



GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

*State Office of Special Education*

**St. Thomas:** 1834 Kongens Gade, Charlotte Amalie  
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00802-6746  
Tel: (340) 776-5802 • Fax: (340) 777-1020

**St. Croix:** 2133 Hospital Street, Christiansted  
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 00820-4665  
Tel: (340) 773-1095 • Fax: (340) 713-9579

Renee Charleswell, Ph.D.  
Director

Contact: Cynthia Graham  
Director of Public Relations and Communications  
[cynthia.graham@vide.vi](mailto:cynthia.graham@vide.vi)

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## **For Immediate Release**

### **STATE OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION 2019 MEDIATOR TRAINING**

The Virgin Islands Department of Education, State Office of Special Education (VIDE/SOSE) is offering a free, 20-hour, 3-day basic mediation skills training to individuals to serve as State Office of Special Education Mediators as set forth in the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). The IDEA requires the State to maintain a list of individuals who are qualified in the basic mediation process and have expertise in special education law.

The training sessions will be offered at the following locations and dates:

- **Buccaneer Hotel, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, October 21 – 23, 2019**  
**[Lunch is provided]**
- **Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority, St. Thomas, October 24 – 26, 2019**  
**[Lunch on your own]**

The sessions begin each day at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. The course is intensive and highly participatory and is designed to increase knowledge of the language of resolution and the prevention and management of conflict. Additionally, it enhances communication and negotiation skills. The Course content includes information specific to mediation in Special Education disputes. The course will certify and qualify mediators to serve on the State Office of Special Education Roster and

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more importantly, to assist parents and schools to resolve disputes involving students with disabilities. **Attendance for the entire 20 hours is mandatory to receive a certificate for this training – NO EXCEPTIONS.**

### **Who Should Attend?**

To qualify to serve as a special education mediator, registrants

- must be impartial;
- must possess knowledge of issues surrounding students with disabilities and have a basic understanding of the IDEA;
- may not be an employee of the SEA or the LEA that is involved in the education or care of the child; and,
- must not have a personal or professional interest that conflicts with the person's objectivity. 34 CFR §300.506

Professionals interested in becoming special education mediators must possess up to 5 years' relevant work experience in law or law-related field (i.e. paralegal studies); social work; counseling; therapy, or education. This course is not intended as an introduction to these subjects.

If you are interested in registering for one of these training sessions respond by emailing: [elouise.mack@vide.vi](mailto:elouise.mack@vide.vi) or call (340) 774-0100, extension 8800 or 8047. The last day to sign up is **October 18, 2019.**

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