

State of Minnesota Braille Math Implementation Statement

Recent national discussions regarding individual states' use of Unified English Braille (UEB) Math prompted the formation of a braille math workgroup to discuss the future of braille mathematics in K-12 school settings in Minnesota. The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) provided guidance for braille math production in their November 9, 2014 [Implementation of Unified English Braille](#) statement. The Minnesota workgroup recommends that, until researched based data indicates the need for a change, Minnesota will continue to use the Nemeth Braille Code within the context of UEB. Minnesota will be fully implementing UEB in the fall of 2016, and will be using the *Provisional Guidance for Transcription Using the Nemeth Code within UEB Contexts* found in the BANA November 9, 2014 Implementation Statement (and any future updates to this guidance) as the standard for braille math, science and technical material.

The stakeholders in the braille math workgroup strongly recommend that **all** states continue to use the Nemeth Braille Code within the context of UEB for several reasons:

- Using a standard code for math within the United States will provide the most efficient use of all available resources (money, transcribers, educators, time).
- For testing purposes, having one braille math code will be most effective for statewide and nationwide test production, administration and data gathering.
- There should be consistency in braille codes for students and adults who may travel between states.
- Adopting one braille math code for braille production, software, and braille equipment will provide uniformity and lessen confusion for braille users.
- Currently, there is no braille certification or training material available for UEB Math.

It is the Minnesota braille math workgroup's opinion that the United States maintain the use and production of the Nemeth Braille Code within the context of UEB as a national standard until more research and data regarding the effectiveness of UEB Math (including Math in high level contexts) is collected and considered.

The stakeholders of the braille math workgroup included Minnesota teachers of the blind and visually impaired (TBVI), members of the Minnesota American Printing House (APH) Community of Practice, State Services for the Blind (SSB), Volunteer Braille Services (VBS), BANA committee members, consumer groups, concerned citizens, and a representative of the Minnesota Department of Education.

Questions can be directed to [Kristin Oien](#), state specialist for the blind/visually impaired at the Minnesota Department of Education.