



CHAMPIONING BETTER GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

# OSIG NEWS

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## OSIG'S AUDIT ON THE CLERY ACT AIDS IN IMPROVING CAMPUS SAFETY

The Office of the State Inspector General found inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the Clery Act reporting process in higher education institutions after a performance audit was conducted. During the audit, OSIG noted missing supporting documentation and incomplete criminal activity in reports, as well as inconsistencies in emergency response plan testing and verification.

The Annual Security Reports are required by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act. The Clery Act requires all institutions that participate in federal student aid programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to publish ASRs disclosing specified campus crime statistics and campus security policies.

By implementing OSIG's recommendations, higher education institutions can improve the transparency of information available to prospective students and their parents. OSIG's key recommendations to higher education institutions include:

- Additional training for Clery coordinators.
- A documented after-action review after every emergency response exercise.
- Verification of the ASRs.
- Performing an independent reconciliation between websites and ASRs.

"The Clery Act in higher education institutions is a critical reporting resource that helps to keep students and employees safe," said State Inspector General Michael C. Westfall. "Our recommendations are given to help improve efficiency and effectiveness in reporting campus safety to the public."

OSIG's recommendations are aimed to improve reporting transparency and accuracy for students and employees, avoid penalties of up to \$62,689 per violation, and assist the institutions for better emergency preparedness. Further details of the performance audit are available to review at [www.osig.virginia.gov/reports](http://www.osig.virginia.gov/reports).

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Established in 2012, the Virginia Office of the State Inspector General manages the State Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline; conducts investigations and performance audits of state agencies; provides training and standards for the commonwealth's internal audit programs; and conducts inspections and reviews of Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services-run facilities and programs.