



Assistive Technology and its Role in Education for Students with Vision Impairments

Assistive technology (AT) impacts the lives of students today in ways undreamed of even 10 years ago. It has followed in the footsteps of mainstream technology, offering solutions for students with disabilities. This webinar focuses on low vision and blindness issues. Peggy and Caren will provide an overview of educational services from the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI), and assistive technology in the form of magnifiers, magnification software, speech access, optical character recognition, braille, specialized apps, and built-in system accessibility. They will also provide resources, as well as a list of vendors for AT products that may be added to an educator's "toolbox" of solutions for students with vision impairments.



FREE REGISTRATION

Please click on one of the links below for registration

[Monday,](#)

[November 15, 2021](#)

[12:00 PM - 1:00 PM EST](#)

[Monday,](#)

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Peggy Fields

Director of Rehabilitation Technology Services

Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI)

BIO

Peggy received her BS in Special Education from Indiana University of PA, her MS in Learning Disabilities from Virginia Commonwealth University, and her PhD from George Mason University in Assistive Technology and Adult Education.

Peggy has held the role of Communications/Computer Technology Instructor at the Virginia Rehabilitation Center for the Blind and Vision Impaired from 1984-1996, Rehabilitation Technology Specialist 1996-2005, and Program Director of Rehab Tech Services from 2005 to present. She also acted as an adjunct professor at George Mason University from 2017-2021.

Peggy currently lives in Richmond, Virginia, with her husband, Bob, and her daughters Lainey (Bob), Erin (Nick), and her grandchildren Cecilia, Genevieve, Colin, and Emalyn Jane.



Caren E. Phipps

Director of Services for Children and Youth

Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI)

BIO

Caren is responsible for ensuring that children and students in Virginia who are vision impaired, blind, and deafblind have the services and resources they need in order to receive an appropriate education. Additionally, she is tasked with providing training on an array of subjects to families and professional staff. Caren is also responsible for assisting with the agency's Pre-Employment Transition programming and works closely with the Education Coordinators, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors, and Workforce Specialists to provide a range of career development and work experience opportunities to students and youth.

Caren has a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and is certified nationally as a Vocational Evaluator. She has an extensive background in the area of Vocational Evaluation, Vocational Rehabilitation, Counseling, and Career Development. She also holds licenses in Virginia as a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Caren has also acted in a consultative capacity with the Canadian College of Vocational Rehabilitation Professionals (CVRP) in the development of questions for the new International Certified Vocational Evaluator (ICVE) exam. She was also recently appointed as a member of the Virginia Department of Education's State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC). Her passion is assisting individuals in identifying their strengths and empowering them to overcome barriers and reach their personal goals.



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