

For Immediate Release

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CPS's Office of Inspector General Adds New Performance Analysis Section

Two former journalists with extensive data analysis and local education-beat experience are spearheading the new initiative

Chicago — The Office of Inspector General for the Chicago Board of Education announces the creation of the office's Performance Analysis Section. The new section will greatly strengthen the OIG's role as the independent watchdog for Chicago Public Schools by increasing the office's capability to identify and address system-wide issues through data-driven, independent and objective evaluations and reviews.

The Performance Analysis Section, which will begin operating on January 17, 2017, is tasked with helping CPS achieve the highest possible district-wide operational standards. The section will analyze large amounts of data and produce reports and analyses designed to be used by the Board of Education, CPS program managers, CPS policy makers and the public. The reports will use clear language, graphics and charts to present data and processes, and will make findings and offer recommendations to the Board and CPS for corrective action.

The new section will be led by Chief Performance Analyst Rosalind Rossi with dedicated support from Senior Performance Analyst Art Golab, both of whom were award-winning journalists before joining the OIG. At the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Rossi and Golab worked on numerous data-driven investigations, covering such education topics as statewide and CPS test scores, education salaries and pensions, and a variety of other issues impacting CPS classrooms and schools.

Rossi brings to her new post a bachelor's degree in education from Marquette University and a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University. Her numerous honors include a national first-place award for education-beat reporting from the Education Writers Association. In October, Rossi was named to the *Sun-*

Times investigative “Watchdogs” team after covering beats that included education, transportation, and federal and state courts. She also has served briefly as a *Sun-Times* Editorial Board writer.

Golab is a data journalist who worked on data-driven investigations for the *Sun-Times* for 12 years until 2015. For the past two years, he has led the data team at *Modern Healthcare*, a Chicago-based national publication for healthcare executives. He has an MS in Information Systems from DePaul University.

“We are excited that Rosalind and Art have joined us to help found this imperative initiative,” said Inspector General Nicholas Schuler. “The new Performance Analysis Section will help the OIG more fully achieve its mission of investigating fraud, waste and financial mismanagement within CPS by expanding our scope to include district-wide data trends. Those trends will help identify systemic problems facing CPS — which ultimately hinder CPS’s success — and allow the OIG to assess the depth of their organizational impact. The new section will also research best practices on ways to address those issues.”

The OIG created the Performance Analysis Section by converting traditional investigative positions. As a result, the formation of this new section is budget neutral. That reorganization also allows a third member to join the section at a later date.

If CPS employees, CPS parents or members of the public are aware of problems or issues that might be appropriate for review by the new Performance Analysis Section, they are strongly encouraged to contact the OIG at www.cpsoig.org or (773) 534-9400.

For the latest developments on the OIG’s ongoing efforts to ensure efficiency, accountability and transparency follow the office on twitter at @CPSOIG.

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