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Bureau of Special Education FY'16 Memo #34

Date: May 26, 2016

TO: Superintendents of Schools
Directors of Special Education

FROM: Office of the Commissioner

Division of Educational Improvement
Bureau of Special Education

RE: New Hampshire Unified English Braille Implementation Plan

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE), Bureau of Special Education in conjunction with input from the Braille Authority of North America, the Parent Information Center, New Hampshire Association of the Blind, the New Hampshire Teachers of the Visually Impaired, the New Hampshire Association of Administrators (NHSEA), and parents of students who are blind and visual impaired, have approved the New Hampshire Unified English Braille Implementation Plan.

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) has prepared this response to the Braille Authority of North America's (BANA) official adoption of the Unified English Braille (UEB) code on November 2, 2012. The mission of BANA is to assure literacy for tactile readers through the standardization of braille and/or tactile graphics. The purpose of BANA is to promote and to facilitate the uses, teaching, and production of braille. BANA makes interpretations and renders opinions pertaining to braille codes and guidelines in North America. BANA voted January 4, 2016 as the targeted implementation date of UEB in the United States.

New Hampshire will be transitioning to UEB in a strategic manner. This will involve collaboration and support from multiple state and national partners. Multiple phases are involved in the transition, including awareness, opportunities for learning new skills, and implementation. New Hampshire will be adopting the UEB code with full implementation targeted for the fall of the 2016–2017 school year.

Please visit the Bureau's website to learn more about the New Hampshire UEB Plan:
http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/special_ed/index.htm

For additional information, please contact Mary Lane: Mary.Lane@doe.nh.gov / 271-3740.

MTL:BJD