



DLM Braille FAQ

A limited number of students with significant cognitive disabilities read braille. This document describes the braille forms that will be available during the spring testing window in 2017.

What grades and linkage levels will be available in braille?

In English language arts and mathematics, braille forms are available for grades three through five at the Target and Successor levels and in grades six through high school at the Proximal Precursor, Target, and Successor levels. In science, braille forms are available at the Target level in all grade bands. Not all testlets at every level on the blueprint have a braille equivalent. When braille forms are not provided, test administrators will use other approaches to deliver assessments to students who are blind or have visual impairments.

How are braille forms transcribed?

Braille forms use uncontracted New English American Edition braille. Math testlets use Nemeth code rather than technical symbols or words for operations. Braille forms are transcribed to be as similar as possible to online testlets, but will have some minor changes to help the student best access the information.

- Page numbers are included on all testlets to help with organization.
- Answer choices are lettered to help the student let the teacher know which answer choice they have chosen so the teacher can input the answer choice into KITE Client.
- ELA text is double spaced to help students whose braille tracking skills are not strong yet.

Are tactile graphics provided?

Based on input from experts in the field and data about the characteristics of students who take DLM assessments, tactile graphics are too complex and abstract for most students with significant cognitive disabilities who are braille readers. Tactile graphics are not included in braille forms. Instead, assessments typically use objects as concrete representations of content. Please see the Testlet Information Page (TIP) for each testlet to learn about allowable objects.

How are braille forms delivered?

Braille Ready Files (BRFs) are delivered through Educator Portal. The DLM Alternate Assessment Consortium does not provide embossed braille forms. All braille forms are delivered via EP and must be embossed locally. The forms are adaptive; consider the testlet embossing process into the time used for assessment preparation. First the test administrator will download the braille form and emboss it. Then the test administrator will administer the embossed testlet to the student and enter the responses into KITE Client. Finally, the next testlet will become available and the process begins again.

Please see the [EDUCATOR PORTAL USER GUIDE](#) for a step-by-step procedure.

How are the student's responses scored?

When the system assigns a testlet, it delivers a computer-based version through KITE Client for the teacher to use. This version is equivalent to the braille version the student receives. As the student takes the testlet on the braille paper version, the student indicates each answer choice to the test administrator as the student normally would on braille assignments in class. The test administrator inputs each student response into KITE Client. Responses are scored by the system in the same way that computer-delivered and teacher-administered forms are scored.

My student needs a braille testlet but didn't receive one (or only received some testlets in braille). Why?

Braille forms are not available for every Essential Element. If a student's Access Profile is marked for braille, the system will deliver a braille form when available. If a braille form is not available for the Essential Element, the system will attempt to deliver an alternate form to the student. The alternate form of the testlet will have the letters BVI (Blind Visual Impairment) in the testlet name in the test ticket and in KITE Client (e.g., SP BVI SCI MS.PS1-2 P 10455). If a BVI form is not available for the Essential Element, the system will then deliver a regular form to the student.

What is an Alternate Form – Visual Impairment?

For a limited number of EEs and levels, alternate forms are provided for students with visual impairments. When this support is selected in the Access Profile, the student will not receive testlets that contain potentially confusing information for a student with a visual impairment. Alternate Form – Visual Impairment testlets are appropriate for students who are blind but do not read braille or students who have visual impairments that limits their access to the standard testlet forms.

What happens if the teacher marks both Braille and Alternate Form – Visual Impairment in the Access profile?

The system will deliver braille when available. When a braille form is not available for a testlet, the system will deliver an alternate form tagged with BVI. If BVI is unavailable, KITE Client will deliver a standard form that is commonly tagged to enable Read Aloud. A test administrator can also use human read aloud.

How are braille testlets still adaptive?

Braille testlets are delivered one at a time, just like non-braille testlets. Since teachers will enter student responses into KITE Client, the system uses responses to each testlet to recommend the appropriate linkage level for the next testlet. Based on the available braille content and the adaptive system, a student who reads braille may receive a combination of braille and non-braille testlets. Test administrators should use the guidance in the TEST ADMINISTRATION MANUAL and each TIP to deliver each testlet as intended.

Does the teacher of a student who uses a braille-format assessment have to be proficient in reading braille?

Yes, we recommend that a test administrator who delivers a braille testlet also be proficient with braille. The test administrator needs to be able to read braille in order to make sure the student has the correct pages of the testlet in the right order.