



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Public Relations

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VIDE & BSCM Provide Key Updates on Maintenance Progress, Operational Adjustments, and Contingency Plans for the 2025–2026 School Year

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) and the Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance (BSCM) remain committed to ensuring that all students, educators, and staff return to safe, comfortable, and fully functional learning environments for the start of the 2025–2026 school year on Wednesday, August 13, 2025.

Over the summer, the BSCM has been diligently working across the Territory on a wide range of projects spanning critical repairs, electrical upgrades, and other essential maintenance to establish optimal conditions for teaching and learning. While the scope of work accomplished has been significant, the complexity of certain projects means that some campuses will begin the school year with operational adjustments in place to allow these vital improvements to continue without delay.

St. Thomas–St. John District

All schools in the St. Thomas–St. John District will open and operate on their regular schedules. Start and dismissal times will remain unchanged. The BSCM has pledged to complete any remaining repairs in this district as quickly as possible, and both agencies are aligned in minimizing any disruptions to teaching and learning.

St. Croix District

The St. Croix District continues to face unique infrastructure challenges, which caused delays at several campuses. These circumstances will result in temporary operational changes at four schools:

John H. Woodson (JHW) Junior High School

John H. Woodson Jr. High School will not open on August 13, 2025, due to ongoing roof repairs, mold remediation, and the required post-remediation air quality testing. Based on prior data showing that many families lack connectivity and devices for effective virtual instruction, VIDE will not begin the school year with online learning for JHW students. In-person instruction will begin once all repairs and safety verifications are completed by the BSCM.

An informational meeting for all parents and guardians of students attending JHW will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 5:30 pm. Meeting details are forthcoming and will be announced publicly for parents and guardians. During the meeting, representatives from BSCM and VIDE will provide details and be available to address any questions or concerns regarding the delay. The VIDE and BSCM

emphasize that student health and safety are the top priorities, and a plan will be implemented to ensure all instructional time is made up without compromising learning outcomes.

This school year will mark the final operational year for JHW as the new Arthur A. Richards PreK–8 campus is scheduled to open in August 2026. The replacement of aging facilities like JHW reflects the Territory’s broader school modernization efforts, ensuring future generations have access to state-of-the-art educational environments.

St. Croix Educational Complex High School

St. Croix Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC)

St. Croix Central High School

These three schools will follow an adjusted bell schedule 7:40 a.m. to 1:05 p.m. to reduce exposure to peak midday heat while air conditioning upgrades are finalized. Heat temperatures have historically been monitored and continue to be presently monitored. The St. Croix Educational Complex is the only campus still awaiting installation of its AC units; Central High and CTEC have already received theirs. However, because CTEC hosts vocational classes for students from both high schools, schedules must remain synchronized until Complex is fully air-conditioned. Once installation is complete, all three campuses will resume their regular schedules.

Commitment to Transparency and Progress

Both the VIDE and BSCM deeply appreciate the public’s patience and support during this critical phase of facility upgrades. While short-term adjustments may be necessary, these improvements are vital investments in the long-term quality, safety, and sustainability of Virgin Islands public schools.

For project updates from the Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance, follow Facebook at BSCM (Bureau of School Construction). For instructional and operational updates, follow the Virgin Islands Department of Education on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram, visit vide.vi, and sign up for PowerSchool at www.vide.vi/stayconnected.

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