

Georgia Department of Education

Zel Murray

State-wide Consultant for Visual Impairments



Richard Woods,
Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"
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State Vision Consultant

- The State VI Consultant Position has been moved from Atlanta to the Georgia Academy for the Blind in Macon, Georgia
- Georgia Academy for the Blind is the hub for support to the local districts for all things vision
- The role of the State Vision Consultant is to support parents, Teachers of the Visual Impaired, and administrators across the state

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Outreach Department of the Georgia Academy for the Blind Smokey Powell Center

Toni Prahll

Outreach Consultant for Visually Impaired

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The Smokey Powell Center for Assistive Technology

- Our services are provided to school aged students aged 3-22 who have an IEP Eligibility for Visually Impaired.
- The SPC has been in operation since 2007 because of a generous endowment from a man named James Emory "Smokey" Powell.
- All of our services are free-no charge to the parent or the school districts.

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The Smokey Powell Center for Assistive Technology

Five Main Components

1. Low Vision Clinics
2. AT Consultations
3. Outreach Services
4. Professional Learning Classes
5. Instructional Support

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Low Vision Clinics

- Required for VI Eligibility if the student has usable vision and can participate in the evaluation
- The LVE must be conducted by an eye doctor who is specialized in the area of Low Vision
- There are 16 clinics throughout the school year—12 are held at SPC and 4 are off site
- Typically the student is prescribed a telescope, magnifier, and specialized sunlenses all at no cost



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Assistive Technology Consultation

- Conducted at the student's school anywhere in the state of Georgia
- Equipment is often very expensive up to \$6,000 or more
- Our loan program gives the student the opportunity to try the equipment for one year
- The LEA has the opportunity to purchase at a much discounted price



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Outreach Services

- Our consultants travel to schools around the state not just for equipment consultations but also for providing support to the Teacher of the Visually Impaired and classroom teachers in any area of concern
- We are also available for consultation by phone or email: 478-751-6083 ext. 3624
- zmurray@doe.k12.ga.us
- tprahl@doe.k12.ga.us



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Professional Learning Classes

- The most important professional training for TVIs is the annual Georgia Vision Educators Statewide Training (October 16 – 18, 2019) visit www.gvest.org
- We offer several all-day or two-day trainings that address the unique educational needs of students with visual impairments that help TVIs stay current with developing technology and techniques used with our students

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Instructional Support

* We have recently expanded our outreach services to include referrals to experts at GAB who will provide instructional support and one on one training to TVIs and their students around the state who have a specific need

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- For services from the SPC, contact Heather Francis at hfrancis@doe.k12.ga.us

OR

- * Visit our website at www.gabmacon.org and see the Smokey Powell tab

The staff members of the SPC include Toni Prah, Zel Murray, Jim Downs, Heather Francis, and Lisa Edalgo