



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

April 9, 2025

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate

The Honorable Angela Alsobrooks  
United States Senate

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senate

The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senate

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senate

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate

The Honorable Jean Shaheen  
United States Senate

The Honorable Peter Welch  
United States Senate

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate

Dear Senators:

Thank you for your letter of March 27, 2025. We write to inform you that the U.S. Department of Education (Department) Office of Inspector General (OIG) will be initiating a series of reviews to provide information on the Department's programs and operations following recent workforce changes. These workforce changes will include employee separations via the Deferred Resignation Program, Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment and Voluntary Early Retirement incentives, and reduction in force actions. These reviews are consistent with our statutory responsibility to conduct audits and investigations relating to the Department's programs and operations, and to promote economy, efficiency and effectiveness in such programs and operations. We recently shared this information with Secretary McMahon, as well as the Chairs and Ranking Members of our authorizing, appropriating, and oversight committees, consistent with our dual reporting responsibilities.

We will be conducting reviews of selected departmental offices in order to identify the cumulative effect of staffing reductions in relation to the selected offices' programs and responsibilities, along with any actions that the Department should consider to help ensure productive and efficient operations following its workforce changes.

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*Promoting the efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity of the Department's programs and operations.*

We hope to begin issuing these reports in the summer of 2025, and we may identify additional work to be performed based on the results of our initial reviews.

As soon as the reviews are completed, we will share the results with you. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (202) 245-6900 or have a member of your staff contact our Congressional Liaison, Catherine Grant, at (202) 245-7023.

Sincerely,

René L. Rocque  
Acting Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Linda McMahon, Secretary, U.S. Department of Education