



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

**Office of Public Relations**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**STATE OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION FFY 2026 PART B IDEA FEDERAL GRANT  
APPLICATION AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW**

The State Director of Special Education, Ms. Kathleen Merchant, announces that copies of the Special Education FFY 2026 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Federal Grant Application are available for public review in both school districts for a period of 60 days.

Public comments will be accepted up to 30 days after the close of the public review period. Comments may be submitted to the State Director of Special Education via email at [kathleen.merchant@vide.vi](mailto:kathleen.merchant@vide.vi), or delivered in person to one of the following locations between March 16 and May 20, 2026:

- Frostco Building, First floor, St. Thomas
- State Office of Special Education, Main Education Complex, Hospital Street, St. Croix

Copies of the grant application, which includes a tentative State budget, may also be reviewed at the following locations:

- Offices of Special Education (State and District)
- Offices of the Superintendent of Schools both districts
- Offices of the Commissioner of Education in both districts
- University of the Virgin Islands campuses
- Charles W. Turnbull Regional Library, St. Thomas
- Florence Williams Public Library, Christiansted, St. Croix
- Julius E. Sprauve School, St. John

A copy of the application is also available on the Department's website at [www.vide.vi](http://www.vide.vi). Select the menu tab, then divisions, and choose special education.

For additional information, please contact the State Office of Special Education at (340) 773-1095 extension 7087 or (340) 774-0100 extension 8802.

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