

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Fifth Annual Empowerment Retreat Announced For Eligible St. Croix District Parents

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ST. CROIX -- The Virgin Islands Department of Education Division of Special Services, St. Croix District, will host its 5th Annual Parent Empowerment Retreat August 20-22 at Divi Carina Bay Resort here, according to a press release DOE issued on Wednesday.

This year's conference is themed "Building Effective Partnerships to Support Students with Disabilities" and is geared toward parents of children who were diagnosed with a disability and determined to be eligible for special education and related services between 2013-2015.

According to organizers, the three-day retreat is designed to “promote, empower and support parents of children with disabilities to become knowledgeable and engaged advocates for their children.” Workshops include “Let’s Make Learning Fun: Connecting the Dots for Kids,” “A Parent’s Guide to Preparing for the IEP Meeting,” and more.

Maureen Moorehead, special education district coordinator, said, “When parents understand their rights and responsibilities in the special education process, are provided with the tools to effectively participate in the process, and parents, teachers and administrators are able to openly communicate about a student, there are more opportunities for student growth. One of the most effective ways to promote student growth academically, behaviorally, and socially is through a partnership that bridges the school and home. This partnership must be developed and nurtured on an ongoing basis.” District Director Lyrhea Bryan-Heyliger also looks forward to engaging with parents.

To sign up for the conference, eligible parents should call (340) 718-7997. While the target parent group will be given priority, any unfilled slots will be made available to parents of students with a current Individualized Education Program.

Only one parent per family may attend the conference and all rooms will be shared with another parent. A credit card or cash deposit of \$50 is required for incidentals upon check in at the hotel. Refunds will be given at checkout, minus the cost of any incidental charges.

For more information, contact the Division of Special Services at (340) 718-7997.

Feature Image: Divi Carina Bay Resort.

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