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Kathleen Smith

Kathleen Smith directs the office of school improvement for the Virginia Department of Education. She provides technical assistance to department staff and school divisions regarding the school improvement process in low-performing, and often high-poverty, schools. She also serves as the department specialist for state-funded remediation programs. Her role at the department also included the establishment and implementation of the Partnership for Achieving Successful Schools (PASS) initiative with support from the Governor's office. This initiative supported the improvement of thirty-schools identified for school improvement under NCLB. She was also the administrator of the Virginia Preschool Program. Before joining the department, Dr. Smith has worked as career technical director in a high-poverty school division and a program manager for an education and employment program serving economically disadvantaged high school dropouts. She has served as an educational resource specialist for elementary students. Dr. Smith has a doctoral degree in educational planning, policy and leadership from the College of William and Mary.