



Who Watches the Watchdog?

At the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) works to ensure matters of Fraud, Waste, Abuse and Employee Misconduct are taken seriously and addressed appropriately. With an annual budget of \$13.6 billion, and 63,000 employees, the relatively small staff of approximately 60 auditors, investigators and supporting staff, leverages technology and expertise to evaluate programs, processes, contracts, and allegations of employee wrong doing ranging from minor policy deviations to felony criminal conduct.

Sometimes the question comes up. Who audits the auditor? Who investigates the investigator?

Organizations vary in their process for handling the logical point. At LAUSD, the OIG reports directly to the governing Board of Education (BOE), not to the Superintendent of Schools, providing independence and objectivity over all LAUSD programs and personnel under the purview of the BOE. In the event that an allegation is made against an OIG employee, the BOE is informed and the matter is referred outside of the OIG to the LAUSD Office of the General Counsel (OGC) who reviews and evaluates the allegation. An investigation is conducted either by the OGC or by an outside entity following consideration of potential conflicts of interest, available resources, the severity of the allegation, and other relevant factors. Upon completion of the investigation, the findings and any recommended actions are provided to the BOE.

In addition to having a process in place for matters of investigation, it is also important to ensure that the OIG itself is efficient and effective. At LAUSD, this is accomplished by way of a peer review, a practice of bringing in a team of outside auditors or investigators to evaluate the policies, practices, procedures and performance of the OIG. In conjunction with Association for Inspectors General guidelines, the next peer review will be conducted in approximately September of 2019. Following the peer review, a report will be provided to the OIG and the BOE for consideration of any findings and corresponding recommendations.

On behalf of the employees of the OIG, thank you for this opportunity to serve our students, our future!
