



NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

R. Scott Ralls, Ph.D.

President

May 19, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Presidents
Business Officers
Systems Administrators
E-mail Administrators
Network Administrators

FROM: Dr. Saundra W. Williams, Senior Vice President
Technology and Workforce Development

SUBJECT: Change to Information Technology Security Standards

The System Office, working with the Office of the State Auditor and the Technology Review Team, has recently determined that certain aspects of the IIPS Security Standards do not meet the requirements of the Office of the State Auditor for a Financial or IT security audit which can result in colleges receiving audit exceptions.

The Office of the State Auditor is currently utilizing the North Carolina Statewide Information Security Manual as the standards for IT auditing. The most recent version of Statewide Information Security Manual and its revisions can be found at:
<https://www.scio.nc.gov/mission/itPoliciesStandards.aspx>

One of the most commonly identified causes for an audit exception is a result of Managing Access Control Standards where there must be a documented semi-annual review of standard users' rights and a documented quarterly review of privileged accounts. Current IIPS Standards recommend an annual review of standard and privileged accounts. There are other IIPS Security standards that could result in an audit exception.

Colleges are strongly encouraged to compare the North Carolina Statewide Information Security Manual against their current security standards as they were adopted from the IIPS Security Standards.

The System Office will be collaborating with the IIPS Security Committees to draft a new set of security standards for the colleges that meets, or exceeds the existing Statewide Information Security Manual. Per G.S. § 147-33.111 (b) the Community Colleges System may develop their

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own security standards provided they are, “comparable to or exceed” those set by the State CIO. Additional information on that effort will be provided from the IIPS Security Committee to all colleges.

For any additional information or questions regarding this change, please contact Stephen Reeves, Director of IT Security, at 919.807.7054 or reevess@nccommunitycolleges.edu

SWW/ssr/st

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