



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

**Office of Public Relations**

1834 Kongens Gade, Charlotte Amalie \* St. Thomas \* U.S. Virgin Islands 00802-6746  
Telephone: 340.774.0100 Ext. 8136 (STT/STJ) 340.773.1095 Ext. 7064 (STX)

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**For More Information Contact:**

Shayla S. Solomon

Director, Public Relations & Communications

[shayla.solomon@vide.vi](mailto:shayla.solomon@vide.vi)

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## **Virgin Islands Department of Education Investigating Incident Involving Student Removal from School Bus**

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) is actively investigating an incident involving a student who was removed from a school bus earlier this morning, Tuesday, October 1, 2024. The student was utilizing transportation services provided by School Busing Inc., a contracted vendor of the VIDE. It is important to clarify that school bus drivers are not employees of the Department of Education.

We regret that this student had to experience being removed from the bus, and the Department is working diligently to gather all the facts surrounding the situation. Due to the nature of the incident, which involves the safety and well-being of students and staff, an incident report has been requested to outline the sequence of events and the cause for action. It is crucial that accurate information is obtained to ensure a fair and thorough investigation.

Initial reports from School Busing Inc. indicate that the student exhibited inappropriate language, unruly behavior, and irate actions that posed a safety concern for other passengers. The bus driver believed these actions could compromise the safety of all on board and, as a result, made the decision to remove the student from the bus. A second bus was dispatched to pick up the student, but the driver was unable to locate him. The school's administration was immediately notified, and a Virgin Islands Police Department officer subsequently transported the student to the Bertha C. Boschulte campus.

The Department emphasizes that while School Busing Inc. is a contracted vendor, it is critical that all situations are handled according to established procedures and guidelines. As we continue our investigation, both the school bus company and the VIDE will address concerns raised regarding the actions taken by the bus driver.

In accordance with the VIDE's commitment to student safety, a Bus Conduct Responsibilities and Consequences document provides comprehensive guidelines for school bus safety procedures. These rules are in place to ensure that students, staff, and bus drivers understand their responsibilities while on the bus. Students are expected to exhibit orderly conduct at all times, and bus drivers must adhere strictly to the proper protocols. Failure to follow these policies will result in accountability measures for all parties involved.

A parental hearing will be conducted to ensure that all parties are heard, and appropriate steps will be taken to resolve the situation and prevent further incidents. The Department remains committed to ensuring the safety of all students and will take corrective action based on the findings of the investigation.

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