

Memorandum from the Office of the Inspector General




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

November 9, 2023

TO: The Honorable Miguel Cardona
Secretary of Education

FROM: Sandra D. Bruce 
Inspector General

SUBJECT: Management Challenges for FY 2024

In compliance with the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) Office of Inspector General (OIG) reports annually on the most serious management and performance challenges faced by the Department. These reports include an assessment of the Department's progress in addressing the challenges and identify further actions that, if properly implemented, could enhance the effectiveness of the Department's programs and operations.

The Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010 identifies major management challenges as programs or management functions that are vulnerable to waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement and where a failure to perform could seriously affect the ability of the Department to achieve its mission or goals. To identify management challenges, the OIG routinely examines past audit, inspection, and investigative work; reviews corrective actions that have not been completed; assesses ongoing audit, inspection, and investigative work to identify significant vulnerabilities; and analyzes new programs and activities that could pose significant challenges because of their breadth and complexity. We also considered the accomplishments and implementation status reported by the Department and applied an assessment framework to determine a progress score for each challenge.

Our FY 2024 report identifies seven management challenges facing the Department as it continues its efforts to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access. We retained all five management challenges from our FY 2023 report with some modification. Specifically, our FY 2023 Management Challenges report identified "Implementing Pandemic Relief Laws" and "Oversight and Monitoring" as broader management challenges for the Department. For FY 2024, we divided both challenges into two distinct areas. Implementing pandemic relief laws includes separate challenges for elementary and secondary education and higher education. Oversight and monitoring includes separate challenges for student financial assistance programs and grantees.

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

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Although the Department made progress in addressing these challenges, our work continues to identify some vulnerabilities within each of these areas. Additional challenges may exist in areas that we have not recently reviewed.

We provided our draft report to Department officials and considered their comments in developing the final report. This report will be posted to our website at <https://oig.ed.gov/reports/list>.

We look forward to working with the Department to address the FY 2024 management challenges in the coming year. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues, please contact me at (202) 245-6900.