

Kansas Sunflower Regional Qualifying Event National Braille Challenge Competitive Contest 2024 (Remote)

Due to a limited number of students who want to participate in the COMPETITIVE Braille Challenge event each year, KSSB is changing the way we are supporting the Kansas Regional Qualifying Events in our state. We love this contest and appreciate all the National Braille Institute does each year to promote braille literacy in the USA and Canada. Therefore, we will continue to provide information and a pathway for students to participate in this unique competitive braille opportunity remotely, but will not host an in-person event.

Changes effective immediately regarding the 2024 KS National Braille Challenge Regional Qualifying Event:

- If your student / child would like to compete in the COMPETITIVE Braille Challenge Competition they will need to be ready to read and write UEB contracted braille at their current grade / age level. The levels for the competitive event are as follows:
 - **Apprentice** Level (1st & 2nd grade)
 - **Freshman** Level (3rd & 4th grade)
 - **Sophomore** Level (5th & 6th grade)
 - **Junior Varsity** Level (7th, 8th & 9th grade)
 - **Varsity Level** (10th, 11th & 12th grade)
- The student / child must be prepared to complete ALL of the contests for their grade level. These include:
 - **Apprentice** (Spelling, Reading Comprehension, Proofreading)
 - **Freshman** (Spelling, Reading Comprehension, Proofreading)
 - **Sophomore** (Reading Comprehension, Proofreading, Charts & Graphs, Speed & Accuracy)
 - **Junior Varsity** (Reading Comprehension, Proofreading, Charts & Graphs, Speed & Accuracy)
 - **Varsity** (Reading Comprehension, Proofreading, Charts & Graphs, Speed & Accuracy)
- Each student must have a TSVI that is willing to proctor the Braille Challenge tests (or arrange for virtual proctoring through Pam Arbeiter at KSSB). **FIRM Registration Deadline for Participation: January 5, 2024.**
- Each TSVI proctoring the contest must complete a Zoom “proctor training” session with Pam Arbeiter prior to the KS testing window opening. **KS Remote Testing window: February 1-Feb 29, 2024**
- Each teacher must comply with the timelines and procedures outlined by the National Braille Institute in the Braille Challenge 2024 Handbook (ie. have contests completed within the testing window, abide by timing restrictions, use the correct sized braille paper, etc.)
- Parent / Guardian must sign the National Braille Institute permission forms for the student to participate in the event. Both English and Spanish forms are available.
- Students in the Sophomore, Junior Varsity and Varsity divisions must have a *Bookport* or a *Victor Reader Stream* device to participate in the Speed & Accuracy contest. If the student does not have this device, one can be borrowed from the Kansas Instructional Resource Center by calling 913-305-3071.
- The National Braille Institute will be scoring all tests and will send information regarding national contest qualification around May 1, 2024.
- Student / Child may participate in both the remote Braille Challenge competitive contest as well as the non-competitive in-person **KSSB Celebrate Access Braille Celebration** (Held on January 25, 2024 in Kansas City, KS or February 29, 2024 in Wichita, KS) if they choose to do so.