

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Twenty-eight students compete in 18th annual Oklahoma Braille Challenge

Oklahoma City, OK (March 4, 2020) – Braille literacy is an essential part of education for students who are blind and visually impaired. That’s why the Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB) hosts the Regional Braille Challenge each year.

This year’s competition took place on Wednesday, March 4, at the NewView Oklahoma Center for Low Vision and Blindness, located at 4301 N Classen Blvd in Oklahoma City.

“We are very excited to host this year’s Braille Challenge,” said Andrea Hamen, NewView programs director and certified teacher of the visually impaired. “This is a fun and challenging event for students, and the competition is a great motivator for kids to improve their braille skills throughout the year.”

Regional Braille Challenges operate as a part of the Braille Institute of America’s national program based in Los Angeles. Competitors who score in the top 60 across the nation will advance to the finals in L.A. on June 26.

“It’s so important for our braille-using students to be challenged and celebrated,” said Faye Miller, Braille Challenge coordinator and OSB teacher. “It’s also essential that we increase braille literacy across the board, so that students who are blind can further their education and eventually secure fulfilling employment.”

Participants will be tested in multiple skills areas, including reading comprehension, speed and accuracy, proofreading, spelling and tactile graphs and charts. Tests are proctored by teachers of the visually impaired and scored locally by volunteer transcribers.

Each contestant will receive a custom brailled certificate and commemorative t-shirt.

The high school graduation rate for students who are visually impaired is only 32%, and the unemployment rate for adults who are blind is more than 70%, according to the National Federation of the Blind. In contrast, OSB has maintained a 100% graduation rate for five years.

Braille literacy is one key to empowering and equipping students for successful futures in society. In addition to braille training, NewView Oklahoma provides comprehensive rehabilitative services for children and adults who are blind.

For more information about Braille Challenge, contact Faye Miller at fmiller@osb.k12.ok.us or [918-781-8200](tel:918-781-8200).

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About Oklahoma School for the Blind:

Oklahoma School for the Blind is the statewide resource for the education of blind and visually impaired students. Residential and commuter students meet all state-mandated education requirements and receive specialized instruction in braille, orientation and mobility, optimum use of low vision, adaptive equipment technology and tactile graphic skills not readily available at other public schools in the state. OSB also provides hundreds of hours of free evaluations and other direct services each year for students attending local public schools, their families and local school staff. OSB is a division of the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services.

About NewView Oklahoma:

NewView Oklahoma is a private, not-for-profit organization founded in 1949 with a mission to empower people who are blind and visually impaired to achieve their maximum level of independence through employment, low vision rehabilitation, and community outreach. NewView Oklahoma is the leading employer of the blind and visually impaired individuals in Oklahoma and offers the only comprehensive Low Vision clinics in the state. Visit online at www.newviewoklahoma.org or follow on [Facebook](#) and on [Twitter](#).