

The Virgin Islands Consortium

20 Of 33 Public Schools Will Open September 4; More Openings Announced For September 17

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Of the 33 public schools the Mapp administration is preparing for the 2018-19 school year, 20 of them will be ready to accept students on September 4, while more than a dozen of the facilities won't be prepared to house students, Governor Kenneth Mapp announced at a press conference Tuesday morning, held to address the reopening of school set for next week.

At the media event, held at Government House on St. Croix, Mr. Mapp said about ten of the schools will not open on time. Instead, he gave tentative dates of the 17th and 24th of

September.

St. Croix school sites opening on Tuesday, September 4:

- Alfredo Andrews Elementary School
- Alexander Henderson Elementary School
- Pearl B. Larsen Elementary School
- Juanita Gardine Elementary School
- Ricardo Richards Elementary School
- Claude O. Markoe Elementary School
- John H. Woodson Junior High School
- Elena Christian Junior High School (to be housed at the Manor School complex in La Grande Princesse)
- Central High School
- St. Croix Educational Complex (along with the Career & Technical Education Center, the Adult Education Program and the Alternative Education Program)

The St. Thomas-St. John District school sites opening on Tuesday, September 4:

- Joseph Sibilly Elementary School
- Jane E. Tuitt Elementary School
- Leonard Dober Elementary School
- Ulla F Muller Elementary School
- Wheatley Skills Center
- The Alternative Education Program
- Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School

Schools projected to open on September 17th in the St. Thomas-St. John District:

- Charlotte Amalie High School
- Ivanna Eudora Kean High School
- Joseph Gomez Elementary School
- Julius Sprauve School (St. John)
- Yvonne Bowsky Elementary School
- Addelita Cancryn Junior High School (the school site will be at the field at CAHS)
- Lockhart Elementary (students from Gladys A. Abraham Elementary School will merge with Lockhart)

Schools projected to open on September 17th in St. Croix:

- Lew Muckle Elementary School
- Eulalie Rivera Elementary School

The governor said Arthur Richards Junior High School would most likely not be ready by September 24, as contractor AECOM is still laying foundations for the units being installed at the site. During a media tour in July, AECOM and Department of Education (D.O.E.) officials told The Consortium that [the site would be ready by August 28.](#)

D.O.E. had said on multiple occasions that all the schools being worked on by contractor AECOM, which is preparing modular classrooms across the territory, would be ready for the September 4 opening of school. But during today's press conference, Mr. Mapp cast blame of the delay on the company, stating that he was disappointed in their performance.

"Last evening on my way to St. Croix, I met with the vice president of AECOM and their council, and I expressed my disappointment in their inability to meet the deadlines under the contracts that they signed," Mr. Mapp said. "AECOM knows that we're not satisfied with their level of performance," he later added.

The governor said he toured multiple job sites where the modular units are being erected, "and some of the sites we just can't have students while the finishing of the construction is being done," including electrical work, the governor said. "I just do not believe it is safe to just try to open all of the schools for the sake of saying we got them opened on time, when we believe that our children and our professional staff will be in harms way," he added.

Asked by The Consortium whether D.O.E. should have been more prudent when it announced that all the schools would be ready, Ms. McCollum sidelined the question, stating that D.O.E. was making its statements based on the word of the contractor.

Even so, Governor Kenneth Mapp said he was pleased that all students would be off of double sessions for the upcoming school year.