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More Than 400 Families Participate in VIDE Champion Parent Academy

Second Virtual Session Scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2026

More than 400 families participated in the Virgin Islands Department of Education's (VIDE) first Champion Parent Academy of the school year on Wednesday, October 7, 2026. The virtual session brought together parents, guardians, and school leaders for an engaging evening focused on strengthening family involvement and equipping families with practical strategies to support student learning and academic success.

The academy is part of VIDE's Champion Schools initiative, which supports 11 public schools across St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John in their efforts to achieve 5-Star ratings. The session was hosted by National Academic Educational Partners, Inc. (NAEP), the Department's designated Lead Transformation Partner for the Champion Schools network.

Commissioner of Education Dr. Dionne Wells-Hedrington joined participating families, principals, and assistant principals, reinforcing the Department's commitment to fostering meaningful partnerships between schools and the families they serve.

Conducted in English and Spanish, the virtual academy provided families with valuable information, resources, and practical strategies to reinforce learning at home and collaborate more effectively with educators. Topics included the importance of consistent school attendance; digital learning platforms such as i-Ready, Beable, and Teach to One; the role of academic interventions and small-group instruction; and the use of PowerSchool Parent Portal and ClassDojo to monitor student progress and maintain communication with teachers.

Families also received guidance on after-school tutoring opportunities, understanding report cards and assessment results from i-Ready and SBAC, and engaging children in positive, goal-oriented conversations about their academic growth.

“Four hundred families on a weeknight tells me our Champion parents are ready to partner with us!” said Commissioner Dr. Dionne Wells-Hedrington. “When schools and families work together,

our children grow. I thank every principal, teacher, and staff member who invited families, and I encourage every Champion family to join us on October 14th."

Jeffrey J. Hernandez, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of NAEP, also emphasized the significance of the strong turnout and the importance of sustained family engagement. "These parents showed up for their children on a Wednesday night, and that says a lot about our Champion communities," said Hernandez. "Our job is to give families clear, practical tools and to stand beside them, our principals, and our teachers all year. October 7th was a strong start, and we want even more families with us on October 14th."

To provide additional families with an opportunity to participate, VIDE will host a second virtual Champion Parent Academy session on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, from 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. The session will feature the same presentation, with separate virtual rooms available in English and Spanish.

The Zoom meeting link will be distributed through ClassDojo. Families may also contact their child's school for additional information. Students whose parent or guardian checks in during the session will receive extra credit in English Language Arts (ELA).

VIDE encourages all Champion Schools families to participate in the upcoming session and remain actively engaged in their children's educational journey. Strong school-family partnerships are essential to improving student outcomes, fostering academic achievement, and creating supportive learning environments in which every child has an opportunity to succeed.

Through continued collaboration, the Champion Schools initiative remains committed to breaking barriers, setting records, and achieving 5-Star success.

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