



# Monthly Highlights Report

April 2026

**18**Audit-Related  
Assignments Underway**102**Open Criminal &  
Civil Investigations**\$7.4M**FY 2026 Financial  
Impact/Reports**\$7M**FY 2026 Financial  
Actions/Investigations

## Recently Issued Reports

### The Puerto Rico Department of Education's Use of ARP ESSER Fund to Measure Student Academic Progress.

The objective of our inspection was to determine whether the Puerto Rico Department of Education (Puerto Rico DOE) ensured that (1) services contracted for and paid with American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) funds to measure students' academic progress were provided as required and (2) results were used as intended to modify individual students' instructional plans and help prevent academic failure. We found that the Puerto Rico DOE did not ensure that the services contracted for and paid with ARP ESSER funds to measure students' academic progress were provided in accordance with the executed contract. It also did not ensure that teachers used the results of the contractor-administered student academic proficiency assessments as intended to modify individual students' instructional plans and help prevent academic failure. As a result, the Puerto Rico DOE used \$3.9 million in ARP ESSER funds to pay for student academic proficiency interim assessments that a contractor did not administer timely (10- and 20-week assessments) or at all (30- and 40-week assessments), and that did not achieve the intended purposes of helping teachers develop differentiated work plans based on each student's academic lag, diagnose students' immediate learning needs, and implement targeted re-teaching strategies effectively. We made four recommendations to ensure that the \$3.9 million in ARP ESSER funds are not wasted, future contract work is adequately supervised by the Puerto Rico DOE, and contractors are not paid for services they did not perform or that were outside the scope of the contract. [Report](#)

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*Find the list of the audit-related assignments currently underway and read our issued reports on K-12 programs, student aid, Department management and operations, and more [here on our website](#).*

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## Investigative Results

### Student Aid Fraud

- Michigan: The orchestrator of a decade-long fraud ring that targeted Wayne County Community College (WCCC) and more than \$3 million in Federal student aid pled guilty. From 2015 through 2025, the ringleader submitted fraudulent aid applications for more than 80 individuals who were purportedly eligible students seeking to attend WCCC. In reality, those individuals had no interest in or intent to pursue a degree. In her guilty plea, the ringleader agreed to pay more than \$2.5 million in restitution. [Press Release](#)

- Texas: A former college professor who had been indicted for his role in a fraud ring that targeted nearly \$600,000 in student aid from several Texas colleges and universities, pled guilty. For approximately 5 years, the former professor submitted more than 100 false financial aid applications on behalf of numerous straw students. He utilized mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and email accounts he controlled to ensure all communications and the student aid award balances went directly to him. The former professor also admitted to the aggravated identity theft of two victims whose personal identifiers had been repeatedly used to apply for and obtain Federal student aid over the course of several years. [Press Release](#)

## K-12 Fraud

- Illinois: The former Executive of the Center for Community Academic Success Partnerships (CCASP) was sentenced to prison for running \$1.9 million fraud schemes. From 2012 to 2017, in partnership with another former CCASP official, the two submitted grant applications that inflated CCASP's projected annual expenses and falsely claimed that the organization would receive services from five subcontractors. In reality, they knew that the subcontractors, two of which were other non-profit groups run by the two former officials, provided no actual services to CCASP. [Press Release](#)
- Illinois: The former CEO of Urban Prep Academies was charged with misappropriating more than \$103,000. Per the indictment, in 2021 and 2022, the former official allegedly embezzled some \$103,830 from Urban Prep to pay for his personal credit card charges. The indictment further alleges that after receiving a Federal grand jury subpoena and learning of the criminal investigation in 2022, the former official obstructed justice by deleting online records of three purported cash donations he had made to Urban Prep. [Press Release](#)

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*Read more about our investigations in the [press release section](#) of our website, and in our [Semiannual Reports to Congress](#).*

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## Other Fraud Awareness Efforts

### New Materials for the Public

In April, the OIG issued several new materials aimed at helping the public identify and report fraud to the OIG, as well as to protect themselves against student loan and other student-focused scams. This includes new flyers on [FAFSA fraud](#) and actions to take to protect yourself [against fraud scams](#).

### Fraud Awareness Trainings & Briefings

Thus far in FY 2026, the OIG has conducted 105 fraud awareness and prevention meetings, trainings, and discussions with stakeholders and law enforcement partners at the Federal, State, and local levels.

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*Visit the [Resources page](#) of our website for free resources aimed at helping you identify and report fraud to the OIG, information on free trainings, our podcasts and more!*

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