

CDE-Funded Braille Competency Mentors

Colorado Department of Education

The Colorado Department of Education will fund Literary Braille Code Mentoring for a maximum of ten one-hour sessions (or a maximum total of 10 hours per qualified person). To qualify, a mentee must be a Colorado certified teacher of students who are visually impaired (TVI) who (a) is working in a Colorado administrative unit as a TVI and (b) who has been unsuccessful in passing the Colorado Braille Competency Test on one or more occasion(s).

The CDE-funded mentor must be approved by the CDE and provide mentoring at times when other employment does not occur. For example, a CDE-funded mentor also employed by an administrative unit cannot be paid for mentoring time to a colleague during school hours. Since this process often involves proofing braille samples produced by the mentee, the mentor will also need to include that time in the 10 hours funded, thus reducing the amount of direct contact. To be an approved mentor, the individual must be Library of Congress certified and/or have a current CDE Certificate of Braille Competency.

The role of the CDE-funded mentor is to:

- Provide feedback on mentee-produced braille samples with recommendations for further self-study.
- Recommend materials or other resources to assist the mentee to proceed with self-study.
- Offer clarification on the Literary Braille code rules.
- Recommend to the mentee and the CDE about the preparation status of the mentee to retake the CO Braille Competency Test.

The role of the CDE-funded mentor is not to:

- Prepare a TVI or other interested personnel in preparing for a first-time attempt to take the Colorado Braille Mastery Test.
- Review any section of the failed Colorado Braille Mastery Test with the mentee.
- Teach a braille refresher course or to provide extensive instruction on the Literary Braille Code.

A TVI or other individual who would like assistance with refining knowledge of and skills with the Literary Braille code is encouraged to work within his or her administrative unit to secure further braille instruction and guidance without CDE involvement or funding assistance. If a CDE-funded mentor is requested, arrangements should be made by contacting Dr. Tanni Anthony, who will work with the mentee to secure a mentor. The mentee's Special Education Director will be notified of the arrangement as a means of CDE sponsored technical assistance.

For more information or to request a CDE-funded mentor, please contact Dr. Anthony at (303) 866-6681 or Anthony_t@cde.state.co.us.