UEB Transition in MO Summary

August 2015

In May 2015, a number of MO stakeholders were contacted for information as to how their programs were preparing for the transition from English Braille American Edition to Unified English Braille. Appreciation is extended to all respondents for their responsiveness and information.

The following offers a brief summary of responses to questions posed:

**1) Please identify any activities your program has hosted/offered to train vision education/rehabilitation professionals and braille transcribers.**

* MSB Outreach hosted four two-hour sessions overviewing changes, sharing examples of UEB documents and providing opportunity for hands-on practice with Dr. Mackenzie Savaiano in St. Louis with two sessions on March 27, 2014 and two sessions in Columbia on June 10, 2015.
* From MSU BSS:

UEB Presentations:

* Introduction to UEB - an overview - provided: 3 hour session

Springfield, MO - February 19, 2014

* As topic for VI Professional Group Meeting - Kansas City MO March 5, 2014
* Alphapointe staff has taken part in these meetings.
* As topic for VI Professional Group Meeting - Jefferson City MO April 8, 2014
* Center for Braille and Narration - Jefferson City Correctional facility April 8, 2014
* As part of an Introduction to Visual Impairments Presentation - Sedalia - May 28, 2014 and McDonald County November 13, 2014.

Training Sessions on UEB:

* The Blind Skills Specialist in SW MO holds monthly Vision Professional Group meetings in Springfield, Jefferson City and Kansas City. The focus of the meetings during the 2014-2015 school year was learning the Unified English Braille Code.
* Springfield VI Pro Group meets the 2nd Friday of each month with about 15 in attendance each meeting.
* Jefferson City VI Pro Group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month with about 5 people in attendance each month.
* Kansas City VI Pro Group meets the first Wednesday of each month with about 5 people in attendance each meeting.
* Truman State BSS reports UEB workshop scheduled but cancelled due to low enrollment. Truman State BSS reports TVIs in the region are learning UEB on their own with either the CNIB or Hadley courses.
* Fort Zumwalt staff reports that staff is taking the Hadley course or other online training.
* Special School District of St. Louis County reports teachers trained in UEB offer support to other staff.
* MO Chapter AER (Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired) hosted its annual conference in November 2014 and notes that, during the lunch meeting, information was shared about UEB and opportunities to learn the new code.

**2) Please identify any resources your program has shared regarding UEB transition/implementation.**

* MSB has a link to UEB resources from BANA <http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb.html> posted on the homepage of its website.
* The MSU BSS identified the following resources:
  + APH policy, BANA Materials including but not limited to - BANA Overview of UEB, ABC's of UEB from BANA. Also utilized the Update to UEB from CNIB, Rulebook from ICEB, Duxbury cheat sheets, Agora Cheat Sheets, Materials from Australia-SVRC, Hadley course information, Ashcroft textbook, <http://www.wcbvi.k12.wi.us/outreach/ueb-introduction>, UEB online website, <http://uebot.niu.edu/index.php?page=home>, NFB - Transcriber course materials.
* Alphapointe has hosted bimonthly Braille social groups. Part of that time is used to review the UEB changes and answer questions for the community of Braille users in our region, including handouts describing changes and where to obtain more information.
* Special School District of St. Louis County reports using BANA resources, Hadley course materials and MSB training information.
* MO Chapter AER identified resources from CNIB, BANA, UEB online and Hadley.

**3) Please identify any materials your program is utilizing to prepare for UEB transition/implementation.**

* MSB is utilizing BANA materials and resources (e.g., UEB Reader, ABCs of UEB, rule book, etc.)
* The MSU BSS has utilized: ABC's of UEB and Update to UEB from CNIB and the ICEB rulebook for the VI Pro Group trainings.
* From the Center for Braille and Narration Production:

Manuals

-01 Rules of Unified English Braille, Second Edition 2013

-02 UEB Guidelines for Technical Material, Oct. 2008

-03 Provisional Guidance for Transcription Using the Nemeth Code within UEB Contexts, Nov. 2014

Training Materials

-01 Instruction Manual for Braille Transcribing: Unified English Braille, 2015 provided by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress (NLS)

-02 Ashcrofts’s Programmed Instruction: Unified English Braille; with the API-UEB Companion Reader

-03 UEB PowerPoint presentation, February 19, 2014, by Julie Anderson-Ituarte

-04 Unified English Braille Primer, Australian Edition

-05 Unified English Braille Manual, New Zealand Edition, January 2011

-06 The ABCs of UEB, A Guide for the Transition from English Braille American Edition (EBAE) to The Rules of Unified English Braille (UEB)

-07 Update To UEB, A Self-Directed Course to Update from English Braille American Edition to Unified English Braille, CNIB Toronto 2012

-08 Overview of Changes from Current Literary Braille to Unified English Braille, BANA March 2013

Unified English Braille Sample Documents

-01 Gettysburg Address

-02 I Have A Dream

-03 Papa John’s Online Menu

-04 Portion Distortion Quiz

-05 Pumpkin Pie Recipe

-06 The Wizard of Oz, Chapter 1

-07 20 Google Searches

General Information

-01 Paper by Dr. T. V. Cranmer and Dr. Abraham Nemeth on A Uniform Braille Code, January 15, 1991

-02 Report of the BANA Task Force on Concurrent Use of UEB and Nemeth Code, September 6, 2012

-03 Motion to Adopt UEB, November 2, 2012

-04 Considerations and Impact of Adopting Unified English Braille (UEB) in the United States

-05 Frequently Asked Questions, Braille Code Change for the United States

-06 Planning the Transition to UEB: Actions and Opportunities, BANA July 2013

-07 Tips and Resources for Learning More about Unified English Braille, September 2013

-08 BANA’s UEB Transition Forum Brings Braille Leaders Together to Plan, Press Release Oct. 31, 2013

-09 APH Press Release: Policies regarding UEB Transition at the American Printing House for the Blind (APH), July 24, 2014

-10 Implementation of Unified English Braille, November 9, 2014.

-11 International Council on English Braille (ICEB) Unified English Braille (UEB) Project Information

-12 Informational E-mail from Yvonne Ali dated May 1, with lists of websites for Unified English Braille Training Guides

Miscellaneous

NBA Bulletins and Updates

Continued contact with ask an expert and Julie Anderson-Ituarte

Utilizing Ask an Expert

* Alphapointe is using the NLS transcriber’s course updated for UEB. We have also used the B.A.N.A. website and the Canadian Braille website with training.
* Special School District of St. Louis County reports using BANA and Hadley course materials.
* MO Chapter AER indicates that its board has reviewed the BANA site for updates.

**4) Please identify the role of your program/knowledge of activities in any of the following areas relative to UEB transition/implementation:**

**a) University personnel preparation**

* University staff indicates that they are conscious of the fact that teacher trainees will need to be up to speed regarding UEB so they can meet the braille literacy needs of current and future children.
* Beginning in the fall semester of 2015, UEB will be infused into the Literary Braille course. In addition, and throughout the course, reference will be made to EBAE, so trainees are aware of both codes. This approach will enable trainees meet the instructional needs of learners in both EBAE and UEB.
* MSU has incorporated in the Braille Course the Hadley School Transition to UEB course.
* Provided students with UEB resources from the BANA website.
* Beginning in the fall semester of 2015, the Braille I course has been redesigned to incorporate UEB, so trainees in the program will be expected to teach UEB code to learners in their classrooms.
* In the fall 2015 semester, the National Federation of the Blind Instruction Manual for Braille Transcribing UEB Online Version (2015) will be used. Supplementary materials will include journal articles related to the development and implementation of UEB. Finally, for trainees to fulfill the requirement of reading in actual braille, about two dozen books have been purchased that have been transcribed in UEB format. These will be loaned to students for reading practice and videotaping.
* Beginning in the spring semester of 2016, candidates who take the Master’s Comprehensive Exam must demonstrate competency in UEB on the Transcription component of the exam.

University staff indicates that, as presently constituted, the Literary Braille course is adequate for UEB purposes.

**b) Text transcription/materials preparation**

* For information on the American Printing House for the Blind transition to UEB, go to <http://www.aph.org/pr/20140724Policies-Regarding-UEB-Transition-at-APH.html>
* The MSU BSS is on a team with APH to develop the teacher supplement for the Patterns Braille Curriculum that will be supplied to those teachers ordering the new student edition in UEB.
* From the Center for Braille and Narration Production, “If we receive a request to put material into UEB we are able to. Otherwise will completely switch over on January 16, 2016.”
* NLS/Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library <http://www.loc.gov/nls/networkdocs/alerts/2015/14.html>

<http://www.loc.gov/nls/networkdocs/alerts/2015/46.html>

* Midwestern Braille Volunteers staff is able to produce materials in EBAE and UEB.
* Special School District of St. Louis County reports preparing materials for students by hand or using Duxbury with UEB settings.

**c) Teaching UEB to students/consumers/clients**

* MSB students are being taught UEB during the 2015-2016 year.
* See the MSU BSS VI Professional Group Meetings (#1 above). The BSS does not teach directly to students only vision professionals.
* NFB of MO contact indicated that the national organization is included on the BANA board and will include UEB in its agenda of topics to be discussed at upcoming meetings. The NFB website includes a listing of references regarding UEB at <https://nfb.org/search/gss/UEB>.
* RSB and the Center for Braille and Narration Production are training their rehabilitation teachers; and they are training clients.
* Alphapointe shared that, “As clients progress through grade 2 Braille, an overview of changes is discussed, with more discussion occurring as contractions that are being omitted or symbols being changes are encountered. Some teacher made materials are being provided in UEB.”
* Blue Springs TVIs are completing the Hadley UEB course. Anticipate a smooth transition.
* Columbia Public School staff reported the transition is underway.
* Fort Zumwalt reports that staff have begun “teaching UEB to daily braille students. Paras who have finished are now changing Duxbury to UEB and letting students know what to expect in their documents.”
* Jefferson City utilizing info from BSS meetings. Teaching both codes to highlight code differences. No needs or concerns related to the transition.
* Special School District of St. Louis County reports braille instruction provided to students per IEP goals with instruction including current cod and UEB changes.

**d) Timing set for testing organizations to transcribe testing materials into UEB**

From the MSU BSS: The BSS organizes the regional braille challenge in Springfield, MO. For information on the National Braille Challenge and UEB go to <http://www.brailleinstitute.org/braille-challenge-homepage.html>.

* College and Career Readiness, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education indicates that student testing materials will be available in UEB in Spring 2018 (based on guidance from representatives from the field of vision education).

**e) Addition of UEB material in MO educator assessments**

* From the MSU BSS, “Needs to be included but the MO Educator assessment did not include UEB when the BSS participated in a MEGA session during September 2014.”
* From Educator Quality, DESE, UEB content will be included in the MO Educator Gateway Assessment (MEGA) effective 2016. Educator Assessment staff will be confirming MSU teacher prep instruction with MSU and confirming testing plans with Pearson (test publisher).

**5) What is your program’s plan/timeline for implementing UEB?**

* MSB is currently implementing UEB code instruction with students.
* From the MSU BSS, “We already started the training and will continue during the 2015-2016 school year.”
* From the Center for Braille and Narration Production, “If we receive a request to put material into UEB we are able to. Otherwise will completely switch over on January 16, 2016.”
* From Alphapointe, “Information is being disseminated to consumers, clients, and the Braille community at this time. New translation software capable.”
* Special School District of St. Louis County reports already implementing with students via transcribed materials, Patterns material from APH and in instruction.
* MO Chapter AER indicates that the board has not identified a timeline for implementation of UEB and that the board believes this needs to be completed with a group of stakeholders in the state.

**6) Do you have needs/concerns regarding implementing UEB? Please detail.**

* From the MSU BSS, “I believe it is critical to continue UEB training and presentations this upcoming school year. They need to be offered in a variety of regions in the state so people in a variety of geographic regions can develop skills in UEB.”
* From the Truman State BSS, “My concern is that we continue to teach the old literary code along with UEB so that students can still read books produced prior to January of 2016. Teachers need to be aware of the differences and that a student who knows the old code will have an easier time reading the new UEB produced books than students who have been taught ONLY UEB will have in reading books under the old code.”
* MCB contact expressed strong concern regarding the lack of direction provided by BANA related to transcription of math/science and concern regarding the “retention/marginalization” of Nemeth Code.” Concern also expressed regarding impact of literary changes.
* From Alphapointe, “Currently there does not appear to be instructional materials from APH (Braille Connection, Illinois, etc.) in UEB. Therefore clients are using teacher created materials and/or refreshable Braille displays connected to iPads running UEB.”
* Special School District of St. Louis County reports not all staff has completed the Hadley course, attending MSB training or is familiar with UEB changes.
* MO Chapter AER identifies the need to discuss a plan with stakeholders for transition to UEB for assessment, schools and the adult community.
* Columbia Public School staff identified concerns related to retention related to code changes in areas of punctuation and spacing.

**7) Are there other interested stakeholders you believe should be contacted for their input? Please identify:**

* Center for Braille and Narration Production was identified but had already been contacted.

**8) Additional Comments:**