



Deputy Commissioner
Office of Instructional Support

February 2017

To: District Superintendents
 Superintendents of Public Schools
 Principals of Public, Nonpublic and Charter Schools
 Superintendents of State-Operated and State-Supported Schools
 Executive Directors of Approved Private Schools
 Public School Administrators
 Charter School Administrators
 Nonpublic School Administrators
 Directors of Special Education
 Directors of Pupil Personnel Services
 Chairpersons of Committees on Special Education
 Teachers of the Visually Impaired
 Organizations, Parents and Individuals Concerned with Special Education

From: Angélica Infante-Green *A. Infante - Green*

Subject: Timelines for Transition of State Assessments to Unified English Braille

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to school personnel regarding the timeline for the transition of State assessments to Unified English Braille (UEB) as well as to provide information on the ordering of textbooks and instructional materials in UEB code.

The New York State Education Department (NYSED), Office of Special Education release a field advisory in October of 2015 detailing background information regarding the transition to UEB, along with training resources and the production of instructional materials in the UEB format. That advisory can be found at:

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The Offices of Special Education and State Assessment have been working together to create a transition timeline for both the elementary- and intermediate-level State assessments and Regents Examinations. The timeline presented below ensures that students will have more than two full years of instruction utilizing UEB materials prior to taking State assessments in the UEB format.

UEB State Assessment Transition Timeline

- x 2017-18 and 2018-19: No change to State assessment formats. All State assessments will be provided in the traditional English Braille American Edition (EBAE) only.
- x 2019-20 school year and thereafter: New York State (NYS) Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Tests and Grades 4 and 8 Science Tests provided in UEB only.
- x 2019-20 school year and thereafter: Grades K-8 New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT) provided in UEB only.
- x 2019-20 school year: NYS Grades 9-12 NYSESLAT will continue to be provided in EBAE only.
- x 2019-20 school year: Regents Examinations provided in EBAE only.
- x 2020-21 school year: Regents Examinations provided in both EBAE and UEB.
- x 2020-21 school year and thereafter: Grades 9-12 NYSESLAT provided in UEB only.
- x 2021-22 school year and thereafter: Regents Examinations provided in UEB only.

Information on requesting State assessments in braille formats can be found in the Office of State Assessment's School Admofof