



**The 2017 Braille Challenge®
Reading, Writing & Spelling Contest**
Sponsored by: Utah Foundation for the Blind (UFB)
Utah Regional: Friday, March 3, 2017 9:00 – 3:00 pm
Location: DSBVI; 250 North 1950 West; SLC

REGISTRATION FORMS NOW AVAILABLE AT rmpet4@gmail.com and www.ufbvi.org

START PRACTICING NOW, THE BRAILLE CHALLENGE SEASON IS HERE!

This year, more than 51 regionals and individual students of Teachers of the Visually Impaired across the United States and Canada will test their skills and participate in the upcoming Braille Challenge. The season begins December 1st 2016 through March 10th, 2017. Thank you to all the contestants, parents, Regional Coordinators, TVIs and volunteers who continue to make this program a success. We appreciate your support in promoting braille literacy. 50 finalists (10 in each category) will be invited to Los Angeles to compete in the National Braille Challenge on June 16th and 17th, 2017. Follow us on social media and share your exciting #BrailleChallenge2017 experience!

Contestants will take the Preliminary Contest in Utah at our Regional event on March 3, 2017 at the Division Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DSBVI) in Salt Lake (located at 250 North 1950 West). Students grades 1-12 can compete in the preliminary round with others in our state. This fun day will include activities, information about braille, entertainment, snacks, lunch, t-shirts and awards. All participants will be rewarded for their participation and achievements.

UEB FOR 2017

As of January 2016, Unified English Braille (UEB) became the official braille code for United States. Based on a review of state implementation plans and feedback from our Regional Coordinators, teachers of the Visually Impaired and National Advisory Committee, All contracted Apprentice and Freshman contests will be in UEB ONLY. There will be no EBAE Option. SOPHOMORE contestants will have the option to take their Challenge contests in UEB or EBAE this year, depending on what they know best. Learn about [UEB updates for 2017](#).

- All contracted [Apprentice and Freshman](#) contests will be in UEB ONLY. There will be no EBAE option.
- Apprentice students may take the uncontracted version, but are not eligible for the Finals.

- **SOPHOMORE contestants will have the option to take their Challenge contests in UEB or EBAE this year, depending on what they know best.**
- Contestants may not mix codes—they must select one code for all three contests.
- BIA will provide contests and answer keys in both EBAE and UEB.
- **Junior Varsity, Varsity contests will be in EBAE.**
- Students with the best scores nationally will advance, regardless of code.
- **Sophomore contestants must take Finals in the code they chose for preliminaries.**
- All forms, registration spreadsheets and other supporting documents will reflect these options.
- We will post 2016 Apprentice and Freshman practice contests in UEB as samples all other levels and all others will be in EBAE.

WHAT IS BRAILLE CHALLENGE?

The Braille Challenge® is an academic competition unlike any other. This two-stage contest is designed to motivate blind students to emphasize their study of braille, while rewarding their success with fun-filled, but challenging, local and national events. Any visually impaired student who reads braille is eligible to participate in the preliminary Challenge contest events, which were held from January through the end of March throughout the U.S. and Canada. Contests are proctored by volunteer teachers for visually impaired students and scored locally according to our national guidelines by volunteer transcribers. Each contestant receives a brailled certificate of appreciation and general feedback on their performance, which will be sent to families and educators in May.

This year The Braille Challenge will be held at 46 different sites and will be proctored by up to 80 individual teachers of visually impaired students from throughout the United States and Canada. The preliminary round is open to students of all skills levels, but the top-scoring 50 contestants nationally will be invited to Los Angeles in June for a Final Round—two days of competition, camaraderie and fun! Braille Challenge contest categories include reading comprehension, braille speed and accuracy, proofreading, spelling and reading tactile charts and graphs.

Contact Merrilee Petersen at rmpet4@gmail.com for further information or look for updates on the Utah Foundation for the Blind web site: www.ufbvi.org

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Registration Period: December 12, 2016- January 17, 2017

Preliminary Contest: March 3, 2017

"Teacher of the Year" Award Nomination Deadline: March 10, 2017

Notification of Contest Results: May 1, 2017

The Braille Challenge Finals: June 16-17, 2017

RESOURCES FOR LEARNING UEB

[Hadley School for the Blind UEB Transition Course](#): Available from Hadley for \$99.00 this fall.

[UEB Online](#): Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children's Renwick Centre (a training program for sighted people to learn UEB).

[BANA's The ABCs of UEB](#): authored by Constance Risjord (a program for those who already know EBAE to quickly build on their knowledge of braille to understand UEB).

[CNIB Transcriber's UEB Course](#): "Update to UEB" file types: Word, print .pdf, .brf, and .dxb.