



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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October 5, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
EC Coordinators, Charter Schools
Directors, Residential Schools for the Deaf and Blind
Directors, State Operated Programs

FROM: William J. Hussey, Director 
Exceptional Children Division

SUBJECT: Unified English Braille Code Implementation

On September 11, 2015, the Education Consultants for Vision Impairment in the EC Division, in conjunction with a variety of vision related stakeholders, including parents, LEAs, contract providers, IHEs and community groups, met to conduct a decision analysis about how NC will proceed with the braille code for technical materials including math and science.

The decision analysis framework provided stakeholders with a process that helped them carefully determine the objectives and MUSTS needed to make the decision, and what risks may be involved with the decision.

Together, the stakeholders determined that the braille code that is used for technical materials, whether the Nemeth Code with embedded UEB or UEB solely, **MUST** do the following:

- Promote math and science literacy and college/career readiness;
- Prepare students to be competitive in a global society;
- Align with instruction supporting all VI students, including those with multiple needs;
- Support forward and backward translation; and
- Have flexibility to be used in all digital environments.

UEB solely was the only alternative that met each of the MUSTS.

A transition plan for UEB including literary and technical materials has been developed with full implementation complete by 2020. The complete transition plan may be found on the EC Division website under the Visual Impairments tab.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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