

Board of Education Extends Amnesty Program, Giving Educators More Time and Easier Path to Keep Certification

The extended one-time amnesty gives educators with expired conditional certificates a penalty-free three-year extension and temporarily lowers the recertification requirement from 125 professional development hours to 75 through Dec. 31, 2026.

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The V.I. Board of Education has extended its one-time Amnesty Program for Professional Educator Certification holders, opening a wider window for educators whose certifications have expired or who are facing challenges with recertification. The move is intended to give teachers and other education professionals more flexibility to meet certification requirements while continuing their professional development.

In announcing the extension, the Board said the program is meant to empower educators through streamlined processes and adjusted standards. The initiative applies to professional educator certification holders and is aimed at easing barriers for those who need more time or support to get back into compliance.

One major part of the program focuses on expired conditional certificates. Under the amnesty, educators holding an expired conditional certificate may apply for a penalty-free extension that gives them an additional three years to complete the requirements needed for certification. According to the release, those requirements may include coursework, testing, or teaching experience.

The Board is also temporarily easing the path for educators seeking recertification. During the amnesty period, applicants for recertification will need 75 hours of professional development instead of the standard 125 hours required under the Professional Staff Certification and Higher Education policy.

Board Chair Dr. Kyza A. Callwood said the program reflects the Board's continued support for educators and their long-term success.

"We are proud to launch this amnesty program as a testament to our unwavering support for educators and their professional journeys," said Callwood. "This initiative reflects our deep commitment to empowering educators, equipping them with the tools to succeed in the classroom, and fostering a brighter future for our students."

The Board said the opportunity is effective immediately and will remain available through December 31, 2026.

Educators seeking more information are being directed to the Board's website at www.myviboe.com or to their district certification officers. On St. Thomas, educators may contact jedwards@myviboe.com. On St. Croix, they may contact dmheath@myviboe.com. The Board also listed 340-774-4546 for St. Thomas and 340-772-4144 for St. Croix.

The board said the extended amnesty offers educators an opportunity to restart their certification journey with greater confidence and ease while continuing to help shape the future of education in the territory.