



Let's Work Together to Protect Coronavirus Response Funds from Fraud and Abuse



Three measures have been signed into law providing the U.S. Department of Education (ED) with more than \$280 billion to assist States, K–12 schools, school districts, and institutions of higher education in meeting their needs and the needs of their students impacted by the coronavirus pandemic—the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act](#) or CARES Act (March 2020); the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021-Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act](#) (December 2020); and the [American Rescue Plan](#) (March 2021).

But criminals and bad actors are targeting these funds, seizing on every opportunity to steal or misuse this money, including preying on students, schools, and Federal, State, and local government agencies.

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General's (OIG) Special Investigations Unit is working to identify, prevent, and stop the criminals and bad actors who seek to steal or intentionally misuse coronavirus response funds. But we can't do this alone. As someone on the front line in distributing and spending these funds, you are our eyes and ears—you can help us stop fraud.

Significant Coronavirus Response Funding Streams for Education

Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund: \$4.26 billion in grants for Governor's offices for education. [Learn more.](#)

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund: \$190 billion in grants to State educational agencies. [Learn more.](#)

Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund: \$76.2 billion in grants to institutions of higher education. [Learn more.](#)

Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools: \$5.5 billion to assist nonpublic schools (\$2.75 billion from Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund). [Learn more.](#)

What Does Education Coronavirus Response Fraud Look Like?

Here are a few examples:

- Missing school funds or property
- Irregularities in contracts or undue influence by decision-makers
- Identity theft and fraudsters posing as students to steal student aid



Free Resources to Help You Identify and Report Coronavirus Response Fraud

We have a number of free resources available to help you identify, stop, and report fraud to the OIG.

- **Virtual trainings.** Get an overview of education-related coronavirus response fraud and how to spot it and report it.
- **One-on-one meetings.** Meet with us to discuss any specific concerns you may have about coronavirus response fraud.
- **Fraud indicator materials.** Download brochures and posters with helpful tips on identifying and reporting allegations of fraud, abuse, or other criminal activity involving coronavirus response funds.

Contact the OIG Special Investigations Unit

For more information on these free resources and the vital role you play in identifying and stopping coronavirus response fraud, contact us.

OIG Special Investigations Unit

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1-800-MISUSED (1-800-647-8733)

OIG Coronavirus News & Resources [Webpage](#)

Report allegations of fraud or other criminal activity to our Hotline.

[Click Here to Contact Our Hotline](#)