



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Office of Public Relations

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Virgin Islands Department of Education Seeks Public Comment on Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect Draft Policy

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE), through its Internal Audit Division, invites public feedback on the newly drafted Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect Policy. Community members are encouraged to review the proposed policy and submit their comments by the end of day on Friday, November 22, 2024.

The draft policy is designed to establish a uniform process for reporting any suspicions of abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect by mandatory reporters within VIDE. This includes prompt reporting to the appropriate authorities, maintaining accurate records, and collaborating with other Government of the Virgin Islands (GVI) agencies. The policy aims to standardize VIDE's approach to safeguarding and supporting the well-being of children across the Territory.

This policy is applicable to all VIDE-affiliated personnel, including teachers, administrators, support staff, contractors, volunteers, and affiliates, irrespective of their specific roles or titles.

Public Access and Submission of Feedback

The draft policy can be accessed on the VIDE website at <https://www.vide.vi> or directly via the following link:  [DRAFT VIDE Mandatory Reporting Policy and Procedures for Public Comments.pdf](#)

Community members can submit their feedback directly to the Internal Audit Division via email at: internalaudit@vide.vi.

The Virgin Islands Department of Education is deeply committed to the safety and well-being of all students. Protecting children goes beyond instruction. Educators and staff have a profound responsibility to create a secure environment where students' mental and physical health are prioritized. This commitment extends to swiftly reporting any suspected signs of abuse, neglect, or abandonment, as a matter not only of policy but of ethical duty.

The VIDE staff are empowered to act as both educators and protectors, complying with federal and local law in identifying and reporting potential cases of child abuse or neglect. Through these measures, VIDE ensures that every child feels seen, safe, and supported, fostering a nurturing environment for students.

For further information, please contact the Internal Audit Division at 340-773-1095 or 340-774-0100 or via email at internalaudit@vide.vi.

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