

**Standards followed by the Comptroller of the Treasury
In Relation to Audits of Tennessee Board of Regents Institutions**

Audit reports issued for TBR institutions indicate that the Division of State Audit conducts audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in generally accepted government auditing standards. Standards generally accepted in the U.S. are generally the accounting standards issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board or Financial Accounting Standards Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS) are those included in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The types of findings described below are based on the guidance provided in these standards.

Types of Findings

Deficiencies in Internal Control¹

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis.

Significant Deficiency¹

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Material Weakness¹

A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

A finding normally results when auditors consider a deficiency in internal control to be a significant deficiency or a material weakness.

Instance of Non-Compliance Required to be Reported²

When performing GAGAS financial audits, auditors should communicate in the report on internal control over financial reporting and compliance, based upon the work performed, (1) significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control; (2) instances of fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws or regulations that have a material effect on the audit and any other instances that warrant the attention of those charged with governance; (3) noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements that has a material effect on the audit; and (4) abuse that has a material effect on the audit.

¹ Statement on Auditing Standard 115, *Communicating Internal Control Related Matters Identified in an Audit*, was effective for periods ending on or after December 15, 2009.

² The December 2011 Revision of Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office.

