



The 2021 Saint Louis Regional Braille Challenge (STLRBC) will be a remote event this year! In order to assure the safety and wellbeing of all contestants and volunteers, the STLRBC will work with each contestant and their educators to allow them to participate in this preliminary challenge from their home district.

Registration: To register, submit the registration and permission forms (see attachments) by December 11, 2020.

Testing Window: Students may complete their contests January 18-22, 2021

Awards Ceremony: February 10, 2021, 10:00-11:00am CST

Frequently Asked Questions:

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. The STLRBC is Missouri's preliminary round; the top 50 eligible contestants from across the United States will be invited to participate in the National Braille Challenge!

During the competition, students will participate in various tasks to test their braille skills. Categories include:

- **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?

Any student in the State of Missouri who loves reading and writing braille is welcome to participate! Contestants are divided into the following categories:

- Apprentice: grades 1-2 (Students can choose contracted or uncontracted braille at this level. Older students learning braille can also participate in this level but are not eligible for the National Braille Challenge). Contestants will participate in spelling, reading comprehension, and proofreading.
- Freshman: grades 3-4. (Older students learning braille can also participate in this level but are not eligible for the National Braille Challenge). Contestants will participate in spelling, reading comprehension, and proofreading.
- Sophomore: grades 5-6. Contestants will participate in reading comprehension, proofreading, speed and accuracy, and charts and graphs.
- Jr. Varsity: grades 7-9. Contestants will participate in reading comprehension, proofreading, speed and accuracy, and charts and graphs.
- Varsity: grades 10-12. Contestants will participate in reading comprehension, proofreading, speed and accuracy, and charts and graphs.

How will the Braille Challenge work this year, during the pandemic?

Each contestant will require an individual proctor within their school district. After registration, all materials necessary to complete the challenge will be mailed to the provided remote proctor address. The proctor and the student will work together to select an appropriate time to complete the contest within the remote testing window. After completion, contests will be mailed back to the Regional Coordinator by the end of the testing window.

Contests will be scored after receipt, and the winners will be announced via the Virtual Awards Ceremony (see below for more information). Prizes and certificates will be mailed to the winners.

When will testing take place?

Materials will be sent to remote proctors the week of January 11, 2021. The remote testing window is January 18-22, 2021. Proctors and contestants should select a day and time within the testing window to complete the contest; please allow approximately 3-4 hours to complete all practice

materials and tests. Contests should be returned to the STLRBC Coordinator by the end of the testing window.

What will I need to provide?

Each contestant will require a manual braille. For contestants in the Sophomore, Junior Varsity, and Varsity levels, a Book Port Plus or Victor Reader digital player is also required to complete the tests. If you do not have the proper equipment, please notify the STLRBC Coordinator (contact information below) and we will assist you. All other materials will be provided by the STLRBC.

Who can remote proctor for a contestant?

While a Teacher for the Visually Impaired (TVI) or other staff member with experience using a braille and a digital audio player are preferred proctors, any educational staff member can proctor for a contestant. If you are unfamiliar with the use of the equipment, we ask that you familiarize yourself before the selected testing day. Knowledge (but not mastery) of the braille code is recommended.

I've been asked to remote proctor. What should I expect?

First of all, thank you for helping us make this year's Braille Challenge a possibility! This year, proctoring for a student has been approved for 3 CEU's from ACVREP (if you proctor for more than one student, the maximum approved CEU's is 3 hours).

Educators who agree to proctor will be sent a box containing the contestant's tests and other materials, as well as directions for the proctor to administer each test. The proctor is responsible for working with the student to select a location, as well as a time and date during the testing window (see above), to complete the contest. The proctor will assure Braille Institute rules and regulations are followed during the test. The proctor will also be responsible for mailing the contests back to the Regional Coordinator (paid postage will be provided) by the end of the testing window.

For detailed proctoring guidelines, please see the "Proctor Guidelines" found on the Braille Challenge [Documents Page](#).

Where should the testing take place?

Remote proctors should identify an available space for the contestant to complete his or her tests. Any quiet, comfortable place where the contestant can have space to focus on their contest uninterrupted is acceptable!

How will the Awards Ceremony work?

The STLRBC Awards Ceremony will take place on February 10, 2021 at 10:00am CST, on the Missouri School for the Blind Facebook page. You will not need a Facebook account to view the Ceremony, and it will be available to

view after the event. The link will be shared with all registered contestants and their remote proctors prior to the event.

My contestant would like to practice for the Braille Challenge. What can we do to prepare?

Previous testing materials are available from Braille Institute. These materials allow contestants to practice for the 2021 Challenge, as well as prepare them for what to expect on their chosen testing day. These materials can be found on the Braille Institute's [Sample Tests](#) page.

I have a question that wasn't answered here. Who can I ask?

Please contact the STLRBC Coordinator at the contact details below (email is the best method).

STLRBC Coordinator:

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