



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:

Office of Public Relations

public.relations@vide.vi

VIDE Partners with Virgin Islands Diabetes Center of Excellence and Bennie & Martha Benjamin Foundation to Launch Childhood Diabetes Prevention Program

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) has proudly joined forces with the Virgin Islands Diabetes Center of Excellence and the Bennie and Martha Benjamin Foundation to launch the Childhood Diabetes Prevention Program, a transformative health initiative aimed at identifying, educating, and empowering young people, especially those who may be at risk for diabetes.

This groundbreaking program marks an important step toward addressing a critical health concern that affects families across the Territory. Through early intervention, education, and community engagement, the initiative seeks to foster lifelong healthy habits among Virgin Islands students.

As part of the program, students in 4th and 5th grade, along with children who may be overweight or have a family history of diabetes, will be offered free health screenings to help identify early warning signs. Families will also gain access to valuable health education and community resources designed to support early prevention and promote wellness.

The official launch of the Childhood Diabetes Prevention Program will take place on Friday, October 17, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at Eulalie R. Rivera K-8 School on St. Croix. The program will expand to include schools across both districts, ensuring students Territory-wide benefit from this initiative.

Through this partnership, students will receive free health screenings, educational materials, and interactive learning opportunities to help them make informed lifestyle choices. Parents and guardians will also receive information to support healthy habits at home.

This initiative is a powerful example of how collaboration can drive lasting change. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Virgin Islands Diabetes Center of Excellence and the Bennie and Martha Benjamin Foundation for their vision, partnership, and commitment to improving the well-being of our children.

Together, these organizations are working to empower students to take charge of their health, educate families about prevention, and strengthen community awareness of diabetes and its impact. The Virgin Islands Department of Education invites parents, guardians, and community members to join in celebrating this milestone event.

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