

ETHICS PROGRAM REVIEW FOLLOW-UP REPORT

Agency: U.S. Department of Education

Follow-up to OGE Report Number: 23-32

Report No.: 25-18IF

Date: November 22, 2024

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS



Preventing Conflicts of Interest
in the Executive Branch

As a result of its review of the U.S. Department of the Education (Education) ethics program, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued one recommendation in its July 2023 review report. OGE conducted a follow-up review to assess whether Education has taken sufficient action to resolve the deficiencies underlying this recommendation. The results of the follow-up review are summarized below.

	Recommendation	Agency Action and OGE Finding	Status
1	Ensure that confidential financial disclosure reports are filed timely.	<p>Agency ethics officials indicated that they reviewed updates to the confidential filer lists generated by a variety of database from the Office of Human Resources (HR) every other week. Additionally, ethics officials increased contacts with Education's principal offices and executive officers to monitor changes in personnel, such as employee promotions, that trigger the confidential financial disclosure filing requirement. Ethics officials collaborated with the Office of Federal Student Aid to create an internal query mechanism to identify new and existing confidential filers. Lastly, ethics officials continue to receive copies of tentative job offers and final job offers directly from HR to identify potential new confidential filers.</p> <p>OGE reviewed a sample of 50 confidential reports filed by Education employees in 2024. OGE found that 42 (84%) of the reports were filed timely. This is a significant improvement from OGE's finding in its July 2023 report where only 60% of the confidential reports reviewed by OGE were filed timely.</p>	Closed

Based on the results of OGE's follow-up review, the recommendation is closed.