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Delayed School Start Times Announced in Wake of Tropical Storm Philippe

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The V.I. Department of Education has issued a notice to the public concerning adjustments to public school operations due to the adverse weather conditions arising from Tropical Storm Philippe. The storm has brought about significant winds, heavy rainfall, and consequent power outages throughout the territory, which are expected to affect school activities on Thursday.

As a response, schools within both the St. Thomas-St. John District and St. Croix District will commence classes two hours later than the usual starting time, the department said. This delay aims to ensure the safety of students, allowing them to remain at home while school maintenance teams perform thorough checks on the campuses to assess potential storm damage. Additionally, custodial staff will be ensuring cleanliness and safety standards across all school premises.

For clarity on the new timings, if a school typically begins at 7:40 am, it will now commence at 9:40 am on the specified date.

Essential personnel, which includes kitchen workers, custodians, maintenance teams, and staggered school administrative members (comprising of principals and assistant principals), are expected to arrive at their respective campuses by 6:00 am.

It is important for the public to understand that the uncertain weather conditions and continuing power outages might lead to sudden changes affecting school openings. The department emphasized that they have activated all necessary protocols, ensuring rigorous checks while prioritizing the safety of the students, faculty, and staff.

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