



# PROGRAM SPONSOR ALERT

Date:	March 26, 2015	Number:	15-03
Subject:	Revised Language for Standard 4 of the Preliminary Education Specialist: Visual Impairment Credential Programs: Braille Competency and Braille Literacy Instruction		

## Summary

This Program Sponsor Alert (PSA) provides notification to all approved Educator Preparation Programs about the adoption of Unified English Braille by the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) and the implementation of UEB effective January 4, 2016.

## Background

In December 2008, the Commission adopted program standards for Preliminary Education Specialist Teaching Credentials, including the specialty area of Visual Impairment. Program standards address aspects of program quality and effectiveness that apply to each type of educator preparation program offered by a program sponsor. Program standards contain statements describing the nature and purpose of each standard and language that details the requirements that all approved programs must meet.

The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) promotes and facilitates the use, teaching, and production of Braille. BANA publishes rules, interprets and renders opinions pertaining to braille in existing forms, and moves the field forward with potential new codes as needs arise, in collaboration with other countries using English braille. At its November 2012 meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, BANA affirmed January 4, 2016 as the date by which the United States will implement the general use of Unified English Braille (UEB). This date represents the birthday of Louis Braille, the man who invented the code named after him.

As a result of the adoption of UEB, the Commission, at the February 2015 meeting, consented to revise the language in the Visual Impairment Program Standard 4 to reflect the institution of UEB as part of a candidate's demonstration of proficiency.

Candidates for the credential will need to know the older codes as well as have proficiency in Unified English Braille.

### **Timeline for Implementation**

- Commission-approved Preliminary Education Specialist preparation programs offering a Visual Impairment Credential Program must begin integrating the use of UEB by January 2016.
- Accreditation activities after January 2016 will include attention to the integration of UEB in all VI programs.

### **References**

February 2015 Agenda item

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/commission/agendas/2015-02/2015-02-2C.pdf>

Education Specialist Teaching and Other Related Services, Credential Program Standards 2014-see page 39 of Education Specialist Teaching and Other Related Services Credential Program Standards <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/STDS-prep-program.html>

### **Contact Information**

For questions concerning an Education Specialist, Visual Impairment Credential programs email [Accreditation@ctc.ca.gov](mailto:Accreditation@ctc.ca.gov)