

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

BILL NO. 33-0196

Thirty-Third Legislature of the Virgin Islands

September 30, 2019

An Act amending title 17, chapter 9, subchapter I, section 83 of the Virgin Islands Code by setting the beginning of the school day no earlier than 8:30am

PROPOSED BY: Senator Janelle K. Sarauw

1 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:*

2 **SECTION 1.** Title 17, chapter 9, subchapter I, section 83 of the Virgin Islands Code
3 is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and adding a new subsection
4 (b) to read as follows:

5 “(b) (1) The school day for middle schools, junior high schools and high schools
6 shall begin no earlier than 8:30am, however, extra periods offered before the start of the
7 regular school day shall not be considered in the determination of the start of the school
8 day.

9 (2) The Department of Education is encouraged to post on its internet website
10 available research on the impact of sleep deprivation on adolescents and the benefits of
11 a later school start time, and examples of successful strategies for managing the change
12 to a later school start time. Community organizations as well as the Department of

1 Education are encouraged to inform their communities, including parents, teenagers,
2 educators, athletic coaches, and other stakeholders, about health, safety and the academic
3 impact of sleep deprivation on middle, junior and high school pupils and the benefits of
4 a later school start time, and to discuss strategies to successfully implement the later
5 school start time.”

6 **Bill Summary**

7 This Bill amends title 17, chapter 9, subchapter I, section 83 of the Virgin Islands Code
8 by setting the beginning of the school day no earlier than 8:30 am, but does not include extra
9 periods given before the beginning of the regular school day in the determination of the start
10 of the school day.

11 **BR19-0047/September 13, 2019/AA/Reviewed by EEM**