

Oregon Unified English Braille (UEB) Implementation Plan

2014-2018



BY: VISION PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TEAM

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OREGON UNIFIED ENGLISH BRAILLE (UEB) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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BACKGROUND

In November 2012, United States members of the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) voted to adopt Unified English Braille (UEB) as an official code for the United States. UEB will be replacing the current literary braille code, English Braille American Edition (EBAE), used in the United States. Currently, BANA recognizes UEB, Nemeth, and music as the official braille codes in the United States.

In Oregon, the transition to UEB will be implemented through a thoughtful and gradual process of education and training. Our goal is to phase out the use and production of the EBAE within the next three years while being mindful of individual student needs and our ability to produce materials in UEB. Furthermore, our goal is to fully implement UEB by the 2017-18 school year. Revisions to this plan are likely pending historical, current, and ongoing discussions, including direction from BANA and other stakeholders.

TIMELINE

2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR

1. **September 2014.** Vision Professional Learning Team (PLT) initial meeting to discuss UEB Transition.
2. **February 2015.** UEB workshops with Francis Mary D'Andrea offered to Oregon TVIs at Columbia Regional Program and the PNW AER Conference.
3. **April 2015.** Vision PLT creates draft of Oregon's UEB Implementation Plan.
4. **April 2015.** Oregon Textbook and Medical Center (OTMC) braille transcribers attend National Braille Association (NBA) Conference UEB training in Austin, TX.
5. **Spring 2015.** Oregon Teachers of the Visually Impaired begin introducing UEB to students as appropriate.

6. **June 2015.** Oregon UEB Implementation Plan submitted to the Regional Management Team and Oregon Department of Education.

2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

1. Instructional Recommendations for TVIs to begin implementation of UEB:

- Beginning braille readers—begin instruction and use of available UEB materials.
- Current braille readers—begin instruction in changes of UEB.
- Transition to UEB and the use of Nemeth code will be student specific and developed through the IEP process.

2. Transcription Recommendations:

- Materials already produced by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH) will be available in EBAE and Nemeth and will not be reproduced in UEB and/or UEB with Nemeth. Newly transcribed materials will either be produced in UEB and/or UEB with Nemeth.
- OTMC will produce literary materials in UEB as requested for students who are in kindergarten through second grade.
- OTMC will produce literary materials for students in grades three and up in EBAE.
- OTMC will produce technical materials (math and science) in Nemeth braille for all grade levels.
- Transcription of daily work by local transcribers should follow the lead of APH and/or OTMC as resources allow.

3. **October 2015.** Vision PLT will revisit/edit UEB Implementation plan and identify instructional and training resources for TVIs.
4. **Late fall 2015.** OTMC provides UEB training for certified transcribers.
5. **January 4, 2016.** Official UEB implementation date in the United States of America.
6. **Spring 2016.** Oregon AER conference with UEB training options available to TVIs.
7. **April 2016.** Vision PLT revisit UEB adoption plan and revise as necessary. Identify ongoing training needs and options for teachers and transcribers.

2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

1. Ongoing braille instruction to students in UEB and UEB with Nemeth.

Reminder: In the Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP) of the student's IEP, be sure to address achieved levels of proficiency in UEB reading/writing, assessment data to support future instructional needs in UEB, and the actual level of access to materials provided in UEB.

2. Transcription Recommendations:

- All materials transcribed by APH will be completed in UEB and/or UEB with Nemeth.
- OTMC will produce literary works for all grade levels in UEB (default) or EBAE upon request.

- OTMC will produce technical materials for all grade levels in UEB with Nemeth (default) or Nemeth upon request.
 - Transcription of daily work by local transcribers should follow the lead of APH and/or OTMC as resources allow.
3. ***Spring 2017.*** State Assessments offer braille options as listed in “*Recommendations to ODE*”.

2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

1. Ongoing braille instruction to students in UEB and UEB with Nemeth.

Reminder: In the Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP) of the student’s IEP, be sure to address achieved levels of proficiency in UEB reading/writing, assessment data to support future instructional needs in UEB, and the actual level of access to materials provided in UEB.

2. Transcription Recommendations:

- All materials transcribed by APH will be completed in UEB and/or UEB with Nemeth.
- OTMC will produce literary works for all grade levels in UEB only.
- OTMC will produce technical materials for all grade levels in UEB with Nemeth or UEB upon request.
- Transcription of daily work by local transcribers should follow the lead of APH and/or OTMC as resources allow.

3. ***Spring 2018.*** State Assessments offer braille options as listed in “*Recommendations to ODE*”.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

1. Beginning in 2016-17 school year, Oregon State Assessments in ELA and Social Science should be available in both EBAE and UEB.
2. Beginning in 2016-17 school year, Oregon State Assessments in technical subjects (math and science) should be available in Nemeth, UEB with Nemeth, and UEB.
3. Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, Oregon State Assessments in ELA and Social Science should be available in UEB only.
4. Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, Oregon State Assessments in technical subjects should be available in UEB and UEB with Nemeth.
5. Support the creation of a professional learning team for education related braille transcribers to meet regularly (virtually or in-person) throughout the anticipated three-year transition to UEB for ongoing training and support.
6. It is recommended that increased funding for OTMC be considered to support the transition to UEB due to:
 - Training for OTMC transcribers
 - Increased time for transcription of new materials
 - Lack of access to UEB Transcription Manuals.

CREATORS OF THE UEB IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Oregon's UEB Implementation Plan was created by the Vision Professional Learning Team (PLT) with input from state and local transcribers. The Vision PLT includes Teachers of the Visually Impaired, Orientation and Mobility Instructors, and Regional Program Administrators representing each of the eight Low-Incidence Regional Programs in Oregon.

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UEB RESOURCES

- [UEB Online](#)
- [BANA](#)
- [Hadley Course on UEB](#)
- [NFB Revision of Lesson 1-14 UEB](#)
- [Hitchhikers Guide to UEB Math](#)
- [UEB Rulebook](#)
- [Provisional Guidance on UEB and Nemeth](#)

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