

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
December 17, 2015

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

08. Report on the State Plan to transition from English Braille American Edition (EBAE) to Unified English Braille (UEB) [Goal 4 – MDE Strategic Plan]

Executive Summary

Unified English Braille (UEB) is a revised code, set of rules, for reading and writing braille for students who are blind. The new code is set to be the default code beginning January 4, 2016. Braille is not regulated by any law, however, all transcribing agencies may begin providing braille in the new code across the United States. The goal of the change is to eliminate ambiguities in the former literary braille code English Braille American Edition, (EBAE). The Nemeth code will continue to be used for Science and Mathematics translation.

To prepare for this transition in Mississippi, stakeholders have developed a plan that focuses on four areas:

- textbooks (older texts having EBAE and new texts having UEB code),
- transcription (translating printed text into braille will transition much as textbooks),
- assessments (changes are to come, but not for current school year), and
- training (MDE will provide for districts).

This item references Goal 4 of the *Mississippi Board of Education 2016-2020 Strategic Plan*.

Recommendation: Discussion Only

Back-up material attached



Timelines	Textbooks	Transcription	Assessments	Training
2015-16	Textbooks currently in use will remain in their current code. New textbooks will be available in the code in which they were originally transcribed.	Contractors providing braille will transition to Unified English Braille per the recommendation of the Braille Authority of North America. Existing books will not be re-transcribed into Unified English Braille.	State assessments will remain in English Braille American Edition and Nemeth code, as appropriate.	MDE will offer a variety of training opportunities, with emphasis on face-to-face meetings. Training will be available for transcribers, proofreaders, and educators.
2016-17 and beyond	<p>Textbooks copyrighted 2016 and beyond will be produced in Unified English Braille.</p> <p>Technical, science, and mathematics books will be produced in Nemeth with embedded Unified English Braille text.</p> <p>Textbooks previously transcribed in English Braille American Edition will be available.</p>	Going forward new books will be transcribed in Unified English Braille. Where applicable, all tactile graphics and illustrations will have embedded Unified English Braille and Nemeth, as appropriate.	<p>State assessments will be transcribed in Unified English Braille and Nemeth code, as appropriate.</p> <p>As new assessments are adopted, they will be transcribed in Unified English Braille and Nemeth code, as appropriate.</p> <p>Legacy assessments will not be re-transcribed.</p>	Other options for trainings will be offered as needed.