

Arkansas Plan and Timeline for Transition to the Unified English Braille Code

The Arkansas Unified English Braille (UEB) Transition Committee recommends the use of Nemeth Code as the default for math and science notation, within the context of UEB. The committee recommends UEB math and science notation as an option based on student need, as determined by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team. The committee also recommends that guidance on selecting the appropriate math and science notation be provided.

2014-2015 School Year		
Action	Production	Statewide Assessment
Arkansas team consulted with American Printing House for the Blind (APH) to revise complete braille literacy program (Building on Patterns) to be compliant with Unified English Braille (UEB).		
The Arkansas Prison Braille program began UEB coursework for certification in the UEB code through the National Library of Congress.		
Information regarding UEB was presented at the Arkansas Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AR-AER) Conference.		
State and Regional Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVI) meetings provided information on self-study courses and resources for UEB.		
State and regional trainings were provided on UEB.		
Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ASBVI) offered UEB training to instructional assistants.		

2015-2016 School Year		
Action	Production	Statewide Assessment
	American Printing House for the Blind (APH) produced all textbook orders, not previously transcribed, in UEB and/or UEB with Nemeth Code for the 2015-2016 school year. (Textbooks previously transcribed were available in their original codes, following APH's policy of not duplicating previously transcribed textbooks and supplementary materials.)	
Division of Services for the Blind staff participated in UEB training.		
ASBVI teachers provided documentation of UEB training.		
ASBVI offered monthly training on UEB to parents, community members, and other stakeholders.		
K-1 and new braille students were instructed in UEB.		
Statewide UEB Transition Committee was formed.		
Frances Mary D'Andrea, Chair of Braille Authority of North America, presented the UEB Transition Committee with foundational information and provided consultation.		
	Textbooks not previously transcribed were transcribed by APH or other vendors in UEB.	
Teachers began to transition instruction from English Braille American Edition (EBAE) to UEB for grades 2-12.		

2015-2016 School Year (cont.)		
Action	Production	Statewide Assessment
	Braille Authority of North America's (BANA) timeline date for official adoption/implementation of the UEB Code for the United States was January 4, 2016.	
	Arkansas Instructional Resources Center (IRC) began accepting UEB transcription requests for grades K-12. The IRC will maintain and provide materials previously transcribed in EBAE Code. New literary transcriptions will be in UEB; math and technical subjects will be in UEB/Nemeth Code.	
The Arkansas Region of the National Braille Challenge offered statewide contests in UEB for grades 4th and under.		
Stakeholders were surveyed regarding instruction in UEB versus UEB/Nemeth Code for math and technical subjects.		
Nemeth Code for math and technical subjects will be maintained, with provision for the usage of UEB for math and technical subjects, as outlined by BANA and the practices set forth by the American Printing House for the Blind.		
Districts were provided with a UEB course list for students as well as suggestions for incorporating UEB into reading and writing instruction.		

2016-2017 School Year		
Action	Production	Statewide Assessment
Students in grades K-12 will be provided instruction in UEB.		
* Students may receive braille instruction using UEB for math and technical subjects as determined by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team following the Arkansas guidance document. Availability of materials must be an IEP team consideration.		
TVIs not previously trained will provide documentation of UEB training to employer.		
Statewide professional development will be planned to provide instruction on using Nemeth code within UEB context.		
A statewide presentation will be provided to the Arkansas Special Education Supervisors to explain the UEB Transition Plan.		
UEB presentation will be provided at the Arkansas AER Conference.		

* Please see the Arkansas Guidance Document for Considerations of Braille Math and Technical Subjects for guidance on this key issue.

2016-2017 School Year (cont.)		
Action	Production	Statewide Assessment
		<p>ACT Aspire and ACT will have UEB as an option. The following options will be available:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traditional EBAE Contracted with standard Nemeth math/science notation 2. Traditional EBAE Uncontracted with standard Nemeth math/science notation 3. UEB Contracted with Nemeth math/science notation but with UEB text embedded inside the standard Nemeth 4. UEB Uncontracted with Nemeth math/science notation but with UEB text embedded inside the standard Nemeth <p>The Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) will be offered in both EBAE and UEB (for grades 3 and 4 - foundational cards only)</p> <p>K-2 Assessment - To be determined</p> <p>English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21) - To be determined</p>
Professional Development for TVIs will be ongoing.		
The Arkansas UEB Transition Committee will continue to review and update the Arkansas UEB Transition Plan.		

2017-2018 School Year		
Action	Production	Statewide Assessment
TVIs will provide documentation of professional development and proficiency in the UEB code to their employers.		
The Arkansas UEB Transition Committee will continue to review and update the Arkansas UEB Transition Plan.		

Note:
This plan may be updated as more information becomes available.