



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

October 30, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Arne Duncan  
Secretary of Education

**FROM:** Kathleen S. Tighe  
Inspector General

Handwritten signature of Kathleen S. Tighe in blue ink.

**SUBJECT:** Management Challenges for Fiscal Year 2014

The Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 requires the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office of Inspector General to identify and report annually on the most serious management challenges the Department faces. The Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010 requires the Department to include in its agency performance plan information on its planned actions, including performance goals, indicators, and milestones, to address these challenges. To identify management challenges, we routinely examine past audit, inspection, and investigative work, as well as issued reports where corrective actions have yet to be taken; assess ongoing audit, inspection, and investigative work to identify significant vulnerabilities; and analyze new programs and activities that could pose significant challenges because of their breadth and complexity.

Last year, we presented four management challenges: improper payments, information technology security, oversight and monitoring, and data quality and reporting. While the Department remains committed to addressing these areas and has taken or plans action to correct many of their underlying causes, each remains as a management challenge for fiscal year (FY) 2014. We also added a new challenge related to the Department's information technology system development and implementation.

The FY 2014 management challenges are:

- (1) Improper Payments,
- (2) Information Technology Security,
- (3) Oversight and Monitoring,
- (4) Data Quality and Reporting, and
- (5) Information Technology System Development and Implementation.

We provided our draft challenges report to Department officials and considered all comments received. We look forward to working with the Department to address the FY 2014 management challenges in the coming year. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues, please contact me at (202) 245-6900.

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.