

## Contact Information

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## Collaborative Partners

The **BEST** Grant was awarded to the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio by the U.S. Department of Education. The School Study Council of Ohio will conduct the evaluation component. The **BEST** Grant is designed to improve the capacity of school districts to support their braille-using students and teachers through a partnership of three agencies:



Ohio State School for the Blind

**THE OHIO CENTER FOR**



**DEAFBLIND EDUCATION**

The Ohio Center for Deafblind Education



Center for Instructional Supports and  
Accessible Materials

**B**raile  
**E**xcellence for  
**S**tudents and  
**T**eachers

*A statewide project of professional development, technical assistance, and product development dedicated to braille literacy, braille instruction, braille materials, and braille technology in Ohio.*

<http://www.ossb.oh.gov/CISAM/CISAM.php>

800.310.3317

## BEST Grant

The **BEST** Grant is a statewide project of professional development, technical assistance, and product development dedicated to braille literacy, braille instruction, braille materials, and braille technology in Ohio's schools.

Braille literacy, the ability to read and write braille, is an imperative skill for students who are blind as they graduate from Ohio's schools and move on to become successful in college, their careers, homes, and communities. Literacy requires the ability to acquire information, communicate with others, and gain access to written information.

Braille literacy is the foundation that ties together education, employment, and financial security for the student who is blind. The **BEST** Grant will address the literacy of students who are blind and the quality of braille materials provided to Ohio students.



## BEST Goals

*The goals of the **BEST** Grant are:*

- 1) Increase braille literacy among targeted populations.
- 2) Increase the number of qualified transcribers providing quality braille to Ohio's students.
- 3) Increase access to and availability of quality braille materials, including tactile graphics.



The **BEST** Grant will focus on impacting the braille literacy skills of Ohio students through improved braille skills of Ohio educators and increased transcribing skills of Ohio braille transcribers.

## BEST Objectives

*The objectives of the **BEST** Grant are:*

- 1) Provide training and support to students who are legally blind in Ohio as identified through the Federal Quota Registration of Blind Students.
- 2) Provide training and technical assistance to educators and parents of students with visual impairments, including deafblind, regarding braille literacy and braille technology.
- 3) Provide technical assistance, training, and support to the Grafton Braille Service Center (GBSC) Prison Program.
- 4) Provide technical assistance and training to transcribers serving Ohio's students.
- 5) Provide technical assistance and training to the Statewide Braille Production Center at the Ohio State School for the Blind.
- 6) Provide technical assistance to participants taking the Braille Transcribing Course, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress (NLS).
- 7) Provide onsite technical assistance to local Braille Production Centers in Ohio school districts.
- 8) Provide training related to the production of braille, including tactile graphics.
- 9) Expand braille production capacities at the local school district level.