



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Public Relations

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Virgin Islands Department of Education Clarifies Participation in Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) aims to clarify recent information circulating in the media regarding the distribution of tablets to families. The Department's support of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) has been mischaracterized, leading to inaccurate portrayals of the implementation of a program designed to bridge the digital divide. This effort is aimed at ensuring that all families have access to the necessary technology, enhancing the educational experience for students to compete globally. This aligns with VIDE's commitment to fostering equitable educational opportunities for every student in the Virgin Islands.

The VIDE does not endorse any specific company over another, nor has it entered into an agreement with any service provider. Instead, the primary goal is to inform parents and guardians about the opportunity provided through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), a benefit program by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC), and the various options available to them.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a federal initiative designed to help eligible households afford internet service and connected devices. Families can take advantage of the resources offered by multiple service providers by participating in this program.

The VIDE emphasizes that time is of the essence, and families should not miss the opportunity to equip their children with the tools needed for successful learning and access to technology. Presently, the Affordable Connectivity Program will stop accepting new applications and enrollments on Wednesday, February 7, 2024.

In its efforts to notify parents of the fast-approaching deadline, VIDE publicly shared the opportunity to apply. The VIDE does not want parents to lose the chance to participate in this program. It is important to note that several service providers participate in the ACP, offering resources to support eligible families in accessing essential online services. To view the full listing of service providers in the Virgin Islands, please visit: <https://cnm.universalservice.org> and enter your zip code.

To ensure that all eligible families benefit from these opportunities, VIDE urges parents and guardians to promptly visit the ACP's website, determine if they qualify for the Program's benefit, and apply with the service provider of their choice. It is important to note that resources provided by service providers may vary, and parents should contact their provider for additional details.

VIDE remains committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment for all students. For more information regarding the Affordable Connectivity Program, please visit <https://www.fcc.gov/acp>.

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