

Calendar Year 2024 Department of Education's Budget Formulation Compliance Report  
for Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request

February 12, 2025

Section 6 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Circular *National Drug Control Program Agency Compliance Reviews*, dated September 9, 2021, instructs that this Compliance Report include (1) information on the Department's summer budget formulation (in this case, for fiscal year 2026); and (2) certifications by the Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) relating to that summer budget formulation.

More specifically, the ONDCP Circular presupposes the Department engaged in an agency-wide budget formulation process for fiscal year 2026 during the summer of calendar year 2024, and expects the Department to include, in this Compliance Report, (1) a copy of the transmittal letter and resource summary table from the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education's (OESE) fiscal year 2026 budget request for drug control programs submitted to ONDCP in summer 2024; and (2) certification by OIG of both the timeliness of OESE's budget submission to ONDCP and that OESE's submission was not altered or adjusted by any official at the Department.

However, the Department in fact did not carry out an internal budget formulation process for the fiscal year 2026 budget request under which OESE developed or submitted a request in summer of 2024. Consequently, the requirements of the ONDCP Circular are not applicable.

ONDCP Circular (in section 6(b)(1)), in tandem with the ONDCP Circular *Budget Formulation* dated September 9, 2021 (in section 9(a)(1)), indicate that for agencies with no budget data applicable for the summer budget submission, the agency (1) notify ONDCP by July 15th that the agency budget formulation process does not include the submission of any agency budget proposal to ONDCP for review or adjudication prior to development of the OMB-level fall budget submission; and (2) attest to this fact in this Compliance Report.

The Department notified ONDCP by e-mail on July 11, 2024 that for the above reasons ONDCP would not be receiving a summer drug control budget request from the Department for the fiscal year 2026 formulation cycle. For purposes of this Compliance Report we reaffirm that the Department's fiscal year 2026 budget formulation process did not include the submission by OESE of any budget proposal, budget formulation data, or other pre-decisional budget information to the agency for review or adjudication prior to development of the Department's OMB-level fall budget submission.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Audit Services

February 12, 2025

TO: Larry Kean  
Director  
Office of Budget Service

FROM: Sean Dawson /s/  
Assistant Inspector General for Audit

SUBJECT: Office of Inspector General's Independent Report on the U.S. Department of Education's *Calendar Year 2024 Department of Education's Budget Formulation Compliance Report for Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request*, dated February 12, 2025

Attached is our authentication of management's assertions contained in the U.S. Department of Education's *Calendar Year 2024 Department of Education's Budget Formulation Compliance Report for Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request*, dated February 12, 2025. We performed this review as required by 21 United States Code (U.S.C.) section 1704(d)(1) and as authorized by 21 U.S.C. section 1703(d)(7), and in compliance with the Office of National Drug Control Policy Circular: National Drug Control Program Agency Compliance Reviews, dated September 9, 2021.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the contents of this authentication, please contact Michele Weaver-Dugan, Director, Internal Operations Oversight Team, at (202) 360-8454.

Attachment



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Audit Services

**Office of Inspector General's Independent Report on the U.S. Department of Education's  
Calendar Year 2024 Department of Education's Budget Formulation Compliance Report for  
Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request, dated February 12, 2025**

We have reviewed management's assertions contained in the accompanying *Calendar Year 2024 Department of Education's Budget Formulation Compliance Report for Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request*, dated February 12, 2025. The U.S. Department of Education's (Department) management is responsible for the Budget Formulation Compliance Report and the assertions contained therein.

Our review was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards for attestation review engagements. A review is substantially less in scope than an examination, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion on management's assertions. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

We reviewed the Department's assertion that its fiscal year 2026 budget formulation process did not include the submission by the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education of any budget proposal, budget formulation data, or other pre-decisional budget information to the agency for review or adjudication prior to development of the Department's Office of Management and Budget-level fall budget submission, and we determined that the Department appropriately notified the Office of National Drug Control Policy of this by the July 15 deadline.

Based on our review, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that management's assertion, contained in the accompanying Budget Formulation Compliance Report, is not fairly stated in all material respects, based upon the Office of National Drug Control Policy Circular: *National Drug Control Program Agency Compliance Reviews*, dated September 9, 2021.

Sean Dawson /s/  
Assistant Inspector General for Audit