



DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY DISTRICT

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - Investigations

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

Response: The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducts investigations and audits to detect and prevent waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement and conflicts of interest. The OIG's mission is to "ensure integrity, economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the operation of the Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) by conducting meaningful and accurate investigations, audits, and program reviews, to detect and deter waste, fraud and abuse; as well as identify opportunities for improving efficiency and effectiveness of internal controls." 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 districtwide integrity.

2. How was the Office of Inspector General formed?

Response: The OIG was created in March 2009 under the first Emergency Manager (EM). The office was initially eliminated in June 2015, and then reinstated in April 2016. Its role is to not only uncover problems, misconduct, and inefficiencies, but to also recommend effective solutions to improve District operations.

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

Response: A complaint may be filed with this office via these ways. You can meet directly with the Inspector General or any of the OIG staff. You may call our OIG **24-hour Fraud hotline (313) 870-3436** and leave a voicemail message. You can also visit the Inspector General web-page and complete the **Online Complaint Form** and submit it electronically. Our fax number is **(313) 870-3405** and email is **inspectorgeneral@detroitk12.org**. For all other matters you may contact us at **(313) 870-5664** or postal mail 3011 W. Grand Boulevard, 14th floor Fisher Building, Suite 1404, Detroit, MI 48202.

4. How is the Office of Inspector General Staffed?

Response: The OIG has a highly-educated and diverse professional staff; where all members have at least a four year degree, and have either advanced degrees, or one or more professional certificates and training in their area of expertise.

5. 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 DPS.

6. What types of complaints do you investigate?

Response: Anything that involves waste, fraud and 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.

7. 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.

8. 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 OIG has active partnerships with law enforcement organizations (LEOs) who assist with respect to pursuing criminal investigations. These include: the Detroit Public Schools Community District Police Department, 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.

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 wrongdoing. Additionally, should you choose to remain anonymous, please provide the OIG with as much detailed information in your complaint as possible to ensure we can take appropriate action.

10. When does the OIG initiate an Investigation?

Response: Investigations are initiated upon the receipt of credible information alleging an act of waste, fraud, abuse, financial mismanagement or corruption within the OIG's jurisdiction. Only the Inspector General can authorize the initiation of an investigation. The matter is then assigned to an investigator for review and action.

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

Response: Unfortunately, it is impossible for us to predict the length of an investigation. It depends on the complexity of the case, the number of witnesses to be interviewed, documents to review, and/or forensic audits to conduct. Whenever possible, we like to expedite the investigation while doing a thorough and accurate investigation. Other determinant factors include the number of other ongoing investigations, the priority level of the case and if it involves criminal 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 the division of Human Resources, a DPSCD employee can be given a hearing and if merited, terminated for their actions.

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

Response: If the wrongdoing involves 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.

14. Are OIG investigations confidential?

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

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

Response: You will be advised and the OIG will refer the complaint to the DPSCD department or external agency with jurisdictional oversight over the reported matter. We make these referrals by written notification, and the complainant may follow up with the appropriate department to address their concerns.