



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

July 6, 2022

Roberto Rodriguez  
Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development  
Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20202

Subject: Closure of the Office of Inspector General's Audit of the Department's Enforcement of  
Entities' Compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

This letter advises you that we are closing our audit (control number ED-OIG/A22IL0048) of the U.S. Department of Education's (Department) enforcement of entities' compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). We will not be issuing an audit report.

The objective of the audit was to determine the extent to which the Department designed and implemented processes for ensuring that entities complied with FERPA. We held an entrance conference with the Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO) in November 2021. We then interviewed SPPO personnel and reviewed records to gain an understanding of SPPO's oversight and enforcement of entities' compliance with FERPA. We gained an understanding of SPPO's processes for investigating complaints, monitoring entities' compliance with FERPA, and conducting self-initiated investigations. We also gained an understanding of SPPO's processes for providing technical assistance, training, and guidance to schools and educational agencies. Finally, we reviewed information from the Department's Audit Accountability and Resolution Tracking System (AARTS) and interviewed SPPO personnel to gain an understanding of the corrective actions that SPPO took in response to the recommendations in our November 2018 audit report, "Office of the Chief Privacy Officer's Processing of Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Complaints" (Control Number ED-OIG/[A09R0008](#)).

The collective evidence that we obtained was not sufficient to answer our audit objective and, therefore, our work cannot be considered an audit completed under generally accepted government auditing standards. The work we completed also would not necessarily disclose all material weaknesses in SPPO's processes. However, our limited work did not identify any areas of significant risk related to our audit objective. Because we did not identify any areas of significant risk related to our audit objective and because of the actions that SPPO has taken since our previous audit, our limited staff resources, and other competing priorities, we have decided to close this audit.

The closure of this audit does not preclude our office from conducting future reviews of this or similar areas. Also, the closure of this audit should not be construed as a substitute for any other reviews required by law, and it should not be interpreted as agreement with, or endorsement of, the processes reviewed.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 522), reports and other products issued by the Office of Inspector General are available to members of the press and general public to the extent information contained therein is not subject to exemptions in the Act. This letter will be made available on the Office of Inspector General website.

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance extended by SPPO personnel during our audit. While no response to this letter is required, if you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 245-6051 or Bryon.Gordon@ed.gov or Gary D. Whitman, Regional Inspector General for Audit, Chicago/Kansas City Audit Region, at (312) 730-1658 or Gary.Whitman@ed.gov.

Respectfully,

/s/

Bryon S. Gordon  
Assistant Inspector General for Audit