



Center for Civic Education

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Statement in Response to the Audit Report from the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Education

The Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Education issued an [audit report](#), dated November 20, 2009, concerning the Center's management of its grants from the Department of Education. Specifically, the OIG report concerns the Center's compliance with federal guidelines and procedures for managing grant funds. The Center takes its stewardship of federal dollars very seriously and has taken corrective measures—including putting new policies and practices in place—to ensure its financial management system addresses all of the audit's concerns.

- **The Center fulfilled its programmatic obligations.** While the Center acknowledges it has made some errors as identified in the report, there are no allegations about the effectiveness of the Center's programs or that indicate that the programs were in any way diminished, curtailed, or impaired by these errors. Except for a few challenged items, grant funds were spent for the programmatic costs that were specified in the proposals and budgets approved by the Department of Education. These included such programmatic costs as free textbooks for students, teacher training, student academic competitions and other events, and other activities that foster civic education.
- **Issues regarding federal regulations.** The open issues identified in the report reflect different interpretations of federal regulations regarding the processes for spending or accounting for federal funds or inadvertent bookkeeping errors.
- **Corrective actions taken.** The Center has tightened its administrative policies and practices to address issues identified by the report. The Center has reimbursed \$6,296 that was mistakenly charged to grants due to the inadvertent bookkeeping errors mentioned above. This equals less than one-tenth of one percent of the audited funds.
- **The audit and resolution process.** The OIG report is the first step in an ongoing process. The Center will continue to cooperate fully with the Department to address the report's findings.

Millions of students from across America and in emerging democracies worldwide have benefited from the Center's curricula. Rigorous research has shown that the Center's educational programs are highly effective. The Center recognizes its responsibility to offer these programs in strict compliance with federal regulations and will continue to work in good faith and with due diligence to ensure full compliance in the future.