



STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT: PRESCHOOL INSPECTIONS SKIPPED BY OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EMPLOYEE
Columbus, Ohio, October 16, 2013

The inspector general issued a report of investigation today finding wrongful conduct by an employee at the Ohio Department of Education. After receiving an alert from the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the inspector general opened a joint investigation into the actions of Melanie Brown, a preschool facilities inspector.

While Brown made reports showing she had completed inspections at a number of preschool facilities, the investigation revealed Brown had not in fact traveled to each site. When realizing the site visits may not have occurred or may not have been conducted to standard, the Ohio Department of Education directed a re-inspection of all 135 preschools assigned to Brown. The Ohio Department of Education found each school was in compliance and licenses for all 135 facilities were renewed.

The investigation also uncovered a pattern of misuse of state-owned vehicles issued to Brown for use in completing her official duties. In one instance, records revealed Brown was in a state-owned car and used a state-issued credit card to buy fuel in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the Sunday before Christmas in 2011. Lancaster, Pennsylvania is nearly 400 miles from Brown's residence in Ohio.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2012-CA00114 is now available at:
<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/Investigations/2013Investigations.aspx>

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