

NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS OF THE INTENT TO  
DESIGNATE RICHARD SMITH AS ACTING INSPEC-  
TOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDU-  
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COMMUNICATION

FROM

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

TRANSMITTING

NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS OF THE INTENT TO DESIGNATE  
RICHARD SMITH AS ACTING INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DE-  
PARTMENT OF EDUCATION, PURSUANT TO 5 U.S.C. 403 NOTE;  
ADDED BY PUBLIC LAW 117-263, SEC. 5203(a); (136 STAT. 3229)



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THE WHITE HOUSE,  
Washington, April 14, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am hereby notifying the Congress that I intend to designate Richard Smith as Acting Inspector General of the Department of Education, in place of the current Acting Inspector General, René Rocque. Such designation will be effective 30 days from delivery of this letter.

The Constitution vests “the executive Power” in the President, who has a duty to “take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.” U.S. Const., Art. II, § 1, cl. 1; *id.* at § 3. In exercising that power and duty, I have determined that, based on the qualities outlined in 5 U.S.C. 403(a) and the confidence I must place in my appointees, Mr. Smith is the best available person to serve as Acting Inspector General of the Department of Education at this time. In my judgment, Ms. Rocque can better serve the Nation performing other duties (i.e., returning to her position as Deputy Inspector General of the Department of Education).

I am providing this notification as a courtesy, a show of comity and respect between the executive and legislative branches. It should not be interpreted as a concession that the Congress can limit my power to remove any officer. “Because no single person could fulfill [the President’s] responsibilit[ies] alone, the Framers expected that the President would rely on subordinate officers for assistance.” *Seila Law LLC v. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau*, 591 U.S. 197, 203–204 (2020). And the Constitution gives the President “the authority to remove those who assist him in carrying out his duties.” *Free Enterprise Fund v. Public Company Accounting Oversight Board*, 561 U.S. 477, 513–514 (2010). “Without such power, the President could not be held fully accountable for discharging his own responsibilities; the buck would stop somewhere else.” *Id.* at 514.

Ultimately, I have determined that the changed priorities of my Administration (as compared to the previous one) will be better reflected with new leadership in this Office. Therefore, I am apprising you of my intention to designate Mr. Smith as Acting Inspector General of the Department of Education, effective 30 days from delivery of this letter.

Sincerely,

DONALD J. TRUMP.

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