

Missouri School for the Blind

is pleased to sponsor the

2017 Missouri Regional Braille Challenge

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

When: February 15, 2017

How: Just complete your two registration forms (see links under resources), then mail to the address above or fax them to Linda Havlik at 314-776-1875 or e-mail to linda.havlik@msb.dese.mo.gov by December 21, 2016.

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 50 eligible students in the United States (10 in each category) are invited to Los Angeles to compete in the Final Rounds! (summer, 2017 - sorry no funding is available from MSB)

Significant Changes to the 2017 Braille Challenge

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

1. **IMPORTANT!** All contracted Apprentice contests and Freshman contests will be in UEB ONLY. There will be no EBAE (English Braille American Edition) code option at these levels.
2. Sophomore 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. Junior Varsity and 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 2017 practice contests. 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:
(add link here to MSB Additional Information form)

For registration/permission forms for the Regional Contest at MSB:
(add link here to PDF for Braille Institute Permission Form)