

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

March 19, 2018

PENN\*LINK

TO: School District Superintendents  
School District Special Education Directors  
Intermediate Unit Executive Directors  
Intermediate Unit Special Education Directors  
Charter School Chief Executive Officers  
Charter School Special Education Directors  
Approved Private School Executive Directors  
Approved Private School Special Education Directors  
Area Vocational Technical School Directors  
Area vocational Technical Special Education Directors  
Career and Technology Center Directors  
Career and Technology Center Special Education Directors  
Advocacy Groups  
Other Interested Parties

FROM: Ann Hinkson-Herrmann, Director  
Bureau of Special Education

SUBJECT: Pennsylvania Unified English Braille Implementation Plan Stakeholders'  
Forums

The purpose of this PENN\*LINK is to inform stakeholders of the opportunity to provide comment through public forums regarding the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) Unified English Braille (UEB) transition plan.

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) voted on November 2, 2012 to adopt UEB as the official braille code of North America. BANA is the organization charged with promoting and facilitating the uses, teaching, and production of braille. Since the 2012 adoption of UEB, BANA has been working towards implementation of UEB in four phases. Phase four adopted UEB as the official braille code on January 5, 2016.

PDE will be conducting four stakeholder forums in April and May 2018 to solicit input regarding the implementation of full UEB and Nemeth in UEB context. The sessions will be held at the following Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) locations and the Central Intermediate Unit 10 in the State College area:

Wednesday, April 4, 2018	PaTTAN Harrisburg	9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 12, 2018	PaTTAN Pittsburgh	9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Friday, April 20, 2018	Central Intermediate Unit 10	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Friday, May 11, 2018	PaTTAN East	9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Persons wishing to participate must pre-register. Please access the following link to complete your registration: [UEB Stakeholders' Forum Registration](#). There will be a registration confirmation statement after the registration has been submitted. Registration will be accepted up to the day of the forum chosen.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact John Gombocz by email at [jgombocz@pa.gov](mailto:jgombocz@pa.gov) or by phone at 717.772.3745.