



Monthly Highlights Report

May 2026

20Audit-Related
Assignments Underway**110**Open Criminal &
Civil Investigations**\$7.4M**FY 2026 Financial
Impact/Reports**\$9.9M**FY 2026 Financial
Actions/Investigations

Recently Issued Reports

OIG Semiannual Report to Congress, No. 92

This statutory report presents the activities and accomplishments of the OIG from October 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026. The audits, investigations, and related work highlighted in the report are products of our mission to identify and stop fraud, waste, and abuse; and promote accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness through our oversight of the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) programs and operations. [Read the report.](#)

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.](#)

Recent Investigative Results

- Michigan: The leader of a fraud ring that targeted \$16 million in Federal student aid pled guilty. The 10-year scheme involved the submission of fraudulent FAFSAs for more than 1,200 people, involving more than 100 schools in 24 States. Many of these individuals were enrolled in the same or similar degree programs and were taking the same or similar online courses. [Read the press release.](#)
- Michigan: The CEO of the Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative was sentenced to serve 70 months in prison and was ordered to pay more than \$1.7 million in restitution for orchestrating a fraud scheme involving funding intended for preschool children. Between 2017 and 2023, the CEO received a number of grants to operate the preschools. The CEO and a co-conspirator used the funds for their personal benefit, including to pay for a family member's wedding, travel to Hawaii, Europe, and Africa, and paying family members hundreds of thousands of dollars for little or no work. The OIG assisted in the matter. [Read the press release.](#)

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

Other Fraud Awareness Efforts

New Materials for the Public

In May, 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 posters on student aid fraud and K-12 fraud. [Check them out on our website.](#)

New Interviews

The OIG continued to speak with the media on education-related fraud topics, particularly student aid fraud. OIG staff were featured in two television news stories on ghost students/student aid fraud rings, sharing information on how criminals operate these schemes, what is being done to stop them, and how people can protect themselves. You can find links to these news stories [on our website.](#)

Fraud Task Forces

As collaboration is essential in the fight against fraud, we continued to participate in government-wide task forces and to strengthen partnerships with our colleagues at the U.S. Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, ED, and across the Federal and State/Territorial Inspector General community. Together, we are innovating and leveraging our collective resources, expertise, and skillsets to more effectively combat fraud.

Fraud Awareness Trainings & Briefings

Thus far in FY 2026, the OIG has conducted 174 fraud awareness and prevention meetings, trainings, and discussions with colleges, universities, state educational agencies, local education agencies, and law enforcement partners at the Federal, State, and local levels. Interested in scheduling a training for your state, school district, school? [Visit this page of our website](#) to view our online trainings and for information on how to schedule your in-person or virtual training or briefing today!

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!

Other News

Heidi Semann Nominated to be Inspector General

On May 11, [President Trump nominated Heidi Semann](#) to be the Inspector General at ED. Ms. Semann served as Acting Inspector General at ED from July through November 2025.

