

Benefits of Braille

Texas Education Code (TEC), Section 30.002 requires that the individualized education program for *any* student with a visual impairment must include instruction in braille and the use of braille, *unless* the student's Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee determines and documents that braille is not an appropriate literacy medium for the student.

The committee's determination must be based on a current evaluation of the student's appropriate literacy skills and the student's current and future instructional needs. The determination of a student's literacy medium is an ongoing process, as a student's needs may change over time.

Braille instruction benefits students for whom braille is the appropriate medium in the following ways:

- Braille supports development of accessible and efficient reading and writing.
- Braille allows the student access to the same written materials in the classroom as sighted peers.
- Braille supports instruction in correct written language usage, such as structuring sentences, spelling, formatting paragraphs, and editing.
- Braille literacy can be crucial for future employment and success.

After reviewing _____'s Learning Media Assessment (LMA) conducted on _____, the ARD committee has determined that instruction in braille (circle one) **IS** or **IS NOT** an appropriate literacy medium for this student at this time. Based on the evaluation:

Students may use multiple literacy formats. Check all that apply:

Braille instruction is a necessary component of this student's literacy program.

Print instruction is appropriate, as student's speed and accuracy with print meets current and future literacy needs. Student reads _____ font at _____ words per minute for _____ minutes.

Braille and print instruction will both be necessary components to include in this student's literacy program.

Other tactile forms of literacy are appropriate at this time (for example, tactile symbols, objects):

Other non-tactile forms of literacy instruction are appropriate at this time given student's age or abilities (examples - pictures, auditory access):