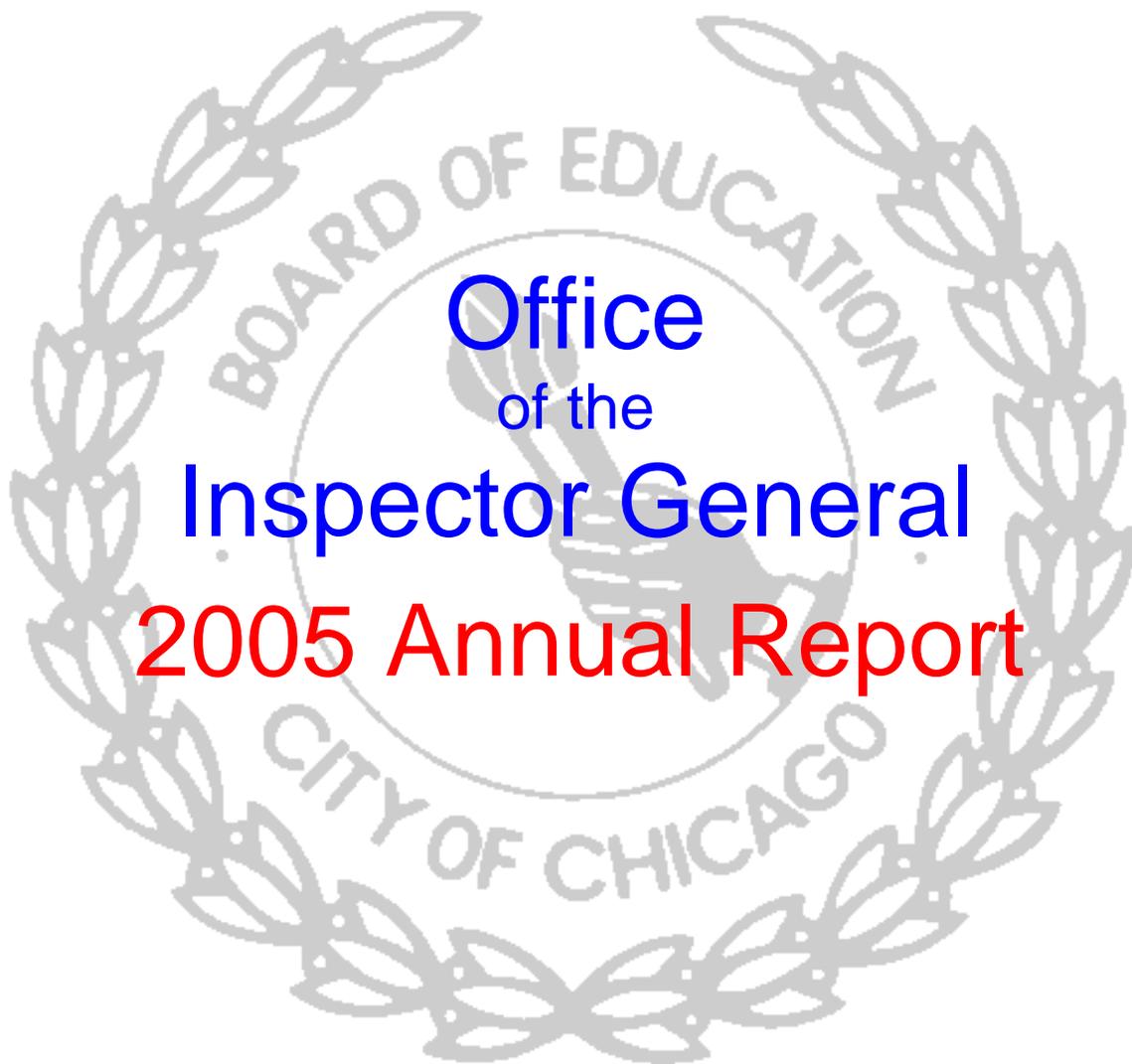


City of Chicago
Board of Education



Office
of the
Inspector General
2005 Annual Report

James M. Sullivan
Inspector General

City of Chicago

Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Chicago Board of Education

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Rufus Williams, Member

Chicago Public Schools

Arne Duncan, Chief Executive Officer

Office of the Inspector General

James M. Sullivan, Inspector General

310 South Michigan Avenue

Suite 1300

Chicago, Illinois 60604-4204

Telephone: 773-534-8711

Fax: 773-534-8712

Hotline: 773-48-FRAUD (773-483-7283)

E-mail: investigations@cps.k12.il.us

Website: www.cps.edu/aboutcps/departments/inspectorgeneral

IG Letter

This Annual Report is being provided to the Chicago Board of Education and the Illinois General Assembly pursuant to the Illinois School Code, specifically 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1(e). The School Code authorizes the Office of the Inspector General (“OIG”) for the Chicago Board of Education to conduct investigations into allegations of or incidents of waste, fraud, and financial mismanagement in public education within the jurisdiction of the Board. The OIG has also been charged with the responsibility of investigating allegations of various categories of employee misconduct. This Annual Report is a summary of reports and investigations for Fiscal Year 2005, the period between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005.

The OIG receives complaints and conducts investigations of allegations of misconduct by CPS vendors, including over-billing and double-billing, fraudulent misrepresentations, compliance with minority and women owned business participation requirements and various violations of contractual provisions. Concerning CPS employees, the OIG investigates allegations of misconduct including falsification of attendance records, theft, misappropriation of funds, misuse of the internet, on-duty and off-duty criminal violations, mismanagement, falsification of employment records, violations of the CPS Ethics Policy and other violations of Board Rules and CPS Policies. The OIG has also been charged with the responsibility of investigating allegations of students attending CPS while residing in the suburbs, a violation of the Illinois Compiled Statutes. Based on investigations conducted, the OIG also makes specific recommendations to the Board and CPS to increase the integrity and efficiency of CPS operations.

In FY 05, the OIG received 949 complaints alleging misconduct, waste, fraud and financial mismanagement within the Chicago Public School (“CPS”) system, an increase of nearly 20% from the previous reporting year and nearly a 50% increase from FY 03. Despite continued budget and staff reductions, the OIG issued reports on 135 investigations. The OIG also closed 843 cases.

Of note, during FY 05 the OIG received 141 complaints alleging violations of the CPS Residency Policy. This is a 65% increase from the previous reporting year and more than a 400% increase from FY 03. Most likely, the increase in complaints is due to revisions of the CPS Residency Policy made in 2001 and 2004 clarifying the residency requirements and the disciplinary action to be taken against those employees not in compliance. Based on a number of factors, including the dramatic increase in complaints received from CPS administration, co-workers and other sources concerning employees allegedly violating the residency policy; the increasing number of employees subject to the residency requirement; and the obvious mandate for the OIG to respond to an escalating area of employee misconduct, in FY 2005 the OIG conducted a review of the implementation of the policy. The OIG then made specific recommendations to help ensure fair and consistent enforcement of the policy.

A summary of reports and investigations for FY 05 is contained in the following pages. During FY 05, the OIG conducted investigations and made specific recommendations

that resulted in the termination of a charter school agreement, termination of unscrupulous employees, the referral of investigations for criminal prosecution of vendors and employees, criminal charges against employees, civil actions including debarment taken against vendors, and the recovery of funds from and civil actions filed against parents of children who attended CPS while residing in the suburbs. In addition to the above, the presence of an effective OIG and enforcement of OIG findings and recommendations acts as a deterrent to misconduct and serves to increase the integrity and efficiency of CPS operations.

A new law to take effect January 1, 2006 will assist the OIG and other similar offices in obtaining criminal charges for fraudulent acts by public contractors. The new law creates the felony charge of public contractor misconduct, enabling charges to be brought against a contractor, an employee of a contractor or person seeking a public contract for engaging in fraudulent acts in connection with a local government contract. It should be noted that this legislation was first proposed by the City of Chicago Inspector Generals Office but was defeated in the state legislature in 1999. The recent enactment of the legislation will enhance the power of IG offices to fight contractor fraud and hopefully deter fraudulent acts by contractors and their employees.

As in the past, the OIG is poised to perform its statutorily mandated duties and continue to accurately, thoroughly, and fairly investigate allegations of misconduct in the Chicago public school system despite continued reductions of budget and staff.

The OIG would like to thank the Chicago Board of Education and CPS administration for continued cooperation and support.

James M. Sullivan
Inspector General

OIG Review of CPS Residency Policy

During Fiscal Year 2005, the OIG conducted a review of the CPS Residency Policy and its implementation and enforcement. The review identified specific deficiencies and the OIG made comprehensive recommendations to CPS administration to help ensure fair and effective enforcement of the Residency Policy.

Specifically, the deficiencies noted by the OIG included:

- A lack of enforcement of the policy;
- No monitoring of employees who list a suburban address at the time of hire to ensure compliance with the policy following the six-month grace period allowed by the policy; and
- A lack of comprehensive procedures for the issuance of waivers for those teachers working in assessed special needs areas.

Based on the review, the OIG recommended that CPS administration:

- Diligently and consistently enforce the Residency Policy since the policy was clear in its requirements and definitions. The OIG also reviewed and cited cases decided in the Illinois Supreme Court upholding a residency requirement.
- Ensure that all employees found to be in violation of the CPS Residency Policy are treated in a similar manner. The OIG noted that diligent enforcement of the policy included fair and consistent enforcement.
- Monitor employee compliance following the six-month grace period given new employees.
- Establish specific procedures, for those employees who qualify, to apply for waivers from the residency policy.
- Eliminate the second chance provision of the Residency Policy that allows those employees who fail to come into compliance with the residency requirement, but do not provide false residency information, to be given an additional six-month grace period. Those employees who do not provide false information about their residence are deemed to have engaged in remediable conduct and are given additional time to establish a city residence. All CPS employees, when hired, sign a sworn residency statement acknowledging that the employee will come into compliance with the policy after the six-month grace period.
- Educate all employees, including principals, department heads and administrators regarding the requirements of the Residency Policy. During its review and during the course of numerous investigations, the OIG noted a lack of understanding by employees at all levels of the requirements of the Residency Policy.

Investigations

- The OIG conducted an investigation into alleged contractual violations by a Charter School. During the course of the investigation the OIG discovered that the school management engaged in questionable financial and operational practices. Specifically, the OIG found that, among other irregularities, school administrators used school funds to pay for questionable expenditures that included purchases from fashionable retail stores and purchases of non-educational items such as hair care and cosmetic products, jewelry, appetite suppression pills and personal car repairs. During the course of the investigation, the OIG attempted to obtain financial records and other school business documentation to further evaluate and review the questionable financial practices and to resolve other outstanding issues. The school was not compliant with the OIG's requests.

In addition, it was also learned that members of the school's board of directors included family members of the school's chief administrator. The OIG also learned that the administrator's family members were also among the school's staff. These issues raised concerns as to the level of controls, management oversight and accountability in place at the school.

Based on the fact that the school failed to provide CPS an audited financial statement, as required by the charter school's contract, CPS withheld payment of state and federal money to the school. Following receipt of the OIG's investigative report, CPS terminated the charter school agreement with the school.

- Following a referral from the CPS Department of Audit Services, the OIG conducted an investigation that revealed that a high school business manager stole more than \$16,000 from the school. After a limited scope audit questioned the fact that school checks issued to different vendors were deposited into the same account, the OIG determined that the account belonged to the school business manager. The OIG investigation revealed that the business manager wrote at least 24 checks to school vendors and then deposited the checks into her personal bank account. The deposits totaled more than \$16,000.

Following the OIG investigation, the business manager resigned and entered into an agreement with CPS to repay the stolen money. Also, the OIG referred the results of the investigation to the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. The school business manager was subsequently charged with the felony offenses of theft and official misconduct and those charges are pending in the Circuit Court of Cook County.

- The OIG conducted an investigation following a limited scope audit at a CPS high school that revealed numerous irregularities in the handling of student fees. The OIG investigation revealed that more than \$2,000 of money collected for student fees was not deposited into the school's bank account and the money was actually missing for more than five months. The assistant principal responsible for handling the student fees subsequently turned in cash to be deposited after reportedly finding the money in the school. Based on the serious violations of established CPS procedures, the assistant principal was issued a written reprimand.
- The OIG conducted an investigation of an allegation that a teacher's assistant at an elementary school was "swiping-in" a co-worker in the morning when the co-worker was not present at work. The investigation revealed that the co-worker routinely arrived late for work but was always swiped-in consistent with his start time. The teacher's assistant admitted to the OIG that she routinely swiped-in her co-worker and the OIG was able to prove that the co-worker was not at work until later in the morning. Following the OIG investigation, both employees resigned from CPS employment and each has been designated ineligible to be rehired.
- The OIG conducted an investigation that revealed that a substitute teacher was paid for at least one-half day while the substitute volunteered in the CPS Principal-for-a-Day program at the high school at which she was being paid to substitute teach. Disciplinary proceedings against the substitute teacher are pending.
- The OIG conducted an investigation of an allegation that an employee paid from miscellaneous payroll, who worked at an elementary school out of a central office program for a short period of time, was arrested and charged with the offense of possession of a controlled substance. The investigation revealed that the employee was convicted of the offense of possession of a controlled substance and was sentenced to serve a one-year term of imprisonment. The investigation also revealed that, at the time of hire, the employee was ineligible to work for CPS because of prior convictions for delivery of controlled substance, possession of controlled substance and possession of cannabis. The employee no longer works for CPS and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.
- An elementary school teacher was arrested and charged with the offense of possession of a controlled substance and the OIG conducted a follow-up investigation. The investigation revealed that the teacher was allowed to participate in an alternative treatment program and the criminal charges against him were dismissed. The teacher was subsequently issued a warning resolution by the Board of Education.

- The OIG conducted an investigation of an allegation that more than \$2,600 collected during a candy sale fundraiser at an elementary school was missing. The investigation revealed that school personnel failed to follow the guidelines put forth in the CPS Internal Accounts Manual specifically dealing with the handling and depositing of money. The OIG investigation further revealed that between \$2,241 and \$2,672 collected during the candy sale fundraiser was missing, however a specific staff member responsible for the theft could not be identified. The OIG recommended that the school money handling procedures be reviewed and the appropriate remedy be taken to correct the procedural violations.
- In coordination with the City of Chicago Inspector Generals Office, the OIG conducted an investigation which revealed that a CPS engineer improperly aided a relative in providing false documentation to the City of Chicago so the relative would qualify for a stationary engineer's license. The engineer, the investigation revealed, provided school letterhead and other information to his relative, knowing that the relative was going to use the letterhead and the information to present fraudulent qualifications and experience to the City of Chicago in order to qualify for a stationary engineer's license. Following the OIG investigation, the CPS engineer retired and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.
- Based upon an allegation made public at a Board of Education meeting, the OIG conducted an investigation of an allegation that a high school principal bribed a Local School Council member when seeking the principal position. The investigation did not uncover any evidence of a bribe or any other inappropriate or illegal conduct. Because of the public disclosure of the allegation, the OIG issued an investigative report.
- The OIG issued a report summarizing an investigation conducted after an elementary school assistant principal was arrested and charged with the offense of battery after he was observed by Chicago police officers in a car kissing a sixteen year-old female high school student. The assistant principal was eventually found not guilty of the criminal charges. During the course of the investigation, the OIG conducted numerous interviews and issued a report summarizing the investigation. The assistant principal subsequently resigned from CPS employment and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.
- The OIG conducted an investigation of an allegation that a lunchroom manager assigned to an elementary school committed the offense of theft. It was alleged that the lunchroom manager was not depositing all of the monies collected by lunchroom staff. The OIG investigation did not reveal credible evidence to establish that the lunchroom manager stole money. Based on a request from the Law Department, the OIG issued a report summarizing the investigation.

- The OIG received an allegation that fraudulent documentation was submitted to the Student Special Assistance Fund of the Chicago Teachers Union, which provides eyeglasses to students in need. It was further alleged that on some of the applications for free eyeglasses a principal's signature was forged. The OIG investigation confirmed that the principal's signature was forged on documents, however the identity of the individual or individuals responsible for the forgery could not be determined.

- The OIG conducted a follow-up investigation after a CPS teacher was identified as the offender in sexual assault cases of at least two minor boys. The OIG investigation revealed that the assaults involved children the teacher encountered in his role as a lay youth worker in the western suburbs. The OIG investigation further revealed that the teacher subsequently admitted his improper conduct with the two boys and he was charged in two different counties with the offense of aggravated criminal sexual abuse. The OIG reported its findings. The employee resigned from CPS employment and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.

- The OIG conducted an investigation after a teacher was arrested and charged with the offense of possession of a controlled substance. The OIG investigation revealed that the teacher was subsequently allowed to participate in an alternative sentencing program in lieu of prosecution on the drug charge. The OIG conducted two other investigations of the teacher after he was arrested on two other occasions for drug related charges. The teacher was arrested and charged with the offense of attempted possession of a controlled substance, plead guilty and was sentenced to three months of supervision on the misdemeanor charge. The teacher was also arrested and charged with the offense of possession of a controlled substance. That charge was subsequently dismissed. The OIG has forwarded the results of its investigations to the Law Department which is reviewing the findings to determine appropriate discipline.

- The OIG conducted an investigation of an allegation that a school security officer committed the offense of perjury and state benefits fraud. The investigation revealed that the school security officer committed the offense of perjury and state benefits fraud by falsifying employment information on documentation submitted to the Illinois Department of Public Aid thereby obtaining benefits to which she was not eligible to receive. The school security officer was subsequently discharged from CPS employment and has been designated as ineligible to be rehired.

- The OIG received information that a school community representative received and cashed in excess of \$1,600 in CPS paychecks to which she was not entitled. The OIG conducted an investigation which revealed that the school community

representative changed positions and for seven pay periods was improperly paid for both positions, cashing paychecks totaling more than \$1,600 to which she was not entitled. The school community representative was subsequently laid off from CPS employment and has entered a payment plan to repay more than \$1,600 to CPS.

- The OIG received a notification that an elementary school principal was arrested and charged with the offense of possession of unregistered handguns. The OIG investigation revealed that Chicago police officers searched the principal's home and found sixty-one handguns that the principal possessed but that were never registered with the City of Chicago in violation of the Municipal Code of Chicago. The criminal charges against the principal are pending and the principal has been reassigned.

- The OIG conducted an investigation that revealed that a substitute teacher cashed a CPS payroll check after she requested a replacement check, claiming that the payroll check had not been received by her, and subsequently also cashed the replacement check. Following the OIG investigation, the substitute teacher was vacated from her position and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.

- Following an audit at an elementary school, the OIG conducted an investigation into an allegation that a school security aide was improperly issued two school checks. The OIG investigation revealed that the school security aide was issued two checks, one purportedly to purchase cheerleading uniforms and one to purportedly work security at school field trips. The OIG investigation further revealed that no cheerleading uniforms were purchased and the school security aide did not work at the field trips. During the course of the OIG investigation, the school security aide was vacated from her position and subsequent to the investigation she was designated ineligible to be rehired.

- The OIG was asked to review the fundraising practices of an entity affiliated with an elementary school. The investigation found no evidence of financial improprieties by the fundraising group. However, the group solely utilized school students, parents, faculty and staff to raise funds, yet the funds were maintained in a bank account that was not in the control of the current school administration. The OIG recommended that to be consistent with the proscriptions of the CPS Internal Accounts Manual, the money raised by the group, at the time in excess of \$120,000, should be placed into the school's internal accounts or added to the appropriate line item of the school's budget. A former principal of the school was issued a written reprimand for her involvement in the violations.

- The OIG conducted an investigation that revealed that an elementary school aide cashed a CPS payroll check after claiming that she did not receive the check and after receiving and cashing a replacement check. The school aide cashed both checks, each for more than \$540. The school aide was subsequently laid off from CPS and has been designated as ineligible to be rehired.

- A substitute teacher was also investigated for cashing a CPS payroll check after claiming that he did not receive the check and also cashed a replacement check after cashing the original payroll check. This investigation revealed that the substitute teacher cashed both checks, each for \$1,273. Subsequent to the OIG investigation, the substitute teacher entered into a payment plan to repay the money. The substitute teacher was also discharged from CPS employment and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.

- The OIG conducted an investigation of an allegation that a high school teacher was arrested for the offense of possession of cannabis. During the course of the investigation, the teacher admitted to the OIG that he, in fact, did possess cannabis. The criminal charges stemming from the teacher's arrest were dismissed. The results of the investigation were forwarded to the Law Department and disciplinary proceedings against the teacher are pending.

- The OIG conducted an investigation that revealed that a retired engineer was in possession of a CPS-owned riding mower and snow blower attachments. The OIG was able to retrieve the mower and attachments from the retired engineer and return the equipment to the appropriate school. Law enforcement authorities were notified of the theft.

- The OIG conducted an investigation into an allegation that an elementary school lunchroom manager stole money collected by the lunchroom. The OIG investigation confirmed the allegation and uncovered evidence, including an admission, that the lunchroom manager stole in excess of \$1,400 in money collected by the lunchroom manager over a four-month period. Following the OIG investigation, the lunchroom manager was discharged from CPS employment and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.

- The OIG conducted an investigation that revealed that a high school teacher allowed his CPS issued laptop computer to be used to access and store pornographic images. The investigation revealed that the teacher failed to monitor or prohibit his roommate's use of the laptop computer. Following the OIG investigation, the teacher was issued a warning resolution.

- A female high school teacher was arrested and charged with the offense of public indecency after she was observed by Chicago police officers in a car with a seventeen year-old male student from the high school. The OIG conducted a follow-up investigation, which included interviews of the student, the teacher, police officers and others. The OIG forwarded the results of the investigation to the Law Department and the teacher subsequently resigned from her position with CPS. The teacher has also been designated as ineligible to be rehired.

- The OIG completed an investigation of an allegation that a privately run, fee-based, before and after school child care program was improperly operating out of an elementary school building. During the investigation, the OIG learned that (1) there was no Board approval for the privately run before and after care program being operated by a community group at the elementary school, (2) there was no license agreement, lease agreement or inter-agency agreement between the elementary school and the community group regarding the program, (3) there was no school usage permit on file at the elementary school, (4) the community group did not have an insurance policy naming the Board of Education and its employees as an additional insured, and (5) no rent was paid to the elementary school for the operation of the program at the school. The OIG recommended that CPS take action deemed necessary to correct the issues noted above. The Law Department is reviewing the investigative findings.

- The OIG conducted an investigation that revealed that an engineer utilized sick time to attend court on at least five occasions in violation of Board Rules. The engineer was subsequently sentenced to supervision on the underlying criminal charges, which included driving under the influence of alcohol. Following the OIG investigation, the engineer was given a five-day suspension.

- The OIG received an allegation that a middle school teacher was charged in federal court with the offense of making false statements to the United States Secret Service. The OIG investigation further revealed that the teacher was subsequently convicted of the charge and was sentenced to serve a one-year term of probation and ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine. The substance of the crime did not involve the teacher's employment with CPS and following the OIG investigation the teacher was issued a warning resolution.

- The OIG conducted an investigation which revealed that a high school teacher accessed pornographic images on a CPS desktop computer and also allowed his CPS issued laptop computer to be used to store pornographic images. Following the OIG investigation, the teacher was discharged from CPS employment and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.

- The OIG received information that a high school teacher was being investigated by a suburban police department for having sexual intercourse with an underage female. The OIG conducted a follow-up investigation which revealed that on two occasions, the teacher had a sexual encounter with a suburban high school student that began when she was 15 years old, although he believed her to be 18 years old. The teacher was not charged with a crime. Following the OIG investigation, the teacher resigned from CPS employment.

- The OIG conducted two investigations of alleged misconduct by an elementary school cook. First, the OIG substantiated an allegation the cook was found in possession of a missing moneybag from the school lunchroom safe and some money collected from the school lunchroom was missing. The cook was also arrested by the Chicago police and charged with the offense of possession of a controlled substance. The cook agreed to enter the Cook County State's Attorney's drug school program in lieu of prosecution. Following the OIG investigations, the cook was discharged from CPS employment.

- In Fiscal Year 2001, the OIG conducted an investigation of an elementary school assistant principal and provided sufficient evidence to show that the assistant principal had removed a pager, laptop computer and other equipment from the school. Following that investigation, the assistant principal resigned from CPS employment and signed a settlement agreement reflecting that he was ineligible to work for CPS in the future. This past year, the OIG learned that the former assistant principal was again employed by CPS as a small school principal. The OIG investigation revealed that a "do not hire" designation was never placed on the employee's personnel records and he was allowed to return to CPS employment. The OIG forwarded the results of the new investigation to the Law Department and recommended that the previously signed settlement agreement be enforced. As a result of this year's investigation, the employee resigned from CPS employment and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.

- After an internal audit revealed irregularities with an elementary school's internal account records, the OIG conducted an investigation that focused on ethical violations by the school's principal. The investigation revealed that the principal paid his stepdaughter \$1,000 out of the school's internal accounts for school-related work in violation of the CPS Ethics Policy. Further, the investigation revealed that the principal directed a contractor to pay his stepdaughter \$860 for the same school-related work while reimbursing the contractor for the \$860 paid to his stepdaughter. Following the OIG investigation, the principal resigned and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.

- A child welfare attendant assigned to an occupational high school was arrested by the Chicago Police Department and charged with the offense of aggravated unlawful use of weapons. The OIG conducted an investigation which revealed that a loaded gun was found in the child welfare attendant's vehicle while he was on duty and transporting CPS students from a job program to school in his personal vehicle. Immediately following the OIG investigation, the child welfare attendant was discharged from CPS employment and designated as ineligible to be rehired. The criminal charges against the child welfare attendant are still pending in criminal court.

- The OIG received information that an engineer at an elementary school had been using his office at the school for illicit purposes. The OIG conducted an investigation which revealed that the engineer, along with two custodians assigned to the school, on numerous occasions, drank beer while in the school and while on duty. The investigation also revealed that the engineer or custodians would routinely leave work during their shift and go to a liquor store to purchase the alcohol. Following the OIG investigation, the engineer and custodians resigned from CPS employment. The engineer has been designated as ineligible to be rehired.

- The OIG conducted a follow-up investigation after an elementary school teacher was arrested for the offense of possession of cannabis. The OIG investigation revealed that the teacher was arrested after he was observed in possession of cannabis while in his vehicle. The criminal charges were dismissed after the teacher attended the Cook County State's Attorney's drug school program. The OIG forwarded the results of the investigation to the Law Department and disciplinary action against the teacher is pending.

- The OIG conducted an investigation which revealed that a high school teacher and a high school business manager utilized CPS' tax-exempt status to purchase personal items without paying sales tax. The results of the OIG investigation were forwarded to the Law Department and the two staff members were given school based discipline.

- In a separate investigation, the OIG discovered that two high school teachers utilized CPS' tax-exempt status to purchase personal items without paying sales tax. Following the OIG investigation, one teacher was issued a warning resolution and the other was issued school based discipline.

- The OIG conducted an investigation which revealed that an elementary school teacher utilized CPS' tax-exempt status at a discount store to purchase personal items without paying sales tax. The investigation also revealed that the teacher allowed her daughter to utilize the tax-exempt business account to purchase personal items without paying sales tax. Following the OIG investigation, the teacher was issued a warning resolution.

- A child welfare attendant assigned to an elementary school was arrested for the offenses of possession of a controlled substance and solicitation of a sexual act. The OIG conducted a follow-up investigation which revealed that the child welfare attendant solicited an undercover police officer to engage in a sex act for money. A custodial search subsequently revealed the child welfare attendant to be in possession of cocaine. The child welfare attendant plead guilty to the offense of possession of a controlled substance and was sentenced to serve a twenty-four month term of probation. The child welfare attendant resigned from CPS employment and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.

- The OIG conducted an investigation of an allegation that a special education classroom assistant applied for and received a leave of absence on fraudulent grounds. This investigation revealed that the classroom assistant provided a forged doctor's note to CPS to document a medical leave of absence for pregnancy, when in fact she had never been pregnant. During the course of the investigation, and after being interviewed by the OIG, the classroom assistant resigned from CPS employment. The classroom assistant has also been designated as ineligible to be rehired.

- The OIG conducted an investigation into timekeeping irregularities involving an elementary school clerk. The results of the investigation were forwarded to the Law Department where disciplinary action is being considered.

- The OIG received an allegation that a lifeguard assigned to a high school was engaged in secondary employment and was falsifying her attendance records. The OIG conducted an investigation which included numerous surveillances of the lifeguard and a review of timekeeping records. The investigation revealed that time purportedly worked by the lifeguard for CPS conflicted with time she purportedly worked for another local government agency. Further, the surveillances showed that the lifeguard regularly left her CPS job early. During the course of the investigation, the OIG attempted to interview the lifeguard about her misconduct and she immediately resigned from CPS employment. The lifeguard has also been designated ineligible to be rehired.

- CPS was the beneficial owner of property that housed a child parent center. When CPS attempted to transfer the property to the City of Chicago, the OIG conducted an investigation which revealed, in the opinion of the OIG, that the transfer would be inconsistent with a provision of the School Code mandating public bidding for certain properties. The OIG investigation revealed that although the property was being transferred to the City of Chicago, the ultimate purchaser of the property was a private educational institution. When the transfer of the property was attempted, CPS represented that the value of the property was \$99,000. The School Code requires public bidding for the sale of properties owned by a school district that have a value of more than \$25,000, however CPS has been granted a waiver of that requirement, but must publicly bid properties valued at more than \$100,000. The OIG investigation, which included an independent appraisal, revealed that the property was valued at \$210,000 and a transfer of the property without public bidding, in the opinion of the OIG, was inconsistent with the School Code. An appropriate transfer of the property is currently being negotiated.

The OIG investigation also revealed that, with the authority of a CPS official, the parcel of property had been included in an Institutional Planned Development controlled by the private educational institution. Prior to being included in the planned development, when the property was zoned as a general residential district, the property appraised at \$170,000 to \$200,000. When included in the planned development, the property value decreased by at least 30%. The inclusion of the property in the planned development was done without approval of the Board of Education, since no rule required Board approval for such action. As a result of the investigation, the OIG recommended that any future actions that significantly diminish the value of CPS real estate should be done with Board approval.

- The OIG conducted an investigation of a vendor that was accused of submitting a fraudulent certificate of insurance to CPS to meet requirements to be placed on a list of approved vendors. The OIG investigation revealed that certain CPS vendors were advised that they could only continue to be listed as an approved vendor if the companies met certain requirements including maintaining liability and worker's compensation insurance at specific coverage levels. The OIG investigation further revealed that a representative of the vendor provided an altered certificate of insurance to CPS misrepresenting the category and levels of coverage maintained by the vendor. The OIG then verified the types of coverage maintained by the vendor with the vendor's insurance carrier and verified that the certificate of insurance provided by the vendor was in fact fraudulent. Debarment proceedings against the vendor are pending.

- The OIG conducted an investigation of a CPS vendor which revealed that the vendor submitted falsified documents misrepresenting minority participation on contracts with CPS. The OIG learned that on yearly contracts worth up to \$10,000,000, the vendor was reported to be in full compliance with the CPS M/WBE Plan by its intent to utilize five vendors to meet the CPS goal of 40% M/WBE participation. The OIG reviewed numerous documents and interviewed the owners of the companies that the vendor represented would be utilized to fulfill the minority and women owned business participation requirements. Each of the five companies purportedly signed CPS forms reflecting their respective intent to participate on the CPS contract and to be paid accordingly. However, the OIG uncovered evidence which revealed that the signatures that appeared on the CPS forms were not the signatures of the owners of the companies. In addition, each representative informed the OIG that they were not aware their companies were intended participants on the contract until they were contacted by the CPS Office of Business Diversity. For the period of the contract that was reviewed by the OIG, only a minimal payment was made to one of the purported minority participants on the contract, far less than required by CPS goals. Debarment proceedings against the vendor are pending and the OIG forwarded the results of its investigation to the Cook County State's Attorney's Office for review and possible criminal prosecution.

- The OIG conducted an investigation after it was learned that a CPS vendor had been convicted of vendor fraud and theft stemming from a relationship that the vendor had with another local governmental agency. The OIG investigation revealed that the criminal charges stemmed from the vendor submitting false billing invoices and willfully making false statements and representations that contracted services had been provided. The vendor was found guilty of two counts of vendor fraud and one count of theft and was sentenced to serve a four year term of probation, to serve six months in the Cook County Department of Corrections, to perform 600 hours of community service, and to pay restitution in the amount of \$400,000. The OIG forwarded the results of the investigation to CPS administration and recommended that a notification be distributed within CPS advising schools and departments not to utilize the company or its president as a vendor. Debarment proceedings against the vendor are pending.

- The OIG conducted an investigation which revealed that a CPS vendor submitted falsified documents misrepresenting minority participation on contracts with CPS. The OIG investigation revealed that that the vendor submitted fraudulent documents which reflected utilization of a subcontractor and payment to the subcontractor for work purportedly performed on two CPS contracts. The fraudulent representations on CPS documents were likewise acknowledged when the vendor, shortly after two of its executives were interviewed by the OIG, submitted amended documents which no longer reflected any participation by the subcontractor on either contract. As a result of the investigation, the OIG

recommended that the vendor be debarred for submitting fraudulent documents to CPS which fraudulently misrepresented minority owned business participation by a subcontractor on two CPS contracts. The Law Department is reviewing the investigation for possible disciplinary action.

- The OIG learned that a high school had paid a CPS vendor more than \$50,000 for sports related equipment only to have the equipment subsequently repossessed. The OIG investigation revealed that the high school made a purchase of sports equipment from a vendor approved by CPS. After paying the vendor more than \$50,000 and actually using the equipment, the equipment was repossessed. The OIG investigation further revealed that the CPS vendor failed to pay the supplier of the equipment for the purchase. The OIG investigation also revealed that the vendor was no longer providing services and, in fact, the owner of the company had died. The OIG forwarded the results of its investigation to the Law Department which is reviewing the investigation for a determination of the appropriate civil remedies.

- The OIG received a complaint that a CPS vendor pre-qualified to provide various trades work, caused a fire at an elementary school and was not covered by general liability insurance. The OIG investigation revealed that the vendor caused a fire at the school. The investigation also revealed that the vendor fraudulently misrepresented that it had the appropriate general liability insurance when in fact it was not covered by any insurance at the time of the fire. The OIG investigation also revealed that CPS administration and its agents knew or should have known that the vendor did not possess the requisite insurance. To allow small vendors to participate in the program, the OIG learned, a promise to obtain appropriate liability insurance if selected for work is sufficient. However, the OIG learned that neither CPS nor the privatized management service overseeing the vendor's work bore the responsibility of verifying that the vendor was properly insured when work commenced. The OIG therefore made specific recommendations that:
 - Vendors not be pre-qualified to do business with CPS when the vendor fails to meet any requirements of the specifications of the contract, such as when the vendor lacks the insurance coverage required by the contract.
 - If vendors are allowed to "promise" to obtain insurance by the time that they sign a contract with CPS, that the CPS officials ensure that the vendor's promise is fulfilled by the time the contract is signed.
 - CPS require vendors that have insurance coverage responsibilities under a CPS contract to provide proof of insurance on an annual basis, not just at the beginning of the contract. Vendors that cannot show compliance with their contracted insurance responsibilities should be suspended from doing business with CPS until their insurance requirements are met.

Debarment proceedings against the vendor are pending.

Residency

To comply with the CPS residency policy, employees hired after November 20, 1996 must reside within the City of Chicago. The CPS Residency Policy mandates that employees, unless granted a waiver because they teach in an identified “special needs” area, must maintain a City of Chicago domicile defined as the one true, permanent home to which whenever they are absent they have an intention of returning. The OIG has been delegated the responsibility of investigating allegations of non-residency and in FY 2005 substantiated the following allegations:

- A teacher at a north side elementary school was found to be residing in Morton Grove, IL. The teacher subsequently came into compliance with the residency requirement.
- A teacher at a south side elementary school resided in Lockport, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. The teacher was issued a warning resolution and was directed to move into the city.
- A teacher resided in Bellwood, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. The teacher could not come into compliance with the residency requirement and was terminated.
- A teacher resided in Evergreen Park, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS, erroneously thinking he had been granted a waiver of compliance with the residency requirement. Labor and Employee Relations is currently reviewing the investigation.
- A teacher resided in Merrillville, IN, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS, erroneously thinking that she did not have to comply with the residency requirement. The teacher subsequently came into compliance with the residency requirement.
- A teacher resided in Villa Park, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. The teacher was subsequently granted a special needs waiver from the residency requirement.
- A bilingual teacher resided in East Chicago, IN, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. The teacher subsequently came into compliance with the residency requirement.
- A teacher resided in Evergreen Park, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. Following the OIG investigation, the teacher was granted a special needs waiver from the residency requirement.
- A high school principal was found to be residing in Gary, IN. The principal subsequently came into compliance with the residency requirement.

- A teacher at a south side high school resided in Country Club Hills, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. The teacher was issued a written reprimand and was subsequently granted a waiver from the residency requirement.
- An elementary school teacher resided in Oak Lawn, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. Following the OIG investigation, the teacher was granted a special needs waiver from the residency requirement.
- A central office employee was found to be residing in Calumet City, IL, after having falsified documents concerning her residence. Following the OIG investigation, the employee resigned and has been designated ineligible to be re-hired.
- An elementary school teacher resided in Berwyn, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. The teacher subsequently came into compliance with the residency requirement.
- An elementary school teacher was found to be residing in Whiting, IN, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. The teacher was issued a warning resolution.
- A high school teacher resided in Oak Lawn, IL, and mistakenly thought that she had been granted a special needs waiver. After the OIG investigation, the teacher was granted a waiver.
- An elementary school teacher resided in Bloomingdale, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. The teacher subsequently came into compliance with the residency requirement.
- An elementary school teacher resided in Lockport, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. After being given a date to come into compliance with the residency requirement, the teacher resigned.
- An elementary school teacher resided in Wilmette, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. The teacher subsequently came into compliance with the residency requirement.
- An elementary school lunchroom manager was found to be residing in Dolton, IL, having never established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. Disciplinary charges against the lunchroom manager are pending.

- An instructor assistant was found to be residing in Richton Park, IL, after having falsified documents concerning her residence. Following the OIG investigation, the employee resigned and has been designated ineligible to be re-hired.
- A director of a central office department was found to be residing in Bolingbrook, IL, after having falsified documents concerning his residence. Following the OIG investigation, the employee resigned and has been designated ineligible to be re-hired.
- An elementary school principal was found to be residing in Evanston, IL, after having falsified documents concerning her residence. Following the OIG investigation, the employee retired from CPS.
- An elementary school teacher was found to be residing in Palos Hills, IL, after having falsified documents concerning her residence. The teacher subsequently came into compliance with the residency requirement.
- An elementary school teacher resided in Northbrook, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. After the OIG investigation, the teacher resigned.
- A coordinator resided in Darien, IL, having never established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. The coordinator subsequently came into compliance with the residency requirement.
- A staff assistant was found to be residing in Merrionette Park, IL, after having falsified documents concerning her residence. The child of the staff assistant also attended a CPS funded charter school. The staff assistant subsequently resigned from CPS employment and has been designated ineligible to be re-hired. The CPS Law Department has filed a civil action to recover the payment of non-resident tuition from the staff assistant.
- An elementary school teacher resided in Flossmoor, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. The teacher subsequently came into compliance with the residency requirement.
- An elementary school teacher resided in Dolton, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. After being given a date to come into compliance with the residency requirement, the teacher resigned.
- An administrative assistant was found to be residing in Riverdale, IL, after having falsified documents concerning her residence. The child of the staff assistant also attended a CPS elementary school. The administrative assistant was discharged from CPS employment and has been designated ineligible to be re-hired. The CPS Law Department is also seeking to recover the payment of non-resident tuition from the administrative assistant.

- An elementary school teacher resided in Oak Park, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. The teacher subsequently came into compliance with the residency requirement.
- A high school teacher resided in LaGrange, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. The teacher was given a date to come into compliance with the residency requirement but failed to do so and was subsequently discharged from employment.
- A high school teacher resided in Bolingbrook, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. Following the OIG investigation, the employee was granted a special needs waiver from the residency requirement.
- An elementary school teacher resided in Des Plaines, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. Following the OIG investigation, the employee was granted a special needs waiver from the residency requirement.
- A high school teacher resided in LaGrange Park, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. Following the OIG investigation, the employee was granted a special needs waiver from the residency requirement.
- A staff assistant in the central office was found to be residing in Willowbrook, IL, after having falsified documents concerning her residence. Following the OIG investigation, the employee resigned and has been designated ineligible to be re-hired.
- A manager in a central office department was found to be residing in Lake Zurich, IL, after having falsified documents concerning his residence. Following the OIG investigation, the employee resigned and has been designated ineligible to be re-hired.
- A high school teacher resided in Des Plaines, IL, never having established city residency after beginning employment with CPS. Following the OIG investigation, the employee was granted a special needs waiver from the residency requirement.
- An elementary school teacher was found to be residing in Evanston, IL. The OIG investigation revealed that the teacher moved out of the City of Chicago during her tenure as a CPS employee. The teacher was issued a written reprimand and was directed to establish city residency. The teacher subsequently resigned from CPS employment.

- A director of a central office department was found to be residing in Matteson, IL, after having falsified documents concerning her residency. The employee was previously investigated in FY 04, following which she was issued a warning and directed to establish a city residence within six months. Further disciplinary action against the employee is pending
- A high school teacher was found to be residing in Addison, IL, after having falsified documents concerning her residence. Disciplinary action against the teacher is pending.
- A high school teacher was found to be residing in Matteson, IL, after having falsified documents concerning her residence. The teacher subsequently came into compliance with the residency requirement.
- A central office employee was found to be residing in Whiting, IN, after having falsified documents concerning her residence. The OIG investigation also revealed that the child of the employee attended a CPS elementary school. The employee was discharged from CPS employment and has been designated ineligible to be re-hired. The CPS Law Department is also seeking to recover the payment of non-resident tuition from the employee.
- A high school teacher was found to be residing in Calumet City, IL, after providing a false residential address to CPS. The teacher was also absent from CPS without leave and is currently an inactive employee.

Tuition Fraud

The Office of the Inspector General has been delegated the responsibility of conducting investigations into allegations that various Chicago Public School students reside outside the City of Chicago, a violation of the Illinois School Code. During the course of FY 2005, the OIG conducted investigations that established the following:

- The mother of a second grade student at a west side elementary school enrolled her child in the school despite credible evidence uncovered by the OIG which revealed that she and her daughter actually resided in Cicero, IL. The CPS Law Department recovered more than \$5,000 in payment for non-resident tuition from the mother of the student.
- An OIG investigation revealed that a student at a CPS magnet high school attended the school for four years while residing in Alsip, IL. The OIG determined that the student's parents were responsible for the payment of more than \$25,000 of non-resident tuition. The CPS Law Department is seeking to recover the payment of non-resident tuition from the parents of the student.

- The parents of an eighth grade student enrolled their child in a south side elementary school despite residing in Burnham, IL. The OIG determined that the parents were responsible for the payment of more than \$6,400 of non-resident tuition. The CPS Law Department is seeking payment of the non-resident tuition from the parents.
- An OIG investigation revealed that a third grade student was enrolled in a south side elementary school despite living in South Holland, IL. The CPS Law Department has filed a lawsuit seeking the payment of more than \$6,400 in non-resident tuition.
- A sixth grade student was enrolled in a south side elementary school and an OIG investigation revealed that he lived in Calumet Park, IL. The CPS Law Department is seeking the payment of more than \$6,400 in non-resident from the parents of the student.
- As mentioned in the section above concerning employee residency violators, the OIG found that three CPS employees resided outside the City of Chicago and enrolled their children in Chicago public schools.
 - An employee enrolled her child at a charter school despite residing in Merrionette Park, IL. The CPS Law Department is seeking to recover more than \$19,000 in non-resident tuition.
 - An employee enrolled her child at a Chicago public school despite residing in Riverdale, IL. The CPS Law Department is seeking to recover more than \$12,000 in non-resident tuition.
 - An employee enrolled her child at a Chicago public school despite residing in Whiting, IN. The CPS Law Department is seeking to recover more than \$6,400 in non-resident tuition.

Court Watch

Throughout the year, the OIG receives notification that CPS employees have been arrested for various crimes, either on-duty or off-duty. The OIG is charged with the responsibility of monitoring the outcome of those criminal cases and reporting on those where a determination was made that the employees committed certain criminal offenses allowing for CPS administration to determine if disciplinary action is warranted. During FY 2005, the OIG monitored and reported on the following:

- An elementary school engineer was arrested and charged with the offense of possession of a controlled substance. The OIG investigation revealed that the charges against the engineer were dismissed after the engineer successfully completed the Cook County State's Attorney's drug school program. After the OIG forwarded the results of the investigation to the Law Department, the matter was referred to the Department of Operations for discipline.

- A special education class assistant at an elementary school was arrested and charged with the offense of impersonating a police officer. The OIG investigation revealed that the assistant plead guilty to the charge and was sentenced to six months of court supervision. The assistant was subsequently laid off from CPS employment and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.
- A high school security officer was arrested and charged with the offense of failure to maintain firearm records. The OIG investigation revealed that the security officer plead guilty to the charge and was sentenced to six months of court supervision and three days of community service. The results of the investigation were forwarded to the school principal from the Law Department for the imposition of appropriate discipline.
- A lunchroom attendant was arrested and charged with the offense of domestic battery. The OIG investigation revealed that the lunchroom attendant plead guilty to the charge and was sentenced to one year of conditional discharge. The results of the investigation were forwarded to the lunchroom attendant's supervisor from the Law Department for the imposition of appropriate discipline.
- A high school clerk was arrested and charged with the offense of driving under the influence and other traffic offenses. The OIG investigation revealed that the clerk was found guilty of the offenses of reckless driving and transporting alcohol and was sentenced to six months of court supervision. The results of the investigation were forwarded to the school principal from the Law Department for the imposition of appropriate discipline.
- A substitute teacher was arrested for traffic offenses and it was discovered that he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. The OIG investigation revealed that the teacher had previously failed to appear in court after being charged in 2000 with the offenses of driving under the influence and driving on a suspended license. The teacher was found guilty of the charges of driving under the influence of alcohol and driving on a suspended license and was sentenced to one year of conditional discharge and a period of time in Cook County Jail.
- A substitute teacher was arrested and charged with the Chicago ordinance violation of solicitation for prostitution. The OIG investigation revealed that the teacher was found guilty of the offense of solicitation for prostitution and was fined. The substitute teacher was vacated from her position and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.
- A high school military instructor was arrested and charged with the offense of soliciting for prostitution. The OIG investigation revealed that the military instructor plead guilty to the charge and was sentenced to six months of court supervision. CPS administration took no action against the instructor.

- A school clerk assistant assigned to an elementary school was arrested and charged with the offenses of delivery of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance. The OIG investigation revealed that the charges against the clerk assistant were dismissed after she successfully completed “drug school.” Prior to the completion of the OIG investigation, the clerk assistant was laid off from CPS employment.
- A child welfare attendant at an elementary school was arrested and charged with the offense of possession of a controlled substance. The OIG investigation revealed that the child welfare attendant plead guilty to the charge and was sentenced to serve an eighteen-month term of probation. The child welfare attendant resigned from CPS employment and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.
- An elementary school porter was arrested and charged with the offense of possession of more than 4,000 grams of cannabis. The OIG investigation revealed that the porter had left CPS employment prior to his arrest. The porter plead guilty to the charge and was sentenced to serve a twenty-four month term of probation. Based on an OIG recommendation, the porter was designated ineligible to be rehired.
- A teacher assigned to an elementary school was arrested and charged with the offense of battery after striking a police officer. The OIG investigation revealed that the teacher plead guilty to the charge and was sentenced to one year of court supervision. The results of the investigation were forwarded to the school principal from the Law Department for the imposition of appropriate discipline.
- A substitute teacher was arrested for the offense of theft. The OIG investigation revealed that the substitute teacher plead guilty to the charge and was sentenced to one year of court supervision. The substitute teacher was also arrested and charged with the offense of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon. The substitute teacher plead guilty to that charge and was sentenced to one year of mental health probation and 164 days in the Cook County Department of Corrections. The substitute teacher was subsequently vacated from her position and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.
- A CPS consultant was arrested and charged with the offense of possession of a controlled substance. The OIG investigation revealed that the charges against the consultant were dismissed after she successfully completed “drug school.”
- A school security officer assigned to an elementary school was arrested and charged with the offense of telephone harassment. The OIG investigation revealed that the security officer plead guilty to the charge and was sentenced to one year of court supervision. Prior to the completion of the OIG investigation, the security officer resigned from CPS employment and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.

- A school aide assigned to an elementary school was arrested and charged with the offenses of possession of cannabis and failure to register a firearm. The OIG investigation revealed that the school aide was found guilty of the charge of possession of cannabis and was sentenced to a one-year term of probation. During the course of the investigation, the school aide left CPS employment and he was subsequently designated ineligible to be rehired.
- A high school security officer was arrested and charged with the offense of domestic battery. The OIG investigation revealed that the security officer was found guilty of domestic battery and was sentenced to one year of supervision. The results of the investigation were forwarded to the school principal from the Law Department for the imposition of appropriate discipline.
- A porter assigned to an elementary school was arrested and charged with four counts of reckless homicide. The OIG investigation revealed that the porter resigned from CPS employment and he has been designated ineligible to be rehired. The porter subsequently plead guilty to the criminal charges and was sentenced to serve 14 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.
- A teacher assigned to an elementary school was arrested and charged with the offense of driving under the influence and other traffic offenses. The OIG investigation revealed that the teacher was sentenced to one year of supervision. The results of the investigation were forwarded to the school principal from the Law Department for the imposition of appropriate discipline.
- The OIG received a complaint that a substitute teacher had a criminal history that included arrests for prostitution. The OIG learned that in 2003 the substitute teacher was arrested and charged with the offenses of prostitution and battery. The substitute teacher subsequently plead guilty to the charges against her and was sentenced to one year of court supervision and five days of community service. CPS administration took no disciplinary action against the substitute teacher.
- A high school teacher was arrested and charged with the offense of criminal trespass to residence. The OIG investigation revealed that the teacher plead guilty to the charge and was sentenced to 18 months of court supervision. The teacher was subsequently vacated from his position.
- A school aide assigned to an elementary school was arrested and charged with the offense of possession of a controlled substance. The OIG investigation revealed that the charge was dismissed after the school aide successfully completed drug school. During the course of the investigation, the school aide was discharged from CPS employment and he has been designated ineligible to be rehired.

- An elementary school teacher was arrested and charged with the offense of disorderly conduct after allegedly sending a former co-worker threatening letters. The OIG investigation revealed that the charges were dismissed. The teacher subsequently resigned from CPS employment prior to being interviewed by the OIG.
- An elementary school teacher was arrested on two separate occasions and charged with the offense of possession of a controlled substance. The OIG investigation revealed that the teacher plead guilty to both charges and was sentenced to thirty months of probation. The teacher was discharged from CPS employment and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.
- A substitute teacher was arrested on three separate occasions and was charged with the offenses of home invasion, armed robbery, aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and possession of a controlled substance. The substitute teacher subsequently plead guilty to numerous felony charges and was sentenced to six years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The substitute teacher was vacated from his position and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.
- An elementary school teacher was arrested and charged with the offenses of attempted first degree murder and aggravated battery. The OIG investigation revealed that the teacher was found guilty of the offense of aggravated battery and was subsequently sentenced to three years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The teacher resigned her position with CPS and has been designated ineligible to be rehired.
- A lunchroom attendant at a high school was arrested and charged with the offenses of aggravated assault of a peace officer and obstructing a peace officer. The OIG investigation revealed that the lunchroom manager plead guilty to the charges against her and was sentenced to one year of court supervision. The results of the investigation were forwarded to the school principal from the Law Department for the imposition of appropriate discipline.