

The Utah State Braille Standards and Effective Braille Practices

Task Force Report for Advisory Council

AUGUST 27., 2009

The Braille Standards Committee purpose is to align the Braille skills necessary for each grade level to the Utah Core Curriculum grade level standards for literacy.

- Using the California Braille Standards, we have aligned the Braille standards up to half of the fourth grade level core curriculum standards.
- There have been lively and informative discussions on the topic of when to teach uncontracted/contracted Braille.
 - Our national experts were asked for their opinions, and they both used the new ABC Report that supports the position ~~the earlier they learn contracted Braille the better reader the student becomes in a shorter period of time."
 - Our committee position on this issue is: We will teach contracted Braille as the curriculum dictates on the student's grade level expectations.
- We have obtained permission from the Utah State Office of Education Curriculum Department to use the exact same template for our document that is used by the state for all students grade level core expectations.

- We will have our own document **that will look just like the Utah Core Curriculum, but it will have inserted those skills needed at each grade level. It will be a parallel document designated as the curriculum for children and youth who are blind or visually impaired.**
- **September 10 will be the review by our Advisory Committee to make suggestions about the documents, and the plan going forward.**

The Effective Braille Practices Committee purpose is to prepare a document that will outline those skills necessary to be an effective teacher of Braille instruction.

- **Using the California Standards as our model, we are creating standards for our teachers of the visually impaired.**
- **We have stated a "Reference" list of materials for teacher use.**
- **We have discussed potential professional development and in-service topics to be included in expectations for teachers.**
 - **We would like to have pre and post testing of staff**
 - **Exploring possibilities and development of test**
 - **Who would be responsible for this oversight?**
- **There has been a group effort to research the best practices, and as we look at our model for the document, we are structuring it to include expectations for Master Teachers, as well as the skills for other levels of competency who may want to extend their skills past their certification level.**
- **We are also finding that we want to include an addendum to our document to cover issues such as: (1) How do I as a TVI help the regular classroom teacher meet the needs**

of this student? (2) How do I find more information about the assessments that are available for TVI's to use in evaluation?