

U.S. accuses rich parents of college entry *fraud*

In a major college admissions scandal that *laid bare* the elaborate lengths some wealthy parents will go to get their children into competitive American universities, federal prosecutors charged 50 people Tuesday in a *brazen* scheme to buy spots in the freshman classes at Yale, Stanford and other big name schools.

fraud 欺骗; 诡计

lay bare 揭发; 公开

Thirty-three *well-heeled* parents were charged in the case, including Hollywood celebrities and *prominent* business leaders, and prosecutors said there could be additional *indictments* to come.

brazen 厚颜无耻的

well-heeled 富有的

prominent 杰出的; 卓越的

indictment 起诉; 控告

The scheme unveiled Tuesday was *stunning* in its breadth and *audacity*. It was the Justice Department's largest-ever college admissions prosecution, a *sprawling* investigation that involved 200 agents nationwide and resulted in charges against 50 people in six states.

stunning 令人震惊的

audacity 大胆

sprawling 不规则伸展的

Authorities say the parents of some of the nation's wealthiest and most privileged students sought to buy spots for their children at top universities, not only cheating the system but also potentially cheating other hardworking students out of a chance at a college education.

In many of the cases, prosecutors said, the students were not aware that their parents were doctoring their test scores and lying to get them into school. Federal prosecutors did not charge any students or universities with wrongdoing.

"The parents are the prime movers of this fraud," Andrew E. Lelling, U.S. attorney for the district of Massachusetts, said Tuesday during a news conference. Lelling said that those parents used their wealth to create a separate and unfair admissions process for their children.

“The real victims in this case are the hardworking students” who were displaced in the admissions process by “far less qualified students and their families who simply bought their way in,” Lelling said.