

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

March 1, 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

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

SUBJECT: Pennsylvania Unified English Braille Implementation Plan

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 (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.

In response to the adoption of UEB and as part of the proposed transition plan, PDE seeks input from Pennsylvania stakeholders before the plan is finalized. PDE is currently in the process of planning stakeholder forums to receive input regarding the implementation of UEB and the role of Nemeth Code for technical content. These forums will be held in April and May of 2018 at each of the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network locations. A separate PENN*LINK will be issued specifically on the topic of the stakeholder forums.

The proposed draft of the PDE Pennsylvania Unified English Braille Implementation Plan can be accessed here: [PA Unified English Braille Implementation Plan](#).

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact John Gombocz by e-mail at jgombocz@pa.gov or by phone at 717.772.3745.