

CERTIFICATION POLICY AMENDMENT

Authority: Virgin Islands Code Title 17, Section 121(b) authorizes the Virgin Islands Board of Education ("VIBE") to prescribe rules and regulations and establish criteria for the certification, selection, and appointment of teachers, supervisors, principals, librarians, and other professionals of the Department of Education. Further, pursuant to 17 V.I.C. § 121(k), the VIBE has authority to prevent the tenure or permanent employment status of persons hired to teach in the Public Schools of the Virgin Islands until such person has obtained teacher certification status and shall have taught for three consecutive school years in the public schools of the Virgin Islands.

Purpose: The VIBE understands that due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the closure of school facilities in March 2020, many certificate holders were unable to complete all requirements for renewal by June 30, 2020. The VIBE further understands that remote instruction and learning have and will continue to present challenges to students and teachers that may be alleviated by specialized training. Thus, the purpose of this policy is to temporarily amend the Virgin Islands Board of Education Professional Staff Certification and Higher Education Regulations to allow for an extension of the validity period for regular certificates with a June 30, 2020 expiration and to provide additional continuing education requirements specific to on-line learning.

Extension of the 2020 Regular Certificate Renewal Period

The Virgin Islands Board of Education Professional Certification and High Education Regulations ("PCHE Regulations") provide for a term of five years for Professional Educator and Non-Educator Certificates. In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the VIBE hereby extends the validity period on regular certificates that expired June 30, 2020 for one additional year. These certifications will now expire June 30, 2021. This policy change will be effective immediately and will last until July 1, 2021. Certificate holders do not need to take any action in order to be granted this one-year extension. When applying to renew their certification for July 1, 2021, applicants need to meet all renewal requirements for their specific certificates and positions, including but not limited to, mandatory assessments, additional course requirements, and professional development hours (e.g. continuing education units and contact training) or the equivalent in credits (e.g. college courses taken in lieu of professional development hours).

Required Trainings for Teachers during COVID-19 Pandemic

All current teaching and non-teaching certificate holders are required annually to complete eight (8) contact hours of professional training in technology. These training sessions shall provide certificate holders with professional development technological integration and virtual teaching and learning.

Other than as specifically amended by this policy, the Professional Staff Certification and Higher Education Regulations shall otherwise remain in full force and effect.

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Approved by the Virgin Islands Board of Education on this th 27 day of July, 2020.

Arah C. Lockhart
Chairperson
Arah C. Lockhart

Winona Hendricks
Secretary,
Winona Hendricks

Name Daisy R. Williams Notary Public Seal
Date 7/27/2020

DAISY R. WILLIAMS
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES APRIL 25, 2022
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