

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Compulsory Attendance Ages:	From the beginning of the school year in the calendar year in which the child turns five years of age until the end of the school year nearest the eighteenth birthday, or until graduation from high school. 17 Virgin Islands Code Annotated § 82(a).
Required Days of Instruction:	Not specified in law. For public schools, 180 days. 17 V.I. Code §61
Required Subjects:	Unclear (see bullet point 5 below)

Home School Statute: 17 V.I. Code Ann. § 84; **Home School Regulations:** 17 V.I. Admin. Code § 2-1.

1. The homeschool statute says that children may be taught at home under Board of Education regulations “when written permission has been granted by the Commissioner of Education.” 17 V.I. Code Ann. § 84 However, the regulations themselves abandon the concept of needing permission from the Commissioner and instead provide that “compliance with the... procedures will satisfy the requirements for home instruction.” 17 V.I. Administrative Code § 2-1.
2. Per regulations adopted in 1998, parents must file the official form (Notice of Intent Home Instruction of Student at Home”) with the Commissioner of Education within ten days of the starting home schooling and annually thereafter. 17 V.I. Administrative Code § 2-1.
3. The form calls families to provide (i) the name, address, birth date and phone number of each child, (ii) the name, address and phone number of the teacher, (iii) the subjects to be taught, (iv) “total number of days scheduled for instruction” and “total number of hours of instruction per day”, and (v) the teacher’s method of progress assessment. The form has a blank for suggesting dates for the semi-annual portfolio review.
4. The form calls for parents to state the total number of hours of daily instruction, but this is not required in the text of the regulation.
5. In the area of the form with blanks for listing the child’s subjects, the form says, “Subjects... must be taken from the Promotion/Retention Policies.” The text of the regulation does not require this nor does it specify mandatory subjects to be taught. Paragraph 2.2 of the 2008 document “Promotion and Retention of Students and Grading System Requirements” identifies the “basic subject areas” in grades K-6 as reading, language arts, math, science and social studies.
6. Parents should keep a copy of each notice of intent, including the Commissioner’s acknowledgment of receipt at the bottom, as part of the child’s permanent record (see numbered paragraph 3 of the regulations).
7. In 2016, the USVI Board of Education took steps toward adopting onerous new regulations. However, we do not believe the board followed the prerequisite steps necessary for the proposed regulations to come into force. We therefore believe that only the 1998 regulations are currently in force. The board disagrees with our view on this. HSLDA members can contact us for help with any issues related to these regulations.

Standardized Tests: The Department of Education is authorized to demand two portfolio reviews per year. The regulations do not specify what must be included in the portfolio, nor do they specify whether the portfolio must prove anything in particular.

Teacher Qualifications: None.