

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION



Certification Report (rev) May 27, 2022

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St. Croix Office
1123 King Street
Christiansted, VI 00820
Telephone No.
340-772-4144
Fax No.
340-772-2895

St. Thomas Office
P.O. Box 11900
Dronningens Gade
Nos. 60B, 61 & 62
St. Thomas, VI 00801
Telephone No.
340-774-4546
Fax No.
340-774-3384

WEBSITE
www.myviboe.com

Since the last report at our regular Board meeting, three Certification Committee meetings were held to review candidates requesting certification. Unfortunately, enough committee members did not attend both meetings for committee approval of candidates, but other members of the Board, ED Berry, and certification staff who attended the committee meetings on February 24, 2022, April 21, 2022, and May 18, 2022, participated in the vetting process so that applicants can be presented to the full Board for approval. This prevents unnecessary delay in responding to applicants. Included in the lists requiring full Board approval are some candidates who are contracted by Proximity Learning and are providing instruction virtually to students enrolled in the Department's virtual academy (VIVA).

Thanks to efforts of ED Berry, the Board is finally getting information requested months ago from Commissioner Berry-Benjamin as part of the conditions under which certification could be considered for Proximity Learning teachers. It must be noted that all conditions have not yet been met. The VI History requirement is one condition still not yet confirmed. Details on VIVA issues have been provided in earlier emails to all Board members and feedback from Board members has been requested. A meeting is pending to address this Department initiative which should include a review of data on student success. Board involvement is important to help guide certification efforts going forward as well as to ensure VIBE is exercising its oversight responsibility.

Board members are also asked to review the Alternative Pathway proposal for certification which was shared on February 15, 2022. Specifically, this proposal is related to special certification of professionals who may be on second careers or whose degrees may not be education degrees. Considering that most recently there were just two or three undergraduate education majors (in STTJ) at UVI 2022 Commencement exercise at a time when there is a teacher shortage in our schools, this should be of concern to VIBE.

Finally, with respect to completion of revisions to the Board's certification policy, the final document is about ready for final review by the committee. A special 2–3-hour work session is requested for Board members to finalize the document for full Board approval. As committee chair, I request one of the following dates and times be selected for this work and ask members to indicate availability to spend time finalizing this policy: June 8th, 16th, 17th, or 18th. Thank you for your anticipated engagement.

Jeanette Smith-Barry

Jeanette Smith-Barry, PSCHE Chair

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Virgin Islands Board of Education is to provide leadership and oversight, set policy and advocate for continuous improvement of the Public Education System of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

VISION STATEMENT

Each child is provided with the best quality education which guarantees academic excellence, promotes our history and culture, and builds strong local and global communities.