



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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Everyday Counts: A Special Message from Commissioner Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Ed.D. on Student Attendance

The Virgin Islands Department of Education is calling on our entire community to take action regarding one of the most pressing challenges impacting our students, student attendance. Commissioner Wells-Hedrington shares a video message with all stakeholders <https://youtu.be/8AIE-4ZRqv4>

Absenteeism is not just a statistic. It represents lost instructional time, missed opportunities for growth, gaps in learning, and long-term academic consequences. When students are not in school consistently, they fall behind in foundational skills, struggle to stay on grade level, and are at greater risk of disengagement. Together we can change this story.

Commissioner Wells-Hedrington appeals to parents and guardians to partner with the VIDE in reversing the current trend of absenteeism. Ensuring that students arrive at school on time and ready to learn each day must be a shared responsibility. Schools cannot do this alone.

Attendance is more than showing up. It is a commitment to academic success, a foundation for literacy and numeracy growth, and a pathway to graduation. When students attend school daily, they build confidence, strengthen relationships, and develop the habits necessary for lifelong achievement.

We recognize that families face challenges. However, we must work collaboratively to identify solutions, remove barriers, and reestablish a culture where daily attendance is the expectation, not the exception.

Your involvement matters. Your encouragement matters. Your consistency matters. Let us recommit as parents, educators, and community members to ensure that every child in the Virgin Islands is present, prepared, and positioned for success. Change begins with awareness, and progress begins with action.

Together, we can improve attendance.

Together, we can strengthen our schools.

Together, we can elevate student achievement across our Territory.

Every Day Counts.

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