

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Inspector General

Inspector General



October 11, 2019

Lewis D. Ferebee
Chancellor
District of Columbia Public Schools
1200 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Chancellor Ferebee:

My Office's Inspections and Evaluations (I&E) Unit will soon start an inspection of the implementation of the Healthy Schools Act of 2010 and associated requirements. The objective for this project, which is part of the OIG's *Fiscal Year 2020 Audit and Inspection Plan*,¹ is to assess the extent to which District of Columbia Public Schools have implemented key provisions in the D.C. Code and D.C. Municipal Regulations, in particular, curriculum standards that focus on health education.

I&E projects are conducted under the *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* promulgated by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. As a matter of standard practice, our inspections and evaluations pay particular attention to the quality of internal control.²

Please provide Edward Farley, Assistant Inspector General for Inspections and Evaluations, with the name and telephone number of the person who will serve as the primary point of contact at DCPS during the inspection. You can reach Mr. Farley at 202-727-9249 or edward.farley@dc.gov.

In addition, Mr. Farley will need the following information no later than October 21, 2019, so the I&E team can prepare its inspection plan:


¹ This document is accessible on the OIG website at: <https://oig.dc.gov/>.

² "Internal control" is defined by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) as comprising "the plans, methods, policies, and procedures used to fulfill the mission, strategic plan, goals, and objectives of the entity" and is "not one event, but a series of actions that occur throughout an entity's operations." Furthermore, internal control is a process that provides "reasonable assurance that the objectives of an entity will be achieved," "serves as the first line of defense in safeguarding assets," and is "an integral part of the operational processes management uses to guide its operations." U.S. GOV'T ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, STANDARDS FOR INTERNAL CONTROL IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 5-6, GAO-14-704G (Sept. 2014).

- A list of all schools with students in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, including a point of contact at each school;
- Any written guidance provided to schools since the start of school year (SY) 2017-18 regarding the Healthy Schools Act of 2010 (Act) and related requirements;
- A copy of all mandatory reports required by the Act that have been sent to the Mayor since September 1, 2017; and
- Any additional information or documentation (e.g., internal or external assessments) that you believe would assist the OIG.

Mr. Farley will schedule an entrance conference with the point of contact you identify. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, and I look forward to working with DCPS in our joint efforts to improve the quality of services provided to District stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Daniel W. Lucas
Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia
Mr. Rashad Young, City Administrator
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable David Grosso, Chairperson, Committee on Education, Council of the District of Columbia
Ms. Hanseul Kang, State Superintendent of Education, Office of the State Superintendent of Education
The Honorable Kathy Patterson, D.C. Auditor, Office of the D.C. Auditor, Attention: Cathy Patten