

# The Virgin Islands Consortium

## Board of Education Extends Deadline For Early Childhood Education Licensure for K-3 Teachers

**“Unforeseen challenges” cited as prevailing reason many educators have not met initial Oct. 2023 deadline**

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The V.I. Board of Education is reminding public school teachers of kindergarten through third grade that their deadline for becoming licensed in Early Childhood Education has been extended until October 1, 2024.

Notwithstanding Act 8270, which required these teachers to become ECE certified by October 1 this year, VIBE has found it prudent to extend the time provided for the over 75 teachers in the territory this extension is anticipated to cover, according to a release the

board has issued.

“Many educators have faced unforeseen challenges in the recent past, affecting their ability to complete certification requirements within the original time frame,” said VIBE chair Kyza Callwood. “Extending the deadline would acknowledge and accommodate these challenges, ensuring that dedicated educators are not unduly penalized.”

According to Mr. Callwood, the board’s commitment to promoting equity and inclusivity drove this decision. The extension, he says, will allow “all teachers, regardless of their circumstances, to pursue and achieve professional growth in compliance with policies and procedures.”

It is not clear why the deadline was extended for an additional calendar year, instead of a greater or lesser amount of time. Nevertheless, Mr. Callwood asserted that the new deadline “reflects an investment in the long-term success of our education system and the wellbeing of those who play a pivotal role in shaping the future.”

The deadline extension was approved by the Board of Education during its regular October meeting.