

## Greetings!

You are invited to register for the **2017 Braille Challenge** on **Saturday, February 18, 2017**, from **9am to 4pm**, at the **Washington Talking Book & Braille Library** in Seattle. This year's event is hosted by the Washington Council of the Blind and the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library.

The Braille Challenge is an academic competition for students enrolled in grades 1-12 and encourages braille literacy in a fun and competitive atmosphere. Students will be tested according to grade level braille standards in reading comprehension, braille speed and accuracy, proofreading, spelling, and reading tactile charts and graphs. In addition, students will participate in games and earn prizes throughout the day! A pizza lunch and snacks will be provided.

The Braille Challenge was created by the Braille Institute of America (BIA) in 2000 and is a national program. Any visually impaired student who reads braille is eligible to participate in the preliminary Challenge contest events. Learn more at: <http://www.brailleinstitute.org/braille-challenge-homepage.html>

All participants must submit a permission form (included in this packet) by **Friday, Jan 20**. Please see page 2 for required equipment. Please send your completed permission form to:

**Mail:** WTBBL C/O Marian Mays 2021 9<sup>th</sup> Ave Seattle, WA 98121 (For free postage write "FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND & PHYS HANDICAPPED" in the stamp area)

**Fax:** 206-615-0437 ATTN: MARIAN MAYS

**Email:** [marian.mays@sos.wa.gov](mailto:marian.mays@sos.wa.gov).

For questions, please contact Marian Mays at the contact information below. We look forward to seeing you at the Braille Challenge!

Sincerely,

### **Marian Mays**

Youth Services Librarian

Washington Talking Book & Braille Library

[marian.mays@sos.wa.gov](mailto:marian.mays@sos.wa.gov)

(206) 615-1253

## Meka White

Regional Braille Challenge Coordinator

Washington Council of the Blind Second Vice President

[mekawh@gmail.com](mailto:mekawh@gmail.com)

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Programs for families and parents will be available. Students who are learning braille but don't want to participate in the Challenge are invited to attend the event with their families.

There are **five testing groups**, divided into the following levels:

<b><u>Testing Group</u></b>	<b><u>Grade Level</u></b>	<b><u>UEB / EBAE</u></b>	<b><u>Uncontracted / Contracted</u></b>	<b><u>Required Equipment</u></b>
Apprentice	1-2	UEB only	Either, uncontracted tests not eligible for national finals	Braille
Freshman	3-4	UEB only	Contracted	Braille
Sophomore	5-6	UEB or EBAE	Contracted	Braille and VictorReader /Bookport Plus
Junior Varsity	7-9	EBAE only	Contracted	Braille and VictorReader /Bookport Plus
Varsity	10-12	EBAE only	Contracted	Braille and VictorReader /Bookport Plus