



STATE OF OHIO

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

RANDALL J. MEYER, INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATION FINDS OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EMPLOYEE WAS PAID OVER \$16,000 FOR CONSULTING WORK WHILE BEING COMPENSATED BY THE STATE FOR THE SAME SERVICES
Columbus, Ohio, November 28, 2018

The Ohio Inspector General issued a report of investigation today after investigating a complaint received from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) alleging that Jennifer Ross, ODE Consultant 3, contracted with the Columbus City School District to provide the same services she was being paid to perform by ODE.

In furtherance of the investigation, investigators obtained records from the Columbus City School District including invoices and purchase orders from R.O.S.S. Consulting (Ross' private consulting business), consulting service attendance sheets, and payments issued for services rendered. In addition, investigators examined Ross' ODE-issued computer and email account and found multiple emails, calendar entries, quotes for services, and invoices for services related to her private consulting company.

The Ohio Inspector General determined that Ross violated numerous ODE policies, including improperly using ODE resources to promote her private business interest, submitting a false travel reimbursement, and failing to report to ODE her outside employment. In total, Ross profited \$16,300 for consulting services she provided to Columbus City School District during hours she was compensated by ODE.

The report of investigation is being referred to the Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney, the Columbus City Attorney, and the Ohio Ethics Commission.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2017-CA00033 is now available at:
<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/investigations/2018investigations.aspx>

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