

## **Unified English Braille**

### **Timeline for Implementation in Louisiana**

December 2015

## **The Unified English Braille Code**

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. UEB is a revision and extension of English Braille American Edition (EBAE). In November 2013, BANA, following the UEB Transition Forum consisting of delegates from 31 national organizations, affirmed that January 4, 2016 would be the implementation of the general use of UEB in the United States, replacing the current EBAE code.

The transition plan to implement the UEB in Louisiana is as follows.

### **Louisiana Statewide UEB Transition**

#### **Preparation for UEB**

The Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness (PDRIB) at Louisiana Tech University has been working on the transition from the current EBAE to UEB since BANA adopted UEB in 2012. After training the PDRIB staff, PDRIB began delivering UEB Training Workshops across the country:

- February 2014 – Jackson, Mississippi
- May 2014 – Ruston, Louisiana
- July 2014 – Orlando, Florida
- November 2014 – Albuquerque, New Mexico
- November 2014 – San Francisco, California

In the Fall Quarter of 2014, PDRIB began teaching UEB in the entry-level braille course, EDCI 436/Braille I, in the Teaching Blind Students (TBS) program at Louisiana Tech University.

#### **UEB Implementation Committee**

On September 24, 2014, the statewide UEB Implementation Committee met for its first meeting. The committee consisted of representatives from the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE), the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired (LSVI), The Louisiana Instructional Material Center (LIMC), the Louisiana Center for the Blind (LCB), and the Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness (PDRIB) at Louisiana Tech University. The committee met again on March 4, 2015.

Goals of the UEB Implementation Committee included:

- 1) Discussion of a timeline to present to the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) for approval that included: teacher training; student instruction; and state assessments.

- 2) Discussion and identification of other potential issues pertaining to UEB implementation, including preparation and acquisition of textbooks and other materials and stakeholder training.

After reaching out to districts that have ordered Braille testing materials in the past, decisions on what to offer when were based off of district needs. The LDOE and statewide UEB Implementation Committee finalized the UEB timeline on November 30, 2015.

### **Timeline**

The transition to UEB from EBAE in Louisiana will be a six year plan, based on a school year calendar. It began with the 2013-2014 SY and will run through the 2018-2019 SY. Full implementation of the UEB is targeted for the Fall of 2018, with all state assessments being delivered in UEB/Nemeth\* in Spring of 2019.

Each local education agency (LEA), based on the approved state timeline, will be responsible for developing a plan for implementation of the UEB at the local level to meet the full implementation UEB date of September 2018. The Louisiana Instructional Material Center (LIMC) will work closely with LEA's to best meet the educational braille needs of individual students.

Implementation of this timeline involves the collaboration of state and national partners and may change as state and national information changes or becomes available.

### **Note on Braille Math**

Per BANA, as of the UEB implementation date in 2016, UEB, Nemeth, Music, and the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) will be the official codes for use in the United States. BANA is not providing guidance at this time on which code, UEB or Nemeth, should be used for teaching math and science. The Louisiana UEB Implementation Committee has decided that the Nemeth code will be the math and science code used in the state, so even after UEB implementation, the LIMC will continue producing all math and science instructional materials in Nemeth. The LDOE will provide statewide assessments in UEB (literary portion) and Nemeth (math and science portion).

### **2013-2014 SY**

- First UEB Training Workshop in Ruston, Louisiana.

### **2014-2015 SY**

- January 2015  
LIMC begins UEB transcription of requests for September 2015, grades K-12.

- Spring 2015  
LDOE provides state assessments in EBAE/Nemeth.
- March 2015  
All PDRIB staff trainers certified in UEB (National Certification in Unified English Braille)
- April 2015  
Webinar for district superintendents and/or special education directors
- June 2015  
UEB Training Workshop in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

### **2015-2016 SY**

- September 2015  
Teachers begin UEB instruction for students in grades K-12.
- Statewide professional development for teachers of students who are blind/visually impaired (TSBVI) and paraprofessional staff\*:
  - November 2015 – Alexandria, Louisiana
  - December 2015 – Gonzalez, Louisiana

\*Note: It is anticipated that trainings will continue throughout the 2015-2016 SY. These are simply the next two planned dates.

- January 2016  
LIMC continues transcription of requests for grades K-12.
- Spring 2016  
LDOE provides state assessments in EBAE/Nemeth.

### **2016-2017 SY**

- September 2016  
Teachers continue UEB instruction for students in grades K-12
- Spring 2017  
LDOE provides state assessments in UEB/Nemeth and EBAE/Nemeth.

## **2017-2018 SY**

- September 2017  
Continue UEB instruction as needed for remaining students, move in and transfer students.
- Spring 2018  
LDOE provides state assessments in UEB/Nemeth.

## **2018-2019 SY**

- September 2018  
Complete UEB transition.
- Spring 2019  
LDOE provides state assessments in UEB/Nemeth.

## **UEB Training**

Training will be provided by the Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness (PDRIB) at Louisiana Tech University and the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired (LSVI). Statewide trainers are encouraged to take the National Certification in Unified English Braille (NCUEB) exam administered by the National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB) to demonstrate proficiency. Additional trainings after the 20152016 SY will be provided as needed.

## UEB Tutorials and Resources

Braille Authority of North America (BANA)

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

National Blindness Professional Certification Board (NBPCB)

Offers National Certification in Unified English Braille and test preparation materials.

<http://www.nbpcb.org/ncueb/>

SCALARS 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.scalarspublishing.com/>

Hadley School for the Blind UEB Transition Course.

Offers courses for transitioning into UEB (free in 2015 only). 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. Per the Hadley School for the Blind, March 2015: "Note, there is a temporary hold on new enrollments in Transitioning to Unified English Braille due to early high demand. Check back with us for notification of re-opening of enrollment. The online version of this course for visual learners is expected during May 2015."

<http://www.hadley.edu/UEBTransition.asp>

Transcriber's UEB Course (CNIB) - a self-directed course, covering eleven topics with fifteen practice exercises, for transcribers, proofreaders and BLV/TVI's

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

UEB Online, Braille Training for Sighted Learners - a training program created by the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children's Renwick Centre, Australia. Appropriate for teachers, paraprofessionals, and other professionals.

<http://uebonline.org/>

New Zealand UEB Manual

<http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb/NZ%20UEB%20Manual%202011.pdf>

Unified English Braille: Australian Training Manual 2013

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

National Federation of the Blind

Offers the McDuffy Reader: A Braille Primer for Adults (UEB Edition).

[https://ecommerce.nfb.org/asp/product.asp?product=535&cat=50&ph=&keywords=&recor=&SearchFor=&PT\\_ID=](https://ecommerce.nfb.org/asp/product.asp?product=535&cat=50&ph=&keywords=&recor=&SearchFor=&PT_ID=)

Duxbury Systems

Offers UEB translation software. Also has UEB Braille Chart which can be downloaded and printed (print only).

<http://www.duxburysystems.com/braillechart.asp>

Aroga Technologies

Offers a UEB symbols chart which can be downloaded and printed (print only).

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

## UEB Rules and Guidelines

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

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

The Rules of Unified English Braille (the UEB Rulebook). Available as a print or braille file from the International Council on English Braille (ICEB) website:

[www.iceb.org/ueb.html](http://www.iceb.org/ueb.html)

UEB Braille Symbols and Indicators List:

[http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb/symbols\\_list.pdf](http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb/symbols_list.pdf)

UEB Guidelines for Technical Materials:

[http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb/Guidelines\\_for\\_Technical\\_Material\\_2008-10.pdf](http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb/Guidelines_for_Technical_Material_2008-10.pdf)