



Ohio Unified English Braille (UEB) Transition Plan 2014-2018

Introduction

In November 2012, the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) voted to adopt Unified English Braille (UEB) as an official code for the United States. BANA held its first UEB Transition Forum in October 2013 at the American Printing House for the Blind Annual Meeting to coordinate the transition from the existing code to UEB. The Forum included 48 delegates from 31 organizations from the braille community. Participants chose the date of January 4, 2016 (Louis Braille's birthday) as the date by which most phases or plans of the transition to UEB would be completed or in place.

The formal motion approved by BANA reads as follows:

“Therefore, it is moved that the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) adopts Unified English Braille to replace the current English Braille American Edition in the United States while maintaining the *Nemeth Code for Mathematics and Science Notation, 1972 Revision*; the *Music Braille Code 1997*; and the *IPA Braille Code, 2008*. The official braille codes for the United States will be *Unified English Braille, Nemeth Code for Mathematics and Science Notation, 1972 Revision* and published updates; *Music Braille Code, 1997*; and *The IPA Braille Code, 2008*;
And, that the *Guidelines and Standards for Tactile Graphics 2010* and *Braille Formats: Principles of Print-to-Braille Transcription 2011* continue to be used in the United States as well as other relevant guidelines developed for specialized and uniquely-formatted materials;
And, that BANA will immediately embark on implementation by developing a preliminary transition timetable and by forming a group of related committees composed of stakeholders from the consumer, educational, and transcription and production communities. These committees will be charged with helping to plan in their respective areas for the development of training materials and for other relevant aspects of the transition. These plans will take into consideration all aspects of creating, teaching, learning, and using braille in a wide variety of settings.”

Since the passing of the BANA motion, states have been meeting, planning, and implementing the transition from the current code, English Braille American Edition (EBAE), to UEB. The Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials (CISAM) invited 17 individuals representing agencies/schools in the braille community to participate in the first Ohio Unified English Braille (UEB) Transition Committee on September 26, 2014.

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During that meeting, participants developed the first draft of the Ohio Unified English Braille (UEB) Transition Plan 2014-2018. The transition plan included Ohio's plan to transition administrators, pre-service teachers in The Ohio State University vision program, students who use braille in K-12 classrooms, teachers, adult service providers, and transcribers from the current code to UEB. The plan included timelines and methods to assist targeted populations in the transition to the new code. On November 13 and December 8, 2014, the committee met to review, revise, and finalize the plan.

Implementation of this plan involves the collaboration of state and national partners and may change as new information becomes available.

The Ohio UEB Transition Plan 2014-2018 was disseminated to:

- American Council of the Blind of Ohio
- Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired of Ohio (AERO)
- Autism Spectrum Disorders/Low Incidence Collaborative
- Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials (CISAM)
- Council for Exceptional Children, Division on Visual Impairments and Deafblindness (CEC-DVIDB)
- Ohio Center for Deafblind Education (OCDBE)
- Ohio State School for the Blind (OSSB)
- Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children (ODE-OEC)
- Regional State Support Teams (SSTs)
- The Ohio State University (OSU), Program in Visual Impairment

The document was posted on the CISAM website at <http://www.cisam.ossb.oh.gov> and the ODE website.

For further information or details on BEST course offerings, contact CISAM.

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Acronyms

ACBO	American Council of the Blind of Ohio
AERO	Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired of Ohio
AMPC	Accessible Materials Production Center
BANA	Braille Authority of North America
BEST	Braille Excellence for Students and Teachers Grant
CEC	Council for Exceptional Children
CISAM	Center for Instructional Supports and Accessible Materials
CNIB	Canadian National Institute for the Blind
COMS	Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist
CTVI	Certified Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments
DVIDB	Division on Visual Impairments and Deafblindness
DBT	Duxbury Braille Translation Software
EBAE	English Braille American Edition
GBSC	Grafton Braille Service Center
NBA	National Braille Association
NFB	National Federation of the Blind
NIMAS	National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard
OCDBE	Ohio Center for Deafblind Education
ODE-OEC	Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children
OSU	The Ohio State University
SSTs	State Support Teams
UEB	Unified English Braille
UEBOT	Unified English Braille Online Training

The content of this inservice was developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

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Implementation Overview

Fall 2014	Development of Statewide UEB Transition Plan
Fall 2014	Links available for UEB self-study and training on CISAM website and disseminated on CISAM listservs
2014 – 2015	Train transcribers, teachers, pre-service teachers, and adult service providers
2014 – 2018	Ongoing Technical Support and Assistance related to UEB implementation
2014 – 2015	GBSC provides materials per customer requests in EBAE or UEB
2015 - 2016	CISAM AMPC produces all training materials for teachers in UEB
2015 – 2016	CTVIs begin teaching UEB to students
2016 – 2017	All new materials produced for students/schools in UEB
Through 2017	State assessments in EBAE and UEB
Beginning 2018	State assessments in UEB

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Administrators/Supervisors Communication and Implementation Responsibilities (Share with Appropriate Staff)

Fall 2014 – 2018	Share trainings with appropriate staff
Fall 2014	Links available for UEB self-study and training on CISAM website and disseminated on CISAM listservs
February 27, 2015	BEST Transition Introduction to UEB presented by certified transcriber
June 8-12, 2015	BEST Regional UEB Trainings by certified transcriber - Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, and Cincinnati

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Pre-service Teachers

Fall 2014

Links available for UEB self-study and training on
CISAM website and disseminated on CISAM listservs

June 2015

UEBOT modules available

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Students

Spring 2015	Students begin learning UEB as materials become available
Fall 2015	Students continue learning UEB with the expectation that all new materials produced for the 2016-2017 school year will be in UEB
Fall 2016	Students receive new materials in UEB
Through 2017	Students can take state assessments in EBAE or UEB
Beginning 2018	Students take state assessments in UEB

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Teachers

August-September, 2014	BEST Basic Braille Course; UEB materials provided to course participants
2014-2018	Technical support and assistance related to UEB implementation
September 17-18, 2014	BEST DBT Training
Fall 2014	Links available for UEB self-study and training on CISAM website and disseminated on CISAM listservs
Winter 2014	CEC-DVIDB UEB Online Training Webinar
January 12-15, 2015	BEST DBT Training
February 27, 2015	BEST Transition Introduction to UEB presented by certified transcriber
April 13-17, 2015	Follow-up BEST DBT Training
Spring 2015	CTVIs begin teaching UEB to students as materials become available
June 2015	UEBOT modules available
June 8-12, 2015	BEST Regional UEB Trainings by certified transcriber – Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, and Cincinnati
June 15-18, 2015	Weeklong BEST Basic Braille course
June 22-25, 2015	Weeklong BEST Basic Nemeth course
July 6-9, 2015	Weeklong BEST Advanced Braille course
July 13-16, 2015	Weeklong BEST Advanced Nemeth course
Fall 2015	AMPC produces all CISAM/BEST training materials in UEB; other materials produced in UEB or EBAE based on requests

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Teachers (continued)

Fall 2015	BEST Basic Braille Blended course (follow-up to Weeklong BEST Basic Braille course)
Fall 2015	CTVIs continue teaching UEB to students
Fall 2015	Educators receive all CISAM AMPC training materials in UEB
Fall 2016	All new materials produced for schools will be in UEB
Through 2017	State assessments will be in EBAE and UEB
Beginning 2018	All state assessments will be in UEB

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Adult Service Providers

Fall 2014	Links available for UEB self-study and training on CISAM website and disseminated on CISAM listservs
February 27, 2015	BEST Transition Introduction to UEB presented by a certified transcriber
June 8-12, 2015	BEST Regional Trainings by certified transcriber – Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, and Cincinnati

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Transcribers

July 2014	10 GBSC transcribers are CNIB certified
September 17-18, 2014	BEST DBT Training
September 23-24, 2014	BEST DBT Training at GBSC
Fall 2014	Links available for UEB self-study and training on CISAM website and disseminated on CISAM listservs
October 23-25, 2014	AMPC staff attend NBA UEB Conference
Winter 2014	CEC-DVIDB UEB Online Training Webinar
January 12-15, 2015	BEST DBT Training
February 27, 2015	BEST Transition Introduction to UEB presented by certified transcriber
March 17-18, 2015	Follow-up BEST DBT Training at GBSC
March 31, 2015	GBSC BEST UEB Training
April 13-17, 2015	Follow-up BEST DBT Training
June 8-12, 2015	BEST Regional Trainings by certified transcriber – Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, and Cincinnati
June 15-18, 2015	Weeklong BEST Basic Braille course
June 22-25, 2015	Weeklong BEST Basic Nemeth course
July 6-9, 2015	Weeklong BEST Advanced Braille course
July 13-16, 2015	Weeklong BEST Advanced Nemeth course
Fall 2015	BEST Basic Braille Blended course (follow-up to Weeklong BEST Basic Braille course)

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Transcribers (continued)

Fall 2015

AMPC produces all CISAM/BEST training materials in UEB

Fall 2016

All new materials produced for schools will be in UEB

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UEB Tutorials and Resources

Braille Authority of North America (BANA)

<http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb.html>

BANA 's website provides information on UEB implementation and resources.

The ABCs of UEB: A Guide for the Transition from English Braille American Edition (EBAE) to The Rules of Unified English Braille (UEB)

This document outlines the major differences between English Braille, American Edition (EBAE) and UEB.

<http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb.html>

Scalar's Publishing

Ashcroft's Programmed Instruction: Unified English Braille

(ISBN 978-0-9960353-0-9, \$98.50)

Ashcroft's Programmed Instruction Companion Reader: Unified English Braille

(ISBN 978-0-9960353-2-3, \$38.50)

<http://www.scalarpublishing.com/>

Hadley School for the Blind Course

Transitioning to Unified English Braille (Available free in 2015, \$99.00 thereafter)

A certificate is awarded for successful completion of the course, which notes the CEUs, grade, date completed. It is not based on a semester enrollment, but is an open enrollment.

<http://hadley.edu/>

CNIB Transcriber's UEB Course

Transcribers, proofreaders, and TVIs can access this self-directed course that covers eleven topics with fifteen practice exercises.

<http://www.cnib.ca/en/living/braille/Pages/Transcribers-UEB-Course.aspx>

UEB Online Braille Training for Sighted Learners

UEB Online is a new training program for sighted people to learn UEB from RIDBC in Sydney. This program is appropriate for teachers, paraprofessionals, and other professionals supporting children and adults with vision impairment. UEB Online consists of 30 lessons that are sub-divided into two modules. For those wishing a Certificate of Completion, RIDBC Renwick Centre offers certificates for each of the two modules, with a processing fee of \$50.

<http://uebonline.org/>

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New Zealand UEB Manual 2013

<http://www.banzat.org.nz/documents/UEBManualNZAugust2013.pdf>

The 2013 New Zealand Manual, based on the Australian Primer produced by the Australian Braille Authority, contains 30 lessons to learn braille. The manual is produced by the Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind and contains the same exercises, but is adjusted to reflect New Zealand formatting.

Unified English Braille: Australian Training Manual 2013

<http://brailleaustralia.org/unified-english-braille/unified-english-braille-australian-training-manual-2013/>

This UEB training manual is a series of lessons and practice exercises for teachers, transcribers, and parents to learn UEB.

Introduction to UEB – Wisconsin Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

<http://www.wcbvi.k12.we.us/outreach/ueb-introduction>

Wisconsin developed a six-part series that explains many of the changes with UEB.

UEBot (Northern Illinois)

<https://www.facebook.com/UEBOT1>

The UEBot is currently in development, but updates will be available on the Facebook page.

App for iPad

For additional options for learning UEB, there is an app for the iPad called the Braille Tutor. It is a free app through the alphabet (Lesson 19); to go further into contractions and short forms, the app costs \$1.99 more.

More information is available at: <http://ienabletechnology.com/braille-tutor/> and can be found in iTunes at:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/braille-tutor/id878463116?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

UEB Rules and Guidelines

The Rules of Unified English Braille (UEB Rulebook)

The UEB Rulebook is available as a print PDF file or as a braille ready-file from the International Council on English Braille (ICEB) website.

<http://iceb.org/ueb>

UEB Braille Symbols and Indicators List

http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb/symbols_list.pdf

This reference chart includes braille characters, letters, numbers, contractions, indicators, punctuation and symbols.

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UEB Guidelines for Technical Materials

http://www.iceb.org/Guidelines_for_Technical_Material_2008-10.pdf

The UEB Guidelines were produced by a Maths Focus Group, a subgroup of the UEB Rules Committee, and provide transcribers with information and examples to produce math, science, and computer notation in UEB.

UEB Charts

Included are two print UEB symbol list charts. Both are pdf and best if printed on 11" x 17" paper.

The first is from Duxbury and lists the contractions and short forms in alphabetical order:

http://duxburysystems.com/images/ueb_black.pdf

The other is from Aroga Technologies and presents the contractions and symbols by category:

<http://www.aroga.com/unified-english-braille-chart-tabloid-11-x-17-pdf-format/>

UEB Cheat Sheet

<http://www.aph.org/accessible-media-guidelines/UEB-Cheat-Sheet-5-2012.pdf>

The UEB Cheat Sheet references contractions, prefixes, punctuation, capitalization indicators, Grade 1 indicators, typeform indicators, accent examples, computer notation, numbers, miscellaneous symbols, basic arithmetic, fractions, subscripts, superscripts, other technical and spatial arrangements.