



DISTANCE LEARNING CHEAT SHEET

For Parents, Students, and the Community

Hosted by: Congresswoman Stacey E. Plaskett

TODAY'S SPEAKERS



Dr. Lisa Hassell-Forde

Intermediate/Junior High School Principal

Dr. Valrica Bryson

Cultural Education Director/Music Education Educator

Michealrose Ravalier, MPH, BS

2020 St. Thomas District Teacher of the Year

Zahra O' Reilly Bates, MAE, BA

2020 St. Croix District Teacher of the Year

Cheryl Lederle

Library of Congress

EDUCATION & THE C.A.R.E.S. ACT

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EMERGENCY EDUCATION FUNDING



- The CARES Act provides for \$30.75 billion in emergency funding to help schools with immediate needs related to the coronavirus pandemic.
- With this investment, the CARES Act creates a stabilization fund for K-12 schools and Institutions of Higher Education, including the University of the Virgin Islands.
- The K-12 education fund reserves a subtotal of \$153.75 million for U.S. territories including the Virgin Islands. This funding is to help schools respond to coronavirus and related school closures, improve the use of education technology, support distance education, and make up for lost learning time.
- The Department of Education has estimated that the University of the Virgin Islands will receive approximately \$1.7 million from the higher education fund under the CARES Act. At least 50% of that funding must be reserved to provide students emergency financial aid grants.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FOR STUDENT LOAN BORROWERS



**The CARES Act provides immediate relief to federal student loan borrowers.
The act:**

- **Defers student loan payments on all federally held student loans* – including both principal and interest – for six months, through Sept. 30, 2020, without penalty to the borrower. Such borrowers will not be required to make any payments toward outstanding interest or principal.**
- **Prohibits forced collections such as garnishment of wages, tax refunds, and Social Security benefits; and negative credit reporting during this time period.**
- **Allows employers for the remainder of 2020 to repay up to \$5,250 of an employee's student loans, without that payment counting towards the employee's taxable income.**

Note: Borrowers should reach out to their loan servicer with questions.

***Federally held student loans include Direct Loans and Federal Family Education Loans that are held by the U.S. Department of Education.**

ASSISTING COLLEGE STUDENTS AFFECTED BY COVID-19

The CARES Act also waives certain rules that would jeopardize college students' access to education and financial aid. The Act:

- **Allows colleges to continue paying students using Federal Work Study even if the student is unable to work due to COVID-19.**
- **Excludes any semester that a student is unable to complete because of the pandemic from counting towards either a student's subsidized loan usage limits or their lifetime Pell Grant eligibility limit.**
- **Waives the requirement that educational institutions calculate the amount of grant or loan assistance that the institution must return to the Department of Education when a student drops out of school, if caused by the pandemic.**
- **Permits U.S. college students studying at foreign institutions to continue their education during the COVID-19 pandemic by taking courses via distance learning or attending a partnering U.S.-based institution.**

EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

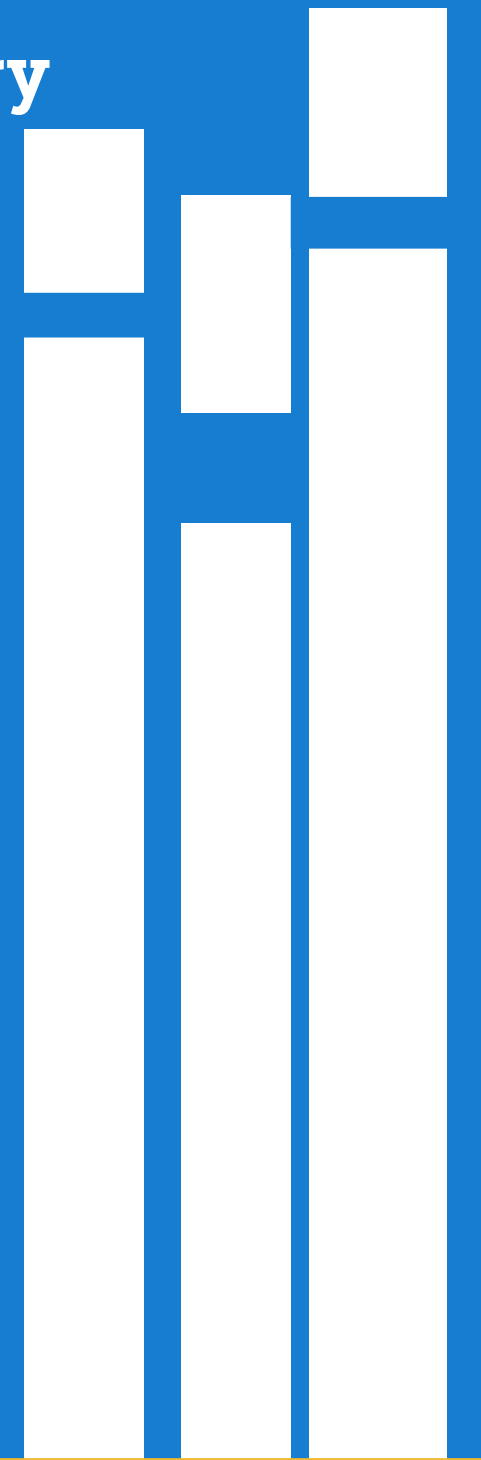


- **\$3.5 billion in emergency funding for childcare providers, which providers can use to continue paying employees – even if they are forced to close or maintain operations so that essential workers can continue going to work to support our communities.**
- **\$750 million in emergency Head Start funding, which will be used to maintain access to services for children and families, to the extent possible, and provide funding for summer programming in areas of the country that will be ready to reopen by then.**



FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN

The CARES Act includes several provisions to prevent children from going hungry during this public health crisis, including:

- **Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) program that provides families emergency food assistance in the event of prolonged school closures. For children in households that already receive SNAP, the benefits will be added to their existing EBT card.**
 - **Nationwide USDA grants waiver authority so that states and schools can enact emergency measures to provide students with nutritious food.**
 - **Granting USDA authority to approve state waivers for school meal plans, which will allow states to explore options such as meal delivery or transportation to get food in the hands of students.**
 - **Streamlining access to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) by allowing remote access to WIC services.**
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THANK YOU FOR JOINING!

All materials will be made available soon.

