



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Public Relations

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18, 2025

0906-25

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Virgin Islands Department of Education Urges Public to Stay Informed via Official VIDE Platforms

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) is reminding parents, guardians, and the wider community that only announcements issued directly by VIDE should be considered official. Increasingly, falsified information has been shared through various Facebook groups, WhatsApp messages, and other unofficial sources, often with the intent of creating confusion.

When dealing with unpredictable matters such as changing weather conditions, electrical service interruptions, or even false threats against schools, VIDE makes decisions in consultation with its official partners, including the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (WAPA), the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA), the Virgin Islands Police Department (VIPD), and Government House, among other entities. This process requires ensuring that accurate information is received first before it can be distributed. We recognize that immediate information is desired. Timely information is also a priority for VIDE. As decisions are made, the information is shared with the public.

Because these situations are fluid, unpredictable, and ever-changing, decisions may be adjusted as new information becomes available. For example, a decision to keep schools open may later be revised if conditions worsen, if electrical service is interrupted for an extended period, if on-campus assessments reveal safety concerns, or if a decision is made by the Executive Branch of Government.

VIDE recognizes the inconvenience that school closures may cause, particularly when government offices remain open. The Department does not take these decisions lightly, as every effort is made to protect instructional time while ensuring the safety of students, faculty, and staff.

We understand how frustrating last-minute changes can be for parents, guardians, and even students. VIDE appreciates the patience and understanding of its stakeholders. We ask for continued understanding as the dynamic nature of these situations sometimes requires adjustments to be made quickly.

VIDE strongly urges families to:

- Rely only on official VIDE platforms for accurate updates.
- Avoid following unofficial social media pages or chats that circulate misinformation.
- Exercise personal parental discretion when making decisions for your child, based on your own circumstances and comfort level.

VIDE provides information to the media and across its official platforms. However, as conditions change, updates may also change. For the most reliable information, parents and guardians should always check the official VIDE Facebook page and other official communication channels first.

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