



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Public Relations

1834 Kongens Gade, Charlotte Amalie * St. Thomas * U.S. Virgin Islands 00802-6746
Telephone: 340.774.0100 Ext. 8136 Fax: 340.774.1168
340.773.1095 Ext. 7064 Fax: 340.773.4624

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Keva D. Muller
Director of Public Relations
(340) 774-0100, Ext. 8136 | (340) 643-4784
Keva.muller@vide.vi
www.vide.vi
www.facebook.com/usvi.vide

Chantel Acosta
Public Information Officer
(340) 773-1095
chantel.acosta@vide.vi

GRANNY PRESCHOOL PROGRAM LAUNCHES MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

St. Croix, USVI - The St. Croix District Office of Curriculum and Instruction invites members of the media to attend the launch of the Granny Preschool Bridge Program at Pearl B. Larsen and Claude O. Markoe elementary schools on **Monday, September 10 at 7:45 a.m.**

Granny Preschool classrooms:

Pearl B. Larsen Elementary: Room 214
Claude O. Markoe Elementary: Room 406

Organized and facilitated by Jeselle Cruse-Peter, St. Croix District Elementary Programs Coordinator, the Granny Preschool Bridge Pilot Program was developed to cater to Pre-K children who will enter Kindergarten in the 2019-2020 school year.

Data shows that more than half of Virgin Islands' kindergarteners enter kindergarten without the readiness skills needed. The data identified a need to support Pre-K students and prepare them with the skills needed to be successful in Kindergarten, Cruse-Peter explained.

The targeted goal of the program is to serve a cohort of 20 Pre-K students at each site with an overall projected total of 40 students in the program.

Students are eligible for the program if they meet the requirement of age four by December 31. The program is free of charge; however, parents will be responsible for insurance fees and purchase of materials, such as sleeping mats and other necessities for their children. Students were selected on a first-come, first-served basis.

The implementation of the Granny Preschool Pilot Program has been a collaborative effort between the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services.

“The need for partnering to provide services to students on the Head Start waiting list was discussed as a means of ensuring that more students within the district had the opportunity to acquire the skills needed for kindergarten readiness,” Cruse-Peter said.

For more information, contact the Office of Public Relations at (340) 643-4784.

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