agency financial statements should be such that the Comptroller General’s Office will be able to determine in which of the above categories the balance in question best fits.

## OPERATING VS. NONOPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES

Proprietary funds must define operating revenues and expenses and segregate them from   
non-operating revenues and expenses. These definitions and policies must be disclosed in the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies. Please see Section 6, FOOTNOTE DISCLOSURES, under SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES.

## GRANT/CONTRIBUTION REVENUE—RECOGNITION

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles relating to recognition of Grant/Contribution Revenues differ for different categories of GAAP funds and activities.

### Enterprise, Internal Service, and Trust Funds Reported on Fund Financial Statements; Activities of Governmental, Enterprise, and Internal Service Funds Reported on Government-wide Financial Statements

For this group of funds and activities:

Recognize Grant/Contribution Revenue when your agency has met all applicable eligibility requirements.

Record Grant/Contribution Receivables at June 30 if, at that date, *both* of the following conditions are true:

Your agency has met the revenue recognition criteria above.

Your agency has not yet received the related cash from the grantor.

Current Grant/Contribution Receivables must be reported separately from Non-Current Grant/Contribution Receivables for these funds/activities. Current receivables at June 30 are those expected to be collected on or before the next June 30 (within one year) whereas Non-Current Receivables at June 30 are those expected to be collected after the next June 30.

Record Deferred Revenue at June 30 if, at that date, *both* of the following conditions are true:

Your agency has received cash on or before June 30.

Your agency has **not** yet met all applicable eligibility requirements.

### Governmental Funds Reported on Fund Financial Statements

For this group of funds:

Recognize Grant/Contribution Revenue when *both* of the following are true:

* Your agency has met all applicable eligibility requirements.
* The grant funds or contributions are available. (Funds are considered available at June 30 if they are received or expected to be received by the *next* June 30.)

Record Grant/Contribution Receivables at June 30 if, at that date, both of the following criteria are met:

* Your agency has met the revenue recognition criteria above.
* Your agency has not yet received the related cash from the grantor.

Record Deferred Revenue at June 30 if **either** of the following is true:

* Your agency has received cash on or before June 30 but has **not** yet met all applicable eligibility requirements.
* Your agency **has** met all applicable eligibility requirements at June 30 but the grant funds or contributions at that date are not yet available (that is, the funds were not yet received or expected to be received by June 30 of the *next* fiscal year).

## GRANT/CONTRIBUTION REVENUES IN PROPRIETARY FUNDS—OPERATING OR NON-OPERATING

Agencies are encouraged to reference the examples in Appendix D of GASB 33 and to use the two-page questionnaire in Appendix A of this manual to evaluate grant-like arrangements against the criteria included in the State’s policy on distinguishing operating from non-operating revenues. (For further information, please see SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES in Section 6, FOOTNOTE DISCLOSURES.)

## CLASSIFICATION OF PROGRAM-SPECIFIC GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS—OPERATING VERSUS CAPITAL

Program-specific grants and contributions must be classified as either operating or capital. Operating grants/contributions are used to finance an agency’s operations. Capital grants/contributions are ***restricted*** by the grantor/contributor for capital purposes.[[27]](#footnote-27) Capital purposes include the acquisition, construction, or renovation of capital assets but do not include costs to repair or maintain existing capital assets. If a grant/contribution may be used either for operating or capital purposes, the grant/contribution is classified as operating, even if your agency uses it for capital purposes.

|  |
| --- |
| The capitalization thresholds established by the Comptroller General’s Office for the reporting of capital assets do not affect the classification of capital grants and contributions. In other words, a grant/contribution that is restricted for capital purposes will be reported as capital even if the cost of the asset being acquired falls below the capitalization threshold, resulting in your agency not reporting the acquired asset as a capital asset. The following example illustrates such a situation: |
| Assume your agency receives a $25,000 grant, the proceeds of which are restricted by the grantor for the purchase of a network server and four computers. The network server costs $15,000, and the four computers cost $2,500 each. Although the four computers would not be reported as capital assets because their cost does not exceed $5,000 each, the grant would still be considered a capital grant. |

## INDIRECT EXPENSES

Paragraphs 41 and 42 of GASB 34 establish the requirements for reporting direct and indirect expenses. Paragraph 41 states that governments should report all expenses by function except for those that meet the definitions of special or extraordinary items, discussed in paragraphs 55 and 56 of GASB 34. As a minimum, governments should report direct expenses for each function. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program, or department and, thus, are clearly identifiable to a particular function.

Paragraph 42 of GASB 34 *does not require* governments to allocate indirect expenses to other functions. However, some governments may prefer to allocate some indirect expenses or use a full-cost allocation approach among functions. If indirect expenses are allocated, direct and indirect expenses should be presented in separate columns to enhance comparability of direct expenses between governments that allocate indirect expenses and those that do not. A column totaling direct and indirect expenses may be presented but is not required.

Question 56 of the second GASB 34 Implementation Guide (Question 7.28.5 of the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2009-2010*) states that if the government chooses not to allocate indirect costs in the Statement of Activities, the allocations should be completely reversed so that the indirect expenses are included in “general government” or its equivalent.

It is the State’s policy not to allocate indirect expenses. Accordingly, the State does not plan to report indirect expenses in a separate column.

Agencies are encouraged *not* to allocate indirect expenses and *not* to report indirect expenses in a separate column in the agency’s government-wide Statement of Activities. If an agency *does* report indirect expenses in a separate column, it also must provide a sufficiently detailed footnote disclosure that would allow the Comptroller General’s Office to completely reverse such allocations.

## REQUIRED RECOGNITION OF PLEDGES AS RECEIVABLES AND REVENUES

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles[[28]](#footnote-28) require governmental entities that receive pledges (i.e., promises to provide cash or other assets from nongovernmental donors) to “recognize receivables and revenues (net of estimated uncollectible amounts) when all eligibility requirements are met, provided that the promise is verifiable, and the resources are measurable and probable of collection.”

## INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS

For the statewide financial statements, the State will be required to eliminate the “doubling-up effect of internal service fund activity.” According to paragraphs 59 and 314 of GASB 34, this is accomplished by “adjusting the internal service fund’s internal charges to break even.” (This requirement is for financial reporting purposes only. Internal service funds are not required to actually change the amounts they charge to customers.)

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| The following information is required to be included in separately issued financial statements for internal service funds: |
| The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position ***must report separate balances*** for revenue derived from internal and external customers. With a few exceptions, internal customers can generally be defined as other State agencies (including State-supported colleges and universities). However, the State agencies and entities listed in Appendix B are considered external customers as a result of their classification as discrete component units of the State. |
| An example of the required statement is provided in Exhibit 4D on page 231 of the first GASB 34 Implementation Guide. |
| The notes to the financial statements must include a breakdown of revenue derived from **internal** customers. For governmental payer funds, revenue must be reported by function. For proprietary payer funds, revenue must be reported by activity. |

One other requirement of GASB 34 for internal service funds is the preparation of the cash flow statement by using the **direct method** in accordance with GASB 9.

For the State of South Carolina to prepare cash flow statements by the direct method in accordance with GASB 9, State internal service funds must report transactions with other State funds separately from other operating transactions. For example, amounts representing supplies purchased from **vendors** should be separated on the Statement of Cash Flows from the amounts representing supplies purchased from **other funds of State government**. **This provision also would apply to receipt transactions**.

Specific guidance concerning this required presentation appears in the *Content and Format Issues* section of the *GASB 9 Implementation Guide*, questions 65 and 67 (Questions 2.29.1 and 2.29.3 in the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*).

Also see Section 6 INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS-REVENUE FROM INTERNAL CUSTOMERS for information regarding a required footnote disclosure.

## FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Under GAAP, fiduciary funds are limited to reporting assets held in a trustee or agency capacity for others. That is, assets reported in fiduciary funds in the statewide ACFR cannot be used to support the State’s own programs.[[29]](#footnote-29)

If an agency’s financial statements include a fiduciary fund that holds assets that ***can*** be used to support State programs, the agency’s financial statements also must include supplementary information that presents this fund as it should be presented in the statewide ACFR (i.e., as a fund other than a fiduciary fund).

# SECTION 6—FOOTNOTE DISCLOSURES

## LIST OF DISCLOSURES REQUIRED BY GAAP

GASB Cod. Secs. 2300.106 and 2300.107 provide a list of footnotes required for fair presentation of basic financial statements. The Comptroller General’s Office needs the data in most of these footnotes in order to incorporate agency financial statements into the statewide ACFR properly.

Agency financial statements to be incorporated into the statewide ACFR must include all footnote disclosures required for fair presentation in accordance with GAAP as well as any additional disclosures described in this manual.

## SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### Reporting Entity Disclosures

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles[[30]](#footnote-30) require that the notes to the reporting entity’s financial statements include “a discussion of the criteria for including the component units in the financial reporting entity and how the component units are reported.”

The Government Finance Officers’ Association and the Comptroller General’s Office interpret this as requiring a description of the component unit’s specific characteristic(s) that led to its classification as a blended or discretely presented component unit. For example, if a blended component unit provides services entirely or almost entirely to the State, that fact should be disclosed if it is the primary characteristic that distinguishes the component unit from discretely presented component units.

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles[[31]](#footnote-31) require that the notes to the reporting entity’s financial statements “include information about how the separate financial statements for the individual component units may be obtained.”

The Comptroller General’s Office interprets this as requiring disclosure of a postal *mailing address* to which the interested reader may write a letter requesting a copy of the agency’s financial statements or webpage within a website where the full set of agency’s financial statements may be viewed.

Section 4 of this manual (COMPONENT UNITS) discusses the fact that component units may be governmental or non-governmental. That section further requires disclosure or supplemental information regarding whether the component units that are included in stand-alone agency statements are governmental or non-governmental and the reasons for that classification. For further details, please see GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL COMPONENT UNITS in Section 4, COMPONENT UNITS.

### Enterprise Funds—Election Not to Apply FASB Pronouncements Issued after November 30, 1989

The State’s policy is that enterprise funds within the State’s primary government may not adopt FASB Statements (Codification additions or modifications) and Interpretations issued after November 30, 1989. This policy must be disclosed in the notes to the agency’s basic financial statements.

Also see NEW GASB PRONOUNCEMENTS AND DATES FOR STATE AGENCIES AND COMPONENT UNITS TO IMPLEMENT NEW GASB PRONOUNCEMENTS on page 15.

### Basis of Accounting—Modified Accrual Availability Period

GASB Cod. Sec. 1600.106 requires disclosure within the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies of the length of time used to define *available* for purposes of revenue recognition in the governmental fund financial statements.

The State’s availability period for purposes of reporting its governmental funds is one year for all revenues with the exception of revenues generated from the sale of goods and services. Charges for goods and services are considered available only if they are to be received within one month after fiscal year end.

### Permanent Funds

In accordance with Paragraph 65 of GASB 34, only earnings (not principal) of a permanent fund may be used. Further, the earnings of a permanent fund must be usable to support State government (rather than individuals, private organizations, or other governments).

For each permanent fund displayed in the basic financial statements, the notes to the financial statements should provide enough data regarding the allowed uses of the fund’s resources that a financial statement user could readily determine that such resources are usable to support State government.

### Enterprise Funds—Reasons for Classification as Enterprise Fund

Paragraph 67 of GASB 34 requires activities for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services to be reported as enterprise funds if *any one of three* criteria is met. Governmental entities should apply each of the three criteria in the context of the activity’s *principal revenue sources*.

In accordance with Paragraph 67 of GASB 34, an activity may be classified as an enterprise fund *only* if it charges one or more fees to external users for goods or services. “External users” should be interpreted as meaning “users outside State government.”

For each enterprise fund (and component unit using enterprise fund accounting) displayed in the basic financial statements, the notes to the financial statements should provide enough information about fund revenues that a financial statement user could readily determine that the fund charges fees for goods and/or services to users external to the government of the State of South Carolina.

Paragraph 67a of GASB 34 requires that certain debt-issuing activities be classified as enterprise funds. (Also see Question7.51.2 of the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*.) Specifically, paragraph 67a of GASB 34 requires enterprise fund classification for any activity that is financed with debt secured solely by a pledge of the net revenues from fees and charges of the activity. Debt that is secured by a pledge of net revenues from fees and charges and the full faith and credit of a related primary government or component unit, even if that government is not expected to make any payments, is not payable solely from fees and charges of the activity. (Some debt may be secured, in part, by a portion of its own proceeds but should be considered as payable “solely” from the revenues of the activity.)

If significant debt (generally bonds or notes) is associated with a fund *other than* an enterprise fund, the notes to the financial statements must disclose the specific circumstances that cause the activity *not* to meet the conditions set forth in Paragraph 67a of GASB 34.

### Fiduciary Funds

Paragraph 69 of GASB 34 allows an activity to be classified within a fiduciary fund type (pension trust fund, investment trust fund, private-purpose trust fund, or agency fund) *only* if it holds assets in a trustee or agency capacity for parties outside State government and the assets *cannot* be used to support the State’s own programs.

For each fiduciary fund displayed in the basic financial statements, the notes to the financial statements should provide enough data regarding the allowed uses of fund resources that a financial statement user could readily determine that the resources cannot be used to support State programs.

Paragraphs 69 and 73 of GASB 34 explain that **trust funds** (pension trust, investment trust, or private-purpose trust) generally have both of the following characteristics:

A signed trust agreement between the State agency and one or more non-State parties governs operation of the fund.

Management of the State agency is significantly involved in managing the operation of the fund.

In contrast, **agency funds** generally are not governed by a formal trust agreement and State managers do not exercise any significant discretion in managing the fund. Agency funds generally exist only to receive and temporarily invest resources that actually belong to parties outside State government.

For each fiduciary fund displayed in the basic financial statements, the notes to the financial statements should describe whether a formal trust agreement exists and the level of discretion that State managers have over the operation of the fund.

Also see FIDUCIARY FUNDS on page 60.

### Cash Equivalents

GAAP allows flexibility in the definition of what constitutes cash equivalents. A government’s selection must be disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Cash and Cash Equivalents generally includes investments in short-term, highly liquid securities with an original maturity of three months or less. (Also see STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS in Section 3, FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.) Restricted amounts (other than investments) are also within this definition.[[32]](#footnote-32)

The State’s cash management pool, administered by the State Treasurer, is an internal investment pool. Because this cash management pool operates as a demand deposit account, agencies should classify all amounts invested in the pool as Cash and Cash Equivalents, even though the pool includes some long-term investments.

### Inventory Policy Disclosures

Agencies must report inventories using the consumption method (rather than the purchases method) in governmental funds.

Consistent with requirements of APB Opinion No. 22, the option selected for governmental funds must be disclosed in the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies. Other required policy disclosures related to inventories are the basis used to value inventories (cost basis, for instance) as well as the method used to apply that basis (specific identification, weighted average, first-in-first-out, or last-in-first-out).

### Capital Assets

In the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, agencies must disclose their policies for capitalizing assets and estimating the useful lives of those assets for depreciation purposes (GASB Cod. Sec. 2300.106a(7)).

Your agency’s policies must be in compliance with the State’s policies described in CAPITAL ASSETS—CAPITALIZATION CRITERIA on page 43 and CAPITAL ASSETS—DEPRECIATION REQUIREMENTS on page 47.

### Application of Restricted Net Position before or after Unrestricted Net Position

Paragraph 14 of GASB 34 (as amended by GASB 63) for net position and Paragraph 8 of GASB 54 for fund balance requires recipients of resources with purpose restrictions to report the resulting net position (or fund balance, as appropriate) as restricted until the purpose restrictions are met. Paragraph 115 of GASB 34 and Paragraph 23 of GASB 54 require that the State formulate a policy to determine whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted categories of net position are available. This policy must be disclosed in the notes.

For governmental funds, paragraph 23 of GASB 54 requires determining whether to first apply committed, assigned, or unassigned resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which any of these unrestricted fund balances are available. The policy for the determination is required to be disclosed in the notes.

The State’s policy is to first apply restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available. Within the unrestricted resource fund balance classifications, the policy is to first apply committed, followed by assigned and unassigned as available.

### Proprietary Funds—Policy Defining Operating Revenues and Expenses

Paragraph 101 of GASB 34 (as amended by GASB 63) requires the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position for proprietary funds (enterprise and internal service fund) to distinguish operating from nonoperating revenues and expenses. Paragraph 102 of GASB 34 requires entities to establish a policy that defines operating revenues and expenses. This policy must be appropriate to the nature of activity being reported, *disclosed in the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies*, and used consistently from period to period.

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) do not provide an authoritative definition of operating and nonoperating revenues and expenses for this purpose, although GAAP indicate that financial statement preparers may wish to considerthe authoritative guidance in GASB 9 on identifying *cash flows from operating activities* in arriving at their own definition.

Paragraph 102 of GASB 34 states that transactions for which cash flows are reported as capital and related financing activities, noncapital financing activities, or investing activities normally would not be reported as components of operating income. This includes most revenues considered nonexchange and exchange-like, such as tax revenues and, in some cases, fees and charges (such as passenger facilities charges).

The State’s policy is to use the authoritative guidance in GASB 9 to distinguish operating from nonoperating revenues and expenses. The State’s policy also provides that grants and grant-like transactions are reportable as operating revenues only if they:

* Are essentially the same as contracts for services (i.e., exchange transactions); and
* Finance programs that the proprietary fund would not otherwise undertake (i.e., the activity of the grant is inherently part of the operations of the grantor).[[33]](#footnote-33)

Nonoperating revenues on agency financial statements include appropriations (from the State of South Carolina, local governments, and the federal government, whether provided directly to the proprietary fund or provided to the proprietary fund by a third party acting as an agent of the grantor government); donations or contributions; subsidies; tax revenues; most nonexchange and exchange-like transactions; and grants except:

* Those reportable as operating revenue as described above; and
* Those restricted by the grantor to be used exclusively for capital purposes.

Agencies that report any proprietary funds must include the above language (except for portions that are entirely inapplicable to its operations) in a footnote disclosure within the agency’s Summary of Significant Accounting Policies. Corresponding wording will be included in the statewide ACFR.

One or more additional paragraphs are required in the agency’s Summary of Significant Accounting Policies to describe the specific principal operating revenues and expenses of the particular fund(s) in question.

Interest income shall be considered operating revenue only if lending, investing, or other interest-generating activity is the primary activity of the fund. Accordingly, interest income for risk management funds shall be classified as *nonoperating* revenue.

Agencies are encouraged to reference the examples in Appendix D of GASB 33 and to use the two-page questionnaire in Appendix A of this manual to evaluate grants and grant-like arrangements against the criteria included in the State’s policy.

## EFFECTS OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING CHANGES ON BEGINNING FUND EQUITY/NET Position

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, including paragraph 144 and footnote 13 of   
GASB 34, require disclosure of the effects of accounting and reporting changes on beginning fund equity and/or net position. Because the financial reporting model requires presentation of both fund financial statements and government-wide financial statements, the State’s policy is to present two separate schedules to detail these effects.

Agencies with accounting and financial reporting changes must disclose *both* (a) changes in beginning fund equity or net position on the fund financial statements *and* (b) changes in beginning net position on the government-wide financial statements, if there is any difference between the fund and government-wide statements. The following example shows how these requirements can be met.





### Changes in Capitalization Criteria

The capitalization criteria for capital assets are uniform for all state agencies (see CAPITAL ASSETS—CAPITALIZATION CRITERIA beginning on page 43). If the State were to change such limits, the change would constitute a change in accounting principles that would be treated as a direct adjustment to beginning equity, essentially in the same manner as a prior-period adjustment.

## RESTRICTED ASSETS

The detail of restricted asset accounts (both purpose and amount) must be disclosed in the notes to the agency’s financial statements if it is not otherwise visible on the face of the financial statements. The CGO requires *at a minimum* that current and noncurrent restricted assets be reported separately by each type of asset (cash and cash equivalents, investments, accounts receivable, loans receivable, and other assets) in the following purpose categories: debt service, capital projects, student loan programs, donor/sponsor specified, endowments, Second Injury Fund claims, and other. If the “other” category is significant, please provide a sufficient description of the purpose.

The following example note to the financial statements on restricted assets illustrates the level of detail described in the above policy and a suggested format for presenting the information:



The above will help to ensure that the statewide ACFR meets the requirements of the GFOA Certificate of Achievement Program.

## CASH, DEPOSITS, AND INVESTMENTS DISCLOSURES

***Required Completion of Template for Deposits and Investments Disclosure***

The Comptroller General’s Office has developed a template for the ACFR Deposits and Investments note disclosure. The Excel file *Deposits and Investments Disclosure Template.xls* is available on our website in the “Agencies that Submit Financial Statements” section. **Each agency that is considered part of the primary government or a major discretely presented component unit is required to submit this spreadsheet in addition to the audited financial statements to the Comptroller General’s Office for inclusion in the ACFR. Major discretely presented component units are printed in bold text in Appendix B**. (Retirement Systems and all nonmajor discretely presented component units are excluded from this requirement.)

GASB 3, GASB 31, GASB 40, and GASB Technical Bulletin No. 2003-1 all pertain to deposits and investments. Additional investment management activities, Securities Lending, is included in the guidance in GASB 28.

As part of the audit of the statewide ACFR, the CGO must reconcile cash and investments reported in the ACFR to the cash and investments held by the State Treasurer. Agencies that prepare financial statements incorporated into the statewide ACFR, therefore, must provide an appropriate level of detail within the notes to the financial statements that will allow for this reconciliation. This entails providing certain separate disclosures regarding amounts held by the State Treasurer and amounts *not* held by the State Treasurer.

In reporting cash, deposits, and investments in the footnotes, agencies must use formats that show at least the level of detail shown in the subsections below.

### Reconciliation of Cash/Cash Equivalents Reported on the Statement(s) of Position to the Footnote Disclosures on Deposits and Investments

The following schedule reconciles Cash and Investments as reported on the statements of position (balance sheets and/or statements of net position) to the footnote disclosure provided for deposits and investments. Note that the pair of amounts marked “a” must be the same, as must the pairs of amounts marked “b” and “c”.



\*Deposits Held by State Treasurer includes deposits in the cash splitter (1000000000) for a fund and in State Treasurer “composite reservoir” accounts.

### Deposits Disclosure

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles require five types of disclosures regarding cash deposits with financial institutions:

###### Legal and Contractual Provisions

The notes to the financial statements should disclose any legal restrictions governing cash deposits with financial institutions such as insurance and collateralization requirements. Any material violations of these requirements during the period must also be disclosed, as well as the actions taken to address those violations.

###### Policies Governing Deposits

The note disclosure should also include your agency’s policies concerning custodial credit risk and foreign currency risk (see descriptions below), if applicable.

If *no* deposit policy to address a particular type of risk has been adopted as of year-end, the disclosure should indicate that fact.

###### Exposure to Custodial Credit Risk as of the Date of the Statement of Position

If your agency’s deposits only include deposits held by the State Treasurer, your footnote disclosure should indicate this fact and refer readers to the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of the State of South Carolina. No other disclosure concerning custodial credit risk is required.

**For any deposits not held by the State Treasurer, the following information must be included in your footnote disclosure.**

GASB Statement 3 disclosures previously referred to as category one and two deposits have generally been eliminated by GASB 40. Deposits are exposed to custodial credit risk if they are not covered by **depository insurance** and the deposits are:

Uncollateralized,

* Collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution, or
* Collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution’s trust department or agent but not in the depositor-agency’s name.

If your agency has deposits at fiscal yearend that are exposed to custodial credit risk, you should disclose the amount of those bank balances, the fact that the balances are uninsured, and which of the circumstances listed above caused the balances to be exposed to this risk.

###### Defaults and Recovery of Prior-period Losses

If your agency incurs a loss resulting from a default on your deposits, this loss should be disclosed in the notes if it is not separately identifiable on the face of your financial statements. Likewise, any subsequent recovery of prior-period losses should be disclosed, if not otherwise identifiable in the financial statements.

###### Exposure to Foreign Credit Risk

If your agency’s deposits only include deposits held by the State Treasurer, your footnote disclosure should indicate this fact and refer readers to the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of the State of South Carolina. No other disclosure concerning foreign credit risk is required.

**For any deposits not held by the State Treasurer, the following information must be included in your footnote disclosure.**

If your agency maintains deposits that are denominated in a currency other than the US dollar, then you must disclose the inherent risks associated with foreign currency fluctuation. This disclosure would consist of the value of such deposits in US dollars, and include separate disclosure for **each** foreign currency in which deposits are maintained.

### Investments Disclosure

|  |
| --- |
| At a minimum, agencies must present a schedule of investments by reported amount not with the State Treasurer at June 30, classified by the following types of investments: |
| Repurchase agreements |
| U.S. government securities |
| Certificates of deposit |
| Corporate bonds  Municipal bonds  Equity securities |
| Asset-backed securities  Collateralized mortgage obligations  Commercial paper  Land and other real estate held by endowments, including permanent and term endowments, and permanent funds |
| Other (describe) |

Note that the reported amount may be a mixture of cost-based and fair-value based measures because certain investments may meet the GASB 31 criteria for reporting at amortized cost.

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles require the following types of disclosures regarding investments:

Any Participation in External Investment Pools

There are two separate disclosure requirements for agencies that participate in external investment pools:

If the pool is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the agency should describe any regulatory oversight of the pool and state whether the fair value of its position in the pool is the same as the value of the pool shares.

Also, an agency’s involuntary participation in a pool should be disclosed.

Information Concerning Realized Gains and Losses (when disclosed)

GAAP does not permit agencies to distinguish realized gains and losses from unrealized gains and losses on the face of the financial statements. (Except for separately issued financial statements of any agency that may participate in an external investment pool.) GAAP permit agencies to disclose information on realized gains and losses in the footnotes to the financial statements. When preparing this optional disclosure, agencies must accompany their disclosure of realized gains and losses with the following additional information:

An indication that the calculation of realized gains and losses is independent of the calculation of the net change in the fair value of investments; and

An indication that realized gains and losses of the current year include unrealized gains and losses on those same investments that were recognized in previous periods as part of the net appreciation in the fair value of investments.

Legal and Contractual Provisions Governing Investments

The notes to the financial statements should disclose the following:

Any legal restrictions on investments

Any material violations of these restrictions or requirements during the fiscal year

Actions your agency has taken to resolve any violations that may have occurred.

Investment Policies

The notes to the financial statements must include your agency’s policies concerning credit risk (including custodial credit risk), concentration risk, interest rate risk, and foreign-currency risk, if any. If your agency does not have a policy addressing one of the risks to which you may be exposed, your disclosure should indicate that fact.

Under GAAP, to qualify as an *investment policy*, a given item must either be formally adopted in some way by the agency, or be incorporated into a contract. Managerial “policies” that have not been approved by your agency’s board, or past practice alone are not sufficient to constitute a *policy* under GAAP.

Sometimes agencies adopt the state law or regulation governing investments as their investment policy. Note, however, it is not enough simply to provide a citation or relevant state law or regulation without also providing a reasonable description of its specific provisions.

Exposure to Custodial Credit Risk as of the Date of the Statement of Position

If your agency’s investments only include investments held by the State Treasurer, your footnote disclosure should indicate this fact and refer readers to the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of the State of South Carolina. No other disclosure concerning custodial credit risk is required.

**For any investments not held by the State Treasurer, the following information must be included in your footnote disclosure.**

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of the failure of the counterparty to a transaction, an agency will not be able to recover the investment value or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party.

Any investments that are both uninsured and unregistered are exposed to custodial credit risk in either of the following situations:

investments are held by the counterparty; or

investments are held by the counterparty’s trust department or agent but not in the name of the investor agency.

When investments are exposed to custodial credit risk at the end of the fiscal year, an agency must disclose the following:

the investment type

their reported amount

how the securities are held

All deposits are potentially subject to custodial credit risk. Investments, however, are subject to custodial credit risk only *if they are evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form*. The following types of investment would not be subject to custodial credit risk disclosure as they do not meet this test:

positions in external investment pools

positions in open-end mutual funds

securities underlying reverse repurchase agreements

limited partnerships

real estate

direct investments in mortgages and other loans

annuity contracts

guaranteed investment contracts

Defaults and Recovery of Prior-period Losses

An agency that incurs a loss resulting from a default on its investments should disclose this information in the notes if it is not separately visible on the face of the financial statements.

Likewise, any subsequent recovery of prior-period losses should be disclosed if not otherwise visible in the financial statements.

Other Credit Risk Exposures Including

If your agency’s investments only include investments held by the State Treasurer, your footnote disclosure should indicate this fact and refer readers to the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of the State of South Carolina. No other disclosure concerning these other credit risk exposures is required.

**For any investments not held by the State Treasurer, the following information must be included in your footnote disclosure.**

Credit ratings: The notes must disclose the credit ratings of all investments in debt securities, whether held directly or indirectly. If no rating is available from a nationally recognized statistical rating organization (Standard & Poor’s, Moody’s Investors Service, or Fitch Ratings), that fact must be stated. Agencies may consolidate their presentation of credit ratings by aggregating their disclosure by investment type or by credit quality. If securities are rated by more than one nationally recognized statistical rating organization, agencies must at a minimum, disclose the least favorable rating issued. Rating agencies have in recent years used modifiers to fine-tune certain credit ratings. Agencies are not required to disclose such modifiers as part of their credit risk disclosure. The requirement to disclose credit ratings does not apply to debt securities of the U.S. government or obligations of U.S. government agencies that are explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government.

The Comptroller General’s Office submitted a Technical Inquiry to the GASB staff requesting clarification on the requirement for credit rating information. GASB responded that only one credit rating is required in the footnote disclosure. However, if an entity is aware of more than one credit rating, the lowest rating should be disclosed.

Concentration risk: The footnotes must disclose concentration risk defined as positions of 5 percent or more in the securities of a single issuer. The term issuer refers to the underlying investments themselves rather than to the investment-company manager or pool sponsor in the case of mutual funds, external investment pools, and other similar pooling arrangements. Concentration risk does not apply to concentrations of U.S. government obligations and obligations explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government.

Interest-rate risk: Interest-rate risk occurs because potential purchasers of debt securities will not agree to pay face value for those securities if interest rates subsequently increase, thereby affording potential purchasers more favorable rates on essentially equivalent securities. Therefore, holders of debt securities must use one of these five specified methods to disclose interest-rate risk:

* Specific identification
* Segmented time distribution
* Weighted average maturity
* Duration
* Macauley duration
* Modified duration
* Effective duration
* Simulation model
* Five methods are offered to allow agencies to choose a disclosure method that is most consistent with the manner in which the agency manages its interest-rate risk.

Foreign currency risk: Any investments denominated in a currency other than the U.S. dollar, are subjected to the risks associated with currency fluctuation. Accordingly, any agencies holding investments denominated in a foreign currency must disclose the value of such investments in U.S. dollars (separate disclosure is necessary for each different foreign currency denomination and investment type).

### GASB 31 Disclosures about Investments

If your agency’s investments only include investments held as part of the State Treasurer’s investment pool, certificates of deposit, or investments the fair value of which was determined by quoted market price, your footnote disclosure should indicate this fact.

If your agency used methods and assumptions to estimate the fair value of its investments and that value is based on information *other than* quoted market price, that information should be disclosed.

If your agency holds any investment position in an *external* investment pool[[34]](#footnote-34), disclose that information. The State Treasurer’s pools are *not* external pools.

Disclose any regulatory oversight of participation in an external investment pool, other than the SEC, and whether the fair value of the position in the pool is the same as the value of the pool shares. Disclose the details of any involuntary participation in an external investment pool. Lastly, if your agency could not obtain information from the pool sponsor to allow determination of fair value of its investment, provide the methods used and significant assumptions made in determining that fair value and the reasons for having made such an estimate.

## DERIVATIVES

The State and its agencies must comply with GASB 53[[35]](#footnote-35), *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Derivative Instruments,* GASB 59*, Financial Instruments Omnibus,* and GASB 64 *Derivative Instruments: Application of Hedge Accounting Termination Provisions – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 53*. Under these statements, a derivative instrument is a financial instrument or other contract that has *all* of the following characteristics:

*Settlement factors*. It has (1) one or more reference rates and (2) one or more notional amounts or payment provisions or both. Those terms determine the amount of the settlement or settlements and, in some cases, whether or not a settlement is required.

*Leverage*. It requires no initial net investment or an initial net investment that is smaller than would be required for other types of contracts that would be expected to have a similar response to changes in market factors.

*Net settlement*. Its terms require or permit net settlement, it can readily be settled net by a means outside the contract, or it provides for delivery of an asset that puts the recipient in a position not substantially different from net settlement.

Derivatives may be either asset or liability oriented. Some of the more common examples of derivatives encountered in practice include interest-rate swaps, basis swaps, swaptions, commodity swaps, and interest rate caps.

Agencies/institutions involved in complex contracts and securities should carefully review the provisions of GASB 53, GASB 59, and GASB 64 and take care to comply with any applicable accounting and reporting requirements.

## RECEIVABLES FOOTNOTE—MINIMUM LEVEL OF DETAIL

Paragraph 13 of GASB 38, *Certain Financial Statement Note Disclosures*, requires governments to disaggregate their receivables, either on the face of the financial statements or in the notes to the financial statements. GASB Cod. Sec. 2300.107(dd) also requires disclosure of any applicable *allowances* in the notes if not reported on the face of the financial statements. In addition, GASB 38 requires the State to disclose the *non-current portion* of net receivables in *governmental and fiduciary funds*.

In accordance with State policy and paragraph 13 of GASB 38, agencies *at a minimum* must report receivable balances on the face of the statements or in note disclosure in the following categories: patient accounts receivable, student accounts receivable, other accounts receivable, income taxes receivable, sales and other taxes receivable, contributions receivable, loans and notes receivable, restricted loans and notes receivable, assessments receivable, and due from federal government and other grantors. Agencies must report restricted receivables separately from other receivables.

The example below illustrates the minimum level of detail that the Comptroller General’s Office must obtain from agencies regarding receivables. This example assumes that the agency did not disaggregate its receivable components on the face of its financial statements. (If it had done so, it could have omitted the gross receivable amounts from the note disclosure.)



## PAYABLES FOOTNOTE—MINIMUM LEVEL OF DETAIL

Paragraph 13 of GASB 38 (as amended by GASB 63) concerns itself with the fact that balances of receivables and payables reported on the Statement of Net Position and Balance Sheet may be aggregations of different components, such as balances due to or from taxpayers, other governments, vendors, customers, beneficiaries, and employees.

In addition to the GAAP mandated disclosures in connection with receivable and payable balances, the notes to the financial statements should provide details when significant components have been obscured by aggregation.

At a minimum, agencies must report payable balances on the face of the financial statements or in note disclosure in the following categories: accounts payable, retainages payable, intergovernmental payables, claims payable, benefits payable, prizes payable, unsettled investment purchases payable, accrued salaries and related payroll expenses, accrued compensated absences, sick leave, accrued interest, and other accrued liabilities. Agencies must report amounts payable from restricted assets separately from other payables.

## DISCLOSURES ABOUT BALANCES ARISING FROM INTRA-STATE ACTIVITIES

The last sentence of Paragraph 81 of GASB 34 states: “Liabilities arising from interfund activities (see paragraph 112) do not constitute general long-term liabilities and therefore should be reported in governmental funds.” This principle applies to *all* liabilities arising from interfund activities.

In addition, paragraph 112a (1) of GASB 34 provides the following *specific* guidance limited to interfund loans: “Interfund loans should be reported as interfund receivables in lender funds and interfund payables in borrower funds. This activity should not be reported as other financing sources or uses in the fund financial statements. If repayment is not expected within a reasonable time, the interfund balances should be reduced and the amount that is not expected to be repaid should be reported as a transfer from the fund that made the loan to the fund that received the loan.”

In order for the State to comply with Paragraphs 81 and 112 of GASB 34, some interfund activities for the State (i.e., “intra-State activities”) may need to be reported quite differently in the statewide ACFR than they have been reported in separately issued State agency financial statements. If such a difference is material relative to the *agency’s* financial statements, the notes to its financial statements must detail the different reporting that would be required in the statewide ACFR, including the presentation of pro forma information to show any differences in account balances.

For example, for a long-term intra-State payable arising from a loan payable to a different State agency, the note disclosure must provide details about: (a) the identity of the lending agency/fund and (b) a schedule of payments on principle that, at a minimum, distinguishes between current and long-term payables. If the liability is payable from a governmental fund and the *agency’s* governmental fund financial statements recorded only the current payable, the agency’s disclosure must include pro-forma data to show the changes in account balances (including fund equity/net position) that must occur when the total liability (current and long-term) is recorded in the *State’s* governmental fund financial statements as an interfund payable in accordance with paragraph 81 of GASB 34.

## DISCLOSURES REGARDING MATERIAL INTERFUND BALANCES AND TRANSFERS

Paragraph 14 of GASB 38 requires certain details regarding interfund balances and activities to be reported in a footnote. Some of the information required by this part of GASB 38 has been required for many years for governments that participate in the Government Finance Officers Association’s Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program.

The Comptroller General’s Office obtains most data regarding intra-State due to/from balances by analyzing SCEIS balances. However, not all of the required data is available in SCEIS without retrieving, examining, and analyzing, individual documents.

Paragraph 15 of GASB 38 requires disclosure of information about interfund *transfers* that are reported in the fund financial statements. A transaction between your agency and another State agency could represent an interfund transfer from the State’s perspective even if it is reported in your stand-alone financial statements as a revenue or expenditure. The Comptroller General’s Office must disclose the purpose and amount of all significant transfers from the State’s perspective.

The Comptroller General’s Office requires that an agency provide a description of the intended purpose and amount of **each State transfer in or out greater than $5 million** that is included in its fund financial statements, **even if it is reported as a revenue or expenditure**. Your agency must include this information in the footnote disclosures or in a separate document you submit to the Comptroller General’s Office.

## CAPITAL ASSET AND ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION BALANCES

Your agency must disclose the following data within each asset category (with depreciable assets reported separately from non-depreciable assets, and assets associated with governmental activities reported separately from those associated with business-type activities) (GASB Cod. Secs. 2300.111 and 2300.112):

Beginning-of-year and end-of-year balances, with accumulated depreciation presented separately from historical cost.

Capital acquisitions.

Sales or other dispositions.

Current-period depreciation expense (only for depreciable capital asset classes).

These requirements apply to all fund types, including enterprise and internal service funds.

The following exhibit, adapted from the displays on page 245 of GASB 34 and page 136 of the first GASB 34 Implementation Guide, is intended to illustrate the minimum level of detail that the Comptroller General’s Office must obtain from agencies regarding their capital assets.

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| --- |
| Please note the following regarding the footnote disclosure schedule:  Reclassifications and corrections of prior-period balances should represent adjustments to the “Beginning Balance” column, with the addition of “As Restated” to that column.  Current-year depreciation affects the accumulated depreciation portion of the “Increases” column.  When construction-in-progress (CIP) projects are completed, the constructed assets’ costs are reclassified by reporting a negative amount in the “Decreases” column for CIP and reporting corresponding positive amounts in the “Increases” column of the appropriate asset categories (land and improvements, buildings and improvements, etc.). The accumulated depreciation portion of the schedule is not affected. |



## OTHER REQUIRED DISCLOSURES FOR CAPITAL ASSETS

Agencies must disclose certain information in the notes to the financial statements regarding construction commitments outstanding, construction period interest, and noncapitalized collections of works of art and historical treasures as explained in the following sections.

### Construction Commitments Outstanding

Your agency must disclose any construction commitments outstanding at year-end in the notes to the financial statements (GASB Cod. Sec. 2300.106(k)). Your agency may have projects to construct new capital assets or to repair or maintain existing capital assets. Some such projects may be only partially complete at June 30. If there are signed contracts in existence at June 30 that commit the agency to pay amounts in the future for portions of projects that were incomplete at June 30, these amounts are said to represent *construction commitments outstanding* at June 30.

|  |
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| State policy requires agencies to separately report their construction commitments outstanding at June 30 for: (a) capital projects and (b) repair/maintenance projects. Your agency need only report construction commitments that exceed $100,000 per category. For example, if you had commitments of $350,000 for capital projects and commitments of $75,000 for repair/maintenance projects, report only the $350,000 for capital projects in the notes to the financial statements. |
| To compute the amount of commitments outstanding: |
| Determine your agency's construction projects in progress at June 30. |
| Compute the outstanding commitment for each project in progress at June 30 as follows: |
| * The contract price. |
| * Less: Amounts the agency has paid contractors from the start of the project through June 30. |
| * Less: Amounts relating to the project that your agency has reported as accounts payable and/or retainages payable as of June 30 of the current fiscal year. |
| Add together the outstanding amounts for all capital projects in progress at June 30. |
| Add together the outstanding amounts for all repair/maintenance projects in progress at June 30. |

### Construction Period Interest

The cost of capital assets constructed by enterprise and internal service funds must include any associated interest expense incurred during the construction period (except for interest paid on State Capital Improvement Bonds). This associated interest expense is called construction period interest. The cost of capital assets constructed by governmental funds should *not* include construction period interest.

*FASB Codification* Section 835-20 explains the requirements for interest capitalization. Your agency’s financial statements must include the following disclosures:

* For an accounting period in which no interest cost is capitalized, the amount of interest cost incurred and charged to expense during the period.
* For an accounting period in which some interest cost is capitalized, the total amount of interest cost incurred during the period and the amount thereof that has been capitalized.

Additional information about capitalized interest is included on pages 100 through 105 of the *Governmental Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting (GASB 34 Edition)* (published by the Government Finance Officers’ Association in 2005).

### Noncapitalized Collections of Works of Art and Historical Treasures

GAAP do not require capitalization of certain collections (refer to page 41 for the characteristics that a collection must have in order to qualify for this treatment). For collections of works of art and historical treasures not capitalized, your agency must disclose a description of the collection and the reasons these assets are not required to be capitalized.[[36]](#footnote-36)

### Capital Asset Impairment

Paragraph 17 of GASB 42 requires disclosure for any capital asset impairment losses that have occurred during the fiscal year, if not otherwise apparent from the face of the financial statements. The disclosure should provide a general description, the amount of loss, the carrying amount of the impaired asset (***only*** if idle at year-end), and the financial statement function classification of the impairment loss.

Paragraph 21 of GASB 42 requires disclosure of the amount and financial statement function classification of any insurance recoveries received from asset impairments, if not apparent from the face of the financial statements.

## SHORT-TERM DEBT

Paragraph 12 of GASB 38 requires governments to provide details in the notes to the financial statements about short-term debt activity during the year, even if no short-term debt is outstanding at year-end. Short-term debt results from borrowings characterized by anticipation notes, use of lines of credit, and similar loans. Details should include:

A schedule of changes in short-term debt, disclosing beginning and end-of-year balances, increases, and decreases.

The purpose for which the short-term debt was issued.

Short-term debt for purposes of this disclosure is limited to amounts owed to a lending institution or to another entity outside of State government.

## LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

Paragraph 119 of GASB 34 requires that note disclosure about long-term obligations include:

Beginning- and end-of-year balances (regardless of whether prior-year data are presented on the face of the government-wide financial statements).

Increases and decreases (separately presented).

The portions of each item due within one year of the statement date.

Which governmental funds typically have been used to liquidate other long-term obligations (such as compensated absences and pension liabilities) in prior years.

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| In addition to the GAAP mandated disclosures in connection with long-term obligations, the notes to the financial statements should include all of the following information for individual long-term debt issues that are not reported in the State Treasurer’s Office Debt Management System. These are bonds and notes for which the State Treasurer’s Office does not make the debt service payments. |
| * Purpose for which the debt was issued. |
| * Original amount of the debt. |
| * Type of debt (revenue bonds or general obligation bonds, for instance). |
| * Significant debt covenants. |
| * Amounts of installments. |
| * Interest rate. * The terms by which interest rates change for variable rate debt outstanding. * Range of maturities. * Applicability of federal arbitrage regulations. |

This information is needed to comply with the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program.

### Long-Term Obligations Disclosures—Level of Detail

The GFOA's Certificate of Achievement Program requires participants to present several statistical tables related to debt, including the following:

Net General Obligation Bonds and Notes Per Capita.

Ratio of Annual Debt Service Expenditures for GeneralObligation Debt to Total General Governmental Expenditures.

Revenue Bond Coverage-Enterprise Funds.

The financial amounts presented in these tables, such as liability amounts, must be traceable to the financial section of the statewide ACFR. This means that the State's notes to the financial statements must present general obligation debt and revenue debt in separate accounts and must disclose debt service to maturity separately for general obligation debt and revenue debt.

Note disclosures in agency financial statements must present general obligation debt and revenue debt in separate accounts and must detail debt service to maturity separately for general obligation debt and revenue debt.

Also see CLASSIFICATION OF STATE HIGHWAY BONDS on page 105 and CLASSIFICATION OF STATE INSTITUTION BONDS on page 108.

### Changes in Long-Term Obligations

The example below is adapted from the note on page 67 of the second GASB 34 Implementation Guide. It is intended to illustrate the minimum level of detail that the Comptroller General’s Office must obtain from agencies regarding changes in their long-term obligations.

The State's policy is that audited financial statements to be incorporated into the State's basic financial statements must, at a minimum, separately present Bonds Payable, Notes Payable, Certificates of Participation Payable, Loans Payable, Leases Payable, Claims and Judgments Payable, Compensated Absences Payable, Sick Leave Payable, etc., on the face of the financial statements. However, Bonds Payable and Notes Payable information must be separated further into General Obligation and Revenue debt for the note disclosures. Any liability for Arbitrage Rebates actually owed to the federal government at the end of the fiscal year must be disclosed in the notes if not presented separately on the face of the financial statements. This disclosure must identify which line(s) of the financial statements include the arbitrage liability and the amount(s).

Unamortized premiums/discounts and the deferred amount on debt refundings must be identified by the type of debt rather than combined into one amount. Ways to accomplish this would be to add labeling to the row, locate the row immediately below the debt to which it relates, or provide a narrative below the table.

Although the sample below is for business-type activities, a similar display also is required for governmental activities.



### Debt Service to Maturity

Paragraph 10 of GASB 38 requires governments to disclose the following details of debt service requirements to maturity:

Principal and interest requirements to maturity, presented separately, for each of the five subsequent fiscal years and in five-year increments thereafter. Interest requirements for variable-rate debt should be determined using the rate in effect at the financial statement date.

The terms by which interest rates change for variable-rate debt.

Agencies must disclose debt service requirements as described above.

The example below, adapted from the note on page 68 of the second GASB 34 Implementation Guide, is intended to illustrate the minimum level of detail that the Comptroller General’s Office must obtain from agencies regarding their debt service requirements in order to comply with GASB 34 and GASB 38. The total principal amounts in the note must agree to the corresponding debt amounts shown on the Balance Sheet or Statement of Net Position. This may require insertion of one or more pairs of total columns in the note if general obligation and revenue debt were not segregated in the financial statements.

The State’s requirement to segregate general obligation and revenue debt also applies to the schedules that present debt service to maturity.

The illustration below is for governmental activities, but GASB 34 also requires a similar display for business-type activities. (NOTE: This illustration assumes that the State agency reports a single Bonds Payable account in its financial statements.)



## REFUNDINGS OF DEBT

For current refundings and advance refundings resulting in defeasance of debt reported by proprietary funds, the difference between the reacquisition price and the net carrying amount of the old debt should be classified as either deferred outflows of resources or deferred inflows of resources and amortized as a component of interest expense in a systematic and rational manner over the remaining life of the old debt or the life of the new debt, whichever is shorter[[37]](#footnote-37).

When applicable, the notes to the financial statements must provide the deferred amount on refundings. For statewide ACFR presentation, the amount is shown at the bottom of the debt service to maturity schedule in order to reconcile the total future principal debt service amount to the outstanding debt liability shown in the financial statements. All disclosures required by GASB 23 for refundings also should be included in the notes.

## LEASES

Most lease payment disclosure requirements for leases and for short-term leases come from GASB 87.

### Separate Presentation for Leases with Different Types of Parties

For leases and short-term leases, agencies must *separately* present the disclosures required by GAAP for transactions with each of the following three groups: (a) other funds, other State agencies, and blended component units, (b) discretely presented component units of the State, and (c) external parties (i.e., those entirely outside the State’s financial reporting entity). This includes the disclosures for (a) the interest rate and any executory fees on leases, (b) the schedules for future payments (principal and interest) under all leases, (c) the schedule of capital assets under leases, and (d) the amount of leased assets by major classes of underlying assets, disclosed separately from other capital assets.

The Comptroller General’s Office requires these details because it must treat leases between funds, State agencies, and State blended component units as internal transactions rather than as debt. Likewise, special rules apply to transactions between the State’s primary government and its discretely presented component units. (See GASB Cod. Sec. L20.119 through L20.124.) Contact the Financial Reporting Division of the Comptroller General’s Office if you have questions. APPENDIX B—THE STATE’S DISCRETELY PRESENTED COMPONENT UNITS and APPENDIX C—AGENCIES BY FUNCTION should help agencies to apply this guidance.

### Five-Year Increments after the First Five Subsequent Fiscal Years

GASB 87 requires the State to disclose the future minimum payments for each of the five subsequent fiscal years and in five-year increments thereafter for its obligations under leases.

### Current Year Lease Payments

GASB 87 also requires the disclosure of the related principal, interest and executory costs of lease payments for the current fiscal year for *all* leases.

### Schedules of Leases

Several of the disclosure requirements for leases could be satisfied by presenting a schedule for all leases with the following rows and columns:

Rows for each of the following:

Each of the next five years.

Separate five-year increments thereafter.

Total payments (principal and interest separately reported in columns), *excluding* contingent leases.

Columns for each of the following:

Leases with other State agencies and blended component units.

Leases with discretely presented component units.

Leases with external parties.

### Assets Acquired under Leases

GASB 87 requires separate presentation of the following: (a) total estimated value (at lease inception) of the assets recorded under a lease at the end of the fiscal year, detailed by the major asset categories you used in your capital asset disclosures, and (b) the accumulated amortization[[38]](#footnote-38) amount associated with total capital assets acquired under leases at the end of the fiscal year. For clarity, we also ask that agencies disclose (c) total assets acquired under leases net of accumulated amortization at the end of the fiscal year (sometimes labeled as *book value* or *carrying value*) as illustrated in GASB 87. Calculate item (c) as the total in (a) minus (b).

Presenting a schedule with the following rows and columns could satisfy the GASB 87 disclosure requirements:

Rows for each of the following:

Each asset category having leased assets.

Total assets acquired under leases (before accumulated amortization).

Less: Accumulated amortization.

Total assets acquired under leases, net.

Columns for each of the following:

Leases with other State agencies and blended component units.

Leases with discretely presented component units.

Leases with external parties.

### Facilities Leased to Others

The total cost of property leased to others under leases must be disclosed. Presenting a schedule with the following rows and columns could satisfy this requirement:

Rows for each of the following:

Each category of capital assets as described in CAPITAL ASSETS—CATEGORIES FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING.

Less: Depreciation.

Total carrying value.

Columns for each of the following:

Leased to other State agencies and blended component units.

Leased to discretely presented component units.

Leased to external parties.

In addition, the future minimum lease payments to be received from others must be disclosed. Presenting a schedule with the following rows and columns could satisfy this requirement:

Rows for each of the following:

Each of the next five years.

Separate five-year increments thereafter.

Total future minimum payments to be received.

Columns for each of the following:

Leased to other State agencies and blended component units.

Leased to discretely presented component units.

Leased to external parties.

### Contingent Rentals Associated with Leases

*Contingent rentals* are rentals on which the amounts paid are dependent on some factor other than the passage of time.

GASB 87 requires disclosure of the contingent rental expense as a separate amount, along with the *basis* on which contingent rental payments are determined. For copier leases paid on a cost-per-copy basis, the basis is “cost per copy.” *Future* contingent rentals need not be disclosed; disclose only the contingent rental amount paid during the *current* fiscal year. This disclosure for contingent rental expenses is separate from, and in addition to, the minimum lease payment information.

In addition, the following must be disclosed in this situation:

• Contingent rentals paid during the current year to other State agencies and blended component units under leases.

• Contingent rentals paid during the current year to discretely presented component units under leases.

• Contingent rentals paid during the current year to external parties under leases.

### Contingent Rentals Associated with Leases

GASB 87 requires the disclosure of total contingent lease payments for leases actually incurred for each period for which an income statement is presented.

In addition, the following must be disclosed in this situation:

Contingent leases paid during the current year to other State agencies and blended component units.

Contingent rentals paid during the current year to discretely presented component units.

Contingent rentals paid during the current year to external parties.

## DETAIL OF STATE APPROPRIATIONS RECORDED AS REVENUE

## This does not apply to discretely presented component units

The Comptroller General’s Office must reclassify State General Fund appropriations used by other GAAP funds to present them as *transfers* from the General Fund to other GAAP funds in the statewide ACFR. Transfers into the other funds must equal transfers out of the General Fund. Accordingly, the Comptroller General’s Office must reconcile appropriations recorded as revenue on agency fund financial statements with the corresponding amounts recorded in the General Fund in SCEIS.

Agencies are required to present a detailed schedule of State General Fund appropriations, either in the notes to their financial statements or following the basic financial statements (i.e., as supplementary information). State appropriations that your agency receives from another agency should be listed separately. Proprietary funds must separately report the details of State non-capital appropriations (recorded as non-operating revenues) and capital appropriations. The schedule should display all of the following details that are applicable:





Please show appropriation reduction amounts separately—either on the schedule as an adjustment to the relevant type of appropriation, as an “other adjustment” on the schedule, or in a note or narrative associated with the schedule.

GASB Cod. Sec. 1800.112 requires that governmental entities report both governmental and proprietary fund revenues by major source. The above schedule provides readers of agency financial statements with pertinent information regarding the sources of the agency’s appropriations recorded as revenue as well as providing data to the Office of the Comptroller that is needed for preparation of the statewide ACFR.

## REQUIRED DISCLOSURE OF UNRECOGNIZED PLEDGES DEEMED NOT MEASURABLE

The State generally is required to recognize receivables and revenues for pledges (see REQUIRED RECOGNITION OF PLEDGES AS RECEIVABLES AND REVENUES on page 59 for more details). In addition, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles require disclosure of “transactions that are not recognizable because they are not measurable.”[[39]](#footnote-39) Accordingly, a disclosure is necessary if certain pledges are not recognizable because they are not measurable.

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| As a matter of policy, the State has adopted the following standards relative to the disclosure of pledges that were not recognized as receivables and revenues because they were deemed “not measurable” (i.e., not capable of estimation). |
| The disclosure must describe the particular unrecognized pledges in such a way that the reader can distinguish those pledges from the majority of other pledges to State agencies that *are* measurable and/or *are* recognized as revenue. |
| The disclosure must include *specific reasons* why the particular pledges under discussion are not considered measurable. It is not sufficient to say that the amount of the pledges could not be estimated because that is merely providing a generic synonym for “not measurable.” |
| If the specific reason for deeming a pledge as “not measurable” relates in some way to the pledge being deemed “not verifiable,” “not probable of collection,” or to the existence of currently unmet eligibility requirements, the disclosure should explain *specifically* how these additional deficiencies relate to the lack of measurability. |
| If your agency wishes to disclose *measurable* pledges that were not recognized as revenue during the current fiscal year for valid reasons other than lack of measurability (for example, eligibility requirements were not yet met, or the pledge was deemed “not verifiable” or “not probable of collection”), please clearly distinguish the measurable pledges from those that are not measurable. |

## INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS—REVENUE FROM INTERNAL CUSTOMERS

For internal service funds, the notes to the financial statements must include a breakdown of revenue derived from internal customers. For governmental payer funds, revenue must be reported by function (see APPENDIX C—AGENCIES BY FUNCTION). For proprietary payer funds, revenue must be reported by activity. For more information, please see Section 5, FINANCIAL STATEMENT COMPONENTS.

## SEGMENT REPORTING

Paragraph 122 of GASB 34 as amended by paragraph 17 of GASB 37[[40]](#footnote-40) states that governments reporting enterprise funds or using enterprise fund accounting to report their activities are required to present segment information for those activities in the notes to the financial statements. For purposes of this disclosure, a segment is an identifiable activity (or grouping of activities), as discussed in paragraph 39b, footnote c, reported as or within an enterprise fund or another stand-alone entity that has one or more bonds or other debt instruments (such as certificates of participation) outstanding, with a revenue stream pledged in support of that debt. In addition, the activity’s revenues, expenses, gains and losses, assets, and liabilities are required *by an external party*[[41]](#footnote-41) to be accounted for separately. For example, accounting and reporting requirements commonly are set forth in bond indentures. Also see Questions 7.86.5 and 7.86.3 in the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*).

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles do not require segment reporting when an individual fund both is a segment and is reported as a major fund.[[42]](#footnote-42) In some cases, however, an agency’s major fund may constitute only a *part* of one of the State’s major funds. In this situation, GAAP would require that the statewide ACFR present segment disclosure for the agency’s major fund.

An agency must identify, by name, within the notes to its financial statements, any of its major funds that are segments.

## RELATED ORGANIZATIONS, RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS, AND TRANSACTIONS WITH *DISCRETELY PRESENTED* COMPONENT UNITS

Professional literature[[43]](#footnote-43) requires disclosures about material transactions with ***related parties*** outside the State’s financial reporting entity as defined by GASB Statement 14 (as amended by GASB 39). In accordance with this guidance, the State’s policy[[44]](#footnote-44) is to present the following disclosures regarding related parties:

Name of the organization if its total assets exceed   
$2 million.

A description of the transactions between the State and such organization, including dollar amounts and such other information as is deemed necessary for an understanding of the effects of the transactions on the State’s financial statements. Such transactions and amounts disclosed for each organization with assets in excess of $2 million shall include each of the following, if applicable:

* Receivables from the related organization recorded by the State at June 30.
* Payables to the related organization recorded by the State at June 30.
* Donations of cash and other assets from the organization to the State.
* State expenditures/expenses paid to the organization.
* Reimbursements to the State for expenditures/expenses the State incurred on behalf of the organization.

Data regarding any other related party transactions having a significant effect on the statewide financial statements.

In addition, GASB Cod. Sec. 2600.110 (Paragraph 128 of GASB 34) requires that notes to the financial statements disclose, ***for a discretely presented component unit***: “the nature and amount of significant transactions with the primary government and other component units.” Under the criteria of GASB 39, agency financial statements may include a discretely presented component unit that the State of South Carolina treats as a related party.

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| At a minimum, agency financial statements incorporated into the statewide ACFR shall include the above disclosures regarding significant transactions of the primary government with:  (a) its related organizations and (b) its discretely presented component units. Agencies are encouraged to use a tabular format if there are two or more related organizations or discretely presented component units. |
| If the agency’s footnotes do not disclose the total assets of the related organization, the agency should provide this information in a separate communication addressed to the Financial Reporting Division of the Comptroller General’s Office. This supplementary information is necessary to help ensure that the State’s disclosure focuses on significant organizations and their transactions with the State. |

## REQUIRED INFORMATION ON BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES FOR THE GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Enterprise funds, if not required by GAAP to present government-wide financial statements, must provide information needed on business-type activities for the State’s government-wide Statement of Activities within the notes to the agency’s financial statements. [Authority for this requirement appears to be provided by paragraph 12.75 of *Audits of State and Local Governments (GASB 34 Edition)* (AICPA, May 1, 2003)].

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| The following information must be included in the footnote:   * Charges for services (revenues). * Operating grants and contributions (revenues). * Capital grants and contributions (revenues). * Expenses. * Earnings on investments. * Special items. * Extraordinary items. * State appropriations. * Other transfers in from other State agencies/funds. * Transfers out to other State agencies/funds. |

The example below is intended to illustrate the minimum level of detail that the Comptroller General’s Office must obtain from agency financial statements. The notes to an agency’s financial statements must present this information separately for:

Any portion of its operations that is incorporated into one of the State’s major enterprise funds (see APPENDIX D—THE STATE’S MAJOR ENTERPRISE FUNDS).

Each different identifiable activity accounted for within the State’s non-major enterprise funds.

Each discretely presented business-type component unit (see APPENDIX B—THE STATE’S DISCRETELY PRESENTED COMPONENT UNITS).



**NOTE**: Additional columns should be presented in the above display for each blended component unit.

**COMMENTS/INSTRUCTIONS CORRESPONDING TO THE PARENTHETICAL LETTERS IN THE PRECEDING ILLUSTRATION**:

1. Fees and operating grants. Operating grants (see paragraph 102 of GASB 34) *received from other governments* should be included in *Charges for Services*, because paragraph 49 of GASB 34 says, “Payments from other governments that are exchange transactions ... also should be reported as charges for services.”
2. Federal, State, and local grants and contracts (nonoperating), other operating revenues, earnings on investments, county appropriations, and gains on sales of assets. See (A) above for operating grants received from other governments.
3. Capital appropriations excluding State capital appropriations and capital improvement bond proceeds. Also see (F) and (G) below.
4. Total operating expenses plus interest expense on capital asset-related debt and losses on disposal of capital assets.
5. When preparing the supplemental schedule for the Comptroller General’s Office, amounts reported in the General Revenues section are funds that are available to the State to use for purposes *other than* those of the reporting agency.
6. State appropriations excluding State capital appropriations.
7. State capital appropriations (from State General Fund).
8. Capital improvement bond proceeds (from State capital projects fund).
9. Economic development bond proceeds (from State capital projects fund).
10. Transfers in from other State agencies.
11. Transfers out to other State agencies.
12. Include a column displaying last year’s amounts. If there were any errors (including needed reclassifications) in last year’s amounts, please restate these amounts.

## NET POSITION CATEGORIZED DIFFERENTLY IN STATEWIDE ACFR THAN IN AGENCY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In some cases, net position may be categorized in a particular manner within the agency’s audited financial statements but should be categorized differently within the statewide ACFR. For example, suppose that an economic development agency presents a portion of its net position as *unrestricted* in its agency’s financial statements because the corresponding net position may be used for any legitimate agency purpose (and/or for any purpose within the State’s economic development function). This net position, however, should be presented as *restricted* in the statewide ACFR because they may not be used by different functions within State government (e.g., transportation, social services, etc.).

Agency financial statements must disclose (either within the Notes to the Financial Statements or within supplementary information) any situations where net position in the agency’s financial statements should be classified differently within the statewide ACFR. The disclosure should provide full explanations/reasons for the difference in presentation.

# SECTION 7—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

This section of the policy manual applies only to the Department of Transportation (DOT). *DOT should follow the policies and guidance in this section along with the policies and guidance in sections 1 through 6.*

## INFRASTRUCTURE

The Comptroller General’s Office will limit the reported “infrastructure” category of capital assets within the State’s primary government to the Department of Transportation’s (DOT’s) roads and bridges. The DOT will report the roads and bridges owned by the State. In addition, in the absence of clear title to a particular roadway or bridge, the DOT should report the asset if the State is responsible for future maintenance.[[45]](#footnote-45)

The Department of Transportation’s roads and bridges meet the definition of general infrastructure assets.

The term ***general infrastructure assets*** refers to those infrastructure assets that are associated with, and generally arise from, governmental activities.

Infrastructure assets consist of networks and subsystems. A *network* is comprised of all assets that provide a particular type of service for our government, and a *subsystem* consists of all assets that make up a portion or segment of a network. For example, DOT could define the State’s transportation system as a network and the roads and bridges as two subsystems of the network. DOT could also consider the roads and bridges to be two networks, with interstate highways, State highways, and rural roads as subsystems of the road network.

### Reporting Roads and Bridges

All infrastructure assets acquired by governmental funds must be reported in the separate infrastructure category of depreciable capital assets if the cost of the asset exceeds the $500,000 capitalization limit for infrastructure.

If the DOT is unable to properly apply the State’s $500,000 capitalization limit to infrastructure assets acquired on or before June 30, 2001, then the DOT should fully disclose its policy of capitalizing all projects that were initiated on or before June 30, 2001, regardless of cost. This disclosure should include the total dollar amount of capitalized infrastructure acquired on or before June 30, 2001, until this amount is deemed too immaterial to disclose.

### Depreciation of Roads and Bridges

The State’s roads and bridges should be depreciated using the straight-line method over a   
75-year useful life for roads and a 50-year useful life for bridges. The Comptroller General’s Office recommends that the DOT take a full year of depreciation in the year of acquisition and take no depreciation in the year of disposition. However, the DOT may use a different straight-line convention (such as the mid-month convention) if it has a valid reason to do so.

### Maintenance of Infrastructure Records

The Department of Transportation is required to maintain complete auditable records of all infrastructure assets in a level of detail that allows for accurate reporting of these assets. Infrastructure records should include such information as acquisition date, historical or estimated historical cost, a policy for distinguishing between capitalizable costs and repair/maintenance costs, and an estimated useful life for costs determined to be capitalizable.

## CAPITAL OUTLAY

The term *capital outlay* refers to the exchange of one asset (cash) for another asset (capital asset). Therefore, expenditures in the Capital Outlay category reported in the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances, Governmental Funds, must include only those expenditures that are *capitalized* in the government-wide Statement of Net Position. Capital outlay expenditures for infrastructure include only those expenditures that increase capacity (for example, construction of a new bridge, widening of an existing road, or the addition of interstate entrance and exit ramps). Capital outlay expenditures do not include resurfacing or other repair and maintenance costs.

## CLASSIFICATION OF STATE HIGHWAY BONDS

State Highway Bonds should be classified as *general obligation* bonds.

## REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION—BUDGETARY COMPARISON

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is the only entity incorporated into the statewide ACFR from audited financial statements that includes an entire major special revenue fund of the State: the DOT Special Revenue Fund. If the State General Assembly prepares a separate budget for this fund, the State's ACFR must include a budgetary comparison schedule (as Required Supplementary Information) in conformity with paragraph 130 of GASB 34.

The Comptroller General’s Office will incorporate into the statewide ACFR any required budgetary comparison information for the DOT Special Revenue Fund from the DOT's separately issued audited financial statements.

# SECTION 8—COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

GASB 35 established accounting and financial reporting standards for public colleges and universities within the financial reporting guidelines of GASB 34. Additional reporting guidance can be obtained from the AICPA’s *Audits of State and Local Governments (GASB 34 Edition)* which applies directly to South Carolina’s State-supported colleges and universities as well as to other State agencies. Specifically, paragraphs 12.58 through 12.87 of this publication contain material regarding the following topics that are of interest exclusively to colleges and universities: tuition and fees, scholarship discounts and allowances, Pell grants, research grants and contracts, state and local government appropriations, federal land grant income, third-party student loans, institutional student loans, investment income on endowment resources, government-wide revenue classification, endowments, split-interest agreements, fund-raising costs, affiliated organizations, and federal unrelated business income taxes.

This section of the Comptroller General’s Office’s policy manual provides additional policies and guidance in financial accounting and reporting areas unique to South Carolina’s State-supported colleges and universities.

*The Comptroller General’s Office requests that the State’s colleges and universities follow the policies and guidance included in Sections 1 through 6 of this manual unless it conflicts with information provided in Section 8 or in the instructions provided within the College and University Financial Statement Spreadsheets.* Review these sections of the manual carefully to ensure that all applicable policies and guidance are incorporated in an institution’s separately issued financial statements.

**The colleges and universities are not required to disclose the information in the subsection *REQUIRED INFORMATION ON BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES FOR THE GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES* in Section 6 of this policy manual. Completion of the required financial statement templates provides the necessary Statement of Activities categorization for State ACFR presentation.**

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION—GENERAL

GASB 35 permits public colleges and universities, in separately issued financial statements, to use the guidance for special-purpose governments included in paragraphs 134 through 138 of GASB 34. The South Carolina College and University Controller’s Group, as approved by the Comptroller General’s Office, has chosen to report as business-type activities (BTA).

The State requires that all colleges and universities report as business-type activities. The State’s colleges and universities will be reported as discretely presented component units in the State’s ACFR.

The colleges and universities should present the basic financial statements and required supplementary information (RSI) required by paragraph 138 of GASB 34. Paragraph 138 requires that governments engaged only in BTAs should present basic financial statements and RSI that consist of the following:

MD&A (paragraphs 8 through 11, as appropriate).

Enterprise fund financial statements (paragraphs 91 through 105), consisting of:

* Statement of Net Position or Balance Sheet.
* Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position.
* Statement of Cash Flows.
* Notes to the Financial Statements (paragraphs 113 through 123).
* Required Supplementary Information (RSI) other than MD&A, if applicable (paragraphs 132 through 133).

## STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

Paragraph 100 of GASB 34 defines the manner in which revenues and expenses should be reported in the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position, Enterprise Funds. Revenues are required to be reported by major source and to identify separately any revenues used as security for revenue bonds. Paragraph 123 of GASB 34 has been interpreted as allowing colleges and universities to choose between reporting operating expenses by natural or functional classification. The South Carolina College and University Controller’s Group, as approved by the Comptroller General’s Office, has chosen to report expenses in the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position using the natural expense classification.

The State requires that all colleges and universities report operating expenses in their separately issued financial statements using the natural expense classification.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION—COLUMNS

Question 7.97.4 in the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012* indicates that an institution may present its core activities in a single column or in multiple columns (i.e., separately reporting auxiliary enterprises or healthcare facilities, for example) in its basic financial statements. Exercise of this flexibility, however, would not allow for a consistent manner of incorporating higher education institutions into the statewide ACFR, because Question 7.47.23 in the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012* states that internal transactions between the institution and its auxiliary enterprises must be eliminated in the consolidation process if a single column presentation is selected.

Each of South Carolina's colleges/universities must present a single consolidated enterprise fund column for its core activities, including auxiliary enterprises and healthcare facilities. Internal transactions (such as those between the university and its auxiliary enterprises) must be eliminated. In addition, as discussed in Section 4, COMPONENT UNITS, component units must be presented in separate columns.

## FINANCIAL SPREADSHEETS

The colleges and universities will be included in the State’s basic financial statements as discretely presented component units. To allow for consistency of reporting among the twenty-six institutions included in the State’s ACFR, the Comptroller General’s Office has developed the financial statement spreadsheets and related instructions included in Appendix E of this manual.

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| Colleges and universities must complete electronic worksheet files and must submit them to the Comptroller General’s Office for the following statements: |
| Statement of Net Position. |
| Statement of Activities. |
| Additionally, consistent with prior years, audited financial statements of each institution will be required to be submitted to the Comptroller General’s Office. |

The Comptroller General’s Office must have this reporting package data in order to:

Provide data that may not appear in the college and Universities’ separate financial statements but must appear in the State’s basic financial statements.

Eliminate or reclassify data appearing in college and universities’ separate financial statements that is not appropriate for statewide financial reporting.

For specific requirements related to college and university actions required and due dates for submission of the requested information to the Comptroller General’s Office, refer to APPENDIX E—FINANCIAL STATEMENT SPREADSHEETS AND FORMS,  
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES of this manual.

## CLASSIFICATION OF STATE INSTITUTION BONDS

State Institution Bonds should be identified as *general obligation bonds* in college and university financial statements.

## SCHOLARSHIP ALLOWANCES

Footnote 41 of paragraph 100 of GASB 34, requires that revenues should be reported net of discounts and allowances with the discount or allowance amount parenthetically disclosed on the face of the statement or in a note to the basic financial statements. Alternatively, revenues may be reported gross with the related discounts and allowances reported directly beneath the revenue amount.

A scholarship allowance is defined as the difference between the stated charge for goods and services provided by the institution and the amount that is billed to the student and/or third parties making payments on behalf of the student. The reduction of student fees below the published rate either by governmental mandate or a separately negotiated contract rate is *not* considered a scholarship allowance.

In agreement with the colleges and universities, the State’s policy is to allow colleges and universities to use the NACUBO AR 2000-05 Alternate Method to determine that portion of the applicable financial aid support to be applied as scholarship allowances and student aid expenses.

Data needed to determine the portion of applicable financial aid support to be applied as scholarship allowances and student aid expenses using the Alternate Method include, but are not limited to, the following:

* Financial aid not recognized as revenue of the institution
* Institutional resources provided as financial aid
* Third-party payments
* Total payments by students
* Total refunds made to students
* Total non-monetary institutional waivers (discounts) applied to students’ accounts.

## Federal Pell Grant Activity

GASB 35 superseded GASB 19*,* which required federal Pell grants to be reported as restricted current fund revenues. Additionally, GASB 24 includes guidance that recipient governments report pass-through grants as revenues and expenses in their financial statements if there is any administrative or direct financial involvement in the program, including grantor-established criteria. Because colleges and universities determine eligible secondary recipients of Pell Grant funds, Pell Grants meet the administrative requirement.

Colleges and universities should report Pell Grant receipts as other **non-operating** revenues in their financial statements and should record any amounts applied to student receivable accounts as scholarship discounts and allowances (see also Question 7.72.10 in the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*).

## FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN PROGRAM ACTIVITY

The federal Perkins loan program is a revolving student loan program that initially was capitalized by a combination of federal and State monies. Common practice under the AICPA’s accounting model for higher education institutions resulted in inclusion of the federal capitalization payments in fund balance. Further, assets and liabilities associated with the program were not necessarily reported as restricted.

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| Beginning July 1, 2001, concurrent with its implementation of GASB 34/35, the State’s policy is to record balances associated with the federal Perkins loan program at June 30 as follows: |
| Record the entire balance of Perkins loans receivable as *Non-Current Restricted Assets, Student Loans Receivable*. |
| Record any cash on hand associated with the program as *Non-Current Restricted Assets, Cash*. |
| Record any outstanding administrative expenses associated with the program as *Liabilities Payable from Current Restricted Assets*. |
| Record a liability, *Perkins Loan Program—Federal Liability*, to reflect the amount of “federal capital contributions” and any other amounts that ultimately are refundable to the federal government. This total must be *at least* as large as the amount shown in Part III, Section A, Line 19 (*federal capital contributions*) on the institution’s *Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP)* that has been (or will be) submitted to the United States Department of Education for the period ending June 30. |
| Colleges and universities must report balances associated with the Perkins loan program in their agency financial statements as described above. These policies have resulted from ongoing discussions between the Comptroller General’s Office and the statewide auditors.[[46]](#footnote-46) |

## THIRD-PARTY STUDENT LOANS

Paragraph 12.72 of *Audits of State and Local Governments   
(GASB 34 Edition)* (AICPA, May 1, 2003) indicates that third-party student loans are transactions between the students or parents and the lender, where the institution receives the funds from the lenders and then disburse funds to students or apply amounts to the student’s accounts. These guidance further states: “These third-party transactions are not within the scope of GASB Statement No. 24 because they are not pass-through grants. There is no governmental standard that requires institutions to report the loan amounts received and disbursed as revenues. Institutions that report as engaged only in business-type activities and that have an accounting policy to report undisbursed loans at year-end as assets and liabilities in an enterprise fund statement of fund net position should report the cash flows for these third-party student loans in the enterprise fund statement of cash flows.”

Colleges and universities should report undisbursed third-party loans at year-end as assets and liabilities on the statement of net position and should report the related inflows and outflows of cash as gross amounts in the *operating activities* section of the cash flows statement.

## ACTIVITIES ACCOUNTED FOR IN Agency Funds under the AICPA Model

Question/Answer 2.7.2 of the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*, addresses certain issues related to activities previously accounted for in agency funds under the now-obsolete AICPA college/university model. Specifically, if the institution reports the cash and cash equivalent balances of such an activity on its statement of net position, then the related receipts and disbursements also must be reported in its statement of cash flows.

## Footnote disclosure for DEBT SERVICE LIMITATION ON STATE INSTITUTION BONDS

South Carolina Code of Laws Section 59-107-90 states that the maximum amount of annual debt service on State Institution Bonds for each institution shall not exceed ninety percent of the sums received from tuition fees for the *preceding* fiscal year. As stated in Section 59-107-30, the term “tuition fees” includes fees charged for tuition, matriculation, and registration. The term “tuition fees” does not include fees charged for enrolling in courses or classes offered at any summer school term or in any special seminar.

The statewide ACFR includes certain disclosure information related to this maximum debt service calculation in order to meet the GFOA requirement to disclose any legal debt limits. Consistent with prior years, the Comptroller General’s Office must require each of the colleges and universities to provide certain information for disclosure purposes.

Each college and university must include, as a footnote disclosure in its separately issued financial statements, the amount of the institution’s tuition fees (as defined by   
Code Section 59-107-30) for the *preceding* fiscal year.

## Footnote disclosure for Donor-restricted endowments

Paragraph 121 of GASB 34 requires the following separate note disclosure about donor-restricted endowments:

The amounts of net appreciation (depreciation) on investments or donor-restricted endowments that are available for authorization for expenditure by the government board, and how those amounts are reported in net position.

The State law regarding the ability to spend net appreciation.

The policy for authorizing and spending investment income, such as a spending-rate or total-return policy.

Accordingly, colleges and universities must include this footnote disclosure for any donor-restricted endowments in their separately issued financial statements.

# APPENDIX A—OPERATING VS. NONOPERATING REVENUES, GRANTS PRACTICE AID





# APPENDIX B—THE STATE’S DISCRETELY PRESENTED COMPONENT UNITS

The following entities are discretely presented component units of the State:

Public Service Authority (Santee-Cooper) – Major discretely presented component unit

State Ports Authority – Major discretely presented component unit

Housing Authority – Major discretely presented component unit

South Carolina Lottery Commission – Major discretely presented component unit

Connector 2000 Association, Inc.

South Carolina Education Assistance Authority

Jobs-Economic Development Authority

Patriots Point Development Authority

South Carolina Medical Malpractice Association

South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Board of Trustees

Children’s Trust Fund of S.C., Inc.

South Carolina Research Authority

Colleges and Universities:

The Citadel (including The Citadel Trust and The Citadel Foundation)

Clemson University (including Clemson University Foundation) – Major discretely presented component unit

Coastal Carolina University

College of Charleston (including College of Charleston Foundation)

Francis Marion University (including Francis Marion University Education Foundation and Francis Marion University Development Foundation)

Lander University (including The Lander Foundation)

Medical University of South Carolina (including University Medical Associates, Medical University Facilities Corporation, CHS Development Corporation, Medical University Hospital Authority, and the MUSC Foundation) – Major discretely presented component unit

South Carolina State University

University of South Carolina (including USC Educational Foundation) – Major discretely presented component unit

Winthrop University (including The Winthrop University Foundation)

Aiken Technical College

Central Carolina Technical College

Denmark Technical College

Florence-Darlington Technical College

Greenville Technical College (including Greenville Tech Foundation, Inc.)

Horry-Georgetown Technical College

Technical College of the Lowcountry

Midlands Technical College (including Enterprise Campus Authority)

Northeastern Technical College

Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College

Piedmont Technical College (including Piedmont Technical College Foundation)

Spartanburg Community College (including Spartanburg Community College Foundation)

Tri-County Technical College (including Tri-County Technical College Foundation, Inc.)

Trident Technical College (including Enterprise Campus Authority)

Williamsburg Technical College

York Technical College (including York Technical College Foundation)

# APPENDIX C—AGENCIES BY FUNCTION







# APPENDIX D—THE STATE’S MAJOR ENTERPRISE FUNDS

For the prior fiscal year, the State reported the following as its major enterprise fund:

Unemployment Compensation Benefits Fund

Second Injury Fund

No changes are anticipated for the current fiscal year.

# APPENDIX E—FINANCIAL STATEMENT SPREADSHEETS AND FORMS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

## INTRODUCTION

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles require that the State incorporate public, State-supported colleges and universities within its financial statements. Because South Carolina has twenty-six such public institutions, it is important that the Comptroller General’s Office receive financial statement data from these entities in a consistent manner. The Comptroller General’s Office achieves consistency by requiring that institutions submit two spreadsheets that are packaged together in a single Excel workbook.

The Comptroller General’s Office requires the following from each of the public colleges and universities:

The completed forms and Excel spreadsheets described in this appendix:

* An Excel workbook (.xls) file with separate sheets for the two basic financial statements.
* Additional completed forms as described.
* Additional information in detailed written explanations, as applicable (e.g., explanations of any special or extraordinary items, if not described in detail in the audited financial statements).

Your institution's audited financial statements.

The Comptroller General’s Office needs this financial data:

To allow reconciliation between your institution's balances and records maintained elsewhere within State government. (The auditors of the State's financial statements will need these reconciliations.)

To provide data that does not appear in your institution's separately issued financial statements but must appear in the State's financial statements.

To eliminate data appearing in your institution's separate financial statements that is not appropriate for statewide financial reporting.

## ACTION REQUIRED BY THE INSTITUTION

Obtain a copy of your institution's audited financial statements. Use the published statements if available. Otherwise, use draft financial statements that you or your auditors have prepared.

Download the Excel workbook file and read-only Acrobat forms from the Comptroller General’s Office’s Internet website. Rename the Excel workbook **xxx-Higher Ed.xls** (providing your Business Area (previously referred to as agency code) to replace xxx in the name of the file).

Input the required amounts into the following two Excel spreadsheets:

* Statement of Net Position.
* Statement of Activities.

Keep a copy of the completed workbook for your records.

Complete the College/University Checklist.

On or before the due dates specified below, return to the Comptroller General’s Office:

* A copy of your institution’s audited financial statements, preferably via email in .pdf format to ACFR@cg.sc.gov.
* The completed Excel workbook file reflecting data shown on your audited financial statements, submitted via email to ACFR@cg.sc.gov.
* The additional completed forms along with any additional explanations, as appropriate, preferably via email in .pdf format to ACFR@cg.sc.gov.
* Hard copies are not required in addition to electronic submission.

## DUE DATES

Timeliness is extremely important. To meet our goals, the Comptroller General’s Office must receive your draft and final audited financial statements on or before the due date(s) specified below.

Due dates for universities:

Your **draft** audited financial statements are due to the Comptroller General’s Office **no later than September 15**. If the due date specified in the audit contract is sooner than September 15, the earlier date is your due date.

The completed Excel workbook and additional forms corresponding to the above draft statements are due within 3 business days of the draft.

The **final** audited financial statements are due **no later than October 1**. If the due date specified in the audit contract is sooner than October 1, the earlier date is your due date.

The updated Excel spreadsheets and revised additional forms corresponding to the final financial statements are due no more than 2 business days later. Clearly identify any changes between the draft and the final audit report.

Due dates are as follows for technical colleges:

Your **final** audited financial statements are due to the Comptroller General’s Office **preferably by** **September 30 or earlier but no later than October 1**.

The completed Excel workbook and additional forms corresponding to the final financial statements are due no more than 3 business days after the final is due.

## WORKING PAPERS

The Comptroller General’s Office’s staff and/or the statewide joint audit team may ask questions of your institution that require reference to working papers used in preparing the materials discussed in this appendix. Accordingly, each college and university should keep:

A copy of the completed Excel workbook file.

Copies of the completed forms.

A copy of the audited financial statements used to complete the spreadsheets and forms. (These statements may be either published or draft statements.)

Working papers that support each figure in the completed package.

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS—RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCURACY FORM

The Responsibility and Accuracy Form (*Assertions* tab) documents certain general information that applies to all forms and electronic files that your institution submits to the Comptroller General’s Office.

Please enter written signatures on this form.

Complete and return the form preferable in .pdf format via email to the Comptroller General’s Office with your other forms and the Excel workbook file.

The contact person should keep a copy of all completed forms and the Excel workbook file. The Comptroller General’s Office will call this person if there are questions.

We have not reproduced the Responsibility and Accuracy Form in this manual. Please download the blank form from the Internet and complete it in accordance with the instructions provided here and below.

## SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS—RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCURACY FORM

Select the institution's name from the drop-down box in cell A7.

Include signature and job title for any person completing any of the other forms/spreadsheets.

The person responsible for overall review of all forms should complete this information. Include signature, job title, email address, telephone number, and completion date of the review.

Decide who should answer any questions the Comptroller General’s Office may have regarding any of the completed forms. Enter the name, job title, email address, and telephone number of this person.

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS—FOUNDATIONS ANALYSIS FORM

The Foundations Analysis Form (*Foundations* tab) determines which, if any, of the College’s or University’s Foundations should be reported in the State’s ACFR.

Input total assets and total revenues of the College or University and total assets and total revenues of each Foundation to determine which Foundations are material to the College or University.

Amounts on this sheet should come from your audited financial statements.

Return this Foundations Analysis Form to the Comptroller General’s Office along with the other required materials on or before the specified due date (see DUE DATES subsection above).

The contact person should keep a copy of the completed Excel spreadsheet file. The Comptroller General’s Office will call this person if there are questions.

We have not reproduced the Foundations Analysis Form in this manual. Please download the blank spreadsheet from the Internet and complete it in accordance with the instructions provided here and below.

## SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS—FOUNDATIONS ANALYSIS FORM

Input the College’s or University’s *Total Assets* and *Total Revenues* in cells E8 and G8.

Input the name of each Foundation and the Foundation’s *Total Assets* and *Total Revenues* beginning on row 18.

You are required to provide financial information on the Statement of Net Position (SONP tab) and the Statement of Activities (SOA tab) for foundations that have total assets or total revenues equal to or in excess of 15% of total assets or total revenues of the primary entity. (See footnote on Foundations Analysis Form regarding consistency between fiscal years.)

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS—STATEMENT OF NET POSITION SPREADSHEET

In the downloaded Excel workbook, click the tab for the sheet named **SONP**.

Input financial data for your institution’s primary entity into the column entitled *Primary Institution*. This should include educational activities as well as auxiliary enterprises. This column also includes all related capital asset and debt balances.

Input financial data of each component unit (foundation, trust, enterprise campus authority) that is required to be included in the State’s ACFR into the *Component Units* columns. Enter each component unit into a *separate* column, and enter the name of the component unit in the column heading area.

Eliminate any balances between the primary entity and its reported component units in the *Eliminations* column.

Ignore the numeric codes that appear to the left of the account code titles. These are for the Comptroller General’s Office's use only.

Round all dollar amounts to the nearest whole dollar. Key a minus sign in front of each negative figure. Excel will print negative numbers in parentheses.

Amounts on this sheet should come from your audited financial statements or the notes to the financial statements.

Return this SONP file to the Comptroller General’s Office along with the other required materials on or before the specified due date (see DUE DATES subsection above).

The contact person should keep a copy of the completed Excel spreadsheet file. The Comptroller General’s Office will call this person if there are questions.

The Statement of Net Position spreadsheet is not reproduced in this manual. Please download the blank spreadsheet from the Internet and complete it in accordance with the instructions provided here and below.

## SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS—STATEMENT OF NET POSITION SPREADSHEET

**Classified Format**: The State’s ACFR will not present a classified statement of net position for its discretely presented component units, with the exception of long-term liabilities. The SONP spreadsheet does contain current and non-current accounts for most items. Please enter balances as they are presented on the stand-alone financial statements and related note disclosures for ease in agreeing the SONP spreadsheet to the stand-alone financial statements. Long-term debt must be split into current and non-current portions even if not presented that way on the stand-alone financial statements. (Please see additional instructions in footnotes on the SONP tab in the Excel workbook.)

**Receivables**: The State’s ACFR will present only net receivables for its discretely presented component units. The SONP spreadsheet does contain gross and allowance accounts, but it is your choice whether to enter gross and allowance amounts or net balances.

**Accounts Receivable (Miscellaneous)**: Use Accounts *Receivable (Miscellaneous)* to record any receivable accounts included in your financial statements that are not separately identified in the SONP spreadsheet.

**Due from others within your reporting entity (to be eliminated):** You mayuse this row of the SONP spreadsheet to record any amounts due from entities within your stand-alone financial statements that are also reported in the State’s ACFR. These balances must be eliminated in the *Eliminations* column. (Please see additional instructions in footnotes on the SONP tab in the Excel workbook.)

**Due from State General Fund and other State agencies (Primary Government):** Use this row to record any amounts due from the Primary Government (the State’s General Fund or other State agencies).

**Restricted Assets**: Use *restricted assets* accounts for any restricted assets (for example, restricted due to bond covenants, restricted for federal Perkins loan program, etc.).

**Due to others within your reporting entity (to be eliminated):** You may use this row of the SONP spreadsheet to record any amounts due to entities within your stand-alone financial statements that are also reported in the State’s ACFR. These balances must be eliminated in the *Eliminations* column. (Please see additional instructions in footnotes on the SONP tab in the Excel workbook.)

**Due to State General Fund and other State agencies (Primary Government):** Use this row to record any amounts due to the Primary Government (the State’s General Fund or other State agencies).

**Liabilities Payable from Restricted Assets**: *Liabilities Payable from Restricted Assets* should include any liabilities associated with administrative expenses of Perkins loan program activities.

**Bonds Payable**: Assign bond liability amounts to the appropriate current and   
non-current bond payable categories. These amounts must agree to your institution’s footnote disclosure for long-term debt. Report unamortized premiums/discounts on the separate rows provided on the template (no current/non-current split).

**Notes Payable To (or Advances From) Other State Agencies**: If your institution has notes payable to (or advances from) other State agencies, please report the payable amounts as part of *Due to State General Fund and other State agencies (Primary Government)*.

**Line of Credit**: If at year-end your institution had any balance outstanding on a line of credit, please report the balance as part of *Loans and Notes Payable*. For information about note disclosures required for lines of credit, please see SHORT-TERM DEBT in Section 6 (Footnote Disclosure) of this policy manual.

In addition to the above instructions, please carefully review all footnotes at the bottom of the SONP spreadsheet in the Excel workbook. There are additional detailed instructions primarily related to including FASB Foundations for those colleges and universities required to report material Foundations.

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS—STATEMENT OF ACTIVITES SPREADSHEET

In the downloaded Excel workbook, click the tab for the sheet named **SOA**.

Input financial data for your institution’s primary entity in the column entitled *Primary Institution*. This should include educational activities as well as auxiliary enterprises.

Input financial data of each component unit (foundation, trust, enterprise campus authority) that is required to be included in the State’s ACFR into the *Component Units* columns. Enter each component unit into a *separate* column, and enter the name of the component unit in the column heading area.

Eliminate any balances between the primary entity and its reported component units in the *Eliminations* column.

Ignore the numeric codes that appear to the left of the account code titles. These are for the Comptroller General’s Office's use only.

Round all dollar amounts to the nearest whole dollar. Key a minus sign in front of each negative figure. Excel will print negative numbers in parentheses.

Amounts on this file should come from your audited financial statements or the notes to the financial statements.

Return this SOA file to the Comptroller General’s Office along with the other required materials on or before the specified due date (see DUE DATES subsection above).

The contact person should keep a copy of the completed Excel spreadsheet file. The Comptroller General’s Office will call this person if there are questions.

The Statement of Activities is not reproduced in this manual. Please download the blank spreadsheet from the Internet and complete it in accordance with the instructions provided here and below.

## SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS—STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES SPREADSHEET

**Statement of Activities format:** The SOA spreadsheet is presented in the manner in which discretely presented component units will be presented in the State’s ACFR. Within each Statement of Activities category are the accounts generally presented on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position. Please enter accordingly for ease in agreeing the SOA spreadsheet back to the stand-alone financial statements.

**Expenses:** Include all expenses within this section, including operating, non-operating, and transfers (which are recorded as expenses for discretely presented component units). Payments to entities within your stand-alone financial statements that are also reported in the State’s ACFR must be eliminated in the *Eliminations* column. (Please see additional instructions in footnotes on the SOA tab in the Excel workbook.)

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS—CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The purpose of this section is to reconcile the final versions of cash and investment per the entities statement of net position back to the cash and investments held at the State Treasurer’s Office (STO). Entities can have timing differences and/or cash and investments held separately from the STO.

**Confirmations**: Confirmations from the CGO will be sent out roughly the second week of August to entities and their auditors. The confirmations will contain the entities cash and investment holdings at the STO as detailed by:

1. STO Pooled Cash and Investments at FMV by Business Area and Fund
2. STO total composite reservoir balance
3. STO total LGIP holdings for entity
4. Footnote disclosure of FMV and unrealized gain/loss

Confirmation balances plus any auditor approved timing adjustments (to be detailed by fund and business area) must equal final balance of Cash per Financial Statement Held by the STO.

**Cash and Investments Held by Entity**: Cash and Investments held by the entity, outside of the STO’s control.

1. Petty Cash-Cash on hand
2. Cash held by Entity-cash held by entity at banking institutions outside of STO control
3. FMV of Investments Held by Entity-FMV of investments held by entity. Include in this any investments that are held at net asset value (NAV).

**Reconciliation of Worksheets to Statement of Net Position:** The total of Cash per Financial Statement Held by State Treasury (with auditor approved timing adjustments) and Cash and Investments Held by Entity must equal cash and investments per the statement of net position. A variance indicates that an error has been made on the cash and investments worksheet as it does not agree to total cash and investments per the face of the financial statement.

**Exposure of Custodial Credit Risk for Cash Held by Entity:** Total cash held by entity must be disclosed by custodial credit risk according to the four levels.

Custodial credit risk is defined as the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Entity will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party.

Custodial Credit Risk disclosure in total must agree to total cash held by an entity.

1. FDIC & Other Coverage-Portion of Cash Held by entity that is FDIC insured or otherwise fully insured.
2. Category A-Portion of Cash Held by Entity that is uninsured but collateralized, but the collateral is held by the pledging financial institution itself.
3. Category B -Portion of Cash Held by Entity is collateralized and the collateral is held by either the financial institution trust department or agent, but the collateral is not held in the name of the depositor government.
4. Category C-Portion of Cash held by Entity that is not collateralized, not insured.

## SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS—CASH AND INVESTMENTS

**Confirmations**: Confirmation balances plus any auditor approved timing adjustments (to be detailed by fund and business area) must equal final balance of Cash per Financial Statement Held by the STO as disclosed in the financial statements.

**Cash and Investments Held by Entity**: Cash and Investments held by the entity, outside of the STO’s control do not need to be detailed by fund and/or holding institution on worksheet.

**Reconciliation of Worksheets to Statement of Net Position:** The total of Cash per Financial Statement Held by State Treasury (with auditor approved timing adjustments) and Cash and Investments Held by Entity must equal cash and investments per the statement of net position. A variance indicates that an error has been made on the cash and investments worksheet as it does not agree to total cash and investments per the face of the financial statement.

**Exposure of Custodial Credit Risk for Cash Held by Entity:** The sum of the disclosures of custodial credit risk must equal total cash held by entity (outside of the STO).

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS—COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY CHECKLIST

The purpose of this checklist is to help ensure that the information on your forms and spreadsheets is reliable. Your completion of these steps should reduce the need for telephone calls from the Comptroller General’s Office and resulting delays in incorporating your financial statement data into the statewide ACFR. The Comptroller General’s Office also will show this checklist to auditors of the statewide financial statements.

Complete this form only after you have completed all other forms and spreadsheets in this appendix.

Sign and date each review step as you complete it.

Complete and return the form preferably in .pdf format via email to the Comptroller General’s Office no later than the specified due date(s).

The contact person should keep a copy of the completed form. The Comptroller General’s Office will call this person if there are questions.

The College/University Checklist is not reproduced in this manual. Please download the blank form from the Internet and complete it in accordance with the instructions provided here and below.

## SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS—COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY CHECKLIST

Enter the fiscal year for which this form applies.

Enter the institution's name and the Business Area (previously referred to as agency code).

# APPENDIX F—CLASSIFICATION OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED BY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FROM THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHE)



1. Section 75.2 of the State’s General Appropriations Bill. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See Section 75.2 of the State’s General Appropriations Bill. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. GASB 55, The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles for State and Local Governments (March 2009). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Effective September 30, 2009, FASB will no longer issue statements (sequentially numbered). The FASB Accounting Standard Codification (ASC) has replaced the previously issued statements. Future changes by FASB are issued as additions or modifications of the FASB ASC. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Paragraphs 17 and 93 of GASB 34. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Paragraphs 17 and 94 of GASB 34. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The GASB decided in its Omnibus amendments to GASB 34 that allocation of construction-period interest expense to the cost of capital assets would be *contradictory* to the provision in paragraph 46 of GASB 34 that states that interest on general long-term liabilities generally should be considered an indirect expense and thus not be allocated to functions or programs. (Paragraph 46, however, does not apply to interest on *business-type activities’* debt.) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *Guide to Implementation of GASB Statement 34 on Basic Financial Statements—and Management’s Discussion and Analysis—for State and Local Governments*, published by the GASB in 2000. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Paragraph 62 of GASB 34 explains that although internal service funds are reported as proprietary funds in the fund financial statements, the activities accounted for in them (the financing of goods and services for other funds of the government) are usually more governmental than business-type in nature. Therefore, internal service funds are reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Footnote 23 of GASB 34 (as amended by GASB 63) and the answer to Question 81 in the first *GASB 34 Implementation Guide* (Question 7.22.1 in *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*) make it clear that governments may use a classified format for their government-wide statements of net position. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Page 304, 2005 edition, *Governmental Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting*, published by the Government Finance Officers Association. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Page 191, 2005 edition, *Governmental Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting*, published by the Government Finance Officers Association. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Pages 16-17, July 1996 issue, *Journal of Accountancy*. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. GASB Cod. Sec. 1300.118. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. The GOFER website [www.gfoa.org](http://www.gfoa.org) under Publications; select the Best Practices & Advisories in the left selection panel. Select Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting to Access the selection for Improving the Effectiveness of Fund Accounting (2004). A PDF option is in the upper right corner. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Paragraphs 61 and 112, GASB 34; GASB Cod. Sec. 2600.116 and 1800.102. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. GASB Cod. Secs. 2600.117 and L20.121. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. See Question 15.3 on the Certificate Program’s 2011 General Purpose Checklist available under publications, award programs, general purpose checklist at the GFOA website (site referenced previously). [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Paragraph 61, GASB 34; GASB Cod. Sec. 2600.116. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. GASB Cod. Secs. 2600.117 and L20.122. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Footnote 23 and paragraph 99 of GASB 34 (GASB Cod. Sec. 2200.165) and paragraph 2.56 of *Audits of State and Local Governments (GASB 34 Edition)* (AICPA, May 1, 2003). [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Page 160 of the 2005 edition of the GFOA’s *Governmental Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting*. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. December 1990 issue of *GAAFR Review*; GFOA Technical Inquiry, “Recognition of Bond Proceeds: Timing Issues.” [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Although computer software exists as a sequence of electrical/magnetic signals stored on a physical medium, the software itself (i.e., a set of instructions to be run on a computer) lacks physical existence. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Assets with useful lives of less than 2 years do not require removal from the balances reported for capital assets as the assets will fully depreciate in a short period. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. However, a college with no blended component units may satisfy this requirement by providing this level of detail to the Comptroller General’s Office on the spreadsheet version of its Statement of Net Position. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. See paragraph 50, GASB 34, and Question 7.34.6 in the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*). [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Paragraph 25 of GASB 33; GASB Cod. (2001-2002 GASB 34 Edition)   
    Sec. N50.122. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Paragraph 69 of GASB 34. [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Section 2600.120 of the Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Section 2600.120 of the Codification of Governmental Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Question/answer 17 in the *GASB 9 Implementation Guide* (Question 2.13.3 in the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*) addresses restricted cash by clarifying that GASB 9 disregards restriction of use as a factor in determining whether an asset meets the definition of cash or cash equivalent. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. This is consistent with paragraph 102 of GASB 34 (as amended by GASB 63), which states that most nonexchange and exchange-like revenues normally would not be reported as operating revenues. It is also consistent with the fact that Question 9.12a of the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting checklist for 2009 asks if the government has refrained from including taxes and grants within the operating category for proprietary funds on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position. [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. See definition in the Glossary in Paragraph 22 of GASB 31. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. This statement supersedes GASB Technical Bulletin 2003-1. [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. GASB Codification Section 2300.113. [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. GASB 23, paragraph 4, as amended by GASB 34 paragraphs 15 and 91 and GASB 65 paragraph 6. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. Consistent with GASB 87, “accumulated amortization” is the same as accumulated depreciation, calculated using the asset’s *economic life*, if the lease agreement transfers ownership to the lessee or contains a bargain purchase option. Otherwise, the lessee should amortize the lease *over the term of the lease*. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. Paragraph 11 of GASB 33; GASB Cod. Sec. N50.108 (2001-2002 GASB 34 Edition). [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. Alternatively, see GASB Cod. Secs. 2500.101 through .102 and the no authoritative discussion at GASB Cod. Sec. 2500.901. [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. Paragraph 17 of GASB 37; footnote g to paragraph 17 of GASB 37. [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. Footnote 48, GASB 34 (also Footnote 1, GASB Cod. Sec. 2500.101). [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. Paragraphs 4-7 of GASB 56, Codification of Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidance Contained in the AICPA Statement and Auditing Standards (March 2009). [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. Adapted from Section R36.102, FASB Accounting Standards as of June 1, 2006. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. See Question 286 of the first *GASB 34 Implementation Guide*, 2001   
    (Question 7.12.14 in the GASB’s *Comprehensive Implementation Guide—2011-2012*). [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. Please contact the Central State Financial Reporting Division, Comptroller General’s Office, for more detailed reasons underlying these policies. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)