



Office of the Inspector General

Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1401

Jill M. Matthews
Acting Inspector General

November 26, 2018

Ms. Kathleen S. Tighe
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Education
550 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Ms. Tighe:

**EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW REPORT ON THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL INSPECTION AND EVALUATION ORGANIZATION**

Enclosed is the final External Peer Review Report of the U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General inspection and evaluation organization conducted in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency *Guide for Conducting Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General*. We have also included a separate letter of comments that sets forth specific findings and recommendations for your consideration. Your responses to the draft report and letter of comments are also included as enclosures.

We thank you and your staff for the assistance and cooperation received during the conduct of the review.

Sincerely,

Jill M. Matthews
Acting Inspector General

Enclosures



Office of the Inspector General

Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1401

Jill M. Matthews
Acting Inspector General

November 26, 2018

Ms. Kathleen S. Tighe
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Education
550 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Ms. Tighe:

This required external peer review was conducted in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Inspection and Evaluation Committee guidance as contained in the CIGIE *Guide for Conducting Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General*. The peer review was conducted from July 11, 2018, through November 26, 2018.

The CIGIE External Peer Review Team (Review Team) assessed the extent to which the U.S. Department of Education (ED) Office of Inspector General (OIG) met seven CIGIE Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation (Blue Book standards), specifically: Quality Control, Planning, Data Collection and Analysis, Evidence, Records Maintenance, Reporting, and Follow-Up. This assessment included a review of the ED OIG's internal policies and procedures implementing the seven required Blue Book standards. It also included a review of the three reports issued between June 30, 2017, and June 30, 2018, citing compliance with Blue Book standards, to determine whether the reports complied with the covered Blue Book standards and the ED OIG's internal policies and procedures.

The Review Team determined that ED OIG's policies and procedures generally met the seven Blue Book standards addressed in the external peer review. Of the three reports reviewed, two generally met the Blue Book standards and complied with ED OIG's internal policies and procedures. One reviewed report generally did not meet the standards and did not comply with internal policies and procedures related to Quality Control, Planning, and Data Collection.

Ms. Kathleen S. Tighe
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We have issued a letter dated November 26, 2018, that sets forth specific findings and recommendations for your consideration based on observations of the Review Team. We appreciate the assistance and cooperation of your staff during this review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill M. Matthews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jill M. Matthews
Acting Inspector General



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

November 16, 2018

Jill M. Matthews
Acting Inspector General
Tennessee Valley Authority Office of Inspector General
400 W. Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902

Ref: External Peer Review of the U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General
Inspection and Evaluation Organization

Dear Ms. Matthews:

Thank you for providing the draft report on the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Inspector General's (ED OIG) inspection and evaluation organization, conducted in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's *Guide for Conducting Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General*.

ED OIG is pleased to participate in the peer review process and recognizes the importance of this function in facilitating learning and supporting a fully professional inspection and evaluation function across the inspector general community. We understand that under this initial 3-year peer review cycle, peer review reports do not include an overall rating, but include a conclusion regarding the reviewed organization's adherence to covered professional standards and internal policies and procedures for conducting inspection and evaluation work.

We are pleased that the review team determined that ED OIG's policies and procedures generally met the seven standards covered in the peer review. We generally concur that one report did not fully comply with three of the seven standards reviewed and ED OIG's related internal policies and procedures. In response to the review team's findings, we performed a quality assurance review to ensure that the report's observations, conclusions, and suggestions were appropriate and are implementing additional actions to strengthen our related processes.

ED OIG values the peer review process and considers it an important element of our organization's quality control efforts. We appreciate the observations of the review team and their recommendations on how we can further improve our system of quality control and will develop and implement corrective actions to improve our inspection and evaluation related processes. We appreciate the professionalism with which the peer review team conducted this review.

Sincerely,

Kathleen S. Tighe
Inspector General

400 MARYLAND AVENUE, S.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20202-1510

Promoting the efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity of the Department's programs and operations.