



MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2026

The Office of Governmental Accountability (OGA)-State Contracting Standards Board (SCSB) Staff provides the information shared in this monthly report for the convenience of SCSB members and the public.

A. Administration, Legislation, Legal and Miscellaneous:

1. Administrative:

- a. Board Meetings: The SCSB held regular board meetings on March 13, 2026. Video and meeting materials from the public portions of the meetings are available on the Connecticut State Contracting Standards Board website.
- b. 2025 Annual Report: At the regular SCSB meeting on March 13, 2026, the 2025 Annual Report was unanimously accepted without any changes.
- c. Freedom of Information Requests: In March 2026, the SCSB received three Freedom of Information Act requests. Two requests sought records relating to vendor payments or purchase activity, while one request sought records for which the agency had no responsive records. Overall, the March requests reflected continued public interest in agency purchasing and related records.

2. Legislation:

- a. FY2027 Budget Process: No further steps in the legislative budget process were taken during the month of March. This is typical of the budget process, as we have provided all the requested information.
- b. 2026 Legislative Package:
 - 1) On March 13, 2026, S.B. 469, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the State Contracting Standards Board, was heard during the GAE committee's public hearing. For this public hearing, Executive Director Daniels provided oral testimony and both the Executive Director and Chair Palache provided written testimony.
 - 2) On March 23, 2026, S.B. 469 was voted out of GAE favorably, with Amendment Letter A, changing the Section 5 waiver language from \$25,000 back to \$10,000. The bill, however, still retains language requiring the SCSB to document certain waivers in writing and post that documentation on the State Contracting Portal within five business days, except for purchases of \$10,000 or less. Both Executive Director Daniels and Chair Palache have expressed concerns with its implementation.
- c. 2026 Bill Tracking: As of February 28, 2026, Research Analyst Anderson has identified three bills to track through this session.
 - 1) SB 81: An Act Concerning the Privatization of the Department of Motor Vehicles does not appear to be moving this legislative session.

- 2) SB 247: An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Auditors of Public Accounts passed out of the Joint Committee on Government Oversight with no amendments on March 17, 2026.
- 3) SB 324: An Act Concerning Government Oversight Over Fraud and Waste and Establishing the Office of Government Oversight and Efficiency passed out of the Joint Committee on Government Oversight with no amendments on March 17, 2026.
- 4) SB 462: An Act Establishing the Office of Government Oversight was introduced by the GAE committee and passed out of committee on March 23, 2026.

3. **Legal:**

- a. Media Inquiries Regarding Office of Correctional Ombuds Matter: Following information presented at the Board's January 9, 2026, regular meeting concerning the Office of the Correctional Ombud, Executive Director Daniels and Staff Attorney Felman received and responded to related media inquiries. Staff Attorney Felman provided a brief update regarding the active litigation connected with this matter and the associated media inquiry.
- b. Status of § 4e-34 Project: Staff Attorney Felman, with assistance from Executive Director Daniels, finalized a preliminary draft manual of the C.G.S. § 4e-34 disqualification procedures and distributed to members of the Statutes, Regulations, Policies, and Procedures (SRPP) Work Group for review and feedback in advance of their next meeting on April 7, 2026. The draft procedures are intended to promote consistent, transparent, and legally defensible disqualification proceedings while ensuring appropriate due process protections.
- c. Status of Personal Data Protection Regulations: Staff Attorney Felman finalized a preliminary draft of the Board's personal data protection regulations, which was sent to the SRPP Work Group on February 6, 2026 for consideration at the SRPP Work Group meeting on March 10, 2026. The work group reviewed the draft at the March 10, 2026 Work Group meeting and voted to raise the preliminary draft for consideration at the next regular monthly Board meeting.
- d. Triennial Audit Policies, Procedures & Regulations Development Project: In furtherance of action item(s) assigned at the January 2026 Audit & Data Analysis Work Group Meeting, Staff Attorney Felman and Accounts Examiner Maritza Lopez prepared a draft timeline for developing and implementing comprehensive policies, procedures, and regulations pertaining to the SCSB's triennial audit statutory mandate found in C.G.S. § 4e-6. Staff Attorney Felman and Accounts Examiner Lopez have met regularly since January 2026, established a proposed timeline for the initial development phase of the project's policies and procedures for consideration at the next Audit & Data Analysis Work Group meeting, and discussed additional considerations and improvements to current SCSB Audit policies and procedures. This timeline and related discussion topics will be presented and discussed at the next Audit & Data Analysis Work Group Meeting on March 31, 2026. Staff Attorney Felman and Accounts Examiner Lopez plan to meet biweekly to further complete this

project, in accordance with the proposed timeline (subject to the Audit & Data Analysis Work Group’s directives and approvals).

B. Compliance Audits:

1. Audit-Data Analysis Work Group Meeting:

- a. Throughout 2026, virtual Audit-Data Analysis Work Group meetings are scheduled to take place on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m.
- b. The Audit-Data Analysis Work Group did not meet as scheduled on March 18, 2026 due to a lack of quorum. A special meeting took place on March 31, 2026.
- c. The following audit-related documents were distributed to Work Group members for review in January and February. Discussion on these items will take place at the next meeting of this Work Group:
 - 1) **Self-Audit Questionnaire:** Originally developed prior to staff review and formally approved by the Audit Work Group.
 - 2) **Procurement Audit Engagement Letter:** Standard engagement letter issued to agencies selected for procurement audit activities.
 - 3) **Exhibit A Questionnaire:** Updated agency questionnaire accompanying the Procurement Audit Engagement Letter.
 - 4) **Compliance Testing Checklist:** The current checklist is distributed to agencies as part of the audit review process.
 - 5) **Procurement Audit Engagement Document:** Accounts Examiner Lopez and Trainer Specialist Hufcut developed a new interactive electronic engagement document that consolidates audit materials, improves clarity, and streamlines agency submissions to reduce paperwork and audit delays, given limited staffing. The document includes detailed instructions, dropdown menus, and links. This document was shared with the Work Group for feedback. Suggestions included adding qualitative and privatization questions and updating procurement thresholds. Additional time was provided to Work Group members to review and provide recommendations prior to the next meeting for inclusion in the meeting materials.
- d. **Annual Audit Report:**

A draft of the Annual Audit Report was presented at the January 21, 2026, Audit and Data Analysis Work Group meeting. Work Group members requested that additional qualitative data be included and that the report be updated before February 9, 2026. The feedback from Board Members was considered and incorporated into the report.

2. Audit and Legal:

- a. Beginning in January 2026, Accounts Examiner Lopez and Attorney Felman have met regularly to review and discuss the development and refinement of audit policies and procedures. These discussions and corresponding work focus on clarifying audit standards, strengthening compliance review processes, and ensuring that audit practices align with applicable statutes, regulations, and agency guidelines. The meetings also include evaluating current procedures, identifying areas for improvement, and determining whether additional documentation or guidance is

needed to support consistent and effective audit implementation. This work will serve as the necessary foundational work for future audit regulations.

3. Audit and Training:

- a. Accounts Examiner Lopez and Training Specialist Hufcut continue to work collaboratively to enhance and expand the agency’s audit training program.
- b. The Audit Course has been completed and is awaiting review by the Audit Work Group.

4. Future Audits:

- a. At the September 17, 2026, meeting of the Audit-Data Analysis Work Group, Chair Roberto Fernandez shared his recommendation that all audits be suspended until the audit instrument is reviewed and agreed upon. At the meeting on March 31, 2026, Accounts Examiner Lopez was directed to resume her work on the pending audits and report on her progress at the next Work Group meeting.

Year 2 Contracting Agency Selection					
<u>Agency</u>	<u># of contracts</u>	<u>Total (\$)</u>	<u># of samples audited</u>	<u># of findings</u>	<u>Audit Status</u>
Dept of Administrative Services (DAS)	543	\$1,817,965,406.27	4		The agency has confirmed receipt of this audit request on 10/31/2025.
Department of Development Services (DDS)	434	\$7,324,399,958.35	4		The agency has submitted the requested documentation received on 7/28/2025.
Mental Health & Addiction Services (MHA)	1206	\$2,886,446,958.11	4		Discussed with the agency what documentation is needed for the audit and provided some documents. 7/30/2025.
State Dept of Education (SDE)	398	\$167,852,974.70	4		Documentation Received 4/4/2025.

C. Training:

- 1. Training Work Group (TWG):** Throughout 2026, hybrid Training Work Group meetings are scheduled to take place on the second Friday of each month from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., following the regular Board meetings on site at 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut, and virtually.
 - a. The Training Work Group met on March 03, 2026.
 - b. The next meeting of the Training Work Group is scheduled to take place on April 10, 2026.

2. Courses

- a. Completed and uploaded to the LMS
 - Code of Ethics for Procurement Professionals
 - Freedom of Information Act
 - Sourcing, Purchasing, and Procurement
 - Introduction to State Procurement Rules and Governance (final stages)
- b. Working on
 - Leasing/Real Estate: The DAS Facilities Department has shared a course that exists. Trainer Specialist Hufcut is working to complete the necessary research so that it can be modified for our purposes. Trainer Specialist Hufcut will review the materials and share the information with Donna Karnes.
 - State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC)
 - Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) and Attorney General (AG) - These three courses are required by statute and must be developed in cooperation with outside agencies. Efforts toward their development have begun.
 - NASPO: We used to be able to access NASPO courses, but can no longer do so. We are permitted to use their information and course materials to develop our own courses.

3. Training Regulations, Policies & Procedures:

- a. Trainer Specialist Hufcut reminded the work group that much of this Training Handbook was created to ensure that SCSB would meet accreditation standards. Many of the policies in the Training Handbook were integrated from existing State policies.
- b. At the March 10, 2026 Training Work Group meeting, Attorney Felman shared that after he and Chair Ahneman met with Trainer Specialist Carmen Hufcut and that he completed an additional legal review of the Internal Policies and Procedures within the identified sections of the Training Handbook. Attorney Felman provided a review to Trainer Specialist Hufcut and confirmed that the language is legally sufficient and meets our needs. He made some recommendations for improvement that Trainer Specialist Hufcut is reviewing.

4. Training and Audit:

- a. Trainer Specialist Hufcut continues to work with Accounts Examiner Lopez regarding Audit procedures and the development of an Audit training program.
- b. Audit course has been completed, waiting for committee review.

5. Compliance with the Federal Accessibility Mandate:

- a. SCSB is awaiting the results of the audit.

6. Annual Reports:

- a. Course Content Review Analysis
 - Completed and distributed to the TWG for revision.

7. IACET Annual Report

- a. Accreditation report Due 7/1/26. It consists of the following components:
- Annual Statistics
 - Substantive Changes to Organization, Responsibility, and Control
 - Internal Audit Review Process and Evidence Continuous Improvement
 - Feedback

D. Committee, Subcommittee and Work Group Reports:

1. Audit/Data Analysis Work Group:

- a. The meeting scheduled for March 18, 2026, was canceled due to a lack of quorum. A special meeting took place on March 31, 2026.
- b. Summary of Action Items for Audit-Data Analysis Work Group discussed at meeting on March 31, 2026:

Action Items	Description	By whom	Accomplished	Next Due Date	Note
Procurement Audit Engagement Letter	Review the draft engagement letter and submit feedback.	Work Group Members	<input type="checkbox"/>	2/9/2026	No response
Procurement Audit Engagement Document	Review the draft engagement document and provide feedback.	Work Group Members	<input type="checkbox"/>	2/9/2026	No response
Compliance Testing	Review proposed compliance testing and provide feedback.	Work Group Members	<input type="checkbox"/>	2/9/2026	No response
Annual Report	Review the annual report draft and provide feedback.	Work Group Members and Accounts Examiner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2/9/2026	Accounts Examiner Lopez provided information requested by Work Group members.
Requested list of 33 agencies	Compile and submit the requested list of agencies.	Accounts Examiner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2/9/2026	Accounts Examiner Lopez provided the requested information to Work Group members.
Policies and Procedures	Provide an update and timeline at this meeting.	Executive Director, Attorney and Accounts Examiner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3/18/2026	Ongoing

2. Budget Sub-Work Group:

This sub-work group did not meet in March 2026.

3. Privatization Contract Committee:

This Committee did not meet in March 2026.

4. C.G.S. § 4e-36 Contested Solicitation and Awards Subcommittee:

This Subcommittee did not meet in March 2026.

5. Statutes, Regulations, Policies and Procedures (“SRPP”) Work Group:

- a. This Work Group met on March 10, 2026.
- b. They are scheduled to meet virtually on April 7, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
- c. In accordance with the action item(s) established at the SRPP Work Group meeting on February 3, 2026, Attorney Felman finalized a preliminary draft of the SCSB’s personal data protection regulations and distributed it to the work group on February 6, 2026. At the March 10, 2026, SRPP Work Group Members voted in favor of putting the personal data protection regulations draft on the agenda for Board consideration at the April 10, 2026 regular monthly board meeting.
- d. Staff Attorney Felman also: (a) revised the 2026 mandated regulations reporting table in accordance with the work group’s directive; (b) collaboratively created and refined a regulations promulgation flowchart with the legal team to be distributed and discussed at the next work group meeting; and finalized a preliminary draft 4e-34 Procedural Manual that was distributed to Work Group members on March 17, 2026 for discussion at the next SRPP Work Group meeting on April 7, 2026.
- e. Staff Attorney Felman sent the approved SCSB Rules of Practice regulations to the Office of the Attorney General for pre-review and reported its status at this Work Group meeting. The pre-review requires additional follow-up with the Office of the Attorney General to ensure that all remaining questions and concerns are addressed satisfactorily. This process is ongoing, and an additional update will be provided at the next SRPP Work Group meeting, as necessary.
- f. The next SRPP Work Group meeting is scheduled to take place virtually on April 7, 2026.

6. Statutes, Regulations, Policies and Procedures (“SRPP”) Work Group Personnel Review Sub-Work Group:

This sub-work group did not meet in March 2026.

7. Statutes, Regulations, Policies and Procedures (“SRPP”) Work Group Chief Procurement Officer Section Committee:

This group met on March 11, 2026.

8. Training Work Group:

- a. The Work Group met on March 13, 2026.
- b. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on April 10, 2026.
- c. Review of Action Items for Training Work Group:

	Action Items	Description	By whom	Accomplished	Due Date	Note
1	Participant Grievance Procedure	Chair Ahneman will reach out to Mr. Fernandez to request that he complete this action item prior to the next meeting.	Chair Ahneman	<input type="checkbox"/>	4/3/2026	Any revisions and/or comments should be sent to Trainer Specialist Hufcut a week (4/3/2026) in advance of the meeting on 4/10/2026.
2	Participant Grievance Procedure	Review the Participant Grievance Procedure portion of the handbook.	Mr. Fernandez	<input type="checkbox"/>	4/3/2026	Any revisions and/or comments should be sent to Trainer Specialist Hufcut a week (4/3/2026) in advance of the meeting on 4/10/2026.
3	Training Handbook	Prepare draft Training Handbook for July 2026 meeting.	Trainer Specialist Hufcut	<input type="checkbox"/>	06/10/2026	
4	Participant Handbook	Prepare draft Participant Handbook for July 2026 meeting.	Trainer Specialist Hufcut	<input type="checkbox"/>	06/10/2026	
5	Course Content Review Analysis Report	Disseminate the report to the work group for review and comment	Trainer Specialist Hufcut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	03/20/2026	Completed on 03/17/2026
6	Course Content Review Analysis Report	Review the Course Content Review Analysis Report and be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting	TWG Members	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4/3/2026	Any revisions and/or comments should be sent to Trainer Specialist Hufcut a week (4/3/2026) in advance of the meeting on 04/10/2026.
7	FOIA Course Material	Conduct a course review and report findings and recommendations to Trainer Specialist Hufcut	Mr. Marpe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4/10/2026	Mr. Marpe completed the review and sent comments to Trainer Specialist Hufcut on 03/16/2026.
8	Course Completion	Trainer Specialist Hufcut will be responsible for completing the following courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 1/2 courses Incorporating NASPO courses	Trainer Specialist Hufcut	<input type="checkbox"/>	12/31/2026	

If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this report, please direct your inquiries to Greg.Daniels@ct.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory F. Daniels, Esq.

Executive Director
 Office of Governmental Accountability
 State Contracting Standards Board