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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EDUCATION COMMISSIONER DESIGNEE EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES AT THE PASSING OF WOODSON JR. HIGH 7TH GRADER

ST. THOMAS, USVI — Education Commissioner Designee Racquel Berry-Benjamin today expressed condolences to the relatives, friends and school family of seventh grade John H. Woodson Junior High student Brendel William, who passed away on May 23 following hospitalization from an automobile accident on May 6.

“With the aid of a caring medical team, Brendel courageously fought for his life until the evening of May 23,” Berry-Benjamin wrote in a message to Department of Education staff. “He was an inspiration and joy to his family and friends, and was beloved by his teachers and peers. He will be greatly missed.”

Berry-Benjamin continued, “Words cannot adequately express the sorrow we feel as a Department at the loss of this young and promising life. However, we know that the many lives Brendel touched during his short time with us are better for it.

The Department of Education extends heartfelt condolences to the William family and to our Woodson family during this difficult time. We are here to support you in every way.”

A crisis management team has been deployed on the Woodson campus to assist students and staff in need of services.

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