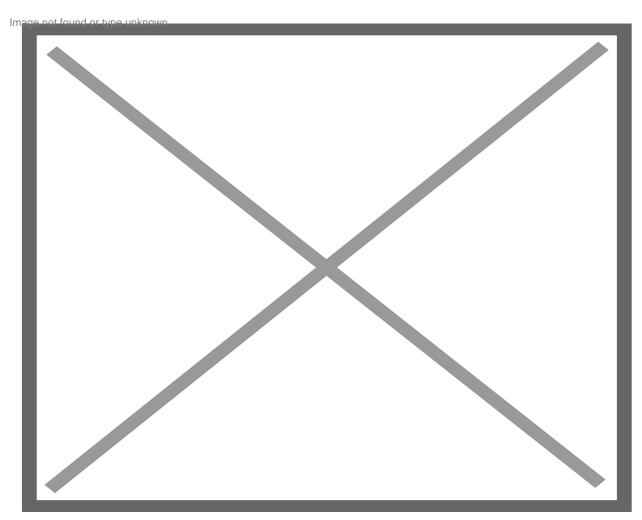
## Dept. of Education Announces Closure of Public Schools Due to Adverse Weather

## Heavy rain and winds prompt safety precautions for students and staff in Virgin Islands

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The V.I. Dept. of Education has announced that all public schools across the territory will be closed on Wednesday, February 7. This decision comes in response to the forecasted adverse weather conditions, including heavy rain, strong winds, and low visibility, which are expected to impact the USVI and Puerto Rico.

In an official statement, the department emphasized the importance of student safety, urging parents and guardians to keep their children at home. Public-school students are advised against attending school, and faculty and staff have been instructed not to report to their usual workplaces.

However, D.O.E. has mandated that certain essential school personnel, including principals, assistant principals, custodians, and maintenance workers/laborers, report to their assigned schools at 8:00 am. Their role will be to assess the condition of the campuses in light of the weather situation.

Additionally, employees at the district and state levels within the Department of Education are required to report to work at their normal time to carry out their regular responsibilities.

The department has also advised the public to stay alert for any further updates regarding the operations of public schools on Thursday, February 8th. D.O.E. encouraged everyone to stay informed through official communication channels for the latest information.

The Department of Education expressed gratitude for the community's cooperation and understanding during this period. It emphasized the collective effort required to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of the public-school community amidst these challenging weather conditions.

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