

# DHH/VI Screenings & Beyond

**Audiology Screenings**  
**VI Screenings-Prevent Blindness**  
**DHH, VI & DB Resources**



# Facts about Hearing & Vision Screenings

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- Hearing and vision screenings improve access to the general education curriculum and increase student success.
- Mass screenings do not require parent permission.
- The prevalence of vision loss in school-age children is one in four children.



# Facts about Hearing & Vision Screenings

- The prevalence of hearing loss in children ages birth to five is 3 in 1000, but it goes up to 9 in 1000 for school-aged children.
- Hearing and vision screenings are recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Georgia Department of Public Health for all school-aged children in Grades 1, 3, 5 and 8.
- Additionally, all students suspected of having a hearing or vision problem should be screened.



# Facts about Hearing & Vision Screenings

- Georgia requires hearing and vision screenings in the following situations:
  - Upon school entry
    - Certificate of Vision, Hearing, Dental, And Nutrition Screening (3300 Form).
  - During the special education comprehensive evaluation process, if suspected of having a disability in this area.

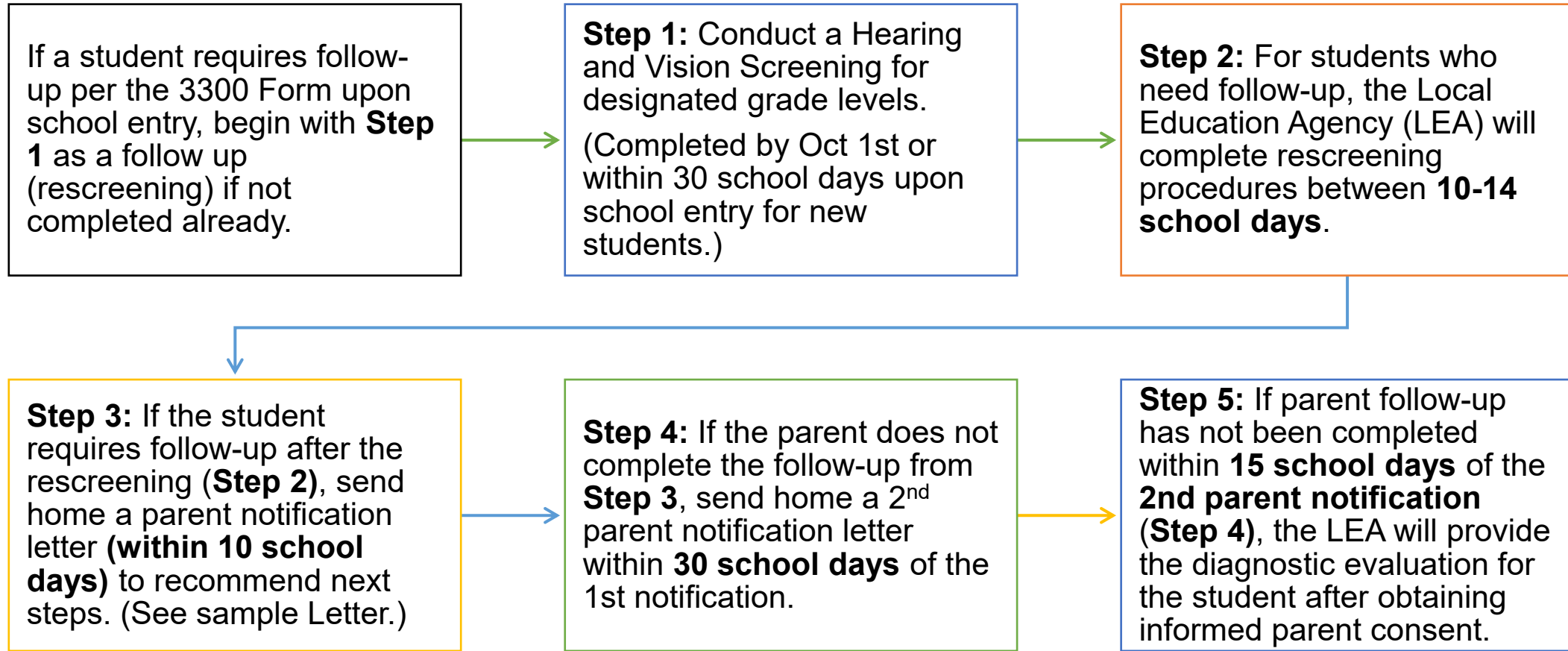
# The Challenge



- Research data shows that children with hearing or vision loss who are identified through mass hearing screenings and receive services earlier have better outcomes in language, literacy, and academics.  
→ However, there is a shortage of services for follow-up identification, which can be a challenge for school districts.

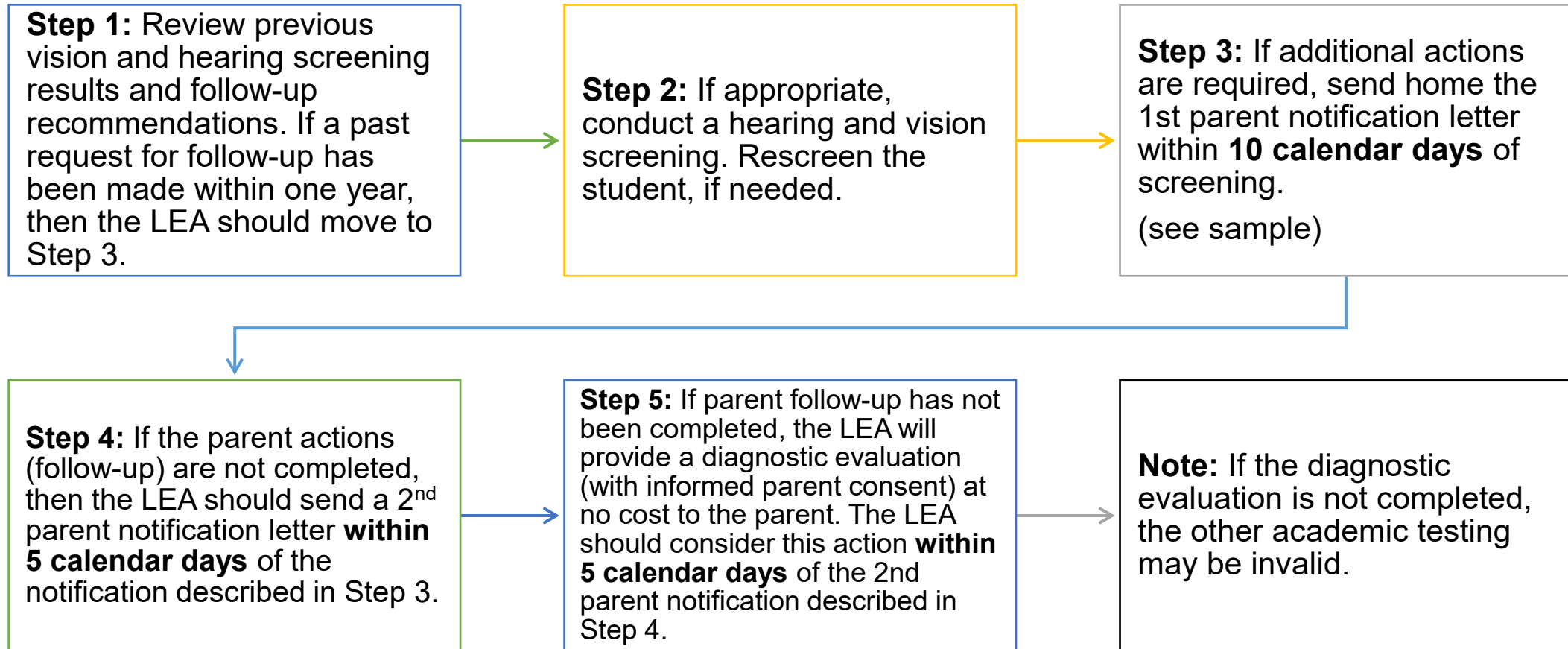
# Mass Hearing & Vision Screenings

*Flow Chart (Best Practice Guidance)*



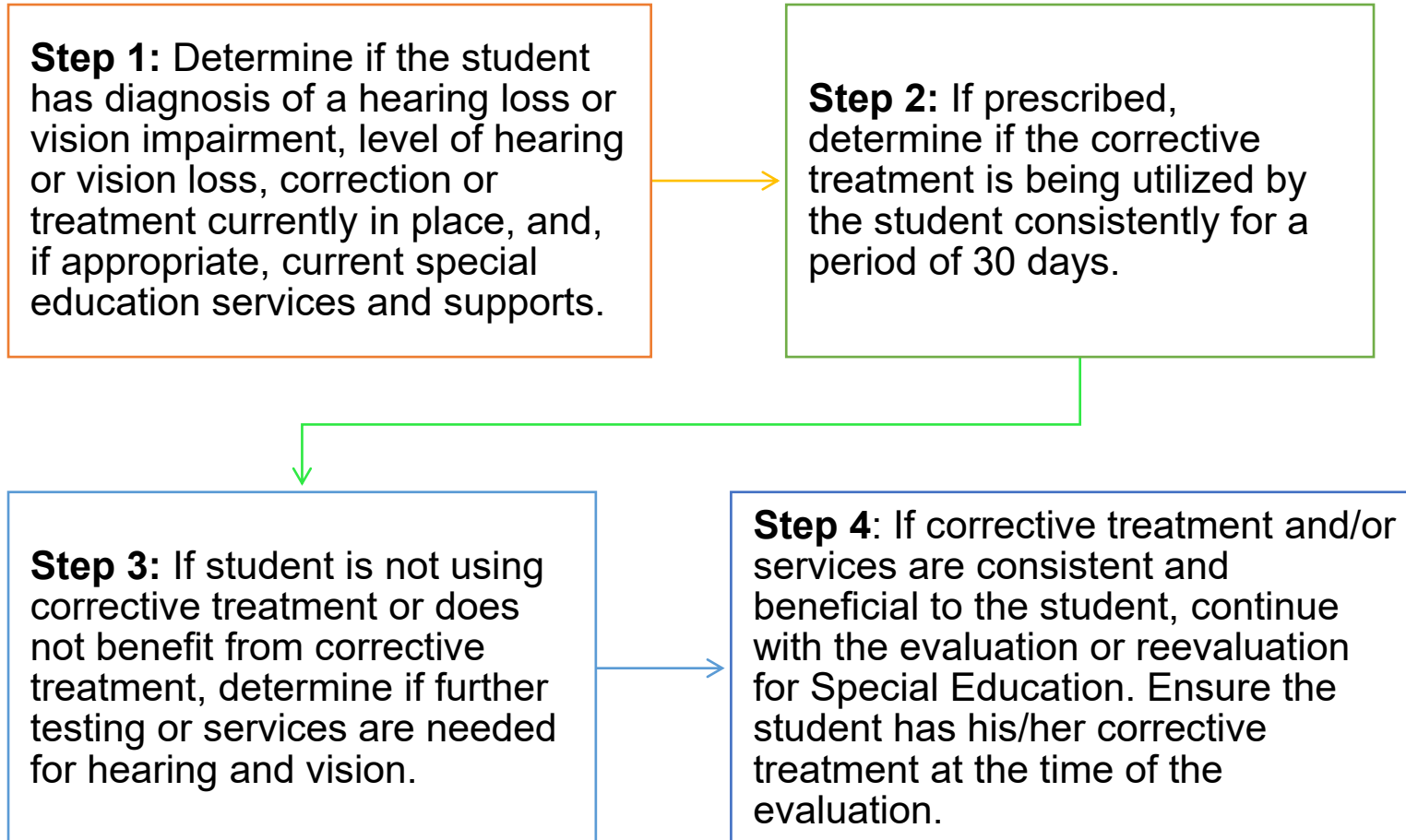
# Hearing & Vision Screenings

*Flow Chart for Referrals to Evaluation for Special Education (Best Practice Guidance)*



# Hearing & Vision Considerations

*For Special Education Evaluations (Best Practice Guidance)*





# Prevent Blindness Georgia



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# Prevent Blindness Georgia

## Children's Vision Screening Certification Course

- Professionals in Educational & Public Health Settings
- PreK to School-Aged Children

**Certification Course provides participants with a 3-year, nationally recognized certificate that covers:**

- Current guidelines and best practices on evidence-based vision screening
- Tools and procedures for preschool and school-aged children
- Eye conditions and vision problems
- Screening considerations for preschool, Head Start, school, or community-based settings
- Referrals and follow up documentation procedures and considerations
- Children that are automatic referrals

# Prevent Blindness Georgia

## Star Pupils Children's Vision Screening Program

- According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology only 40% of children get their eye checked, that seems a low number given that roughly 80% of what a child learns is through their vision.
- The Star Pupils Vision Screening Program has Certified Vision Screeners across the state of Georgia. Before the Pandemic we screened more than 37,000 children annually, with a referral rate of approximately 8% for children requiring further eye care. Referred Children are often found to have potentially sight-stealing conditions such as:
  - Amblyopia (reduced vision due to inadequate use of the eye(s) during early childhood), and
  - Strabismus (the eyes are not straight or properly aligned), and significant refractive error (blurry vision due to poor focus of light rays on the retina)

# Prevent Blindness Georgia

## Star Pupils Children's Vision Screening Program

- With amblyopia specifically, if the vision condition goes undetected, there is a potential the child's cornea will detach from the retina, causing them to go blind.
- Our aim is to make sure no child needlessly goes blind and has the best possible chance at being “vision ready” to learn for school.
- We also assist families in finding resources for care such as vouchers and replacement eyeglasses for those who cannot afford them.

# School Age Screening Resources

- GA DOE – Trainings for Hearing & Vision Screenings
  - [Webinars for Hearing & Vision screenings](#)
  - Training for Hearing Screenings
    - Contact Georgia Mobile Audiology Program
    - [www.gamobileaudiology.org](http://www.gamobileaudiology.org)
  - Division of State Schools
    - DHH Outreach Coordinator: Vanessa Robisch
    - [VRobisch@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:VRobisch@doe.k12.ga.us)
    - VI Outreach Coordinator: Zelma Murray
    - [ZMurray@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ZMurray@doe.k12.ga.us)

# School Age Screening Resources

- Georgia's (new) Georgia Mobile Audiology
  - [www.gamobileaudiology.org](http://www.gamobileaudiology.org)
  - Program Manager: Monica Glapion
  - [monica.patterson@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:monica.patterson@doe.k12.ga.us)
- [Prevent Blindness Georgia](#)
  - Vice President of Childrens Vision Services: Shavette L. Turner
  - [sturner@pbga.org](mailto:sturner@pbga.org)
- Free or low-cost [glasses](#) & [hearing aids](#) for children

# And Beyond.....

- VI Resources
- DHH Resources
- DB Resources

# State Vision Coordinator

- Georgia Academy for the Blind is the hub for support to the local districts for all things vision.
- Most children with vision loss (appropriate for services for Visual Impaired/Blind) enter school already identified and are under the care of an eye doctor.
- Children already identified are not required to participate in the screening process and VI Eligibility can be established quickly and the student start receiving services right away.



# State Vision Coordinator

- After receiving an eye report from the clinical eye care specialist, the Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI) must conduct the following assessments required for eligibility:
  - Functional Vision Assessment
  - Learning Media Assessment
- Expanded Core Curriculum Assessment (ECC)
  - can be completed after establishing eligibility

# State Vision Coordinator

If eligibility is questionable, then the TVI should complete the ECC Assessment in order to ascertain if the student has deficits in any of the following areas:

- Compensatory,
- Orientation and Mobility,
- Social Interaction,
- Independent Living Skills,
- Recreation and Leisure,
- Career Education,
- Assistive Technology,
- Sensory Efficiency Skills, and
- Self-Determination

# State Vision Coordinator

\* The TVI is responsible for teaching skills related to the ECC. The role of the State Vision Coordinator is to support parents, TVIs, and administrators across the state.

\* We conduct 2 statewide vision consortiums annually that includes all state updates as well as professional learning specific to the needs of TVI's across the state.

All updated Information is distributed to the Georgia VI-Google Group.

# The Smokey Powell Center

## Low Vision Clinics/Evaluations

- Required for VI Eligibility if the student has usable vision and can participate in the evaluation
- The Low Vision Evaluation (LVE) must be conducted by an eye doctor who is specialized in the area of Low Vision.
- Our services are provided to school aged students aged 3-22 who have an IEP or are in the process of developing an eligibility for Visually Impaired.
- There are several clinics throughout the school year in various locations throughout the state.
- All services are free- at no charge to the parent or the school districts.

# DHH Support/Outreach

## Consortiums and Professional Learning

- Monthly emails to more than 700
- Regional consortiums- seven areas of the state
- On-going professional learning through the consortiums as well as non-traditional DHH learnings going on this year
- Slack Platform- online platform specifically for any educational professional working with DHH students
- Monthly outreach meetings with State Schools Staff, Georgia PINES, GMA, the Smokey Powell Center as well as GSAP to provide consistent messaging for students with sensory losses

# Georgia Mobile Audiology

[www.gamobileaudiology.org](http://www.gamobileaudiology.org)



NEWBORN  
HEARING  
SCREENING  
FOLLOW-UP



DIAGNOSTIC  
NON-SEDATED  
AUDITORY  
BRAINSTEM  
RESPONSE  
(ABR)  
EVALUATIONS



DIAGNOSTIC  
BEHAVIORAL  
TESTING



HEARING AID  
MANAGEMENT\*



FAMILY  
EDUCATION



COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH



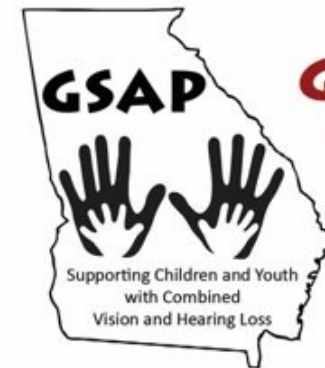
CARE  
COORDINATION

# Georgia Sensory Assistance Project

- GSAP is a federal special education grant project that supports educators and families of students with combined vision and hearing loss (aka deaf-blindness) ages birth-21 years.
- Students with deaf-blindness often need additional support in order to learn, communicate, and interact with the world.
- GSAP provides consultation, training, and resources for educators, service providers, and families to address sensory, communication, learning, and behavior needs.

# Georgia Sensory Assistance Project

- If a student has a known loss in hearing or vision, it is best practice to screen the other sense. Don't wait and see!!!
- If you know a student who has combined vision and hearing loss or suspect combined loss, contact Carol Darrah
  - [cdarrah@uga.edu](mailto:cdarrah@uga.edu)
- Visit our website for more information
  - <https://tinyurl.com/gsapweb>



**G**EORGIA  
**S**ENSORY  
**A**SSISTANCE  
**P**ROJECT



# Additional Resources

- GA DOE – Division of State Schools
  - DHH Outreach Coordinator: Vanessa Robisch - [VRobisch@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:VRobisch@doe.k12.ga.us)
  - VI Outreach Coordinator: Zelma Murray - [ZMurray@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ZMurray@doe.k12.ga.us)
- Georgia Sensory Assistance Project (GSAP)
  - Carol Darrah - [cdarrah@uga.edu](mailto:cdarrah@uga.edu)
  - <https://tinyurl.com/gsapweb>
- Smokey Powell Center
  - Zelma Murray - [ZMurray@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ZMurray@doe.k12.ga.us)
- Georgia Mobile Audiology
  - Monica Glapion - [monica.patterson@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:monica.patterson@doe.k12.ga.us)
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# Questions?