



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Fact Sheet

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) administers most Federal education assistance throughout the United States and its territories. ED's annual budget is about \$73.4 billion, most of which it provides to States, school districts, colleges, and universities. ED administers more than 100 programs that involve 56 State, territorial, and other educational agencies, more than 17,000 public school districts, about 128,000 schools, more than 5,000 institutions of higher education, and numerous other grantees and subgrantees — making it one of the largest grant-making Federal agencies. ED also disburses about \$114 billion in Federal student aid to millions of students annually and manages an outstanding loan portfolio of more than \$1.6 trillion. This makes ED one of the largest financial institutions in the country. With an agency of the size and scope of ED, effective oversight is absolutely critical to ensuring that the taxpayer dollars that fund ED programs and operations are not lost to fraud, waste, or abuse and that those vital funds are used as required, that they reach the intended recipient, and achieve the desired result.

And that's what the ED Office of Inspector is all about.

ED Office of Inspector General

Offices of Inspectors General (OIGs) were created as independent entities within their respective Federal agencies and departments with a statutory mission to promote the efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity of the Department's programs and operations through independent and objective audits, investigations, inspections, and other activities. As the OIG for ED, we are responsible for identifying and preventing fraud, waste, abuse, and criminal activity involving ED funds, programs, and operations. We conduct independent audits and other reviews and recommend actions to address systemic weaknesses and improve ED programs and operations. We also recommend changes needed in some of the most important Federal education laws, regulations, and policies in our country. The Inspector General reports to both U.S. Congress and the agency head. This dual reporting requirement facilitates and ensures the independence of the OIGs.

Fast Facts



The OIG mission is to promote the efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity of the U.S. Department of Education's programs and operations.



The OIG has about 160 employees, including auditors, accountants, criminal investigators, inspectors, attorneys, forensic specialists, financial analysts, information technology, management, and business professionals.



The OIG headquarters is in Washington, D.C., and it has 14 offices located across the country.

Immediate Office of the Inspector General

The Immediate Office of the Inspector General is responsible for the coordination and oversight of the OIG's mission, providing overall leadership, setting the direction of the OIG, and providing internal management support and communications services. The Immediate Office is composed of the Inspector General, the Deputy Inspector General, and their executive staff.



Audit Services

- Conducts audit-related activities to ensure ED programs are operating in accordance with established laws, regulations, and policies.
- Makes recommendations to improve program efficiency, address systemic weaknesses, and initiate administrative action. Recommends changes needed in Federal laws, regulations, and policies, including the Higher Education Act, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- Fulfills OIG statutory requirement to ensure that work performed by non-Federal auditors involving Department program participants, grantees, and subgrantees complies with Government Auditing Standards.
- Produces about 25 reports and completes more than 100 desk and quality control reviews of non-Federal audits each year.
- Conducts information technology-related audits, including the annual Federal Information Security Modernization Act audit, to help ED improve management of its information technology systems.



Enterprise and External Affairs

- Facilitates activities impacting the entire OIG enterprise, including strategic planning, organizational performance management, and communications.
- Coordinates the OIG's enterprise risk management activities.
- Provides independent, internal oversight of the OIG and its employees, ensuring compliance, accountability, and ongoing improvement throughout the organization.
- Conducts internal quality assurance reviews and investigations.
- Coordinates communications between the OIG and the Congress, the media, and the public.
- Creates and facilitates development of products, services, and programs, including managing the OIG's website and social media platforms.



Legal Services

- Provides legal advice and assistance to the Inspector General and OIG staff on a full range of subjects, including Federal education law; administrative, criminal, and civil procedure; and the civil False Claims Act. Represents the OIG in administrative litigation before the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
- Manages the OIG's legal and ethics functions.
- Facilitates OIG responses to Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act requests.





Investigation Services

- Conducts criminal and civil investigations involving ED programs, operations, and funding.
- Investigates suspected fraudulent activities by ED employees, contractors, grant recipients, school officials—any entity or individual that awards, disburses, or receives ED funds or participates in its programs.
- Investigates cybercrime affecting and involving the use of ED information technology systems.
- Carries a caseload of about 200 cases and conducts about 65 arrest warrants and search warrants each year.
- Maintains the OIG Hotline, which provides an opportunity for the public to report suspected fraud, waste, and abuse involving ED programs, operations, and funding.
- Operates a state-of-the-art computer laboratory for conducting and coordinating digital forensic analysis, data analysis, and processing digital evidence.
- Conducts outreach with strategic partners and fraud awareness briefings and collaborates with other OIG components to develop appropriate enforcement actions and to identify programs vulnerable to fraud.



Management Services

- Provides administrative and management support to the Inspector General and all OIG components.
- Formulates, executes, and oversees the OIG budget.
- Develops and maintains administrative and management policy and procedures.
- Performs human resource support activities and facilities and properties management duties.
- Fulfills the OIG's external reporting requirements.



Technology Services

- Leverages technology to provide products and services that enhance and advance the OIG's mission.
- Provides data analytics for OIG audits and investigations and maintains the OIG's information technology infrastructure and security posture.



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