



The U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General

July 2022

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 also disburses about \$112 billion in student loans 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. ED administers some 100 programs that involve 56 State and territorial educational agencies; 17,000 public school districts; 130,000 schools; 6,000 institutions of higher education; and numerous other grantees and subgrantees, making it one of the largest grant-making Federal agencies.

ED Office of Inspector General

Offices of Inspectors General (OIGs) were created as independent entities within their respective Federal agencies and departments, reporting to both the U.S. Congress and the agency head. This dual reporting requirement facilitates and ensures the independence of the OIGs.

ED OIG is responsible for identifying and preventing fraud, waste, abuse, and criminal activity involving ED funds, programs, and operations. ED OIG conducts independent audits and other reviews, and it recommends actions to address systemic weaknesses and improve ED programs and operations. It also recommends changes needed in some of the most important Federal education laws, regulations, and policies in our country.



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 230 staff members, 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 16 offices located across the country.



To report fraud, waste, abuse, contact the OIG Hotline at oighotline.ed.gov.

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, and three direct report offices: Quality and Integrity Group, Congressional and Communications Services, and the Chief Diversity Officer.

Quality and Integrity Group

- 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.
- Facilitates the OIG's enterprise risk management activities.

Congressional and Communications Services

- Coordinates communications between the OIG and the Congress, the media, and the public.
- Produces materials for external and internal audiences, manages the OIG website and social media accounts, and produces the Eye on ED podcast.
- Provides editing, writing, and graphic design services to all OIG components, and facilitates OIG internal communications and events.

Chief Diversity Officer

- Leads the OIG's effort to integrate diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility into our business processes; build an inclusive workplace environment; and recruit, develop, and retain a diverse and talented OIG team.



Investigation Services

- Composed of law enforcement professionals who conduct 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.
- Criminal investigators carry an annual caseload of about 200 cases and conduct 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.



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.



Legal Services

- Manages the OIG's legal, Freedom of Information Act, and ethics functions.
- 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.
- Facilitates OIG responses to Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act requests.



Technology Services

- Leverages technology to provide products and services that enhance and advance the OIG's mission.
- Conducts information technology audits and security reviews, such as the annual Federal Information Security Modernization Act audit, that identify risks and offer recommendations to improve ED's management of its information technology systems.
- Provides data analytics for OIG audits and investigations, and maintains the OIG's information technology infrastructure and security posture.



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.