

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
A Component Unit of the State of Illinois  
**STATE COMPLIANCE EXAMINATION**

For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Performed as Special Assistant Auditors for  
the Auditor General, State of Illinois

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
A Component Unit of the State of Illinois  
**STATE COMPLIANCE EXAMINATION**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**

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**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
A Component Unit of the State of Illinois  
**STATE COMPLIANCE EXAMINATION**  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2025

**University Officials**

President	Dr. Jay Gatrell
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (through 5/31/25) Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs (6/1/25 – present)	Dr. Ryan C. Hendrickson Dr. Holly R. Farley
Vice President for Business Affairs	Mr. Matthew J. Bierman
Vice President for Enrollment Management	Mr. Joshua L. Norman
Vice President for Student Affairs	Ms. Anne Flaherty
Vice President for University Advancement	Ms. Miranda L. Spencer
Director of Business Services and Treasurer	Mr. Michael Hutchinson, CPA
General Counsel (through 1/31/26) Interim General Counsel (2/1/25 – present)	Mr. Austin J. Hill Ms. Laura McLaughlin
Director of Internal Auditing	Ms. Natalee Black, CPA

**Board of Trustees (as of June 30, 2025)**

Chairperson	Mr. C. Christopher Hicks
Vice Chairperson	Ms. Julie Everett
Secretary	Ms. Joyce Madigan
Member – Pro Tem	Ms. Barb Baurer
Member	Dr. Timi Ngoboh
Member	Dr. Bernie C. Ranchoero
Member	Vacant
Student Member	Ms. Ameenah Morris

**University Office**

Eastern Illinois University’s primary administrative office is located at 600 Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, Illinois, 61920.

**MANAGEMENT ASSERTION LETTER**

March 25, 2026

Plante & Moran, PLLC  
634 Front Ave NW, Suite 300  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are responsible for the identification of, and compliance with, all aspects of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements that could have a material effect on the operations of Eastern Illinois University (University). We are responsible for and we have established and maintained an effective system of internal controls over compliance requirements. We have performed an evaluation of the University's compliance with the following specified requirements during the one-year period ended June 30, 2025. Based on this evaluation, we assert that during the year ended June 30, 2025, the University has materially complied with the specified requirements listed below.

- A. The University has obligated, expended, received, and used public funds of the State in accordance with the purpose for which such funds have been appropriated or otherwise authorized by law.
- B. The University has obligated, expended, received, and used public funds of the State in accordance with any limitations, restrictions, conditions, or mandatory directions imposed by law upon such obligation, expenditure, receipt, or use.
- C. Other than what has been previously disclosed and reported in the Schedule of Findings, the University has complied, in all material respects, with applicable laws and regulations, including the State uniform accounting system, in its financial and fiscal operations.
- D. State revenues and receipts collected by the University are in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and the accounting and recordkeeping of such revenues and receipts is fair, accurate, and in accordance with law.
- E. Money or negotiable securities or similar assets handled by the University on behalf of the State or held in trust by the University have been properly and legally administered, and the accounting and recordkeeping relating thereto is proper, accurate, and in accordance with law.

Yours truly,

Eastern Illinois University

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE

Dr. Jay D. Gatrell  
President

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE

Mr. Matthew J. Bierman  
vice President for Business Affairs

SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE

Ms. Laura McLaughlin  
Interim General Counsel

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
A Component Unit of the State of Illinois  
**STATE COMPLIANCE EXAMINATION**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**

**STATE COMPLIANCE REPORT**

**SUMMARY**

The State compliance testing performed during this examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the Illinois State Auditing Act (Act); and the *Audit Guide*.

**ACCOUNTANT’S REPORT**

The Independent Accountant’s Report on State Compliance and on Internal Control Over Compliance does not contain scope limitations, or disclaimers, but does contain a modified opinion on compliance and identifies a material weakness over internal control over compliance.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

<b>Number of</b>	<b><u>Current Report</u></b>	<b><u>Prior Report</u></b>
Findings	4	10
Repeated Findings	4	6
Prior Recommendations Implemented or Not Repeated	6	4

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS**

<b><u>Item No.</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>	<b><u>Last/First Reported</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Finding Type</u></b>
<b>Current Findings</b>				
2025-001	10	2024/2020	Inadequate Internal Controls over Census Data	Material Weakness and Material Noncompliance
2025-002	14	2024/2005	Failure to Require Faculty Timesheets	Significant Deficiency and Noncompliance
2025-003	15	2024/2020	Illinois Articulation Initiative Act	Significant Deficiency and Noncompliance
2025-004	16	2024/2021	Weaknesses in Security over Computers	Significant Deficiency and Noncompliance

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
A Component Unit of the State of Illinois  
**STATE COMPLIANCE EXAMINATION**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS (CONTINUED)**

**Prior Findings Not Repeated**

A	17	2024/2024	Inadequate Internal Controls over Recognition of Insurance Proceeds Received
B	17	2024/2024	Inadequate Controls over Equipment Inventory
C	17	2024/2023	Noncompliance with the Fiscal Control and Internal Auditing Act
D	17	2024/2024	Inadequate Controls over Vendor Payments
E	17	2024/2024	Noncompliance with Census Data Verification Procedures
F	18	2024/2022	Inadequate Internal Control over University Procurement Card Transactions

**EXIT CONFERENCE**

Eastern Illinois University waived an exit conference in a correspondence from Michael Hutchinson, Director of Business Services/Treasurer, on March 19, 2026. The responses to the recommendations were provided by Michael Hutchinson, Director of Business Services/Treasurer, in a correspondence dated March 19, 2026.

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT**  
**ON STATE COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE**

Honorable Frank J. Mautino  
Auditor General  
State of Illinois

and

Board of Trustees  
Eastern Illinois University

**Report on State Compliance**

As Special Assistant Auditors for the Auditor General, we have examined compliance by Eastern Illinois University (University) with the specified requirements listed below, as more fully described in the *Audit Guide for Financial Audits and Compliance Attestation Engagements of Illinois State Agencies (Audit Guide)* as adopted by the Auditor General, during the year ended June 30, 2025. Management of the University is responsible for compliance with the specified requirements. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the University's compliance with the specified requirements based on our examination.

The specified requirements are:

- A. The University has obligated, expended, received, and used public funds of the State in accordance with the purpose for which such funds have been appropriated or otherwise authorized by law.
- B. The University has obligated, expended, received, and used public funds of the State in accordance with any limitations, restrictions, conditions, or mandatory directions imposed by law upon such obligation, expenditure, receipt, or use.
- C. The University has complied, in all material respects, with applicable laws and regulations, including the State uniform accounting system, in its financial and fiscal operations.
- D. State revenues and receipts collected by the University are in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and the accounting and recordkeeping of such revenues and receipts is fair, accurate, and in accordance with law.
- E. Money or negotiable securities or similar assets handled by the University on behalf of the State or held in trust by the University have been properly and legally administered and the accounting and recordkeeping relating thereto is proper, accurate, and in accordance with law.

Honorable Frank J. Mautino  
Auditor General  
State of Illinois

and

Board of Trustees  
Eastern Illinois University

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the Illinois State Auditing Act (Act), and the *Audit Guide*. Those standards, the Act, and the *Audit Guide* require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the University complied with the specified requirements in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the University complied with the specified requirements. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgement, including an assessment of the risks of material noncompliance with the specified requirements, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our modified opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

Our examination does not provide a legal determination on the University's compliance with the specified requirements.

Our examination disclosed material noncompliance with the following specified requirements applicable to the University during the year ended June 30, 2025. As described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 2025-001, the University had not complied, in all material respects, with applicable laws and regulations, including the State uniform accounting system, in its financial and fiscal operations.

In our opinion, except for the material noncompliance with the specified requirements described in the preceding paragraph, the University complied with the specified requirements during the year ended June 30, 2025, in all material respects. However, the results of our procedures disclosed instances of noncompliance with the specified requirements, which are required to be reported in accordance with criteria established by the *Audit Guide* and are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2025-002 through 2025-004.

The University's responses to the compliance findings identified in our examination are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings. The University's responses were not subjected to the procedures applied in the examination and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing and the results of that testing in accordance with the requirements of the *Audit Guide*. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Honorable Frank J. Mautino  
Auditor General  
State of Illinois

and

Board of Trustees  
Eastern Illinois University

## **Report on Internal Control Over Compliance**

Management of the University is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the specified requirements (internal control). In planning and performing our examination, we considered the University's internal control to determine the examination procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the University's compliance with the specified requirements and to test and report on the University's internal control in accordance with the *Audit Guide*, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the University's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the University's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that have not been identified. However, as described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings, we did identify a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness and significant deficiencies.

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, noncompliance with the specified requirements on a timely basis. A material weakness in internal control is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material noncompliance with the specified requirements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 2025-001 to be a material weakness.

A significant deficiency in internal control 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. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2025-002 through 2025-004 to be significant deficiencies.

As required by the *Audit Guide*, immaterial findings excluded from this report have been reported in a separate letter.

The University's responses to the internal control findings identified in our examination are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings. The University's responses were not subjected to the procedures applied in the examination and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.

Honorable Frank J. Mautino  
Auditor General  
State of Illinois

and

Board of Trustees  
Eastern Illinois University

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the *Audit Guide*. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

**SIGNED ORIGINAL ON FILE**

Grand Rapids, MI  
March 25, 2026

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
A Component Unit of the State of Illinois  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS – CURRENT FINDINGS**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**

**2025-001. Finding – Inadequate Internal Controls over Census Data**

The Eastern Illinois University (University) did not have adequate internal control over reporting its census data to provide assurance that the census data submitted to the State Universities Retirement System (System) and State Employees' Group Insurance Program (Plan) was complete and accurate.

Census data is demographic data (date of birth, gender, years of service, etc.) of the active, inactive, or retired members of a pension or other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan. The accumulation of inactive or retired members' census data occurs before the current accumulation period of census data used in the plan's actuarial valuations (which eventually flows into each employer's financial statements), meaning the plan is solely responsible for establishing internal controls over these records and transmitting this data to the plan's actuary. In contrast, responsibility for active members' census data during the current accumulation period is split among the plan and each member's current employer(s). Initially, employers must accurately transmit census data elements of their employees to the plan. Then, the plan must record and retain these records for active employees and then transmit this census data to the plan's actuary.

We noted the University's employees are members of both the pension plan administered by the System and the Plan sponsored by the State of Illinois, Department of Central Management Services (CMS) for their OPEB. In addition, we noted these plans have characteristics of different types of pension and OPEB plans, including single employer plans and cost-sharing multiple-employer plans. Additionally, CMS' actuary uses census data for employees of the State's public universities provided by the System, along with census data for other participating members provided by the State's four other pension systems, to prepare their projection of the liabilities of the Plan. Finally, the System's actuary and CMS' actuary used census data transmitted by the University during fiscal year 2023 to project pension and OPEB-related balances and activity at the plans during fiscal year 2024, which is incorporated into the University's fiscal year 2025 financial statements.

During the performance of the census examination, the auditors noted the following:

- While the University had performed an initial complete reconciliation of its census data recorded by the System to its internal records, the University had not fully developed a process to annually obtain from the System the incremental changes recorded by the System in the census data records and reconcile these changes back to the University's internal supporting records.
- During completeness testing of University faculty data, the auditors identified six instructors were not reported as eligible to participate in the System and the Plan by the University.
- During cut-off testing of data transmitted by the University to the System, the auditors identified fourteen employee termination events were reported to the System after the close of the fiscal year in which the event occurred, resulting in inaccurate member status (active or inactive) as of fiscal year-end.

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
A Component Unit of the State of Illinois  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS – CURRENT FINDINGS (CONTINUED)**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**

**2025-001. Finding – Inadequate Internal Controls over Census Data (Continued)**

The result of the errors above led to contributions due to the plan being understated and inaccurate census data being utilized by the System and the State in the performance of the annual pension and OPEB actuarial valuation processes. The independent actuaries utilized by the System and the State of Illinois for the pension and OPEB plans deemed the errors immaterial to the plan level valuations as a whole.

The Fiscal Control and Internal Auditing Act (30 ILCS 10/3001) requires the University to establish and maintain a system, or systems, of internal fiscal and administrative control to provide assurance funds applicable to operations are properly recorded and accounted for to permit the preparation of reliable financial and statistical reports.

Additionally, eligibility criteria for participation in the System under the Illinois Pension Code (Code) (40 ILCS 5/15-134(a)) states any person who is an employee of the University becomes a participant in the System. Under the Code (40 ILCS 5/15-107), an employee is any member of the educational, administrative, secretarial, clerical, mechanical, labor, or other staff of an employer whose employment in a position in which services are expected to be rendered on a continuous basis for at least four months or an academic term, whichever is less, and is:

1. Not a student employed on a less than full-time temporary basis;
2. Not receiving a retirement or disability annuity from the System;
3. Not on military leave;
4. Not eligible to participate in the Federal Civil Service Retirement System;
5. Not currently on a leave of absence without pay more than 60 days after the termination of the System's disability benefits;
6. Not paid from funds received under the Federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act as a public service employment program participant hire on or after July 1, 1979;
7. Not a patient in a hospital or home;
8. Not an employee compensated solely on a fee basis where such income would net earnings from self-employment;
9. Not providing military courses pursuant to a federally funded contract where the University has filed a written notice with the System electing to exclude these persons from the definition of employee;
10. Currently on lay-off status of not more than 120 days after the lay-off date;
11. Not on an absence without pay of more than 30 days; and
12. A nonresident alien on a visa defined under subparagraphs (F), (J), (M), or (Q) of Section 1101(a)(15) of Title 8 of the United States Code who (1) has met the Internal Revenue Service's substantial presence test and (2) became an employee on and after July 1, 1991.

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
A Component Unit of the State of Illinois  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS – CURRENT FINDINGS (CONTINUED)**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**

**2025-001. Finding – Inadequate Internal Controls over Census Data (Continued)**

In addition, the Code (40 ILCS 5/15-157) requires the University to, at a minimum, withhold contributions of each employee's total compensation of 8% (9.5% for firefighters or police officers) for their participation in the System, unless further contributions by the employee would either exceed the maximum retirement annuity in the Code (40 ILCS 5/15-136(c)) or the Tier 2 earnings limitation within the Code (40 ILCS 5/15-111(b)), and remit these amounts to the System. Further, the Code (40 ILCS 5/15-155(b)) requires the University to remit employer contributions to the System reflecting the accruing normal costs of an employee paid from federal or trust funds.

Finally, we noted participation in the OPEB is derivative of an employee's eligibility to participate in the System, as members of the System participate in OPEB as annuitants under the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971 (Act) (5 ILCS 375/3(b)).

University officials stated that the exceptions were due to turnover within the Human Resources area and a lack of employee training. Many of the exceptions also involved employees with irregular contracts, such as adjunct instructors.

Failure to ensure that complete and accurate census data, as well as employee and employer contributions are reported to the System and the State reduces the overall reliability of the pension and OPEB-related balances and activity reported in the University's financial statements, the financial statements of other employers within both plans, and the State of Illinois' Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. Further, failure to report all eligible employees to the System and Plan may result in employees not receiving the pension and OPEB benefits they are entitled to receive under the Code and the Act. (Finding Code No. 2025-001, 2024-001, 2023-001, 2022-001, 2021-001, 2020-001)

**Recommendation**

We recommend the University continue to work with the System to establish the process of annually obtaining from the System the incremental changes recorded in the census data records and reconcile these changes back to the University's internal supporting records. If differences are noted between the University's data and the System's data, these differences should be communicated timely and rectified to ensure the actuarial valuations are using accurate data.

Further, we recommend the University strengthen controls to ensure all eligible employees are reported to the System and State, along with any required employee and employer contributions.

Finally, we recommend the University strengthen controls to ensure all events occurring within the census data accumulation year are reported timely to the System so these events can be incorporated into the census data utilized in the annual actuarial valuation process.

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
A Component Unit of the State of Illinois  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS – CURRENT FINDINGS (CONTINUED)**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**

**2025-001. Finding – Inadequate Internal Controls over Census Data (Continued)**

**University Response**

The University agrees with the auditor’s recommendation. We continue to work with the State Universities Retirement System to report on differences in the incremental changes for 2023 and 2024 between the University’s and SURS’ records. The University has also communicated the requirements in the Illinois Pension Code and SURS’ regulations to Benefits staff and placed that information in a procedures book maintained by Benefits staff. We will continue to have differences in timely reporting due to employee benefit payouts unless SURS changes its procedures for when they will accept terminations.

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
A Component Unit of the State of Illinois  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS – CURRENT FINDINGS (CONTINUED)**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**

**2025-002. Finding – Failure to Require Faculty Timesheets**

Eastern Illinois University (University) did not require positive time reporting for all employees as required by the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (Act).

During testing, we noted the University only required positive time reporting for nonfaculty. University policies do not include requirements for positive time reporting for faculty employees. Faculty employees are required to certify they have met their work schedule obligations as set forth in their individual Assignment of Duties Form; however, they do not report their time to the nearest quarter hour in accordance with the Act.

This finding was first noted during the University’s Fiscal Year 2005 State compliance examination. Since that time, University officials have been unsuccessful in implementing a corrective action plan to remedy this deficiency.

The Act (5 ILCS 430/5-5(c)) requires the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), with respect to State employees of public universities, to adopt and implement personnel policies. The Act requires State employees to periodically submit timesheets documenting the time spent each day on official State business to the nearest quarter hour. The IBHE adopted personnel policies for public universities on February 1, 2004, in accordance with the Act.

University officials stated faculty members work in accordance with their contracts. The contracts define faculty responsibilities in terms of credit units; therefore, faculty members report that they worked in accordance with their contracts.

By not requiring positive time reporting from all its employees, the University does not have complete documentation of time spent by employees on official State business as required by the Act. (Finding Code No. 2025-002, 2024-005, 2023-004, 2022-003, 2021-003, 2020-006, 2019-003, 2018-001, 2017-004, 2016-003, 2015-004, 2014-002, 2013-004, 12-16, 11-7, 10-3, 09-4, 08-5, 07-4, 06-3, 05-4)

**RECOMMENDATION**

We recommend the University update University policies to include requirements for positive time reporting for faculty employees and require all employees to submit positive time reporting as required by the Act.

**UNIVERSITY RESPONSE**

The University agrees with the auditor’s recommendation but believes it cannot implement the statute’s requirement without union agreement. The University will continue to seek union agreement.

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
A Component Unit of the State of Illinois  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS – CURRENT FINDINGS (CONTINUED)**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**

**2025-003. Finding – Illinois Articulation Initiative Act**

Eastern Illinois University (University) did not comply with the Illinois Articulation Initiative Act (Act) requirements.

The Illinois Articulation Initiative (Initiative), through its [itransfer.org](http://itransfer.org) website, exists to ease the transfer of students among the State’s associate and baccalaureate degree granting institutions. The Initiative consists of both a General Education Core Curriculum package, where completion of the entire package at one institution is fully accepted by 111 institutions across the State, and an Initiative major, which are common courses at the lower-division that can be used to ensure students are prepared for upper-division work at 79 institutions across the State.

During our testing, we noted the University did not have a minimum of at least one course included within the related Initiative major for biological sciences, early childhood education, elementary and secondary education, or the art degree programs.

This finding was first noted during the University’s Fiscal Year 2020 State Compliance Examination, five years ago. As such, University officials have been unsuccessful in implementing a corrective action plan to remedy this deficiency.

The Act (110 ILCS 152/15) requires all public institutions to participate in the Initiative through submission and review of their courses for statewide transfer. All public institutions shall maintain a complete Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education Core Curriculum package, and all public institutions shall maintain up to four core courses in an Initiative major, provided the public institution has equivalent majors and courses.

University officials stated course syllabi previously submitted by the University for those four programs were rejected by the appropriate faculty Initiative panels.

Failure to fully participate in the Initiative by submitting at least one course per Initiative major could hinder students from transferring to other institutions and represents noncompliance with the Act. (Finding Code No. 2025-003, 2024-008, 2023-005, 2022-005, 2021-005, 2020-008)

**RECOMMENDATION**

We recommend the University continue in its efforts to fully participate in the Initiative by submitting at least one course per Initiative major.

**UNIVERSITY RESPONSE**

The University agrees with the auditor’s recommendation. The University submitted additional courses to Initiative panels as well as requested legislative assistance in cases where courses are determined not to be equivalent.

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
A Component Unit of the State of Illinois  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS – CURRENT FINDINGS (CONTINUED)**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**

**2025-004. Finding – Weaknesses in Security over Computers**

Eastern Illinois University (University) had weaknesses over the security of computers.

As of the end of the examination period, we noted 614 of 2,526 (24%) computers required encryption to be installed.

This finding was first noted during the University’s Fiscal Year 2021 State compliance examination, four years ago. As such, University officials have been unsuccessful in implementing a corrective action plan to remedy this deficiency.

The Fiscal Control and Internal Auditing Act (30 ILCS 10/3001) requires all State agencies to establish and maintain a system, or systems, of internal fiscal and administrative controls to safeguard State property and resources against unauthorized use.

The *Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organizations* (Special Publication 800-53, Fifth Revision) published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Transmission Confidentiality and Integrity, requires entities to protect the confidentiality and integrity of information transmitted over external and internal networks via methods such as encryption. Best practices include ensuring all laptops and computer equipment have adequate security such as encryption installed.

University officials stated the conditions noted were due to the prioritization of encryption of high-risk areas such as the Business Office, medical lab, etc. The University is in the process of replacing computers that are not capable of encryption and removing those computers from use. Due to budgetary constraints, this process is expected to be completed in June 2027.

Failure to encrypt University computers could lead to confidential information and/or personal identifiable information being compromised. (Finding Code No. 2025-004, 2024-009, 2023-006, 2022-007, 2021-007)

**RECOMMENDATION**

We recommend the University ensure all laptops and computer equipment have adequate security such as encryption installed.

**UNIVERSITY RESPONSE**

The University agrees with the auditor’s recommendation. The University has worked at sending older computers to Central Management Services. The University has also initiated a program to replace computers over a five fiscal year cycle, which will reduce the number of computers whose hard drives are not encrypted.

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
A Component Unit of the State of Illinois  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS – PRIOR FINDINGS NOT REPEATED**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**

A. **FINDING** Inadequate Internal Controls over Recognition of Insurance Proceeds Received

During the prior audit, the University did not have adequate internal controls over insurance proceeds received to ensure amounts were recognized as revenue in the correct period.

During the current audit, the University implemented controls and procedures that allowed for any insurance proceeds received to be recognized as revenue in the correct period. (Finding Code No. 2024-002)

B. **FINDING** Inadequate Controls over Equipment Inventory

During the prior audit, the University had inadequate controls over its equipment inventory.

During the current audit, the University implemented controls and procedures that allowed for the proper tracking of equipment inventory. (Finding Code No. 2024-003)

C. **FINDING** Noncompliance with the Fiscal Control and Internal Auditing Act

During the prior audit, the University failed to adhere to the provisions of the Fiscal Control and Internal Auditing Act.

During the current audit, the University's Chief Internal Auditor was employed for the full fiscal year, which allowed the University to maintain a full-time program of internal auditing and to timely develop and approve a two-year audit plan. (Finding Code No. 2024-004, 2023-009)

D. **FINDING** Inadequate Controls over Vendor Payments

During the prior audit, the University did not have adequate internal controls over vendor payments.

During the current audit, the University implemented controls and procedures that allowed for payments to be properly made and accrued in the correct fiscal year. (Finding Code No. 2024-006)

E. **FINDING** Noncompliance with Census Data Verification Procedures

During the prior audit, the University was not in compliance with State University Retirement System (SURS) Census Data Reconciliation Certification.

During the current examination, the timeliness of the Census Data Reconciliation was considered as part of the SURS Compliance Examination of Census Data and the issues noted from that work are reported in finding 2025-001. (Finding Code No. 2024-007)

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
A Component Unit of the State of Illinois  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS – PRIOR FINDINGS NOT REPEATED**  
**(CONTINUED)**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2025**

F. **FINDING** Inadequate Internal Control over University Procurement Card Transactions

During the prior audit, the University did not have adequate internal control over procurement card transactions.

During the current audit, the University implemented controls and procedures over procurement card transactions. However, certain errors continued to be identified during the current testing, but were not considered significant. These errors noted from that testing are reported in the University's *Report of Immaterial Findings*. (Finding Code No. 2024-010, 2023-008, 2022-009)