



**Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled**

524 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50309

515-281-1323 [library@blind.state.ia.us](mailto:library@blind.state.ia.us)

January 7, 2026

Dear Parents or Guardians:

We are excited to send this registration packet for the 2026 Iowa Regional Braille Challenge. This year marks our 20th year as a Regional Braille Challenge. This is a unique event that highlights the importance of Braille reading and writing and celebrates Iowa Braille readers. This event is a regional contest of the National Braille Challenge, a Program of Braille Institute of America Inc.

The Iowa Braille Challenge will be held on **Saturday, February 14, 2026**, at the Department for the Blind in Des Moines, Iowa. Registration begins at 8:30 am, with the opening Pep Rally beginning at 9:30. In the event of poor weather, a snow date has been scheduled for Saturday, February 21, 2026.

Free parking is available at 320 Watson Powell Jr. Way. This parking lot is to the east of our building on 4th Street between Watson Powell Jr. Way and Grand Ave. We will have signs posted so you know where to park. Please use the North entrance on Watson Powell Jr. Way to enter the building.

The **three** items listed below are enclosed in this packet and **must** be completed. Please sign and return **no later than Friday, January 23, 2026.**

A return envelope is enclosed for your convenience. If you prefer, you may submit the forms online at **<https://bit.ly/2026BC>** or by scanning the QR code to the right.

- **Parent Permission Form**
- **Student Interest Survey** - Information may be used to introduce your student to members of the audience on the day of the Iowa Braille Challenge.
- **Sign Up Form**



SCAN ME

Box lunches and T-shirts will be provided **free of charge for students attending**. Lunch will also be provided for family members attending.

T-shirts for family members will be sold by the Friends of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. More information will be coming soon.

There is no charge for students to participate in the Iowa Braille Challenge. All competing students are recognized. This year, we will be offering:

- Lodging available at no cost for Friday and/or Saturday nights.
- Travel reimbursement of \$50.00 for families who live more than 50 miles from Des Moines.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own Perkins Braillewriter for the contests. Please be sure to label the student's equipment with his/her name. We will have spares available in case of malfunction or if you cannot bring your own. NLS digital players and headphones will be provided for the Sophomore, Junior Varsity, and Varsity level speed and accuracy contests.

The Braille Institute of America, Inc. will once again oversee the scoring for the speed and accuracy contests. Local prizes will be awarded for all tests, except speed and accuracy. To qualify for the finals, students must complete all tests at grade level.

Again this year, there will be the Foundational Group which welcomes students at any grade level, including preschool and kindergarten, to participate. So, no matter your braille skills, please join us for this fun day of Braille!

The theme for 2026 is *Love, Braille*. Following the competition, there will be a Valentine's Party that will include crafts, snacks and fun. We look forward to a fun and rewarding day of contests and activities as we celebrate Braille literacy!

Best regards,

*Karen*

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