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School Bus Service to Resume Sept. 13 on St. Croix and Sept. 7 in St. Thomas-St. John District

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The St. Croix District is slated to resume school bus service on Sept. 13 for general education students in grades PreK-3rd and CTE students enrolled in specific career pathways, the V.I. Dept. of Education has announced. The St. Thomas-St. John District will begin bus service on Sept. 7 for all students.

D.O.E. said parents of St. Croix District grades PreK-3rd students are asked to transport their children to and from campuses when schools open for in-person learning on Sept. 7.

Special Education self-contained students on St. Croix attending in-person classes are not affected and will receive school bus transportation beginning Sept. 7.

The revised start date for school-bus service in the St. Croix District is the result of an "unforeseen delay during final negotiations with the school-bus vendor," said D.O.E.

“We have been working diligently with our school-bus vendors and the various negotiation teams and are pleased to be able to provide school-bus service to St. Croix families on September 13,” said St. Croix District Superintendent Carlos McGregor. “We thank parents and families for their flexibility as schools prepare to reopen safely for students and staff.”

While school bus service will be available in both districts this year, parents who can transport their children to and from schools are encouraged to do so, D.O.E. said. "This will aid in the compliance of social distancing requirements on school buses. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines allow for up to two students per seat, a decrease from the three-person per seat standard arrangement," according to the release.