



STATE OF OHIO  
**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

RANDALL J. MEYER, INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL: STOLEN PRISON INMATE IDENTITIES USED IN THEFT OF FEDERAL EDUCATION GRANT MONEY**

Columbus, Ohio, December 13, 2016

The Ohio Inspector General has issued a report of investigation today that was initiated after officials at the U.S. Department of Education asked for assistance in investigating several applications for student aid. Federal officials had identified a number of Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms submitted in the name of individuals who were, or are now, incarcerated in the Ohio prison system.

Federal officials provided 713 suspect FAFSA applications and the Ohio Inspector General analyzed the records for possible connections to Ohio inmates and parolees under supervision of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. The investigation revealed 145 fraudulent FAFSA applications were accepted by the federal government using the identities of 62 inmates in the Ohio correctional system. As a result, the federal government made \$422,523 in disbursements to suspects in an ongoing investigation.

Ohio Inspector General Randall Meyer determined the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction failed to follow statewide government policies designed to maintain the security of electronic records. Also, while Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1347 requires state agencies to adopt rules to safeguard the access of confidential personal information, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction is exempt from the law.

The inspector general has delivered the report of investigation to the director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and has asked for a response to a number of recommendations within 60 days.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2014-CA00056 is now available at <http://watchdog.ohio.gov/Investigations/2016Investigations.aspx>

Links to media resources:

[Image of report cover.](#)

[Audio version of news release.](#)

Contact:

Carl Enslin

Ohio Deputy Inspector General

(614) 644-9110

[carl.enslen@oig.state.oh.us](mailto:carl.enslen@oig.state.oh.us)

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