

#GoOpenUSVI: Where Educators Can Explore, Create and Collaborate

A frequent concern of teachers and students alike is the struggle to find instructional materials and content that engage learners in their educational experiences. Teachers and students from the unincorporated territory of the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) have felt this concern strongly, and the Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) delivered an innovative solution. With the support of the Region 3 Comprehensive Center (R3CC) and the embrace of the Open Education Resources (OER) movement, the VIDE has developed a curriculum and instruction microsite, **#GoOpenUSVI**, designed for educators to “curate culturally responsive instructional resources that respect and honor the culture, history, and heritage” of its students and its islands.¹

Launched in August 2021, the **#GoOpenUSVI** microsite aims to provide resources and professional learning for educators that decrease costs for instructional and learning resources and, ultimately, improve student outcomes. The open-access digital library of educational resources currently contains 33 collections organized by various open-source providers with nearly 11,000 resources representing multiple types of materials and topics such as **literacy, Virgin Islands culture and history, and professional development.**



The R3CC team in USVI has been actively working with VIDE stakeholders as a partner to develop and establish **#GoOpenUSVI** as part of its larger curriculum and instruction technical assistance across Pre-K to Grade 12.

For example, R3CC has taken part in discussions to determine the effectiveness of the microsite, leading to the development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to track the implementation of the platform. KPIs include elements such as the number of registered users on **#GoOpenUSVI** microsite, the number of instructional

¹ Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE). (2023). *About VIDE*. <https://goopenusvi.vide.vi/about>

resources curated on the microsite on a monthly basis and the number of times that the curriculum review group meet monthly for ongoing curriculum development. VIDE regularly analyzes these indicators to grow the microsite in the most effective and efficient manner. Recent KPI analysis found that the active awareness campaign of the site led to a four-fold increase in users. This data enables the VIDE to not only understand teachers’ current use of curricula, but to also forecast needs and address them so that teachers have the resources they need to be successful in the classroom.

In related work, the R3CC has supported VIDE in coordinating, revising and updating its standards to address all curriculum concerns across content areas, and thinking through additional professional learning opportunities. This support contributes to VIDE’s long-term outcomes of providing coordinated, aligned and consistent use of the Pre-K to Grade 12 curriculum, standards and other VIDE policies. The microsite plays a critical role in making these resources accessible to educators, families and the community. The R3CC is currently providing guidance on communication plans to build upon the success of the awareness campaign and expand microsite usage to facilitate such access.

The OER movement aims to address the human right of access to high-quality education. Essentially, OERs are educational materials published under open licenses that specify how materials can be used, adapted and shared according to user needs. Using OERs allow educators to develop or adapt instructional materials that will better resonate with their students. Because of this, #GoOpenUSVI allows for co-creation, flexibility, customization and innovation within the curriculum.

All #GoOpenUSVI Groups

Find groups created by #GoOpenUSVI members

Filter By:

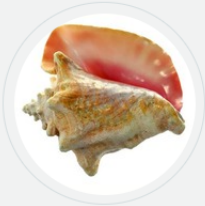
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The long-term goal and overall hope are that the microsite will continue to expand with resources developed or collected by VIDE stakeholders and educators for daily integration into lesson plans. As R3CC continues to assist VIDE in this effort, educators will continue to explore, create and collaborate to support student outcomes. The momentum is already evident as review groups meet for ongoing curriculum development and when teachers work together on curating resources. Through funding provided by the American Rescue Plan, VIDE has secured a license to maintain the microsite for many years to come so educators can meet their students’ academic and cultural needs.

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