



State of North Carolina


Office of the State Controller

DAVID T. MCCOY
STATE CONTROLLER

March 15, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Financial Officers
University Vice Chancellors

FROM: David McCoy 

SUBJECT: North Carolina Accounting System (NCAS)
Decision Support System (DSS) Software

As most of you are aware, the North Carolina Accounting System (NCAS) Decision Support System (DSS) is the primary reporting tool utilized in the production of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), and it is important that we maintain its performance capability. It is currently being upgraded, and when completed, the upgrade will result in improved financial and budgetary analysis and reporting capabilities.

Regrettably, as we worked our way through the testing phase of the upgrade process, we discovered software issues that were unsurmountable. This result forced our office to adopt a different version of the software. The use of this enhanced version will result in a more seamless transition for your staff. Additionally, the new software will not require the previously scheduled training sessions for agency users (though scheduled for March through May 2012, **these are being cancelled**). In lieu of training, the upgraded NCAS DSS does require the client software to be loaded on to the appropriate agency desktop or laptop computers.

Under the new version, the initiation and data access process will be slightly different, but its overall use is very similar to the current NCAS DSS platform. Additional guidance will be provided in the forthcoming NCAS DSS Quick Start Guide. In addition, OSC will provide guidance on the conversion process for agency custom reports to the upgraded version. Unless an agency employee has not been trained in the current version of DSS, additional training will not be required.

As noted in our earlier memo on this subject, OSC analysts will demonstrate NCAS DSS initiation and data access to agency personnel during the CAFR planning conferences scheduled for May and June of 2012. The upgraded system will be accessible either through the OSC website (<http://www.osc.nc.gov/>) or through a new web link to be announced later.

Your continuing support of the transition to the upgraded DSS is appreciated. If you have questions please contact OSC Support Services at (919) 707-0795.

CC: Fiscal Contacts
No. SAD 12-38