



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

**The Inspector General**

October 9, 2015

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Management Challenges for Fiscal Year 2016

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 post significant challenges because of their breadth and complexity.

Last year, we presented five management challenges: improper payments, information technology security, oversight and monitoring, data quality and reporting, and information technology system development and implementation. 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) 2016.

The FY 2016 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 2016 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.