

ST. EUSTATIUS EDUCATION PROJECT

Progress Report: Enhancing Higher Education Pathways & Promoting Studying in the Region

Report Date: December 2025
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Project Period: June 2025 - Present
Location: St. Eustatius, Caribbean Netherlands

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This progress report provides a comprehensive overview of the educational consultancy project aimed at enhancing higher education opportunities for students from St. Eustatius. The project focuses on guiding students toward successful post-secondary pathways through data collection, institutional partnerships, and strategic planning.

Key Metric	Achievement
5th Form Survey Response Rate	100%
Student Preparation Timeline	7 months available
Scholarship Range Secured	\$7,500 - \$25,000
MOUs Under Review	1 (William Paterson University)

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS & CURRENT STATUS

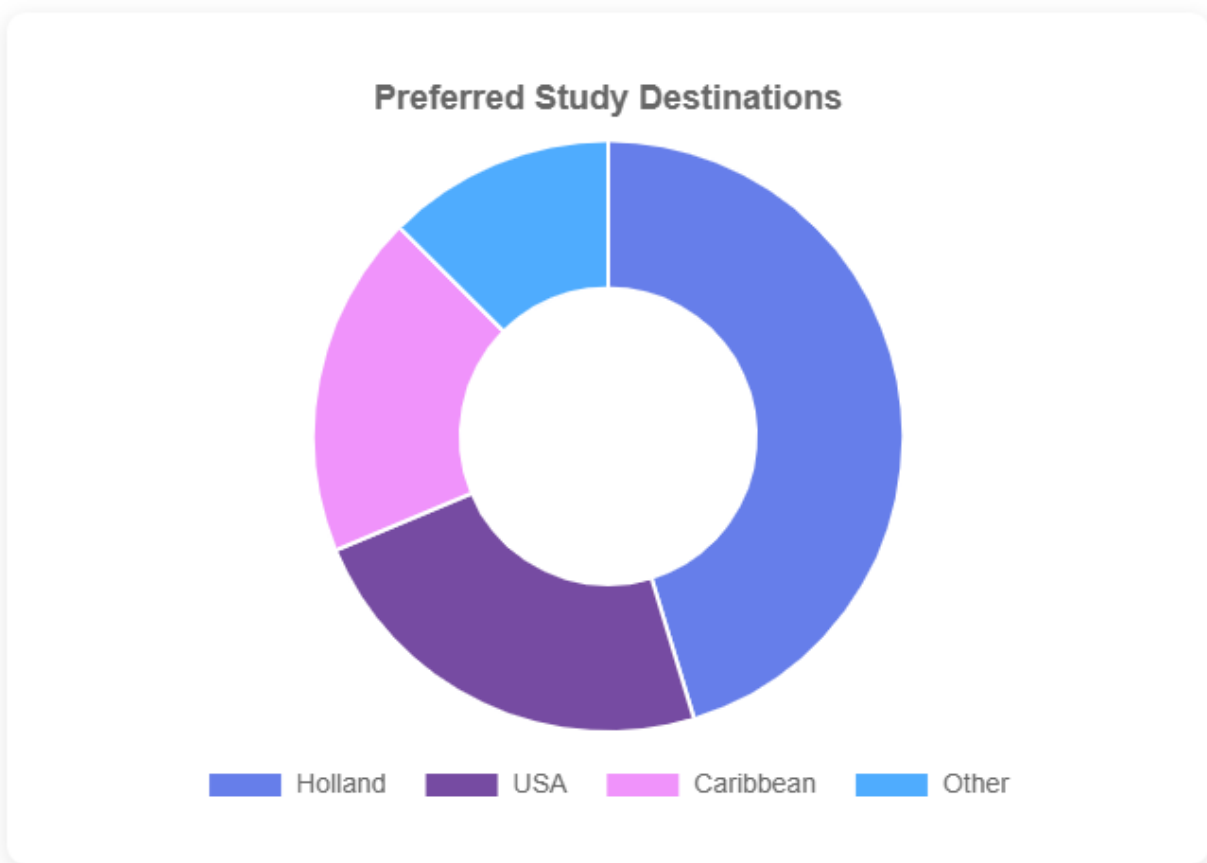
Initiative	Description	Status
1. Inventory of Graduating Students	Successfully completed comprehensive inventory achieving nearly 100% response rate from 5th form students, providing clear data for targeted support.	COMPLETED
2. Inventory of Desired Majors	Comprehensive survey of student major preferences completed. Seven months now available to prepare students for their next steps in Holland or the Region.	COMPLETED
3. Student Guidance Services	Providing ongoing individualized guidance to students, assisting with applications, institutional selection, and career pathway planning.	<i>ONGOING</i>
4. Institutional Shortlist	Preferred list of educational institutions across Caribbean, USA, and Canada finalized based on student needs and institutional quality.	COMPLETED <i>(submitted for internal review and feedback)</i>

Initiative	Description	Status
5. Matching Students with Schools	Active process of matching graduating students with appropriate institutions in the region and mainland USA/Canada based on their majors and capabilities.	<i>ONGOING</i>
6. Partnership Negotiations	Active negotiations with multiple institutions across USA, Canada, and Caribbean region. Creating pathways for affordable education opportunities.	<i>ONGOING</i>
7. Affordable Education Options	Universities offering scholarships ranging from \$7,500 to \$25,000 for St. Eustatius students, making higher education more accessible.	<i>ONGOING</i>
8. MOU Establishment	One MOU drafted and submitted for internal government review (already vetted and approved by William Paterson University).	<u>UNDER REVIEW</u>
9. Training & Workshops	Planning for guidance counselor training and eventual re-establishment of an education office to anchor student services. Target: 2026 execution.	<u>PLANNING</u>
10. Campus Visits Framework	Comprehensive campus visit strategy developed requiring budget allocation and schedule coordination. Awaiting outcomes from St. Kitts and Antigua fact-finding trips.	<u>PENDING</u>

SURVEY RESULTS & ANALYSIS

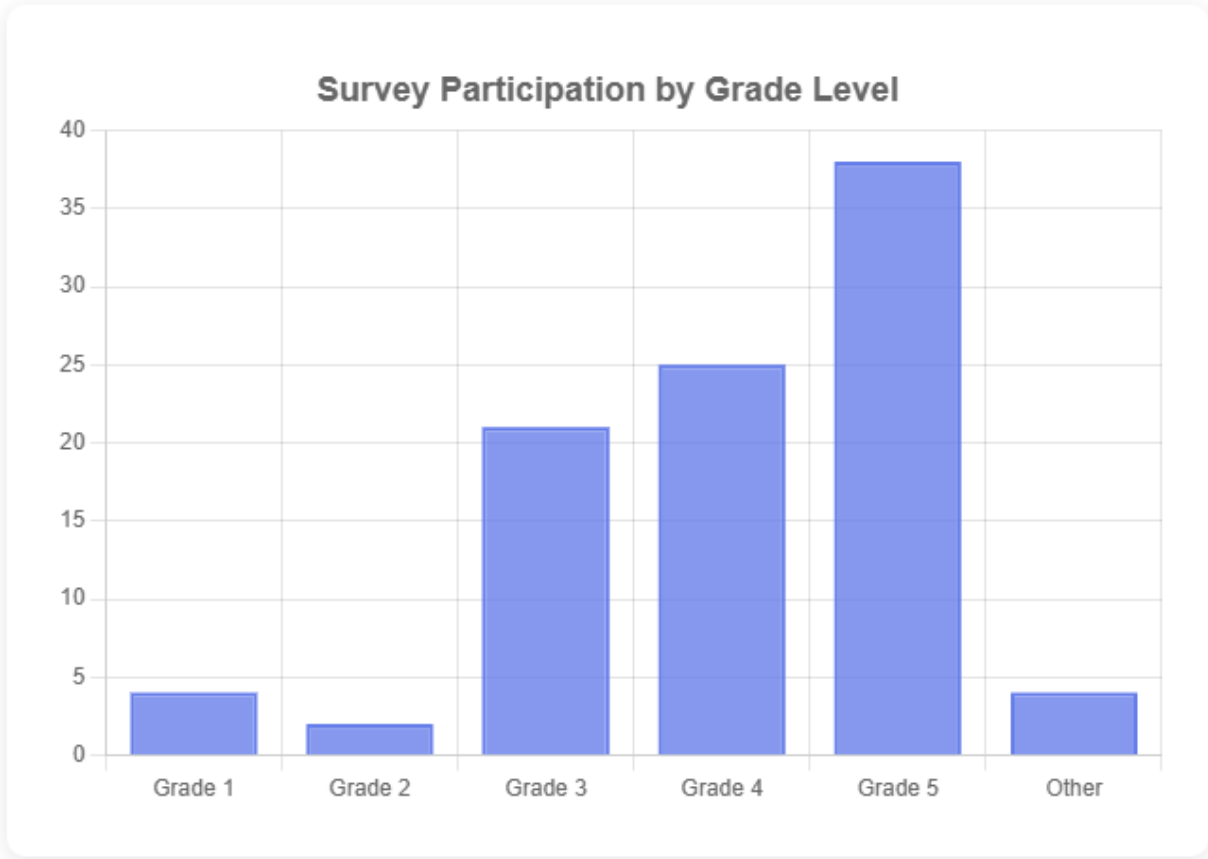
Student Study Destination Preferences

Destination	Percentage
Holland	45.3%
USA	23.4%
Caribbean	18.8%
Other	12.5%



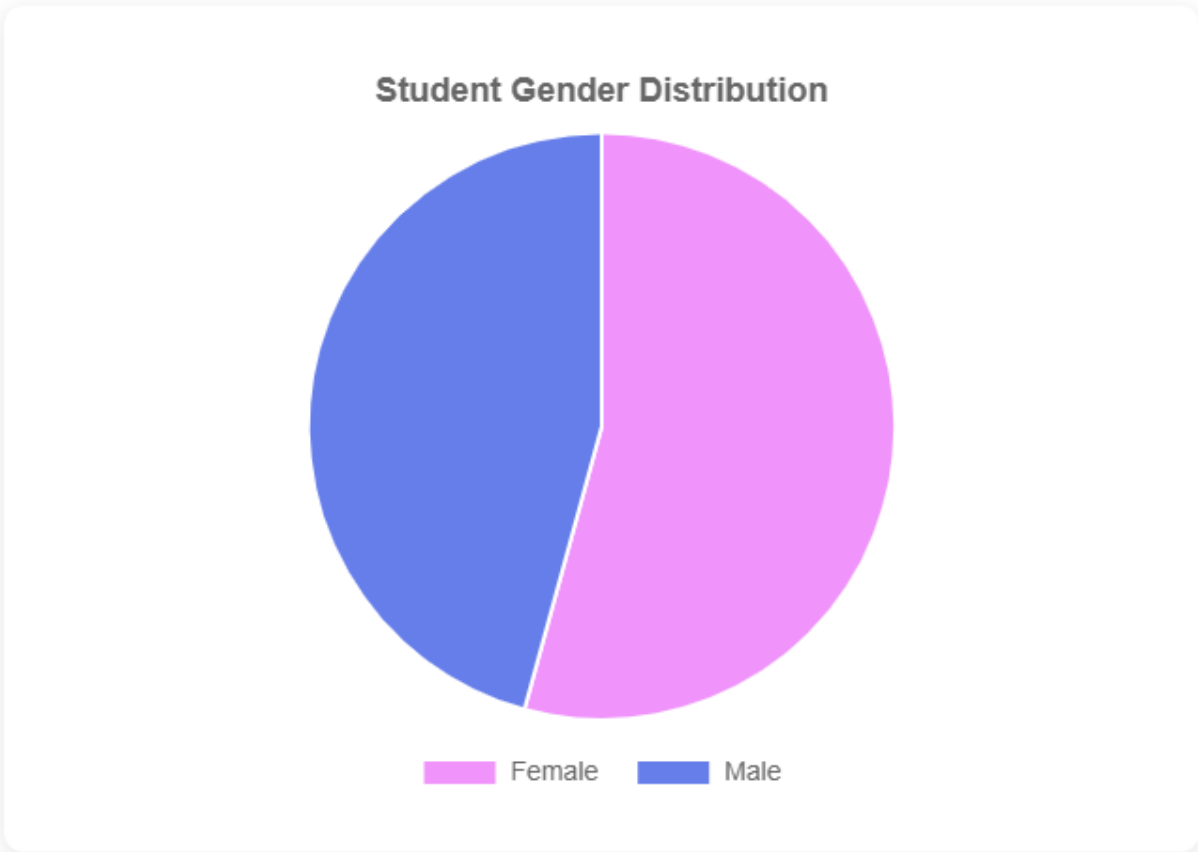
Student Distribution by Grade Level

Grade Level	Number of Students
Grade 1	4
Grade 2	2
Grade 3	21
Grade 4	25
Grade 5	38
Other	4



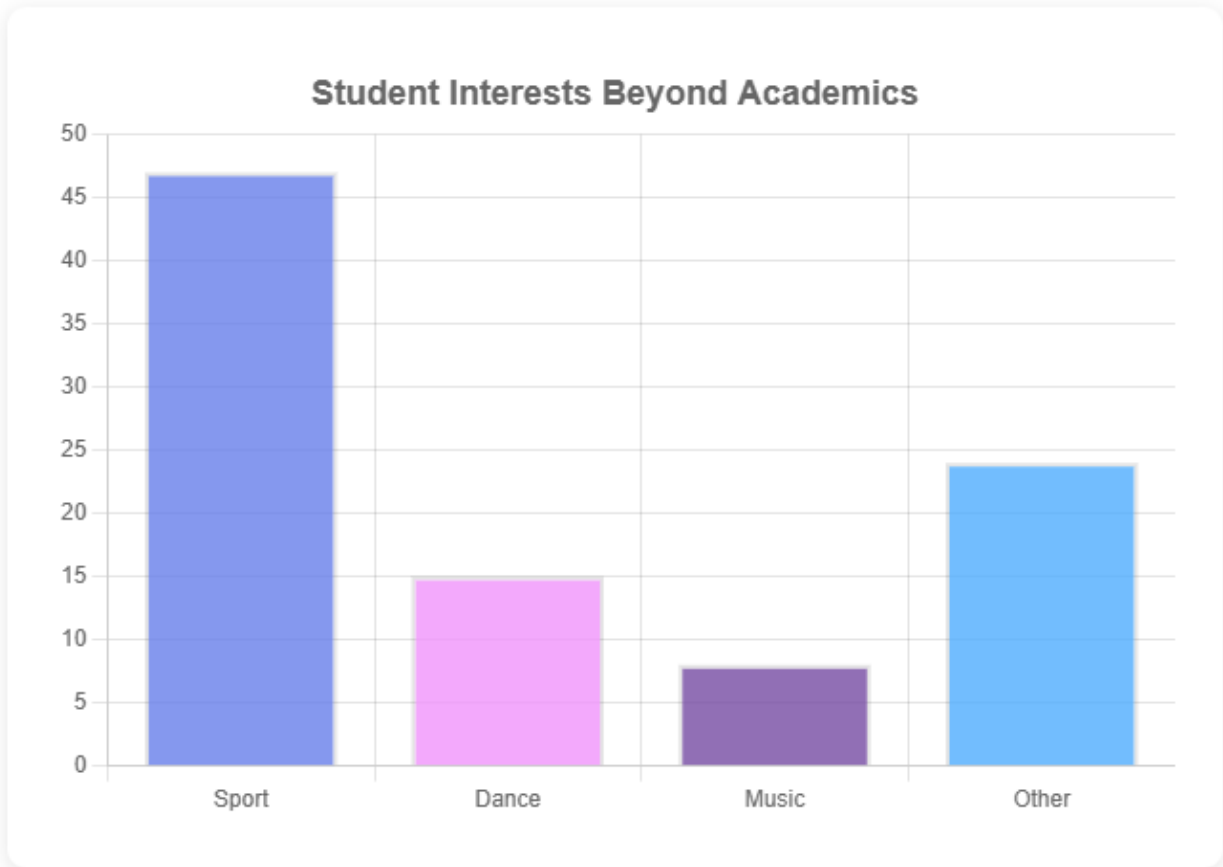
Gender Distribution

Gender	Number of Students
Female	51
Male	43



Student Interests Beyond Academics

Interest Area	Number of Students
Sport	47
Dance	15
Music	8
Other	24



Key Findings:

- **Holland remains the top choice** (45.3%) driven by familiarity and perceived financial advantages
- **USA is the second preference** (23.4%) with growing interest in affordable options
- **100% student survey participation** achieved with support from GvP School counselor(s) and teachers
- **Low parent engagement** (9 responses) indicates need for enhanced parental involvement strategies
- **Popular study fields:** Business, Aviation/Pilot, Law, Medical/Medicine, and Information Technology
- **Underrepresented sectors:** Hospitality, Tourism, Culinary Arts, Construction, Automotive, and Agriculture

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES IN PROGRESS

Partnership Development & Scholarship Opportunities

- **Scholarship Range Secured:** Successfully negotiating with universities offering scholarships ranging from \$7,500 to \$25,000 for St. Eustatius students, significantly reducing financial barriers to higher education
- **William Paterson University (New Jersey):** MOU drafted, vetted, and approved by WP; currently under internal (*St. Eustatius*) government review. Strong athletic programs available
- **Monroe University:** Active discussions with New Rochelle and St. Lucia campuses underway
- **MICIT Trinidad:** Exploring training programs in manufacturing, plastic products, and renewable energy
- **Dominican Republic Institutions:** Researching 7 educational institutions with mandatory preparatory courses
- **Regional Institutions:** Ongoing negotiations with multiple universities across Caribbean, USA, and Canada

Campus Visits Strategy

A comprehensive campus visit framework has been developed to build bridges with educational institutions. Success requires budget allocation, schedule coordination, and commitment from all stakeholders.

Campus Visit Framework - Three Essential Components:

- **Commissioner-Led Visits:** Critical for demonstrating government's commitment to the higher education of its students and the international educational institutions for professional and higher learning. Shows institutional appreciation and builds lasting partnerships
- **Policy Delegation Visits:** Small delegation including designated policy advisor and student care personnel to assess institutional quality and establish operational relationships
- **Counselor & Student Visits:** Proven method enabling career guidance counselors to enhance their effectiveness while giving students firsthand campus life experience before final decisions

Pending Regional Fact-Finding Integration

- **St. Kitts Visit:** Awaiting outcome to incorporate findings into institutional partnerships
- **Antigua Visit:** Awaiting outcome to incorporate findings into institutional partnerships
- **Note:** Campus visits cannot be fully executed until these regional assessments are complete and integrated into overall strategy

Training & Institutional Development (2026 Planning)

- **Guidance Counselor Training:** Planning workshops to enhance counselor capabilities in international education pathways
- **Education Office Re-establishment:** Ambitious goal to create permanent institutional anchor for student services, ensuring sustainability beyond consultancy period
- **Target Timeline:** Framework development in 2025/2026, execution planned for 2026/2027

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Challenges Identified

- Low parental engagement in survey process despite high student participation
- Missed opportunities for planned visits to USA (May 2025) and Holland (August 2025) due to coordination challenges
- Initial resistance from GvP School management regarding survey implementation before summer break
- Strong preference for Holland despite regional education promotion efforts
- Lack of student interest in critical sectors for island development (hospitality, construction, agriculture)

Opportunities for Growth

- William Paterson University MOU could serve as template for future institutional partnerships
- Strong athletic interests among students (noted in surveys) align with WP's sports programs
- Ishn Courtar's success at WP can pave the way for future students
- Comprehensive survey data now provides clear direction for institutional targeting
- Information campaign scheduled for late November 2025 commenced/and on track

RECOMMENDATIONS MOVING FORWARD

Priority Actions:

- **Maximize 7-Month Preparation Window:** Intensive work with 5th form students to prepare them for transition to higher education in Holland or the Region
- **Finalize MOU Process:** Complete internal government review of William Paterson University MOU (already vetted and approved by WP) to formalize scholarship partnership
- **Campus Visit Coordination:** Secure budget allocation and schedule coordination for three-tiered campus visit strategy (Commissioner-led, policy delegation, and counselor/student visits)
- **Integrate Regional Findings:** Incorporate outcomes from St. Kitts and Antigua fact-finding trips into institutional partnership strategy
- **Continue Student-School Matching:** Maintain ongoing process of matching graduating students with appropriate institutions based on majors and capabilities
- **Advance 2026 Planning:** Develop concrete framework for guidance counselor training and education office re-establishment
- **Expand Scholarship Partnerships:** Continue negotiations with additional institutions to increase affordable education options
- **Enhanced Parental Engagement:** Develop targeted strategies to increase parent participation in educational planning processes
- **Career Guidance Enhancement:** Involve professionals from underrepresented sectors (hospitality, construction, agriculture) in student information sessions
- **Priority Profession List:** Collaborate with Labor Office to align educational pathways with island workforce needs

TIMELINE & NEXT STEPS

Immediate Actions (December 2025 - January 2026)

- Finalize William Paterson University MOU
- Complete pre-departure preparations for 2 WP students
- Launch information campaign for students and parents
- Continue institutional partnership negotiations

Short-term Goals (February - June 2026)

- Strong consideration should be given to Holland exploratory visit with 3-person delegation
- Conduct USA university tour (New Jersey, New York, Florida)
- Monitor and support WP students' transition and academic progress
- Finalize preferred institution shortlist with government approval

Long-term Vision (2026-2027)

- Establish multiple MOUs with institutions across Caribbean, USA, and Holland
- Create comprehensive career guidance program incorporating priority professions
- Develop parent engagement strategy for sustained involvement
- Build sustainable framework for annual student cohorts

CONCLUSION

The St. Eustatius Education Project has achieved significant milestones with the completion of critical inventory and planning phases. The nearly 100% response rate from 5th form students provides an exceptional foundation for targeted student preparation over the next seven months. The finalized preferred institutional shortlist, combined with secured scholarship opportunities ranging from \$7,500 to \$25,000, demonstrates substantial progress in making higher education accessible and affordable.

Key accomplishments include successful student-major inventories, ongoing institutional negotiations across USA, Canada, and the Caribbean region, and the submission of the first MOU (William Paterson University) for government review. The comprehensive campus visit framework awaits budget allocation and schedule coordination, while integration of St. Kitts and Antigua fact-finding outcomes will further strengthen institutional partnerships.

Looking ahead to 2026, ambitious plans for guidance counselor training and education office re-establishment signal commitment to long-term sustainability beyond the consultancy period. The current momentum—matching students with appropriate institutions, negotiating additional partnerships, and creating affordable pathways—positions the project to significantly enhance success rates for St. Eustatius students pursuing higher education.

With continued government support, stakeholder collaboration, budget allocation for campus visits, and strategic execution of the seven-month student preparation window, this project will transform educational opportunities for St. Eustatius youth while building institutional capacity to serve future generations.