



State Auditor
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INVESTIGATIVE SPECIAL REPORT

North Carolina
Office of the State Auditor
Investigative Division
1-800-730-TIPS

October 2, 2026

North Carolina State University – State Owned Vehicle Use

WHY WE CONDUCTED THIS INVESTIGATION

The North Carolina Office of the State Auditor (OSA) received a complaint through the OSA tipline regarding the use of a State-owned vehicle assigned to North Carolina State University (NCSU or the University). The complainant alleged that an individual used the vehicle to attend an NCSU baseball game for personal purposes.

OBJECTIVE

Determine whether an NCSU employee used a State-owned vehicle for a private purpose in violation of N.C.G.S. § 14-247 and applicable University policies set forth in NCSU RUL 07.25.03.

WHAT WE FOUND

OSA did not identify evidence that the employee used the State-owned vehicle for a private purpose prohibited by N.C.G.S. § 14-247 or applicable University policies set forth in NCSU RUL 07.25.03.

BACKGROUND

NCSU is a public university located in Raleigh, North Carolina, and is a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina System.¹ NCSU was established by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1887 as the North Carolina College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. The University opened its first classes in 1889 with an educational focus that included agriculture, horticulture, chemistry, mathematics, and mechanical arts. Since its founding, NCSU has expanded into a comprehensive research university while maintaining its historical emphasis on agriculture, engineering, education, research, and service to the State.²



PHOTO: Wikimedia.org

¹ The University of North Carolina System, NC State University, <https://www.northcarolina.edu/institution/north-carolina-state-university/>.

² N.C. State University Libraries, *Highlights in NC State History*, <https://historicalstate.lib.ncsu.edu/timelines/highlights-in-nc-state-history>.

FINDING 1 DETAILS

OSA did not identify evidence that the employee used the State-owned vehicle for a private purpose prohibited by N.C.G.S. § 14-247 or applicable University policies set forth in NCSU RUL 07.25.03.

N.C.G.S. § 14-247 prohibits State employees from using State-owned vehicles for private purposes.³ University rule 07.25.03 (NCSU RUL 07.25.03) requires University-owned vehicles to be used for official University business and operated in accordance with applicable North Carolina Department of Administration (DOA) Motor Fleet Management regulations.⁴ These DOA regulations provide in part that a State-owned vehicle may be used to obtain meals and other necessities while an employee is in authorized travel status but may not be used for entertainment or other personal purposes.⁵

The complainant alleged an individual used a vehicle bearing a State-issued license plate to attend an NCSU baseball game. Publicly available information showed that NCSU hosted the University of Miami baseball team at Doak Field, an athletic facility located on NCSU's campus, on May 1, 2026.⁶ OSA reviewed vehicle registration records associated with the vehicle identified by the complainant and confirmed through DOA that the vehicle was registered to NCSU and assigned to a University employee.

OSA reviewed GPS tracking data and interviewed relevant personnel regarding the employee's activities on May 1, 2026. The employee's supervisor advised investigators that the employee was scheduled to conduct work-related activities and attend meetings on NCSU's campus that day. The employee stated that he traveled to NCSU's campus for those work-related activities and remained on campus after the meetings concluded. GPS data confirmed that the vehicle was located on NCSU's campus from approximately 9:40 a.m. until 11:45 p.m. and remained parked during the baseball game, which took place from approximately 7:55 p.m. until 11:41 p.m. Based on the GPS records, interview statements, and other records reviewed, OSA did not identify evidence that the vehicle was used for a separate personal trip on May 1, 2026.

During its review of GPS tracking data, OSA identified additional vehicle trips that warranted further examination to determine whether they were associated with official University business. OSA reviewed available work travel calendars and conducted interviews with relevant personnel regarding the purpose of those trips. Based on the information obtained,

³ [N.C.G.S. § 14-247](#).

⁴ N.C. State University, [RUL 07.25.03](#), Obtaining a Vehicle from NC State Motor Pool (Issued Dec. 7, 2000, revised Dec. 13, 2022).

⁵ [01 N.C. Admin. Code .0409](#).

⁶ See ESPN, https://www.espn.com/college-baseball/game/_/gameId/401848059.

OSA verified that the identified travel was associated with work-related activities and served an official University business purpose.

Based on the evidence reviewed, OSA did not identify evidence that the employee used the State-owned vehicle for a private purpose prohibited by N.C.G.S. § 14-247 or applicable University policies set forth in NCSU RUL 07.25.03.

Ordering Information

Copies of this report may be obtained by contacting:



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Fax: 919-807-7647
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Note to Readers: OSA maintains strict confidentiality when handling personally identifiable and other sensitive information in accordance with State and federal law. OSA takes all necessary precautions to ensure that sensitive information is not compromised or improperly shared.

This Special Report is based on the limited information available to OSA at this time and is not exhaustive. Additionally, this investigation does not preclude the potential for future allegations, whether similar or different in nature, from being subject to investigation or audit by OSA. This report does not constitute an audit or attestation engagement conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

A copy of this Special Report has been provided to NCSU Leadership and is published online for review by the University community and the citizens of North Carolina.