



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

September 17, 2025

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senate

The Honorable Tina Smith  
United States Senate

The Honorable Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senate

The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senate

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senate

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
United States Senate

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate

The Honorable Cory A. Booker  
United States Senate

Dear Senators:

Thank you for your recent letter, requesting that the U.S. Department of Education (Department) Office of Inspector General (OIG) conduct a review into access and privacy issues involving sensitive Departmental data systems.

Ensuring that the Department effectively protects the millions of sensitive records on students, their parents, and others housed in its data systems has long been a priority for the OIG. For more than a decade, the OIG has identified information technology security as a major management challenge facing the Department, including issues related to access and access controls (see our annual [Management Challenges reports here](#)). Given the sensitive nature of the data it holds, it is crucial that the Department ensures appropriate access to its data systems and maintains effective access controls for system security and privacy protection purposes. Therefore, the OIG plans to look into the Department's processes for managing access to several sensitive Department data systems. Further, we will coordinate with the Government Accountability Office, which is looking into issues involving access and handling of sensitive data at the Department, to avoid any duplication of effort. We look to begin our work shortly and will be sure to send you a copy of any final report once issued.

Page 2 – Letter to United States Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Tina Smith, Senator Jeffrey A. Merkley, Senator Ben Ray Lujan, Senator Chris Van Hollen, Senator Ron Wyden, Senator Edward J. Markey, Senator Tammy Duckworth, Senator Richard Blumenthal, and Senator Corey A. Booker.

Thank you again for your letter. Should you have any questions or need any additional 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 [catherine.grant@ed.gov](mailto:catherine.grant@ed.gov), or (202) 669-8385.

Sincerely,

Heidi Semann  
Acting Inspector General

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