



## U.S. Department of Education \* Office of Inspector General Your Partner in Fighting Education Fraud

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) disburses billions of dollars each year to State and local educational agencies, schools, colleges, universities, and other institutions of higher education. It also disburses financial aid to millions of students, making ED one of the largest financial institutions in the country. But each year, criminals target these programs, including Federal student aid, special education, and Title I funds to school districts serving low-income families. These bad actors intentionally abuse ED programs, embezzle ED funds aimed at helping students, unlawfully access ED computer systems and databases for nefarious purposes, and even use ED funding to support terrorism. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, billions of more dollars are flowing into States and territories to assist K-12 schools and institutions of higher education in meeting their needs and the needs of their students impacted by the pandemic. Criminals and bad actors are taking advantage of this crisis, preying on students, schools, and other educational entities charged with administering and overseeing these funds.

### OIG Investigation Services

As the independent arm of ED, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) works to ensure that Federal education funds are used as required and reach the intended recipients. This includes investigating misuse, theft, fraud, and other civil and criminal activity involving ED programs and funds. Coordinating this work is OIG's Investigation Services—our team of law enforcement professionals with decades of experience in conducting education-related investigations and stopping education-focused fraud schemes. We work in partnership with you—Federal, State, and local prosecutors and law enforcement entities. Working together, we have put a stop to thousands of scams involving ED programs, operations, and funds. We have unraveled multimillion-dollar fraud schemes by high-ranking school officials, unscrupulous school owners, and other people in positions of trust to educate our children.



### OIG Investigation Services Snapshot



16

Regional and field offices



200+

Cases per year



100+

Referrals to prosecutive entities per year



\$25 million

Restitution and fines per year



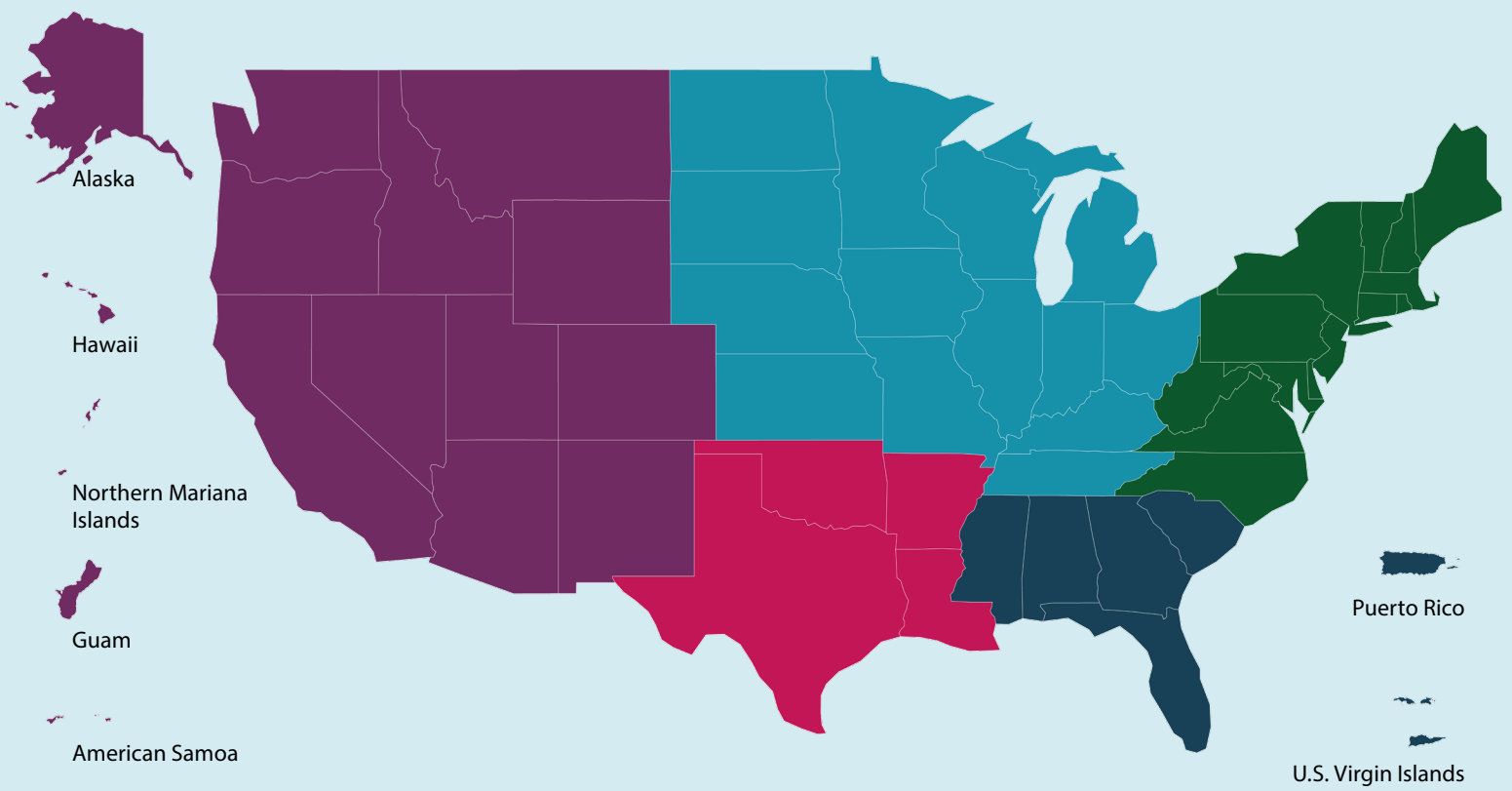
### Participants in Federal Education Programs

- 56 State and territorial education agencies
- 6,000+ institutions of higher education
- 18,400+ public school districts
- 132,000+ schools
- 13+ million recipients of Federal student aid
- Numerous other organizations and businesses that support Federal education programs, including after-school services, tutoring providers, student loan servicers



### Federal Education Funding Highlights

- \$115 billion+ in student aid
- \$1.5 trillion+ loan portfolio
- \$19 billion+ for K-12 education
- \$12 billion+ for special education
- \$3.6 billion+ for rehabilitation services
- \$2 billion+ for career, technical, adult education
- \$112 billion+ to States and territories for coronavirus relief



### Investigation Services Regional Offices

Headquarters: Washington, DC (202) 245-8467

Western Regional Office (562) 980-4141

Southwestern Regional Office (214) 661-9530

Eastern Regional Office (202) 245-6918

Special Investigations Unit (215) 656-8693

Southeastern Regional Office (404) 974-9430

Midwestern Regional Office (312) 730-1630

See [our website](#) for field office addresses and other info

### How You Can Help

Due to limited resources in the States, the numerous organizations and individuals that participate in Federal programs, and the need to disburse funding quickly, the education environment is ripe for fraud. That's why it's more important than ever that we keep our partnership going. Please let us know of any matters your office may encounter involving criminal activity or fraudulent practices involving school districts, schools, institutions of higher education, Federal student aid, or public officials related to Federal education programs or funds. Working together, we can combine our efforts and stop those who seek to line their pockets with the hard-earned taxpayer dollars that fund Federal education programs.

Call us to find out more about education fraud, how we can work together to stop it, or to share information that you may have regarding potential fraud or criminal activity involving Federal education funds. You can reach us via our [Washington, D.C., headquarters](#) or the [regional investigative office](#) closest to you. You can also report suspicions or allegations of fraud that you have received directly to our toll-free hotline 1-800-MIS-USED (1-800-647-8733) and [online portal](#). For more information on the OIG, visit our [website](#) and connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Let's Work Together to Stop Criminal Activity and Fraudulent Practices Involving Federal Education Programs and Funds