



DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the function of the Office of Inspector General?

Response: The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducts investigations and forensic audits of the district’s programs and operations to detect and prevent waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement, conflicts of interest, and to identify opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The OIG’s mission is to “ensure integrity, economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the operation of the Detroit Public Schools (DPS) by conducting meaningful and accurate investigations, forensic audits, and program review, to detect and deter waste, fraud and abuse.” We aspire to a goal of enhancing the confidence of DPS employees and the public in our school system through assisting in the improvement of the Districts programs and operations, and through fostering integrity in all of our operations.

2. How was the Office of Inspector General formed?

Response: The DPS Emergency Manager (EM) created the OIG in March 2009. The OIG was created to help improve the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of district operations. Its role is to not only uncover problems, misconduct, and inefficiencies, but to also recommend effective solutions.

3. How do I report acts of fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and/or corruption to the Office of Inspector General?

Response: You may report this information to us in one of four ways. You can stop by our office and meet with an OIG Special Investigator and provide the information directly to us. You may call our **OIG 24-hour Fraud hotline**

(313) 870-3436 and leave a voicemail message. You can also visit the DPS Inspector General home page and complete the Complaint Reporting Form and submit it electronically. Our fax number is **(313) 870-3405**.

For all other matters you may contact us at **(313) 870-5664**.

4. Where is the Office of Inspector General located?

Response: We are located in the Fisher Building at 3011 W. Grand Blvd, Detroit, MI 48202. The Inspector General (IG) is located on the 14th floor, and the Deputy Inspector Generals and Special Investigators can be found in the 6th Floor Annex.

5. How is the Office of Inspector General Staffed?

Response: The IG is charged with managing the OIG, a department of 8 employees. The IG manages the department through two Deputy Inspectors who manage two units: the investigative unit consisting of four employees and the forensic audit unit consisting of two employees. One Administrative Assistant supports the entire department.

The OIG is an ethnically diverse department comprised of African Americans and Caucasian personnel. The OIG is also a highly-educated professional staff where all members have at least a four year degree, and most have either advanced degrees, or one or more professional certificates and training in their area of expertise.

6. What is the jurisdiction of the OIG?

Response: The OIG's jurisdiction encompasses all district schools, departments, personnel, and programs. This jurisdiction extends to all district employees, vendors, and contractors doing business with the DPS.

7. Is the Office of the Inspector General a law enforcement agency?

Response: No. The OIG is not a law enforcement agency. As such, our staff does not have authority to execute arrests or conduct other sworn Police Officer functions. The IG has oversight of the DPS Police Department (DPSPD), therefore the OIG partners seamlessly with the department with respect to pursuing criminal investigations. The OIG also works in

conjunction with the Detroit Police Department, the Michigan State Police, Wayne County Prosecutors Office, the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office. Additionally, the OIG has effective liaison with a wide range of entities in Southeast Michigan that also provide operational support: Violent Crimes Task Force, Crime Stoppers, Operation Safe Passages, Safe Routes, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), U.S. Department of Education and Michigan Department of Education.

8. Can I remain anonymous when forwarding complaint information?

Response: Yes. You may remain anonymous; however, you are encouraged to identify yourself to our office so that we may follow-up on your call or email if necessary to obtain additional information that would help us in our investigation. If you give us your name and request anonymity, your identity will be protected.

9. What are my protections as a potential complainant?

Response: You are protected by the Whistleblowers' Protection Act 469 of 1980 which allows and encourages the reporting of violations of law by employees. The Act provides protection to employees who report a violation of state, local, or federal law and provides protection to employees who participate in hearings, investigations, legislative inquiries, or court actions, and prescribes remedies and penalties. In addition, the Act prohibits an employer from retaliating against an employee for reporting such violations.

10. When does the OIG Initiate an Investigation?

Response: Investigations are initiated upon the receipt of credible information alleging an act of fraud, waste, abuse, financial mismanagement or corruption within the OIG's jurisdiction. Only the Inspector General can authorize the initiation of an investigation.

11. How long does an investigation take from start to finish?

Response: It depends on the complexity of the case, the number of witnesses to be interviewed, documents to review, audits to conduct. Whenever possible we like to expedite the investigation while doing a thorough and accurate investigation.

12. If I bring an allegation to the attention of the Office of Inspector General can a DPS employee be referred for disciplinary action including termination?

Response: Yes, depending upon the allegation, subsequent investigation, and consultation with DPS Human Resources a DPS employee can be given a hearing and if merited, terminated for their actions.

13. What types of complaints do you investigate?

Response: Anything that involves fraud, waste, or abuse related to district employees, district assets or its resources. If you are not sure, simply call, email or send your tip to the hotline, and the OIG will make the determination.

14. What happens to the results of OIG investigations when the allegations are proven?

Response: If the allegations involve district employees, internal discipline and/or referral for prosecution is recommended. The OIG may also make recommendations to improve internal policies, procedures, and administrative controls. The recommendations are tracked by the OIG to ensure timely responses and implementation when warranted.

15. Are OIG investigations confidential?

Response: Ongoing investigations and audits are exempt from public disclosure. However, once an investigation or audit is finalized it becomes public record, pursuant to Michigan's public record laws.

16. What happens if the OIG does not have jurisdiction over a matter?

Response: You will be advised and the OIG will endeavor to direct the complaint to the agency with jurisdictional oversight.