



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

Let's Work Together to Stop Education Fraud

The U.S. Department of Education (ED) administers hundreds of programs and disburses billions of dollars each year to State and local educational agencies, schools, and organizations and entities to help educate our nation's students. But each year, criminals target these programs, including special education, vocational rehabilitation, adult education, and Title I funds to school districts serving low-income families. These bad actors abuse ED programs and intentionally misuse and embezzle ED funds aimed at helping schools, teachers, and students. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, billions of more dollars are flowing into States and territories to assist K-12 schools 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 schools and educational entities charged with administering and overseeing these funds. We want to stop them.

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. But we can't do this alone. As someone on the front line in distributing and spending Federal education funds, you are our eyes and ears—you can help us identify and stop fraud!




Federal Education Funding Highlights

- \$19 billion+ for K-12 education
- \$12 billion+ for special education
- \$3.6 billion+ for rehabilitation services
- \$2 billion+ for career, technical, and adult education
- \$115 billion+ for higher education
- \$280 billion+ to States, territories, and institutions of higher education for coronavirus relief

What Does Federal Education Fraud Look Like?

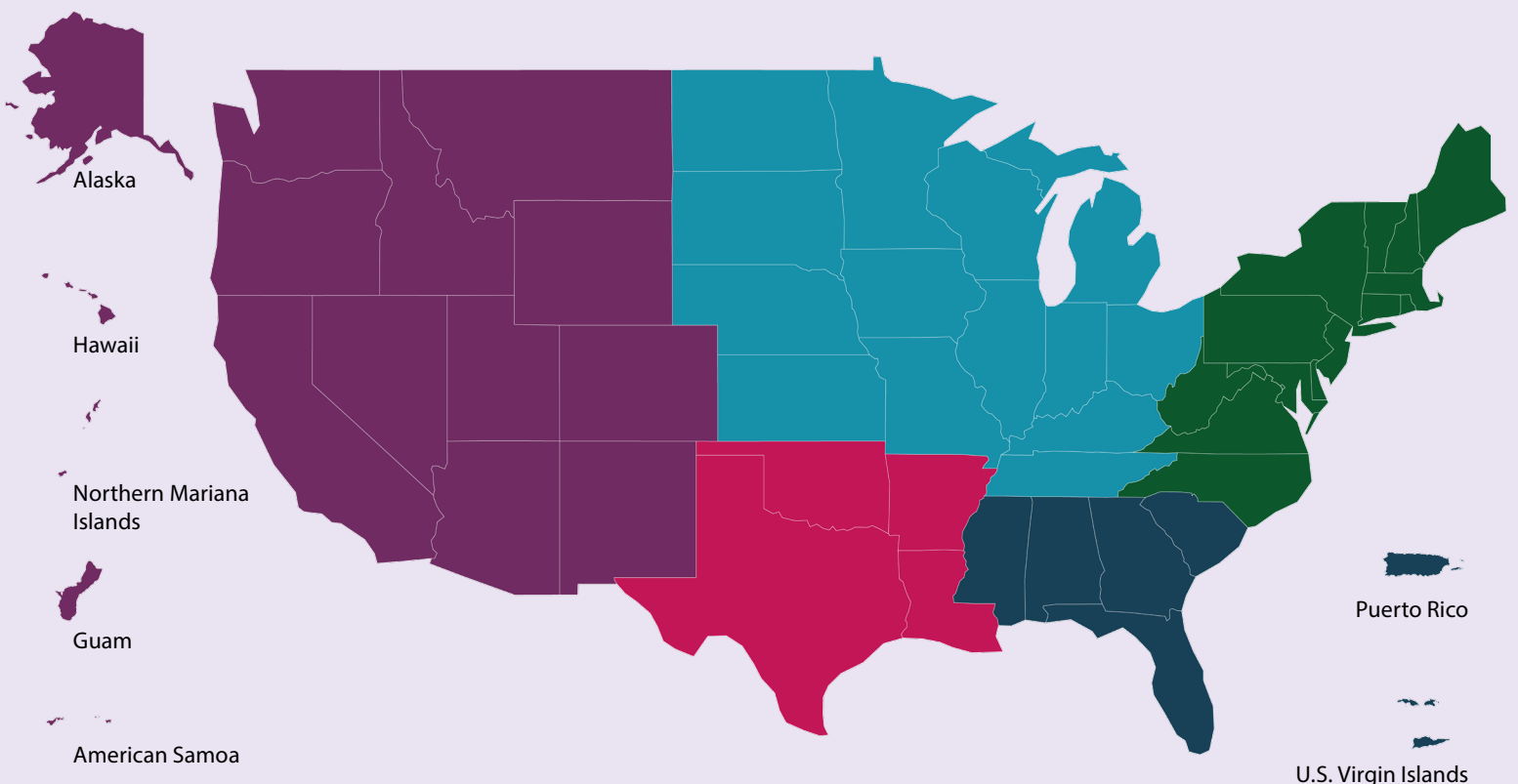
Here are some examples.

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- Missing school funds or property
 - Irregularities in contracts or undue influence by decision-makers
 - Grant funds that inexplicably run out too quickly
 - Suspicious vendors, "ghost" employees or students
 - Persistent issues with internal controls

Free Resources to Help You Identify and Report Fraud

We have a number of free resources available to help you identify and report fraud to the OIG so together we can stop it!

- **Virtual Trainings.** Get an overview of Federal education fraud and how to spot it and report it.
- **One-on-One Meetings.** Meet with us to discuss any specific concerns you may have about Federal education fraud.
- **Fraud Indicator Materials.** Download [brochures](#) and [posters](#) with helpful tips on identifying and reporting suspicions of fraud or other criminal activity involving Federal education funds.



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

Contact OIG Investigation Services

Call us to find out more about these free resources and the vital role you play in identifying and stopping Federal education fraud. 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](#).