

# DISASTERS HAPPEN

## EDUCATION DISASTER FRAUD SHOULDN'T

Schools, school districts, colleges, universities, and other institutions impacted by natural disasters often must disburse large amounts of money quickly to return to their full capabilities. Fraudsters, crooks, and profiteers seize on these vulnerable times to steal funds schools need to recover from disasters and serve their students.

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General (OIG) works to stop these bad actors, and you can help! If you see common disaster-related fraud indicators, let us know!



### COMMON DISASTER FRAUD RED FLAGS



Disaster-related grant award money runs out too quickly



Irregularities in contract awards



Nepotism and favoritism in contracting



Unreasonable contract costs for services or services not provided



Misuse of authority to unfairly influence decision makers



Inferior quality or inflated costs for products and services



No show or ghost employees



Suspicious contract bidding trends and patterns



Suspicious, new or unverifiable vendors

## REPORT SUSPECTED WRONGDOING TO THE OIG

The U.S. Department of Education, [OIG Hotline](https://oig.ed.gov) is a free, 24/7 service accepting tips, complaints, and allegations about possible theft, fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, public corruption, or whistleblower reprisals involving Federal education programs, operations, or funds. To learn more about what you can do to help protect Federal education funds from fraud, waste, and abuse—including an episode of our Eye on ED podcast focused on disaster recovery fraud—visit [our website at oig.ed.gov](https://our.website.at.oig.ed.gov).



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