



Virgin Islands Board of Education **FY27 BUDGET TESTIMONY**

Presented by
Dr. Kyza A. Callwood, MPA

340.774.4546/340.772.4144
www.myviboe.com

2027

**VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION
FY 2027 BUDGET HEARING TESTIMONY**

Good morning, Honorable Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Chairman of the Committee on Budget, Appropriations, and Finance; esteemed members of the Committee; distinguished members of the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands; and members of the public who are tuned in today.

I am Dr. Kyza A. Callwood, Chairman of the 22nd Virgin Islands Board of Education (VIBE). It is an honor to appear before you today to present and advocate for the Virgin Islands Board of Education's Fiscal Year 2027 budget request in the amount of \$2,137,697.00.

Joining me today are members of the Board and the Board's operational team who collectively support the agency's governance, regulatory, fiscal, and administrative responsibilities. I am accompanied by Executive Director Sandra Bess, Associate Executive Director Kimberly Gereau, Financial Aid Coordinator Sylvanie Rhymer, Education Certification Officers Jolyn Edwards, and Dairdre Petersen-Heath and Accountant Verdelle Parsons.

OUR FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL COMMITMENT

Today's presentation is not just a funding request but a powerful testament to the Virgin Islands Board of Education's unwavering dedication to financial responsibility, operational excellence, and educational accountability across the Territory.

The Fiscal Year 2027 budget proposal of \$2,137,697.00 reflects a strategic and disciplined approach that aligns with the Board's statutory duties while safeguarding the careful stewardship of public funds. This request is grounded in a thorough analysis of past expenditures, current needs, and forward-looking priorities that directly enhance outcomes for students, educators, and the entire educational community.

Over the past year, the Board has made significant strides in optimizing internal operations, elevating communication, and reporting standards, deepening stakeholder engagement, and reinforcing robust accountability frameworks. These improvements have equipped us to deliver with greater efficiency and steadfast commitment to service quality.

Our continued emphasis on data-driven decision-making is evident through key initiatives like the completion and distribution of the annual School Management Accountability Report (SMAR), rigorous school oversight, and strengthened partnerships throughout the educational landscape of the Virgin Islands.

Looking forward, we remain deeply committed to fiscal prudence, operational innovation, and expanding educational opportunities through scholarships and certification programs. Every public dollar allocated is strategically invested to advance the Board's mission with integrity and excellence.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL COMPOSITION AND MANDATE

Established under Act No. 2252, the Virgin Islands Board of Education (VIBE) operates as an

independent agency of the Government of the Virgin Islands. VIBE is entrusted with key education governance responsibilities as outlined in 17 VIC §§ 21–25, 41–42, 82, 90–91, 121, 127–129, 171–177, 184–191, and 193–194, including:

- Managing the Territorial Scholarship Fund, Special Legislative Grants, and selected federal awards.
- Certifying and credentialing education professionals across the Territory.
- Developing, updating, and enforcing education rules and regulations.
- Providing oversight and annual reporting on critical performance indicators such as test scores, dropout rates, attendance, and administrative efficiency.
- Serving as an impartial appellate body for education-related disputes.

The Board consists of nine elected members representing the two legislative districts of the Territory, along with one At-Large member from St. John:

- **St. Croix District:** Emmanuella Perez-Cassius, Winona A. Hendricks, Terrence T. Joseph, and Mary L. Moorhead
- **St. Thomas/St. John District:** Dr. Kyza A. Callwood, Judy M. Gomez Esq., Arah C. Lockhart, and Nandi Sekou Esq.
- **At-Large:** Abigail Hendricks-Cagan

Leadership is provided by the Executive Committee, chaired by Dr. Kyza A. Callwood, with Vice Chair Emmanuella Perez-Cassius and Secretary Arah C. Lockhart guiding the Board’s direction to ensure effective fulfillment of its mission.

Supporting the Board’s work, the operational leadership team includes Executive Director Sandra Bess and Associate Executive Director Kimberly Gereau. Together, they oversee the implementation of strategic priorities, manage day-to-day operations, and carry out the Board’s statutory obligations under the governance of the Board.

II. OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE AND STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE

The Board employs a committee-driven governance model designed to enhance accountability, foster specialization, and ensure robust oversight across its essential areas of responsibility:

1. **Professional Staff Certification and Higher Education** – Chair: Dr. Kyza A. Callwood
2. **Policies, Rules, and Regulations** – Chair: Nandi Sekou, Esq.
3. **Public-Private Liaison** – Chair: Arah C. Lockhart
4. **Curriculum, Instruction, and Learning Environment** – Chair: Winona A. Hendricks
5. **Finance, Scholarships, and Collections** – Chair: Judy M. Gomez, Esq.
6. **Executive Committee** – Chair: Dr. Kyza A. Callwood

This governance framework empowers the Board to develop strong policies, champion data-driven decisions, efficiently manage scholarship programs and collections, and broaden collaborative partnerships that expand educational opportunities throughout the Territory. As the Board continues to advance, we remain steadfast in our commitment to leveraging technology,

optimizing operational efficiency, and maximizing resources to successfully fulfill our statutory mission.

FISCAL YEAR 2025, 2026 ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND PROPOSED 2027 BUDGET

CATEGORY	FY 2025 EXPENDITURE ACTUALS (AS OF 09/30/25)	FY 2026 EXPENDITURE BUDGET	FY 2026 EXPENDITURE ACTUALS (AS OF 06/30/26)	FY 2027 PROPOSED EXPENDITURE BUDGET
Personnel Services	\$ 614,095.67	\$1,011,103	\$578,913.10	\$,1061,111
Fringe Benefits	\$ 273,589.41	\$473,487	\$284,998.03	\$515,851
Supplies	\$35,306.53	\$57,800	\$38,856.96	\$40,000
Other Services & Charges	\$451,648.12	\$495,000	\$471,878.56	\$405,735
Utility Services	\$14,231.19	\$10,307	\$17,634.05	\$25,000
Capital Outlay	\$68,793.00	\$90,000	-0-	\$90,000
Total Funds Expended/ Appropriated	\$1,731,230.06	\$2,137,697	\$1,392,280.70	\$2,137,697

Table I. Comparison of FY (Fiscal Year) 2025 actuals, FY 2026 expenditures budget and actuals as of June 30, 2026, and FY 2027 proposed expenditures budget

Table 1 presents the Virgin Islands Board of Education's financial position across three fiscal years, providing a comparative analysis of actual expenditures for FY 2025, the FY 2026 appropriated budget and expenditures as of June 30, 2026, and the proposed FY 2027 budget. This comparative view reflects the Board's commitment to responsible financial stewardship, operational accountability, and strategic investment in advancing educational excellence throughout the Virgin Islands.

The financial trends highlighted in Table 1 demonstrate a disciplined approach to budget management while positioning the Board to meet evolving educational priorities and organizational demands.

- **FY 2025:** Actual expenditures totaled \$1.73 million, reflecting efficient operations, prudent financial management, and disciplined spending across personnel, professional services, and essential programmatic support.
- **FY 2026:** The Legislature appropriated \$2.13 million, and as of June 30, 2026, expenditures totaled \$1.39 million. This spending pattern demonstrates sound fiscal oversight and responsible budget execution, with expenditures remaining well within

authorized appropriations and no budget overruns anticipated by the close of the fiscal year.

- **FY 2027:** The proposed budget of \$2.13 million maintains fiscal stability while providing the resources necessary to strengthen organizational capacity, revisit strategic priorities, and maximize investments that support the Board's constitutional responsibilities and commitment to educational excellence.

Key Budget Categories: Performance and Strategic Investment

Personnel Services and Fringe Benefits

Personnel Services and Fringe Benefits continue to represent the Board's largest investment, reflecting its commitment to maintaining the professional workforce necessary to fulfill its constitutional and statutory responsibilities. Funding supports critical functions including educator certification, regulatory compliance, fiscal management, policy development, and administrative oversight. The proposed FY 2027 budget incorporates the Governor's recommended Grade and Step salary adjustments, together with the corresponding increase in fringe benefits, ensuring the Board remains positioned to recruit, retain, and support a highly qualified workforce.

Supplies and Utility Services

The FY 2027 budget includes a projected increase in Supplies and Utility Services based on FY 2026 expenditure trends and anticipated operational requirements. This adjustment reflects a proactive approach to sustaining daily operations while ensuring the Board has the resources necessary to effectively deliver its programs and services.

Other Services and Charges

Funding for Other Services and Charges supports contractual services, professional expertise, technology infrastructure, and other operational requirements essential to fulfilling the Board's mission. The proposed increase for FY 2027 aligns with actual FY 2026 expenditures and reflects strategic investments in services that enhance organizational effectiveness, strengthen accountability, and improve operational efficiency.

Capital Outlay

Although Capital Outlay funds were not utilized during FY 2026, the Board proposes maintaining the \$90,000 allocation for FY 2027 to address long-deferred capital improvements and infrastructure needs. Preserving this investment demonstrates a forward-looking commitment to maintaining facilities, modernizing operations, and ensuring the Board's long-term capacity to effectively serve the educational community.

Personnel Services

The Virgin Islands Board of Education (VIBE) currently maintains eighteen (18) budgeted positions strategically distributed between its St. Croix and St. Thomas district offices to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of services throughout the Territory. This staffing structure reflects the Board's commitment to operational excellence, regulatory compliance, and responsive customer service while supporting its constitutional and statutory responsibilities.

Territorial Staffing Distribution and Structure

St. Croix District Office

The St. Croix District Office is staffed by the following positions:

- Associate Executive Director
- Administrative Assistant
- Educational Certification Officer
- Financial Aid Assistant

St. Thomas District Office

The St. Thomas District Office is staffed by:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Executive Director | • Financial Aid Assistant |
| • Accountant | • Two (2) Loan Collection Officers |
| • Educational Certification Officer | • Messenger/Maintenance Engineer |
| • Financial Aid Coordinator | • Custodian (Part-Time) |

These classified, non-union positions comprise the operational foundation of the Board, supporting educator certification, financial aid administration, fiscal management, regulatory oversight, and administrative operations. A current organizational chart is provided as **Appendix A**.

Personnel Services and FY 2026 Financial Performance

As of June 30, 2026, the Board has expended \$578,913.11 in Personnel Services and \$284,998.03 in Fringe Benefits, demonstrating prudent fiscal management while continuing to invest in the talented workforce that drives the agency's mission. Personnel expenditures remain within the FY 2026 legislative appropriation, reflecting disciplined budget execution and effective financial oversight.

Consistent with the Governor's Executive Order No. 508-202, all classified employees received approved salary adjustments during the fiscal year. These investments strengthen the Board's ability to recruit, retain, and recognize a highly qualified workforce dedicated to serving the people of the Virgin Islands.

Recruitment, Retention, and Operational Continuity

The Board remains committed to attracting and retaining qualified professionals who possess the expertise necessary to fulfill its expanding operational and statutory responsibilities. Recruitment efforts are currently underway to fill the Executive Assistant and Director of Business and Finance positions in the St. Thomas/St. John District and the Custodial/Maintenance position in the St. Croix District. In addition, the Board is actively completing the hiring and onboarding process for a Part-Time Researcher and a Financial Aid Representative to further enhance service delivery and organizational capacity.

To strengthen operational resilience, the Board continues to expand cross-training initiatives across the Certification, Financial Aid, Loan Collections, and Accounting units. These efforts ensure the uninterrupted delivery of critical services during employee absences, vacancies, or staffing transitions while fostering greater collaboration, improving institutional knowledge, and enhancing organizational flexibility.

By equipping employees with competencies across multiple functional areas, the Board increases operational efficiency, improves responsiveness to stakeholders, reduces service disruptions, and reinforces its commitment to providing timely, accurate, and high-quality public service.

Workforce Development and Youth Engagement

The Virgin Islands Board of Education proudly partners with the Virgin Islands Department of Labor through the Summer Youth Work Experience Program (SYWEP), reinforcing the Board's commitment to developing the Territory's future workforce and investing in the next generation of public servants.

During the summer of 2026, the St. Croix District welcomed the following student interns:

- Roode Naly Richard
- Antoniqua Williams
- K'Shailah Smith

The Board is also collaborating with the Department of Labor in the St. Thomas/St. John District and looks forward to welcoming additional student interns to expand this valuable workforce development initiative.

Through these six-week internships, participants rotate through the Board's operational units, gaining practical experience in customer service, records management, administrative operations, and public-sector professionalism. The program provides students with meaningful exposure to government service while helping them develop transferable workplace skills that prepare them for higher education, future careers, and lifelong professional success.

By investing in youth engagement and workforce development, the Board is strengthening its talent pipeline, fostering civic responsibility, and contributing to the long-term growth and sustainability of the Virgin Islands workforce.

FIRST BANK ACCOUNT

As of May 31, 2026, the Virgin Islands Board of Education's operating account with FirstBank Virgin Islands (account ending in 0390) maintained a balance of \$55,992.49. This balance reflects the Board's continued commitment to sound fiscal stewardship, prudent cash flow management, and responsible financial oversight.

The Board maintains rigorous internal controls to ensure that all financial transactions are accurately recorded, closely monitored, and reconciled monthly. These practices promote transparency, accountability, and the integrity of the Board's financial operations while ensuring compliance with Government of the Virgin Islands fiscal policies and generally accepted standards of public-sector financial management.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

VENDOR	Type of Service	Annual Payment	FY2025 Payments	FY2026 Payments as of 06/30/2026	Contract Dates
PRIME STORAGE	Storage Unit	\$8,274	\$8,376.00	\$7,763.18	January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026
CRUCIAN POINT, LLC	Web Master	\$11,925	\$23,870.50	\$11,925.00	January 1, 2026, to December 2026
OMNI SYSTEMS, INC	Manage and maintain existing information technology	\$43,200	\$28,800	\$39,600	December 2024 to November 2027
JENNIFER JONES, ESQ.	Legal service	\$200,000	\$ 131,020	\$0	Pending approval by DPP

Table 2. FY 2026 Professional Services as of June 30, 2026

The Virgin Islands Board of Education strategically partners with qualified professional service providers to strengthen organizational capacity, enhance operational efficiency, and ensure compliance with its constitutional and statutory responsibilities. Table 2 provides an overview of the Board's current professional services agreements, including each contractor's scope of work, contract term, and expenditures.

These contractual partnerships represent prudent investments in specialized expertise that supplements the Board's internal resources and supports the delivery of critical services. Each vendor is procured in accordance with applicable procurement requirements and is evaluated for performance, cost-effectiveness, accountability, and alignment with the Board's mission and operational objectives.

- **Crucian Point LLC** continues to provide website management and digital support services, ensuring that the Board's online platforms remain secure, accessible, and responsive to the needs of educators, students, and the public. During FY 2026, the Board expended funds to support website maintenance, improve digital accessibility, enhance

educator certification resources, and strengthen online scholarship services. These investments promote greater transparency, public engagement, and access to essential Board services.

- **Omni Systems, Inc.** provides comprehensive information technology management and infrastructure support under a three-year agreement effective December 2024 through November 2027. As the Board continues to modernize its technology environment, this partnership plays a critical role in maintaining network reliability, protecting cybersecurity, improving system performance, and ensuring business continuity. The contract supports the Board's ongoing commitment to secure, efficient, and technology-driven operations.
- **Jennifer Jones, Esq.,** The Virgin Islands Board of Education engages Jennifer Jones, Esq. under an annual contract of \$200,000 to provide comprehensive legal services, including governance advisory support, human resources counsel, regulatory compliance, statutory interpretation, procurement review, administrative hearings, litigation coordination, court proceedings, and policy development. The Board's use of contracted legal counsel, rather than full-time in-house counsel, is a deliberate and cost-effective operational model aligned with the size, scope, and statutory function of the agency. This structure ensures access to senior-level legal expertise on a broad range of matters without the significantly higher recurring costs associated with a permanent position, including salary escalation, benefits, pension obligations, and long-term overhead. In addition, the independent contractor model strengthens governance by preserving a clear separation between legal counsel and internal administrative decision-making. This structure enhances objectivity in legal review, reduces potential conflicts of interest, and supports impartial interpretation and enforcement of education laws and Board policies. This engagement ensures that all Board actions remain legally sound, transparent, and fully compliant with applicable federal and territorial law, while also mitigating institutional risk and supporting timely, informed decision-making across all operational areas. The current arrangement reflects a fiscally responsible and strategically appropriate approach to meeting the Board's ongoing legal needs.

Table: Outstanding Vendor Obligations by Aging Category (FY 2026)

Fiscal Year	Vendor Name	Current	30–60 Days	60–90 Days	90+ Days	Total
2026	Chico's Distributing	—	236.40	227.40	—	463.80
2026	MLC Holdings, LLC	—	175.00	—	—	175.00
2026	VI Water & Power Authority	2,611.51	1,293.93	—	—	3,905.44
2026	ADT Security Systems, VI	47.00	—	—	—	47.00
2026	MCE Contracting, LLC	—	—	—	450.00	450.00
2026	Xerox Corporation	2,022.92	—	—	—	2,022.92
2026	Virgin Islands Telephone	1,538.80	—	—	—	1,538.80
2026	Smartnet, LLC	1,550.00	—	—	—	1,550.00
2026	Christiansted Restoration, LLC	—	—	—	4,373.09	4,373.09

These professional service partnerships extend the Board's internal capacity and ensure the effective fulfillment of its legal, technological, operational, and public communication responsibilities. Each agreement is subject to ongoing monitoring and annual performance evaluations to assess deliverables, service quality, cost-effectiveness, and overall value. This disciplined approach ensures that public funds are invested responsibly and that contracted services continue to advance the Board's strategic objectives.

The Virgin Islands Board of Education remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of procurement integrity, vendor accountability, and transparent contract administration. By utilizing outcome-driven professional service agreements, the Board strengthens its operational effectiveness while supporting its overarching mission of advancing educational excellence throughout the Virgin Islands.

Outstanding Obligations

As of June 30, 2026, the Virgin Islands Board of Education reported \$14,526.05 in outstanding vendor obligations. These obligations represent routine accounts payable associated with the Board's ongoing operations and remain fully supported within the FY 2026 approved budget.

The Board continues to work collaboratively with the Department of Property and Procurement and the Department of Finance to facilitate the timely processing of payments, ensure compliance with established financial policies, and minimize delays in vendor reimbursements. All financial transactions are processed and monitored through the Government of the Virgin Islands centralized financial management system, reinforcing transparency, accountability, and sound fiscal oversight.

Maintaining clear visibility into outstanding obligations enables the Board to:

- Preserve strong partnerships with vendors and minimize disruptions to essential services.
- Strengthen cash flow planning and financial forecasting.
- Ensure timely, accurate, and transparent payment for contracted goods and professional services.
- Demonstrate responsible stewardship of public resources through effective financial management.

The Board's outstanding obligations reflect the scope of services and operational support required to fulfill its constitutional and statutory responsibilities. These obligations are actively monitored, appropriately budgeted, and managed in coordination with the Government's fiscal partners to ensure the continued delivery of essential programs and services while maintaining the Board's strong commitment to fiscal accountability and operational excellence.

Facilities Management and Capital Infrastructure

The Virgin Islands Board of Education (VIBE) maintains administrative operations in both the St. Croix and St. Thomas districts through a combination of leased and government-owned facilities. These locations serve as the operational hubs for the Board's regulatory, administrative, and public

service functions. Maintaining safe, functional, and accessible facilities remains essential to supporting employees, serving stakeholders, and ensuring the uninterrupted delivery of the Board's constitutional and statutory responsibilities.

Investments in facility maintenance, repairs, and capital improvements reflect the Board's commitment to protecting public assets, enhancing workplace safety, preserving historic properties, and creating environments that promote operational excellence and public confidence.

St. Croix District: Lease Operations and Facility Transition

The Board currently leases office space from Christiansted Restoration, LLC, located at 1115 Strand Street, Christiansted, St. Croix, at an annual cost of \$52,477.08, or \$4,373.09 per month. The Board continues to occupy this location on a month-to-month basis pursuant to an agreement with the property owner.

During the fiscal year, the facility experienced significant health and safety concerns related primarily to roof deterioration and environmental exposure. Roof repairs are currently underway to address these conditions and maintain a safe working environment for employees and visitors. The Board is also aware that the property is currently listed for sale, creating the potential for future relocation, and reinforcing the importance of long-term facility planning for the St. Croix District.

St. Thomas District: Stewardship of Government-Owned Facilities

The Board's St. Thomas District Office operates from its government-owned property located at 60B, 61, and 62 Dronningens Gade, consisting of:

- A two-story masonry administration building housing executive offices, administrative workspaces, storage areas, staff facilities, and emergency power systems.
- The historic Blake-Guirty House, a one-story structure that previously served as the Board's primary conference and meeting facility.

Both buildings sustained substantial damage during the 2017 hurricanes and continue to undergo phased restoration. Completed and ongoing improvements include roof stabilization, courtyard rehabilitation, driveway repairs, and other structural enhancements designed to restore functionality while protecting these important public assets.

The Board remains committed to preserving the historic character of the Blake-Guirty House while ensuring that all improvements support modern building standards, accessibility requirements, and long-term operational needs.

Through the management of its facilities in both districts, the Board continues to provide safe, accessible, and professional work environments that support employee productivity, public service, regulatory compliance, and operational continuity.

Capital Projects

The Virgin Islands Board of Education continues to prioritize strategic capital investments that preserve government-owned facilities, protect public assets, and strengthen the infrastructure necessary to support its mission. Restoration efforts remain focused on returning the Board's St. Thomas campus to full operational capacity following the extensive damage caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017.

The Board's capital improvement strategy emphasizes structural resilience, historical preservation, ADA accessibility, operational efficiency, and responsible stewardship of public resources.

Administration Building, Courtyard, and Grounds

Working collaboratively with the Department of Public Works and the Department of Property and Procurement, the Board secured a purchase order totaling \$53,994.00 with Caribbean Contracting Services to complete critical infrastructure improvements, including:

- Repairs to the Administration Building's roof overhang and soffit.
- Removal of two hazardous trees along the main driveway.
- Repair and resurfacing of the primary driveway and entrance area to improve safety, accessibility, and site functionality.

These improvements enhance the long-term sustainability of the Board's administrative campus, improve public access, and protect the integrity of government-owned infrastructure.

Blake-Guiry House Historic Restoration

The historic Blake-Guiry House remains one of the Board's highest capital priorities. This significant cultural asset sustained extensive hurricane damage and requires comprehensive restoration to return it to full use while preserving its historic character.

The Board has partnered with the Department of Public Works to develop the project's scope of work and will continue collaborating with the Department of Property and Procurement, the Department of Public Works, and the project's architect and construction management professionals throughout the restoration process.

Upon completion, the restored Blake-Guiry House will once again serve as a functional public meeting and conference facility while preserving an important piece of Virgin Islands history for future generations.

Through these capital investments, the Board demonstrates its ongoing commitment to responsible stewardship of public assets, preservation of the Territory's historic resources, and the creation of safe, resilient, and efficient facilities that support educational governance and public service throughout the Virgin Islands.



Guirty House Restoration – Probable Cost Estimate

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL PRICE
VI BOARD OF EDUCATION'S Conference Center Renovation and Repairs	
Selective Site and Building Demolition	6,500.
Site Improvements	22,940.
Concrete	18,400.
Masonry	21,266.
Carpentry & Framing	50,125.
Metals	1,500.
Thermal & Moisture Protection	46,200.
Doors & Windows	13,000.
Finishes	30,230.
Air Condition System	31,500.
Electrical	38,500.
Plumbing	15,000.
Subtotal of all Categories	\$296,161.
Probable Contractor's Overhead & Profit @ 20%	\$59,232.20
Grand TOTAL	\$352,393.20

Vehicle Fleet Management

The Virgin Islands Board of Education maintains an operational fleet of five (5) vehicles strategically assigned across the St. Croix and St. Thomas districts to support field operations, stakeholder outreach, administrative functions, and the efficient delivery of services throughout the Territory. Proper fleet management remains an important component of the Board's operational readiness, enabling staff to conduct site visits, attend meetings, transport materials, and carry out official responsibilities in a timely and effective manner.

In February 2025, the transit van assigned to the St. Croix District sustained damage as a result of vandalism while parked in the Christiansted Government parking lot. The Board immediately reported the incident to the Virgin Islands Police Department, completed all required documentation, and initiated an insurance claim in accordance with established procedures. The Board has since received the insurance settlement and is coordinating with Metro Motors to complete the necessary repairs and return the vehicle to operational service.

As part of its ongoing fleet management strategy, the Board also intends to replace the aging Toyota Highlander assigned to the St. Croix District before the close of Fiscal Year 2026. This planned investment will enhance fleet reliability, reduce maintenance costs, and ensure that employees have safe, dependable transportation to support the Board's mission and service delivery throughout the Virgin Islands.

Through proactive fleet maintenance, timely repairs, and strategic vehicle replacement planning, the Board remains committed to protecting public assets, maximizing operational efficiency, and ensuring the dependable transportation resources necessary to fulfill its constitutional and statutory responsibilities.

District	Vehicle Make	Model	Year	License Plate	Funding	Lease/Own Trade-in	Condition	Gas Amount
STT/J	Ford	Explorer	2025	VIBE 1	General	Own	Excellent	\$500.00
STT/J	Chevrolet	Equinox	2022	VIBE-2	General	Own	Good	\$300.00
STT/J	Ford	Transit	2024	VIBE-4	General	Own	Excellent	\$350.00
STX	Ford	Transit	2024	VIBE-7	General	Own	Vandalized	-0-
STX	Toyota	Highlander	2018	VIBE-5	General	Own	Good	\$350.00
TOTAL								\$1,500.00

Student Financial Aid

Territorial Scholarship Fund and Special Legislative Grants

The Virgin Islands Board of Education (VIBE) administers the Territorial Scholarship Fund and Special Legislative Grants to expand access to higher education, career and technical training, and workforce development opportunities for eligible Virgin Islands students. These programs represent a significant investment in the Territory's human capital by reducing financial barriers to post-secondary education and helping students achieve their academic and professional goals.

Through responsible stewardship of these funds, the Board continues to advance educational attainment, strengthen workforce readiness, and support the long-term economic prosperity of the Virgin Islands.

Scholarship Application and Outreach

The FY 2026 financial aid application period was open from November 1, 2025, through March 30, 2026. During this period, the Board implemented a comprehensive, Territory-wide outreach campaign designed to maximize awareness of available financial aid opportunities and encourage broad participation among eligible students and families.

Outreach initiatives included:

- A one-week public awareness campaign in the *Virgin Islands Daily News*.
- Publication of scholarship eligibility requirements and application information on the Board's website.
- Public service announcements aired on local radio stations.
- Financial aid workshops conducted by Board representatives at public and private high schools throughout the St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix districts.
- Informational presentations for Adult Continuing Education programs and the University of the Virgin Islands' University Bound Youth Program.
- Participation in major community and educational events, including the St. Croix Agriculture Fair, the Department of Education's Parent Retreat – Family Night, and the University of the Virgin Islands' *Afternoon on the Green*.

These coordinated outreach efforts demonstrate the Board's commitment to equitable access to financial aid by ensuring that students and families throughout the Territory are informed of the educational resources available to them. By engaging students through schools, community organizations, and public events, the Board continues to promote educational opportunity and encourage greater participation in post-secondary education.

Fiscal Allocations and Funding Sources

For Fiscal Year 2026, the Virgin Islands Board of Education was appropriated \$1,555,566.00 to support post-secondary financial assistance through the Territory's scholarship programs.

Funding includes:

- **\$1,192,416** for the Territorial Scholarship Program (Loans and Grants).
- **\$363,150** for Special Legislative Grants.

In addition to annual legislative appropriations, the Territorial Scholarship Fund is strengthened through repayments received from student loan recipients and contributions from beneficiaries of the Virgin Islands Economic Development Commission (EDC) Program. These supplemental revenue sources enhance the sustainability of the scholarship program and increase the Board's ability to provide meaningful financial assistance to future generations of Virgin Islands students.

The Board remains committed to the prudent management of scholarship resources while ensuring that financial aid continues to serve as a pathway to educational achievement, workforce development, and economic mobility. By investing in students today, the Virgin Islands Board of Education is helping to cultivate the skilled, educated, and innovative workforce that will contribute to the Territory's continued growth and prosperity.

Table 4 below provides a detailed breakdown of these scholarships.

TABLE 4. FY 2025 AND FY 2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPROPRIATIONS AND AWARDS

Territorial Scholarship Fund

Description	FY 2025 Appropriation	FY 2025 Awards	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2026 Awards
Territorial Scholarships	\$792,416	\$792,000	\$792,416	\$792,000
General Scholarships	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Nursing Scholarships	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Subtotal	1,192,416	1,192,000	1,192,416	1,192,000
Territorial Scholarship Fund (Loan Collections)	774,195	526,800	784,870	782,000
Total Territorial Scholarship Funding	1,966,611	1,718,800	1,977,286	1,974,000

Special Legislative Grants

Description	FY 2025 Appropriation	FY 2025 Awards	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2026 Awards
Edward W. Blyden	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Lew Muckle	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Exceptional Children	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Ann Schrader	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
D. Hamilton Jackson	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Richard Callwood	6,250	6,250	6,250	6,250
Claude O. Markoe	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Evadney Petersen	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Amadeo Francis	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Walter I.M. Hodge	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Hilda Bastian	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Muriel Newton	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Trevor Nicholas "Nick" Friday	10,000	5,000	10,000	5,000
Gene Cerge	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

Virgin Islands National Guard	2,000	—	2,000	—
Morris F. DeCastro	90,000	45,000	90,000	45,000
University of the Virgin Islands (Early Admission)	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Wilburn Smith	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Caroline Felicia Adams Aviation	24,000	28,000	16,000	40,000
Kenneth Harrigan	28,000	21,000	28,000	14,000
Ruth Thomas	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Terrence Todman	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Music Scholarship (St. Thomas)	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Music Scholarship (St. Croix)	8,000	2,000	8,000	8,000
Valedictorian & Salutatorian	42,500	84,000	42,500	93,000
Stenography	10,000	5,000	10,000	—
Maritime Scholarship	—	—	—	—
Special Legislative Grants Total	391,150	458,650	363,150	355,650

Grand Totals

Category	FY 2025 Appropriation	FY 2025 Awards	FY 2026 Appropriation	FY 2026 Awards
Grand Total	\$2,357,761	\$2,177,450	\$2,340,436	\$2,329,650

Restoration of the Caroline Felicia Adams Aviation Scholarship

The Virgin Islands Board of Education respectfully requests the Legislature to advance Bill No. 36-0064, extending the provisions of Act No. 8690, which appropriates \$24,000 annually to support the Caroline Felicia Adams Aviation Scholarship.

This scholarship provides critical financial assistance to Virgin Islands students pursuing careers in aviation, a specialized and high-demand field that offers significant opportunities for professional advancement and contributes to the Territory's long-term workforce development. Restoring this dedicated funding will reaffirm the Legislature's commitment to expanding educational opportunities and preparing Virgin Islanders for careers in an increasingly competitive global economy.

Without the continuation of this appropriation, the Board's ability to provide meaningful financial assistance to qualified aviation students will be significantly constrained, limiting access to

educational opportunities that can lead to rewarding careers in commercial aviation, aerospace, aviation maintenance, and related industries.

The Board respectfully urges favorable consideration of Bill No. 36-0064 to ensure that this important scholarship program remains available to future generations of Virgin Islands students.

Maritime Scholarship Program – Status Update

The Virgin Islands Board of Education remains committed to expanding educational opportunities in the maritime industry through the administration of the Virgin Islands Maritime Scholarship Program.

During the 2024 academic year, although the Board did not receive the appropriated funding for the program, it honored its commitment to eligible students by utilizing available resources from the Territorial Scholarship Fund to award \$5,000 each to two qualified recipients, for a total disbursement of \$10,000. It is important to note that 10 students applied for the scholarship during that award cycle, demonstrating demand that exceeded the Board's available resources.

Unfortunately, no Maritime Scholarship awards were made during Fiscal Year 2025 because funding for the program was not included in the Board's FY 2025 budget appropriation. As a result, 16 qualified applicants were unable to receive financial assistance to pursue maritime education and training opportunities. These students instead received the regular loan/grant award of \$3000 each.

During FY 2026, a total of eight (8) students submitted applications for the Maritime Scholarship Program; however, no funding was appropriated or otherwise made available to support awards. Consequently, eligible applicants were again unable to benefit from this important educational opportunity. These students instead received the regular loan/grant award of \$3000 each.

The Board respectfully emphasizes the importance of restoring dedicated funding for the Maritime Scholarship Program. Continued investment in this initiative will expand educational access, strengthen workforce development within the Territory's maritime sector, and help prepare Virgin Islanders for careers in one of the region's most vital industries.

Financial Aid Applications by District

The Virgin Islands Board of Education continues to experience growing demand for post-secondary financial assistance, reflecting both increased public awareness of available scholarship opportunities and the continuing need for financial support among Virgin Islands students.

As reflected in Table 5, the Board received a total of 768 scholarship applications during the current award cycle, representing an increase of 109 applications, or approximately 16.5 percent, over the 659 applications received during the 2025–2026 application period.

This upward trend demonstrates the success of the Board's expanded outreach initiatives while underscoring the increasing importance of maintaining robust scholarship funding. The sustained

growth in applications reinforces the need for continued legislative investment in financial aid programs that expand educational access, strengthen workforce development, and create pathways to economic opportunity for the Territory's students.

Table 5. Financial Aid Applications by District for the 2026 Award

Type of Application	St. Thomas/St. John	St. Croix	2025 Total	2026 Total
Online Applications	270	173	443	569
Paper Applications	165	160	325	90
Total Applications	435	333	768	659

FY2025 AND FY2026 VIEDC CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE

Pursuant to Title 17, Chapter 15, §171 of the Virgin Islands Code, beneficiaries of the Virgin Islands Economic Development Commission (VIEDC), excluding small businesses, are required to make annual contributions to the Territorial Scholarship Fund as a condition of maintaining their tax-exempt status. These mandated contributions serve as a critical funding source that strengthens the Board's capacity to provide financial assistance to Virgin Islands students pursuing post-secondary education, workforce training, and professional certification opportunities.

As illustrated in Table 6, beneficiaries of the Virgin Islands Economic Development Commission (VIEDC) contributed \$504,000 during Fiscal Year 2025 and \$370,000 as of June 30, 2026. These contributions are made by participating beneficiaries identified on the Virgin Islands Economic Development Commission's beneficiary listing, updated through December 2025.

VIEDC contributions represent an important supplemental funding source for the Territorial Scholarship Fund, enabling the Board to expand educational opportunities for Virgin Islands students. These funds enhance the Board's ability to increase scholarship availability, support larger award allocations, and strengthen the delivery of financial aid services throughout the Territory.

The Board remains appreciative of this valuable public-private partnership, which continues to broaden access to higher education and workforce development opportunities for Virgin Islands residents.

Table 6. Virgin Islands Economic Development Commission (VIEDC) Beneficiary Contributions

VIEDC Beneficiary	Received FY 2025	Received as of June 30, 2026
340 Worldwide, LLP	—	\$20,000
2400 Services, LLC	—	—
Achilles Consulting, LLP	—	\$10,000
Alpine Group USVI, LLC	\$3,000	\$3,000
Altisource Management Corporation	—	—
Amalie Global	\$3,000	\$3,000
American Venture Capital Bank, Inc.	—	\$20,000
Barrier Holdings, LLC	\$3,000	\$3,000
Bisoke LLC	\$3,000	\$3,000
Black Diamond Advisors, LLLP	\$3,000	—
Black Diamond Holdings, LLLP	\$3,000	—
Burt Global Holdings LLC	\$3,000	—
By-the-Sea Resort Properties, LLC	\$9,000	\$3,000

VIEDC Beneficiary	Received FY 2025	Received as of June 30, 2026
Cane Bay Partners VI, LLLP	—	\$3,000
Capture VI, LLC	—	—
Carambola Golf Club	—	—
Carambola Zip Line, LLC	—	—
Caribbean Associates, Inc.	—	—
Caribbean Cinemas of St. Croix	\$3,000	—
CD Paradise Management, LLLP	\$3,000	—
Centripetal VI LLP d/b/a CVI	\$3,000	—
Cinnamon Bay Resort	—	—
Coconut Grove, LLC	—	—
Conlon & Co. USVI, LLP	—	—
Coral World VI, Inc.	\$3,000	—
CREF3 USVI Hotel Owner Inc.	\$6,910	—
Crystal Blue Operations, LLC	\$80,000	—
Davis Bay, LLC	—	—
DIAM Management, Inc.	—	\$10,000
Digital Lending Innovation Inc.	\$10,000	—
Discover Fund Management, LLLP	\$3,000	—
Eight Tower Group	\$3,000	—
Emerald Beach Corp.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Evolve USVI LLC	\$3,000	—
First Antilles Capital, LLP	\$10,000	—
Flat Cay Management d/b/a Lindbergh Bay Hotel & Villas	\$3,000	—
GC Investment Management, LLC	\$3,000	\$3,000
GGM Group LLC	—	—
Global Associates Management, LLC	—	—
Global MedChoices Group, LLC	—	—
Grapetree Shores, Inc.	\$3,000	—
Greenleaf VI II, Inc.	\$3,000	—
H4 Venture, LLC	—	—
Harborside Corporation / Bolongo Bay Beach Resort	\$3,000	\$3,000
Haven Development, LLC	\$3,000	\$3,000
HBH Management, LLC	\$12,000	—
Heavy Materials, LLC	\$3,000	\$3,000
Hibiscus Beach, LLC d/b/a Hibiscus Beach Hotel	—	—
IGY-AYH St. Thomas Holdings, LLC	\$6,000	\$6,000

VIEDC Beneficiary	Received FY 2025	Received as of June 30, 2026
Historic Area Revitalization Project Joint Venture	—	—
Inner Circle Logistics, Inc. d/b/a IC Group & IC Logistics	—	—
International Capital and Management Company, LLC	—	—
International Private Bank LLC d/b/a Generation International Asset Management Co.	\$20,000	\$10,000
Islands Roads Corp.	\$3,000	\$3,000
James Dankovich (Private Scholarship)	\$10,000	—
Kazi Management St. Croix, LLC	\$3,000	\$3,000
KCV Associates Inc. d/b/a St. John Brewers	—	—
Lawrence Moskowitz CLU, Ltd.	—	—
Leatherback Brewing Company, LLC	\$6,000	—
Liberty Medical Development, LLC	—	—
Lotus Holdings LLC	\$3,000	\$3,000
Lovango Hotel Holdings, LLP	\$9,000	\$3,000
Margaritaville Vacation Club by Wyndham	\$10,000	—
Maritan, LLC	\$10,000	\$10,000
Marriott International, Inc.	\$3,000	—
Marriott Ownership Resorts (St. Thomas), Inc.	\$6,000	\$3,000
MVW & Affiliated Companies	\$13,000	—
MJB Caribbean Ventures, Inc.	—	—
Neltjeberg Bay Enterprise LLC	—	\$10,000
Northside Ventures, LLC	—	—
Octavia Consulting Group LLC	\$10,000	\$10,000
Ocwen USVI Services LLC	\$3,000	—
Parach Resources Management, LLC	—	—
Paragon Surgical Center, LLC	—	—
Perfected Claims LLC	—	\$10,000
PL Partners, LLP	\$6,000	\$10,000
Plessen Healthcare, LLC	\$6,000	\$6,000
PMXI, LLC	—	—
Prosperitas Investment Management, LLLP	\$3,000	—
RapierMed	\$3,000	\$3,000
RC Hotels (Virgin Islands), Inc.	—	—
Real Impact Corporation	\$3,000	\$3,000
Red Bay Holdings, LLC	\$3,000	\$3,000
Roncan, Inc. d/b/a Sand Castle on the Beach	—	—

VIEDC Beneficiary	Received FY 2025	Received as of June 30, 2026
Salt Pond Holdings, LLC	\$1,000	\$3,000
Sail Rock Investments, LLC	\$10,000	\$20,000
Sand Castle on the Beach	\$3,000	\$3,000
Secret Harbour Beach Resort Association	\$6,000	\$3,000
Seven Seas Water Corp.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Shah Holdings, LLP	\$10,000	—
Spyglass Capital, LLC	\$40,000	\$10,000
St. Croix Renaissance Group, LLLP	\$3,000	\$3,000
Sterisil International LLC	\$3,000	—
STR Management, LLC	\$13,000	—
STX Fund, LLP	\$3,000	\$3,000
Sunshine Shopping Center, Inc.	\$6,000	—
Sunset Cove Solutions VI, LLC	\$3,000	\$3,000
Systilogic LLC	\$3,000	\$3,000
Tamarind Reef Resort & Marina, Inc.	\$3,000	—
Team Consultants	\$3,000	—
TBCA USVI, LLP	\$10,000	—
The Buccaneer, Inc.	\$3,000	—
The Sea Resort Properties LLC	—	—
Thriving Charity Advocates, LLC	\$3,000	—
Tramway Properties, Inc.	\$3,000	\$3,000
Tree Limin' Extreme, LLC	\$3,000	\$3,000
Tropico Management LP	\$6,000	\$15,000
Tuthill Corporation	\$3,000	\$3,000
Twin City Island Spirits, Inc. d/b/a Sion Farm Distillery	—	—
Tycheros Capital Management VI Group Joint Venture	—	—
Tysam Tech, Inc.	—	—
United Investors, LLC d/b/a Concrete Masters	\$3,000	—
Universal Concrete, LLC	\$9,000	\$3,000
USVI Hotel Owner	\$3,000	—
USVI Opportunity Fund	\$6,000	\$3,000
VI Electron, LLC	—	—
Virgin Bay Capital, LLC	—	\$3,000
Virgin Islands Coffee Company, LLC d/b/a Virgin Islands Coffee Roasters	—	—
Virgin Islands Paving	\$3,000	\$3,000

VIEDC Beneficiary	Received FY 2025	Received as of June 30, 2026
West Indies Petroleum USVI Limited, LLC	—	—
Westin St. John Company, Inc. and Subsidiaries	—	—
White Bay Global Inc.	\$3,000	\$3,000
WVJD, LLC	—	—
WWTS, LLC d/b/a Worldwide Tap & Still	—	—
Wyndham Vacation Resorts / Margaritaville	\$10,000	\$10,000
Yacht Haven Grande	\$3,000	\$3,000
Total VIEDC Beneficiary Contributions	\$504,000	\$370,000

Loan Collections

The Virgin Islands Board of Education remains committed to the responsible administration and long-term sustainability of the Territorial Scholarship Fund through effective management and recovery of student loan repayments. Loan collections are a vital source of recurring revenue that is reinvested to support future scholarship recipients, ensuring that financial assistance remains available for generations of Virgin Islands students.

Loan Collection and Recovery Performance

As reflected in Figure 1, student loan repayments have remained relatively stable over the past three fiscal years. As of June 25, 2026, the Board collected \$513,923.96 in student loan repayments, demonstrating the continued effectiveness of its collection and account management efforts.

To strengthen repayment performance, the Board launched a comprehensive delinquent account review initiative beginning in FY 2024. This proactive effort included:

- Direct outreach to borrowers and co-signers through written correspondence.
- Verification and updating of outdated mailing addresses and contact information.
- Comprehensive reconciliation of aged accounts and detailed file audits to improve record accuracy.
- These initiatives have enhanced the integrity of the Board's loan portfolio while improving communication with borrowers and supporting more effective collection efforts.

Loan Repayment Amnesty Program

Recognizing that many borrowers had accumulated significant penalties and interest over time, the Board implemented a Loan Repayment Amnesty Program beginning July 26, 2024, through December 31, 2024. The program encouraged voluntary repayment by waiving accrued penalties and interest for eligible borrowers.

The FY 2025 amnesty initiative generated \$29,745.98 in loan repayments while providing

borrowers with a practical opportunity to restore their accounts to good standing.

Building upon that success, the Board continued the amnesty program in FY 2026. As of the date of this report, the initiative has generated \$44,687.55 in collections and will remain available through December 31, 2026. The program continues to serve as an effective, incentive-based strategy for increasing voluntary compliance and strengthening the financial sustainability of the Territorial Scholarship Fund.

Delinquency Profile and Strategic Recovery Efforts

As of June 30, 2026, the Board's outstanding delinquent student loan portfolio totaled \$1,280,613.91. A significant portion of these accounts has remained delinquent for more than twenty years, presenting increasingly complex collection challenges.

The Board has determined that many delinquent borrowers:

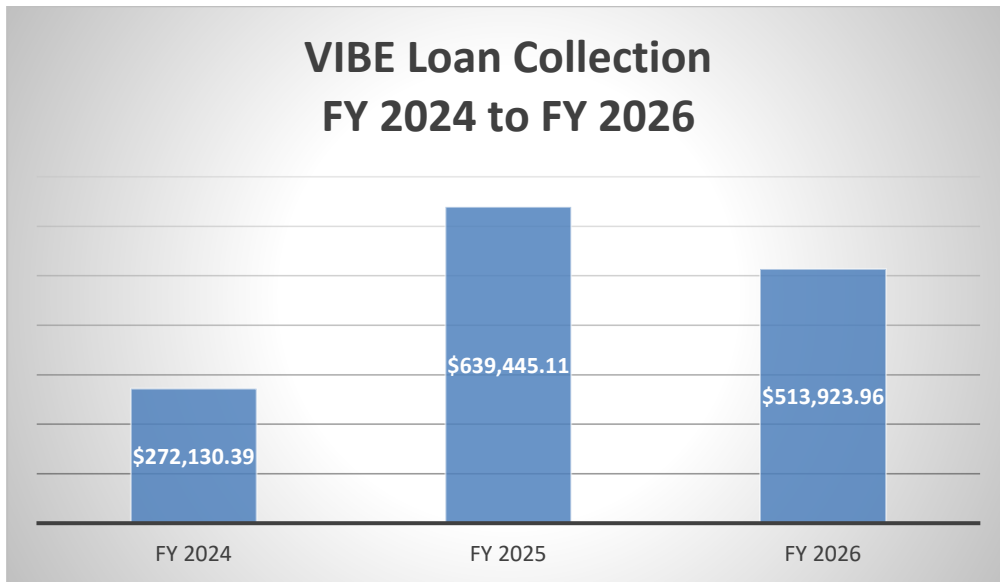
- Have relocated outside the Virgin Islands.
- Have changed mailing addresses or other contact information.
- Are difficult to locate due to outdated records.
- Are elderly or deceased, limiting traditional recovery options.

To address these challenges, Board staff continue to modernize loan records by updating borrower information, reconciling historical files, and cross-referencing available public records. The Board is also evaluating additional recovery strategies, including partnerships with professional collection agencies, credit reporting organizations, and legal counsel where appropriate and cost-effective.

While pursuing responsible collection efforts, the Board remains mindful of balancing fiscal accountability with fairness and compassion. Strengthening loan recovery not only honors the integrity of the Territorial Scholarship Program but also safeguards an important financial resource that enables future generations of Virgin Islands students to pursue higher education and career opportunities.

Through continued oversight, improved portfolio management, and strategic recovery initiatives, the Virgin Islands Board of Education remains committed to preserving the long-term sustainability of the Territorial Scholarship Fund and maximizing the impact of every dollar invested in the educational success of the Territory's students.

Figure I. FY 2024-2026 (June 2026) Loan Collections



The number of individual repayment records, representing the total count of borrowers actively making payments, remains a key performance indicator of the Board’s ongoing loan recovery efforts.

Fiscal Year	Number of Repayment Records (Individuals)
FY 2024	603
FY 2025	555
FY 2026*	432

**As of June 2026*

This data reflects a modest upward trend in FY 2024, likely driven by strengthened communication strategies and the implementation of the loan repayment amnesty initiative. While FY 2025 figures reflect activity as of mid-July, the Board anticipates continued growth in borrower engagement as outreach, compliance, and account resolution efforts remain ongoing.

The Virgin Islands Board of Education’s sustained focus on improving repayment participation and resolving long-standing delinquencies is essential to maintaining the financial health and long-term sustainability of the Territorial Scholarship Fund. By analyzing year-over-year trends, the Board is better positioned to identify borrower behavior patterns, enhance targeted outreach, strengthen support systems, and improve the overall integrity of its financial aid portfolio.

Certification

Pursuant to Title 17, Section 121 of the Virgin Islands Code, the Virgin Islands Board of Education is authorized to prescribe rules and regulations and establish certification criteria for educational professionals employed by the Virgin Islands Department of Education, including teachers, principals, supervisors, librarians, and other instructional personnel.

This statutory responsibility remains a core function of the Board and is essential to ensuring

that educators serving Virgin Islands students meet established standards of professional competence, preparation, and ethical practice.

Certification Activity by District

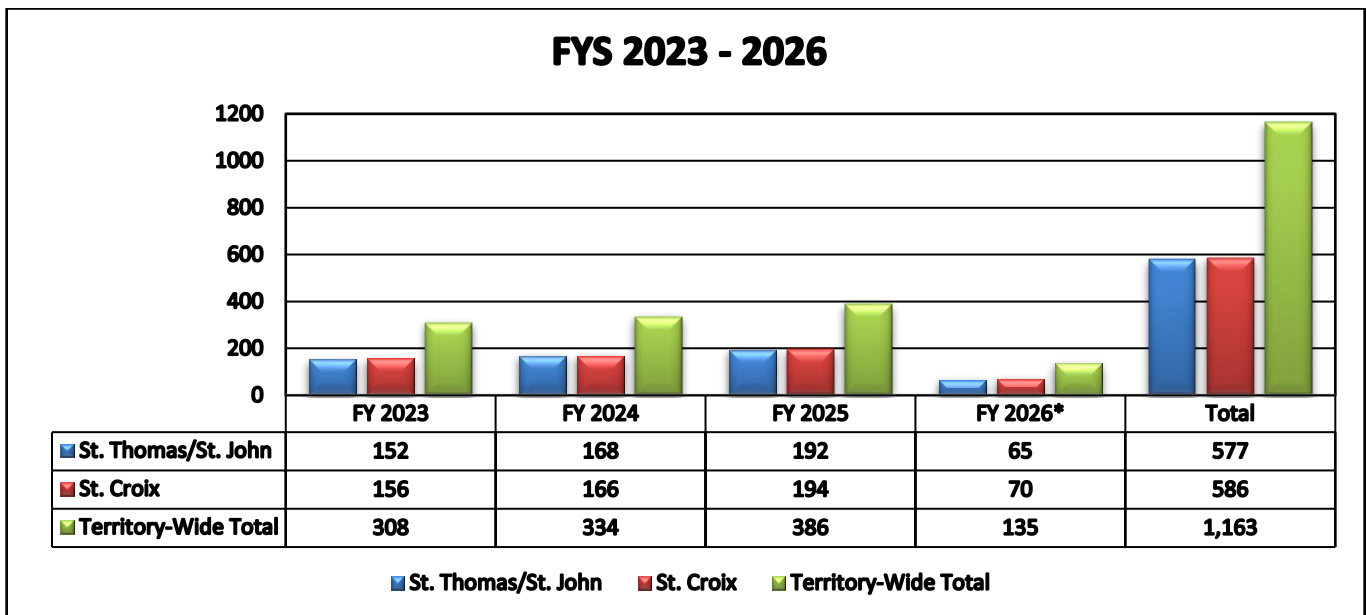
The Board continues to fulfill its certification mandate through a structured process of application review, credential verification, and ongoing professional development support. These efforts ensure that all certified professionals meet the regulatory requirements necessary to serve within the public education system.

From Fiscal Year 2023 through May 31, 2026, a total of 1,163 certifications were issued across the St. Croix and St. Thomas districts, reflecting the Board’s sustained commitment to maintaining a qualified and compliant education workforce.

Through consistent oversight and adherence to statutory requirements, the Board reinforces its role in safeguarding instructional quality and supporting the professional growth of educators throughout the Virgin Islands.

Fiscal Year	St. Thomas/St. John	St. Croix	Territory-Wide Total
FY 2023	152	156	308
FY 2024	168	166	334
FY 2025	192	194	386
FY 2026*	65	70	135
Total	577	586	1,163

**As of May 31, 2026*



These figures reflect the Board's commitment to maintaining high standards in the educator workforce while responding to emerging needs across the public education system.

**Applicants may receive more than one certificate.*

Fiscal Year 2026

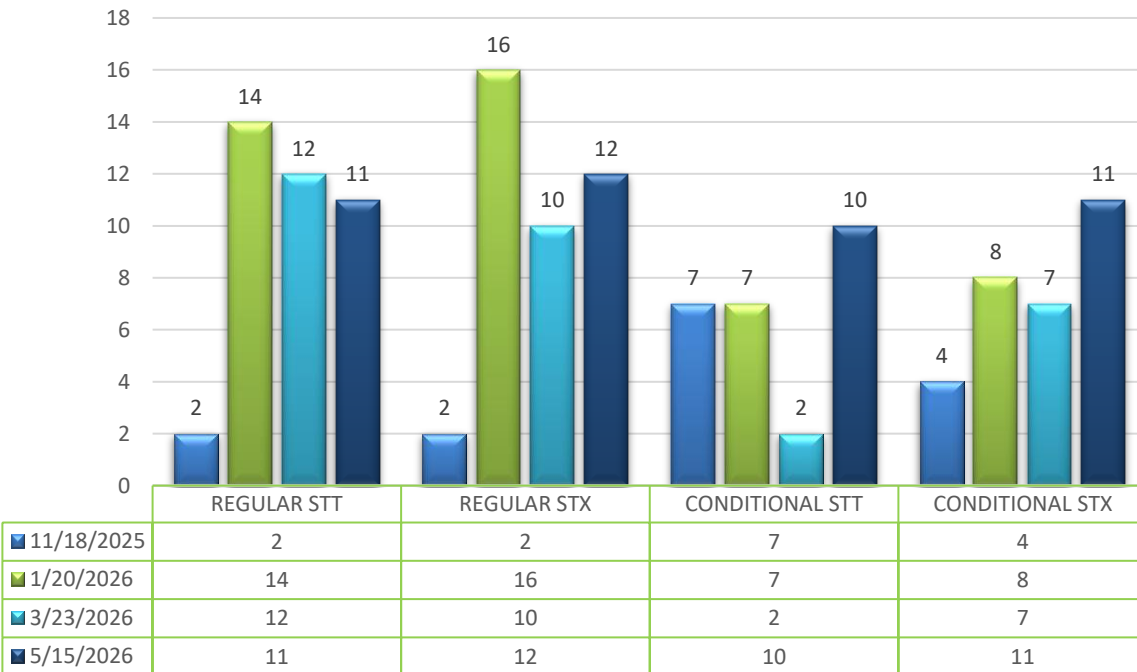
MEETING DATES	REGULAR STT	REGULAR STX	CONDITIONAL STT	CONDITIONAL STX
11/18/2025	2	2	7	4
1/20/2026	14	16	7	8
3/23/2026	12	10	2	7
5/15/2026	11	12	10	11
Total	39	40	26	30

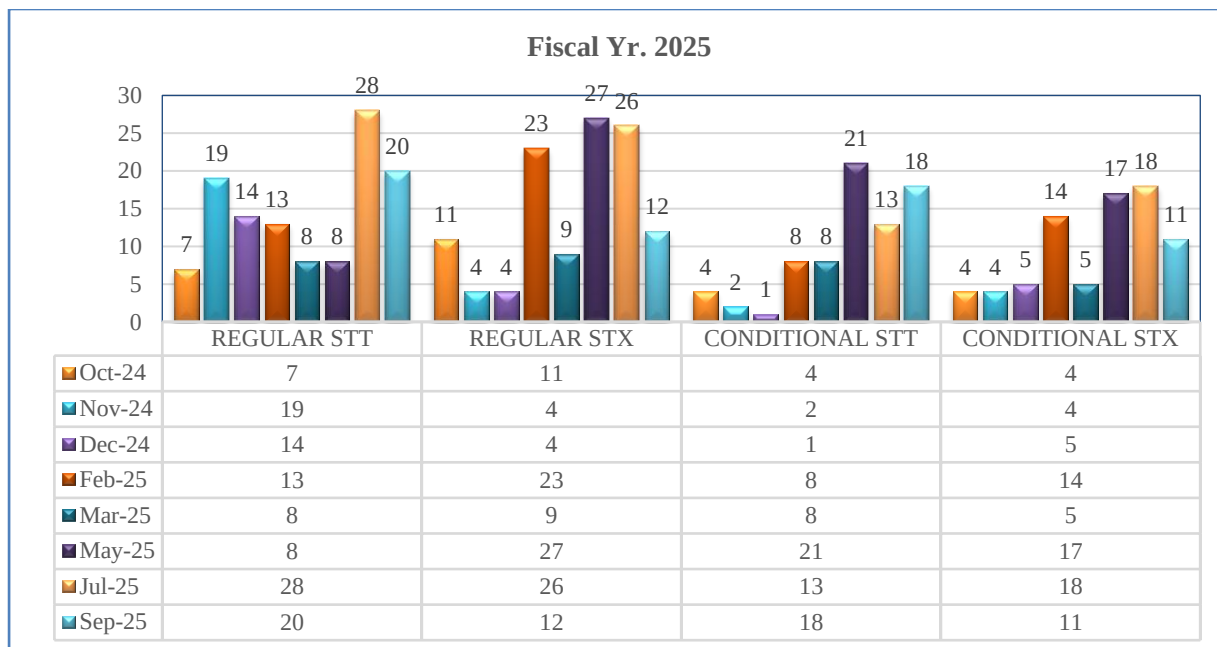
Fiscal Year 2025

MEETING DATES	REGULAR STT	REGULAR STX	CONDITIONAL STT	CONDITIONAL STX
Oct-24	7	11	4	4
Nov-24	19	4	2	4
Dec-24	14	4	1	5
Feb-25	13	23	8	14
Mar-25	8	9	8	5
May-25	8	27	21	17
Jul-25	28	26	13	18
Sep-25	20	12	18	11
TOTAL	117	116	75	78

**Applicants may receive more than one certificate.*

Fiscal Yr. 2026





Educator Amnesty Initiative

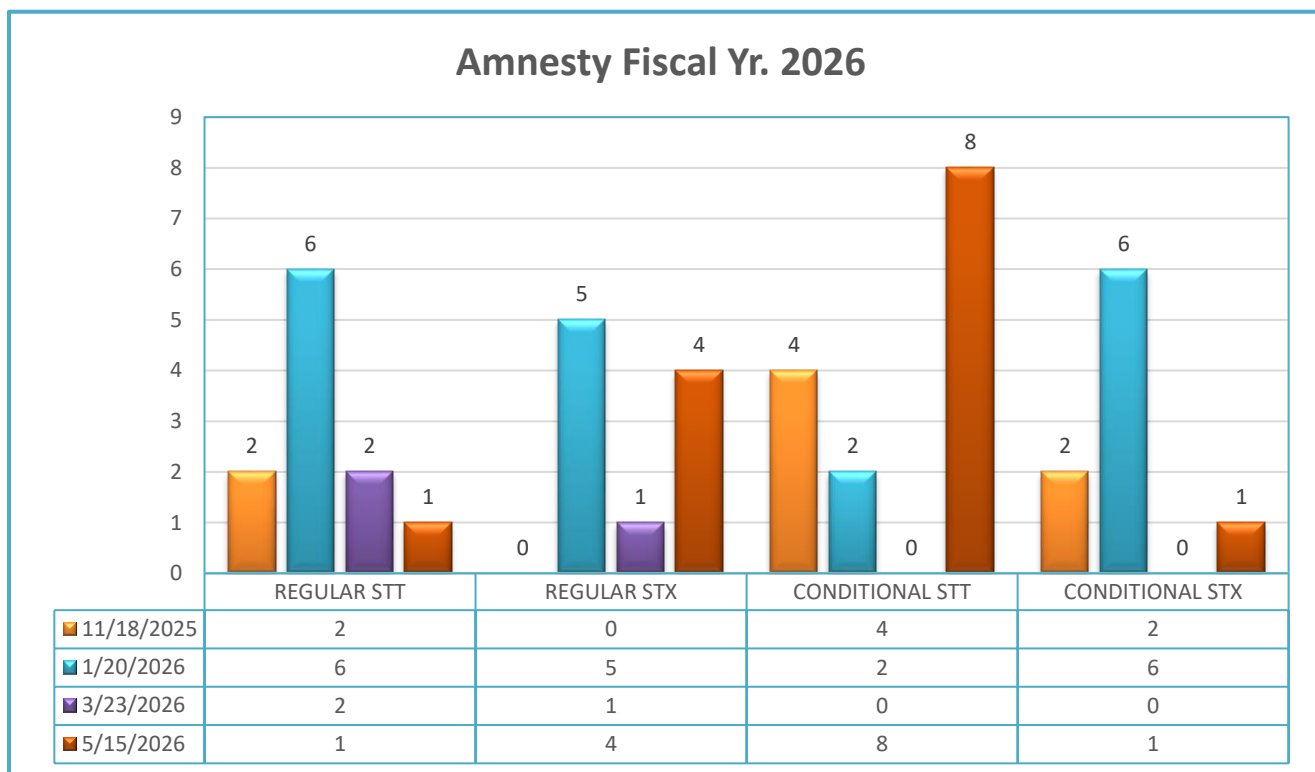
To address challenges associated with expired certifications and to support educator retention across the Territory, the Virgin Islands Board of Education implemented an Educator Amnesty Initiative. This program has been extended through December 31, 2026, to provide additional time and flexibility for eligible professionals to meet certification requirements while maintaining regulatory standards.

The initiative is designed to balance compliance with support, ensuring that educators are provided a clear and attainable pathway to remain in the classroom and continue serving students effectively. Key provisions of the amnesty program include:

- **Extension for Conditional Certificate Holders:** Eligible professionals may reapply for an extension of up to three (3) years to complete full certification requirements without penalty, supporting continuity in staffing and instructional stability.
- **Reduced Professional Development Requirement:** Educators seeking recertification may now satisfy requirements with 75 hours of approved professional development, reduced from 125 hours, provided that all required documentation is submitted by December 31, 2026.
- **Flexible Professional Development Options:** Approved PD activities include Board-recognized workshops, accredited university coursework, and structured online learning webinars, allowing educators to meet requirements through accessible and varied learning formats.
- **Digital Submission Portal:** All applications and supporting documentation are submitted through a streamlined online platform, supported by Board certification officers to ensure efficient processing and applicant guidance.
- **Clear Guidance and Communication:** Applicants receive comprehensive instructions and ongoing technical assistance to ensure full compliance with certification standards, Board policies, and statutory requirements.

This initiative reflects the Board’s commitment to maintaining high professional standards while also recognizing the practical challenges faced by educators. By offering structured flexibility and targeted support, the Board seeks to strengthen educator retention, reduce certification barriers, and ensure continued instructional stability throughout the Virgin Islands public education system.

Fiscal Year 2026- Amnesty #s				
MEETING DATES	REGULAR STT	REGULAR STX	CONDITIONAL STT	CONDITIONAL STX
11/18/2025	2	0	4	2
1/20/2026	6	5	2	6
3/23/2026	2	1	0	0
5/15/2026	1	4	8	1
Total	11	10	14	9



FY 2026 Accomplishments

In alignment with its statutory mandates and strategic priorities, the Virgin Islands Board of Education (VIBE) has made continued progress in advancing the quality, accountability, and effectiveness of public education across the Territory. These accomplishments reflect sustained collaboration with key education stakeholders, including the Virgin Islands Department of Education, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the USVI Parent Teacher Student Associations, the University of the Virgin Islands, the Regional Educational Laboratory for the Northeast, and Islands (REL NEI), and other partners committed to improving educational outcomes for Virgin Islands students.

Year-to-Date Highlights

- **School Management Accountability Report (SMAR):**
In accordance with 17 V.I.C. § 24, on June 15, 2026, the Curriculum, Instruction, and Learning Committee transmitted the annual SMAR to the Governor, members of the 36th Legislature, the Commissioner of Education, and other key stakeholders. The report provides a comprehensive assessment of public-school performance, incorporating findings from school site visits and data submitted by the Department of Education. It also includes targeted recommendations intended to strengthen instructional delivery, improve student outcomes, and enhance transparency and accountability in the public education system.
- **Curriculum and Instruction Oversight:**
Pursuant to Act No. 8717, the Board continued its evaluation of public-school curriculum, instructional practices, and administrative operations. This effort included the implementation of an Academic Walk-Through Checklist for the 2024–2025 school year, which guided structured school visits and classroom observations across both districts. Board members assessed standards alignment, instructional delivery, classroom materials, and intervention strategies to evaluate their impact on student achievement and academic growth.
- **Professional Certification Engagements:**
The Professional Staff Certification and Higher Education Committee conducted targeted outreach and certification support sessions during Department of Education professional development activities and the AFT Teach Conference. These engagements provided educators with direct access to certification guidance, regulatory updates, and application support services, ensuring timely processing and improved compliance with certification requirements.

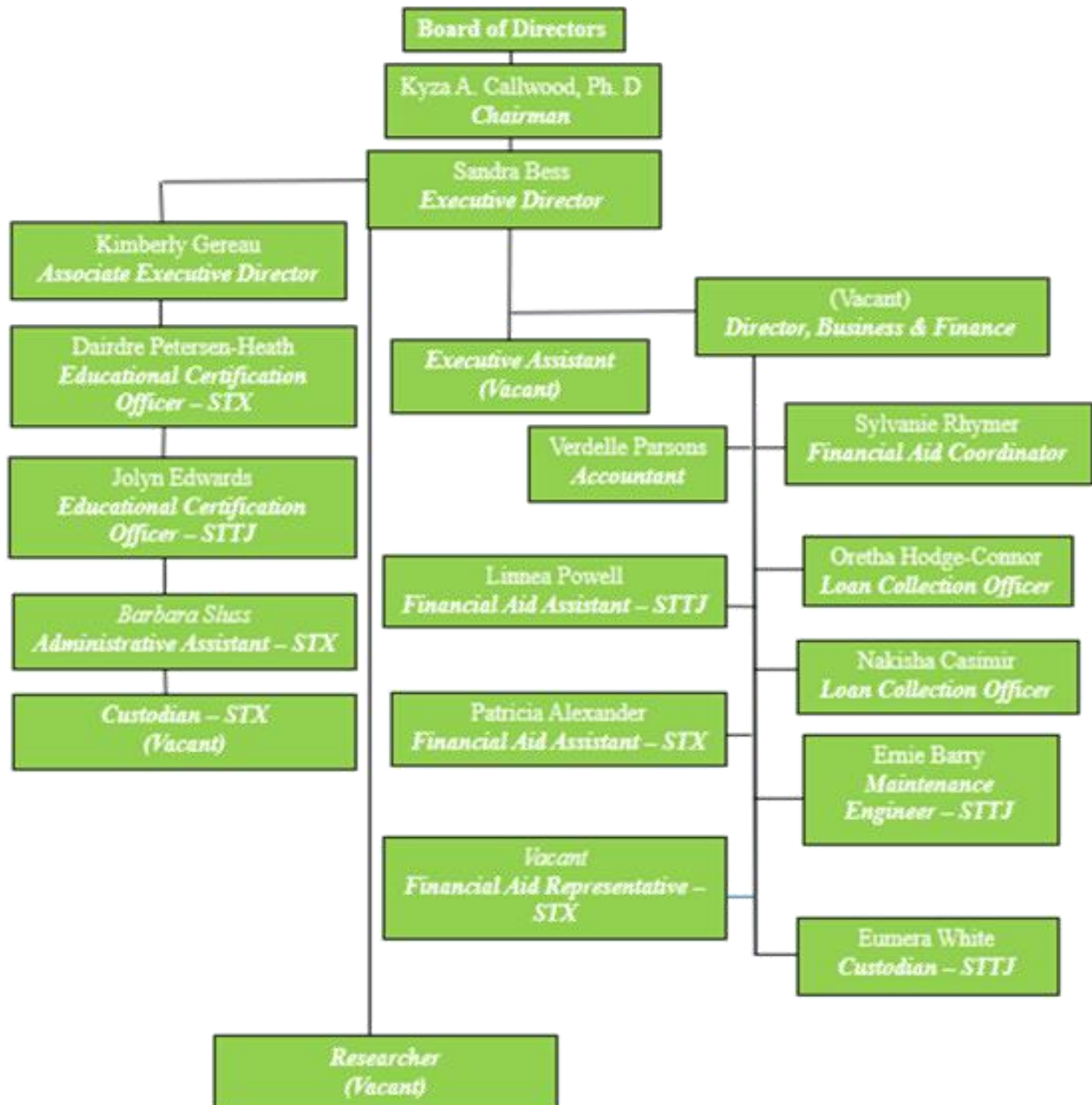
Closing Statement

These accomplishments reflect the dedication, professionalism, and collaborative spirit of the Board's staff and the 22nd Governing Body. Through consistent oversight and stakeholder engagement, the Board remains committed to strengthening institutional accountability, improving student achievement, and advancing educational excellence throughout the Virgin Islands.

The Board extends sincere appreciation to the Committee on Budget, Appropriations, and Finance for its continued partnership and support. We welcome any questions and look forward to ongoing collaboration in strengthening and sustaining a high-quality public education system for the Virgin Islands.

APPENDIX A- C U R R E N T ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Virgin Islands Board of Education



ATTENTION:
VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMUNITY



UNITED FOR SAFER SCHOOLS

THE VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION IS ALARMED BY THE RISING INCIDENTS OF DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR, VIOLENCE, AND DISRUPTION IN OUR SCHOOLS. THESE ISSUES THREATEN OUR STUDENTS' SAFETY AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING AND CREATE STRESS FOR OUR DEDICATED TEACHERS AND STAFF.

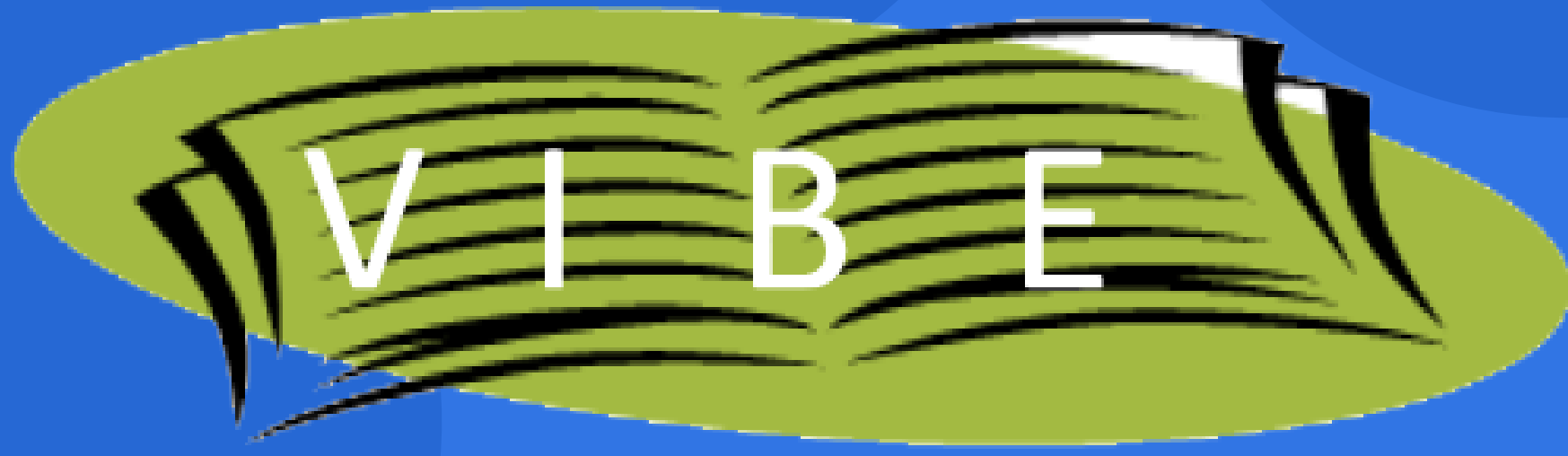
CREATING A SAFE AND POSITIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT IS ESSENTIAL FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND STUDENT WELL-BEING. WE URGE PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO ATTEND SCHOOL MEETINGS, PTA SESSIONS, AND TOWN HALL DISCUSSIONS. TOGETHER, WE CAN FOSTER A RESPECTFUL ATMOSPHERE AND ENSURE OUR SCHOOLS REMAIN PLACES OF GROWTH AND LEARNING FOR EVERY CHILD. LET'S WORK TOGETHER FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE!

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PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS & HEALING

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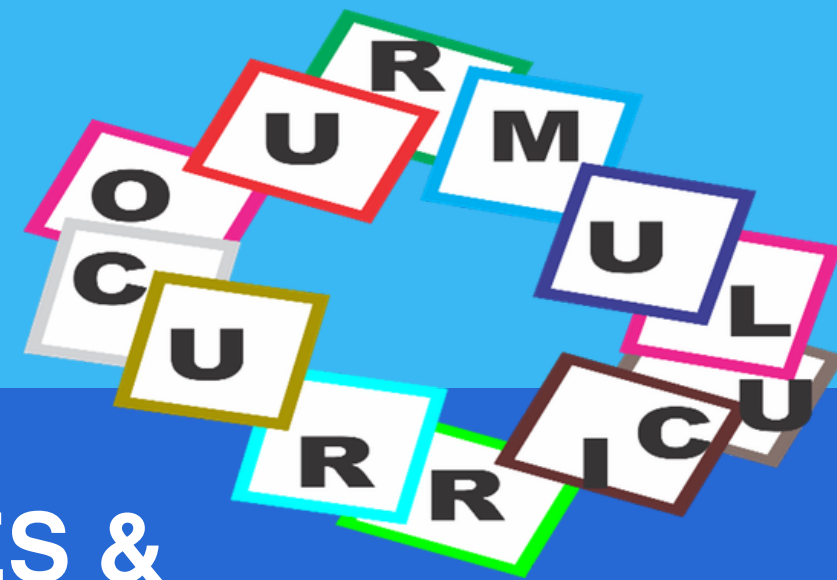
WHAT IS A CURRICULUM?

The standards and lessons to be taught in a course or classroom, where students are expected to know and be proficient in content and skills for a grade level.

The main guide, which identifies what educators teach and have students learn so that every child has access to rigorous academic experiences.

CURRICULUM STANDARDS & GUIDELINES

- VIDE provides curriculum standards & guidelines by grade level
- VIDE curriculum directors & coordinators collaborate with building principals on grade level standards
- Schools monitor whether grade level instructional standards are met



SUPPORT FOR EDUCATORS, ADMINISTRATORS & PARENTS

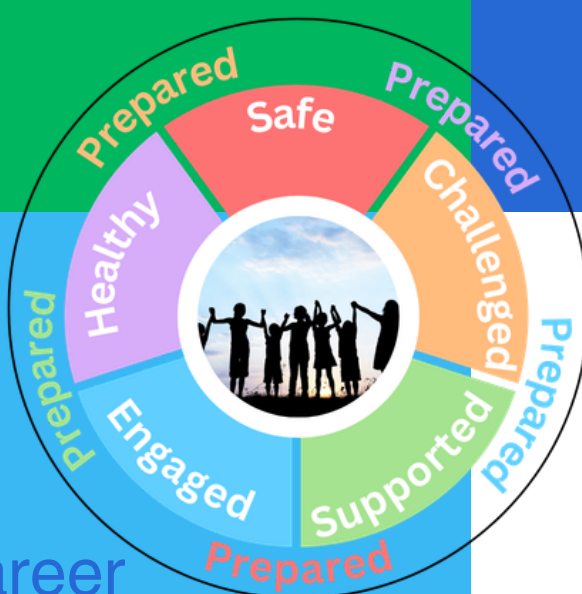
- VIDE supports administrators, teachers & parents with formal presentations, data chats, reviews & other strategies to impact learning
- VIDE provides guidance & resources for students working below & above class requirements (including second language and special needs students)

RESOURCES & ACCESSIBILITY

- Curriculum standards & instructional resources are made available to parents & the public
- Curriculum guides and core standards links, or hard copies are shared with staff, parents & community

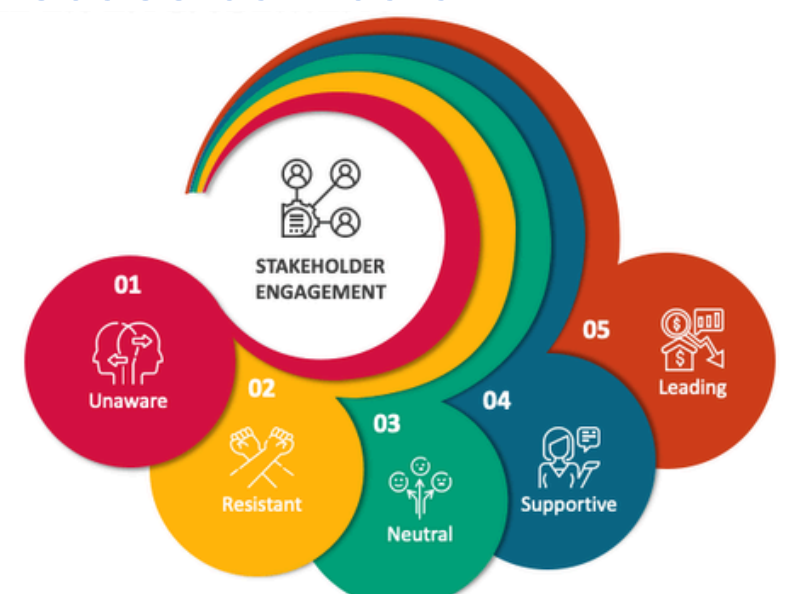
CULTURAL & CAREER AWARENESS

- Schools use cultural diversity, career awareness, and students' interests to teach the curriculum requirements



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Schools engage with a variety of stakeholders to discuss curriculum standards





COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AND EQUITY

The Virgin Islands Board of Education (“Board” or “VIBE”) is an elected body with the legal authority to prescribe and enforce policies that govern the operation and management of public schools in the Virgin Islands. Its responsibilities include but not limited to regulating teacher certification, establishing curriculum standards, setting academic benchmarks, overseeing hearings for student discipline, etc. The Board is committed to its statutory duties and works to enhance the quality of public education through a clear vision and mission.

To fulfill its obligations, the Board recognizes the necessity of maintaining strong internal controls. These controls serve as the foundation to ensure compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, protect the integrity of financial and operational practices, and uphold public trust.

Parents/Guardians Rights

The Virgin Islands Board of Education acknowledges that parents and guardians play a vital role in their child’s education.

Parental involvement is a key factor in ensuring a child’s academic success. To this end, parents and guardians are encouraged to be aware of their rights, which include:

- a. The right to receive regular reports regarding their child’s academic progress, attendance, and any incidents where the child is removed from class for disciplinary reasons.
- b. The right to request a conference if they believe that school personnel have violated laws or school discipline policies.
- c. The right to file a complaint if their child experiences discrimination or harassment in any form.

- d. The right to appeal disciplinary actions, such as suspension or expulsion.
- e. The right to receive proper notice of any hearing related to disciplinary actions.
- f. The right to receive both oral and written explanations of the reasons for any disciplinary action.
- g. The right to access information regarding the appellate process.

Students Rights

The Virgin Islands Board of Education affirms the following rights for all students, ensuring that these rights are respected in their interactions with school personnel and during disciplinary processes:

- a. The right to a free, high-quality public education.
- b. The right to feel safe and secure while at school.
- c. The right to be treated with fairness, courtesy, and respect by all school personnel.
- d. The right to bring concerns or complaints to the school principal or staff for resolution.
- e. The right to due process, including the opportunity for a hearing, and to be informed of the factual basis for disciplinary actions, including specific violations and consequences.

- f. The right to receive both oral and written explanations for any disciplinary actions.
- g. The right to information about the appellate process.
- h. The right to be informed about and have access to individual or group counseling services at school.
- i. The right to express opinions, support causes, assemble for discussion, and participate in peaceful and responsible demonstrations.

By ensuring that these rights are upheld, the Virgin Islands Board of Education fosters an educational environment where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect, and where the educational experience is equitable, safe, and enriching for every student.

For more information, please contact the Virgin Islands Board of Education at:

340-774-4546 - St. Thomas, USVI
340-772-4144 - St. Croix, USVI

Website: www.myviboe.com

Savory Strategies

THE VIBE

LEARNING MENU

STARTERS & REFRESHMENTS

- Academic Approaches: Tutorials, internships, games, workshops, projects, handouts, videos, and personalized plans.
- Learning Settings: Classrooms, outdoors, virtually, and field trips.
- Design Formats: Websites, software, apps, and dual enrollment.
- Evaluation Methods: Quizzes, standardized tests, and diagnostics.
- Instructional Pace: Rate of instructional activities.

MAIN COURSE

- The classroom environment reflects diverse backgrounds and subgroups' customs, traditions, and heritage.
- The classroom is welcoming, neat, and well-organized.
- Learners' objectives, including what will be learned, vocabulary, and assessment criteria, are clearly posted.
- The classroom is free from unsafe, unhealthy, or other environmental hazards.
- Age-appropriate materials and arrangements are used for learning.
- The environment promotes positive interactions between teachers and students.
- The teacher poses questions to assess and gauge students' understanding.

DESSERT

- The teacher employs a variety of instructional approaches, including lectures, group work, one-on-one coaching, and independent learning.
- Students are encouraged to actively participate and share their responses.
- Students respond to cues and directions from the teacher.
- Lessons are connected to real-life situations and progress from easier to more challenging levels.
- Technology tools are available for research, projects, labs, skill intervention, and more.

