

Abstract

The Braille Excellence for Students and Teachers (BEST) Grant will be a community of practice centered on braille literacy in Ohio. Up to 233 educators will have the opportunity to participate in professional development designed to increase students' braille literacy and educators' braille competency. Social media will afford avenues to communicate information and provide interaction about state-of-the-art technologies and best practices. The goals of the BEST Grant are to (1) Increase braille competency in targeted populations, (2) Increase the knowledge and use/implementation of braille and state-of-the-art technologies, and (3) Increase the competency of personnel to provide high quality braille materials. The target populations will be Ohio educators and transcribers. Four collaborative partners will accomplish goals and objectives through the provision of high quality professional development and technical assistance that focus on results-driven outcomes.

The BEST Grant, through an outcomes-oriented approach, will focus on grant participants' achievements and outcomes. BEST will identify needs; develop comprehensive plans approved by a Leadership Team and Advisory Board; host professional development/learning opportunities and provide technical assistance; evaluate outcomes; and use data results to modify and guide future decision-making.

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