

CITY OF NEW YORK  
THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER OF INVESTIGATION  
FOR THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NYC SCHOOL WATCHDOG RELEASES 2025 ANNUAL REPORT DETAILING  
CORRUPTION, FRAUD, AND MISCONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS**

*SCI Received 11,775 Complaints, Substantiated Wrongdoing In 156 Investigations, And  
Identified Nearly \$2 Million In Financial Losses*

**NEW YORK , NY** - The Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District (SCI) Anastasia Coleman today released the office's [2025 Annual Report](#), highlighting the office's efforts to uncover corruption, protect students, and safeguard taxpayer dollars within the nation's largest public school system.

“SCI plays a vital role in protecting students and safeguarding taxpayer dollars,” **said Special Commissioner Anastasia Coleman**. “Our investigators, intake staff, attorneys, and support personnel work every day to root out corruption, expose fraud, and ensure accountability in the nation's largest school system, and when wrongdoing occurs — whether financial misconduct or inappropriate conduct involving students — we investigate it thoroughly and will not allow it to go unchecked. I am confident that SCI's work this year has strengthened accountability and helped improve the quality of life for students, families, and educators across New York City.

Complaints are received through SCI's website and hotline and may be submitted by any individual with knowledge of potential wrongdoing including, but not limited to parents, students, administrators, mandatory reporters, school personnel, or whistleblowers. SCI received 11,775 complaints in 2025.

In Calendar Year 2025, SCI received 11,775 complaints alleging fraud, criminal activity, financial misconduct, and abuse involving the New York City Department of Education (DOE), which serves more than one million students and employs over 40,000 staff. The office initiated 471 investigations, closed 393 investigations, and substantiated wrongdoing in 156 cases involving 202 individuals or entities.

SCI also identified nearly \$2 million in financial losses to the DOE and the City's retirement systems — double the amount identified in Calendar Year 2024.

**Investigations and Key Findings**

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The most frequent categories of substantiated investigations in 2025 involved employee misconduct, theft of service, falsification of official documents, and inappropriate or sexual relationships or communications. SCI conducted 157 investigations involving allegations of inappropriate or sexual misconduct and substantiated allegations in 62 cases. In 23 of those cases, DOE personnel initiated or maintained inappropriate relationships with students through personal cellphones or personal social media accounts. SCI recommended that the DOE amend its employee guidelines to prohibit staff, volunteers, and vendor employees from contacting students using personal communication platforms.

### Notable Investigations

SCI investigations uncovered significant fraud, corruption, and misconduct affecting both student safety and taxpayer funds.

In one case, SCI substantiated that [Abi Corbin](#), a Community Associate at the East-West School of International Studies in Queens, stole more than \$415,000 from the DOE over a three-year period. As alleged, Corbin used her role as the school's business manager to submit fraudulent purchase orders and invoices through DOE financial systems to benefit her personal cheerleading company. The purchases included cheerleading uniforms and equipment, event expenses, and tickets to professional sporting events. Corbin allegedly issued checks from the school's general fund account to her business using the principal's signature stamp. Corbin resigned from the DOE and faces criminal prosecution.

SCI also substantiated that [Alfredo Mateo](#), a residential building doorman, stole \$477,685 from the retirement accounts of a New York City Teachers' Retirement System member and her husband. Mateo diverted pension and annuity payments into accounts he controlled and impersonated the deceased account holder in communications with TRS. Investigators traced dozens of fraudulent transactions through bank and phone records. Mateo later [pleaded guilty](#) to grand larceny and identity theft charges.

SCI investigations also addressed misconduct between DOE staff and students. In one case, SCI substantiated that [Daniel Matuk](#), a teacher at William Cullen Bryant High School in Queens, engaged in inappropriate communications and conduct with a female student over several years, beginning when she was 15-years-old until she graduated when she was 18-years-old. Matuk communicated with the student hundreds of times across multiple platforms, including encrypted messaging applications, used inappropriate and derogatory language, requested secrecy, and engaged in unwanted physical contact in his classroom; his improper hugs, coupled with

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preferential treatment and relentless attention, demonstrated a pattern of grooming, as corroborated by extensive message and phone records reviewed by investigators. In a separate case, SCI also substantiated that [Sidney Jackson](#), a paraprofessional, engaged in inappropriate conduct involving students, including improper communications in violation of DOE policies, engaging in an improper relationship with a 16-year old female and inappropriately touching another 19-year-old female student. In all cases, SCI recommended termination and the placement of problem codes to prevent future employment with the DOE or its vendors.

Furthermore, SCI assisted law enforcement partners in cases involving serious criminal conduct. In one investigation, a former middle school teacher, [Ross Lanvin](#), was federally charged with possession of child pornography after investigators recovered explicit images involving minors from electronic devices.

SCI has also exposed corruption involving school procurement contracts. In one case, a former DOE business manager, [Victor Garrido](#), was sentenced in federal court for participating in a bid-rigging scheme involving DOE contracts, where vendors colluded to manipulate procurement processes and steer contracts in exchange for kickbacks. The defendant and his company were ordered to pay \$141,511 in restitution to the DOE.

## Procurement Oversight

SCI also released a [report examining procurement rule violations](#) at the school level, highlighting growing compliance concerns. DOE schools procured approximately \$386 million in goods and services during Fiscal Year 2025, including \$153 million in service contracts. Violations of procurement rules can lead to financial losses, criminal prosecutions, and prevent the DOE from working with qualified vendors at fair market prices.

## Whistleblower Protections

SCI reviews allegations of retaliation against individuals who report wrongdoing. Under New York City Administrative Code §12-113, a whistleblower is a City or City-vendor employee who is retaliated against for having reported suspected corruption, criminal activity, conflicts of interest, gross mismanagement, or abuse of authority. In Fiscal Year 2025, SCI received 22 whistleblower retaliation complaints and completed reviews in 16 cases. More information can be found in [SCI's FY 2025 Whistleblower Report](#).

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