

Missouri School for the Blind

is pleased to sponsor the

2016 Missouri Regional Braille Challenge

Where: Missouri School for the Blind
3815 Magnolia
St. Louis, Missouri 63110

When: February 11, 2016

How: Just complete your two registration forms (see links under resources) and fax them to Linda Havlik at 314-776-1875 or e-mail to linda.havlik@msb.dese.mo.gov by December 16, 2015

Need Help: Contact Linda Havlik, Braille Challenge Coordinator at linda.havlik@msb.dese.mo.gov

OR

Joy Waddell, Assistant Superintendent at (314) 776-4320 or joyce.waddell@msb.dese.mo.gov

What is the Braille Challenge?

The Braille Challenge is a national braille contest created and sponsored by the Braille Institute of America. The Braille Challenge is a two-stage academic competition designed to support and enrich the reading and writing of braille.

Stage 1: Students participate in the Regional Event or a Preliminary Round in their home state.

Stage 2: The top 60 eligible students in the United States are invited to Los Angeles to compete in the Final Rounds! (summer, 2016 - sorry no funding is available from MSB)

Significant Changes to the 2016 Braille Challenge

***Please note the following changes at the Apprentice and Freshman Levels due to the January, 2016 adoption of the UEB (Unified English Braille) code:*

1. **IMPORTANT!** All contracted Apprentice contests will be in UEB ONLY. There will be no EBAE (English Braille American Edition) code option.
2. Freshman contestants:
 - These contestants may choose to take their Challenge contests in UEB or EBAE this year, depending on what they know best.
 - Reading Comprehension and Proofreading will be available in both UEB and EBAE.
 - To simplify this option as much as possible, Spelling will not be impacted: words will be 'code neutral:' they will not contain contractions that are different in EBAE and UEB.
3. Sophomore through Varsity contests will be in EBAE.

Braille Challenge 2016 Categories:

- 🌐 Braille Speed and Accuracy: Students listen to a digital audio story and transcribe it - speed and accuracy count.
- 🌐 Reading Comprehension: Students silently read a story and answer multiple-choice questions about the story.
- 🌐 Spelling: Students will braille vocabulary words in uncontracted braille. Extra points are given for the same words brailled correctly in contracted braille.
- 🌐 Proofreading: Students will read a faulty passage and look for braille, grammar, punctuation, or spelling errors.
- 🌐 Interpreting Tactile Graphics/Chart and Graph Reading: Students read tactile graphics to answer a variety of multiple-choice questions.

Who Can Participate?

- Braille Readers in Grades 1-2: Apprentice - Spelling, reading comprehension, proofreading; uncontracted braille, at and below grade level, continues to be offered at the Apprentice Level as a separate group contest.
- Braille Readers in Grades 3-4: Freshman - Spelling, reading comprehension, proofreading
- Braille Readers in Grades 5-6: Sophomore - Reading comprehension, proofreading, speed and accuracy, charts and graphs
- Braille Readers in Grades 7-9: Junior Varsity - Reading comprehension, proofreading, speed and accuracy, charts and graphs
- Braille Readers in Grades 10-12: Varsity - Reading comprehension, proofreading, speed and accuracy, charts and graphs

*Note that each participant must provide their own braille writer. Students participating in the Speed and Accuracy challenge (Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Sophomore Levels) must have a Victor Stream or Book Port Plus with ear buds or headphones.

Resources:

For practice, the Braille Institute will post 2015 Apprentice and Freshman practice contests in UEB as samples. Practice contests for all other levels and from previous years will be in EBAE. To find these practice contests, a history of the Challenge, and more, go to the Braille Institute's website at: <http://www.brailleinstitute.org/BrailleChallenge>

For Missouri School for the Blind participation form:

http://msb.dese.mo.gov/athletics-and-clubs/documents/BC2016PermissionForm_Missouri-StLouis.pdf

For registration/permission forms for the Regional Contest at MSB:

<http://msb.dese.mo.gov/athletics-and-clubs/documents/ParticipationForm.pdf>