

Braille in the Workplace

Texas Workforce Solutions comprises Texas Workforce Commission, 28 local workforce development boards and our service providing partners. Together we provide workforce, education, training and support services, including vocational rehabilitation assistance for the people of Texas.

The ability to read and write is vital to everyone. Those skills affect one's ability to get jobs, promotions, and make other life advancements. Braille is an essential tool for individuals who are blind in the workplace.

Braille literacy plays the same key role in the life of someone who is blind as print literacy does in the life of a sighted person; it supports educational advancement and increases employment prospects. Research shows that Braille literacy directly correlates with academic achievement and employment. One quarter of all workers who are blind also read Braille. (Source: National Braille Press, www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/braille/needforbraille.html)



A popularly held belief is that Braille is no longer needed in our paperless society. It is easy to disprove this myth with a simple question: "Are sighted people ready to give up printers, pens and other writing tools?" The resounding answer is "NO!" More paper is manufactured and sold in America today than any other time in our society.

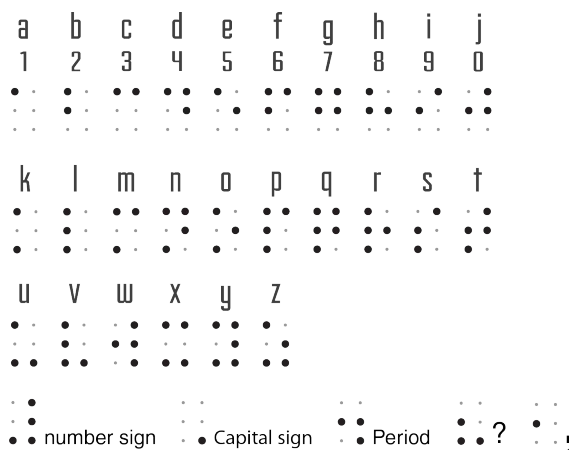
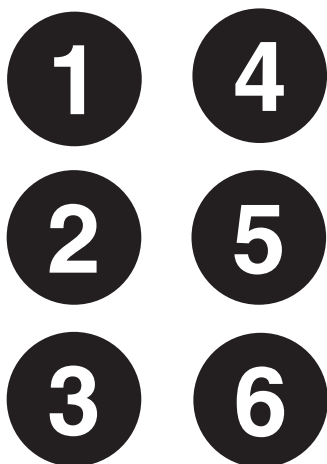
Technology is making literacy even more important. Use of computers, email, and the internet are essential parts of most workplaces. This technology has changed the way we communicate and the way we get information.

In the workplace, one can write and read Braille through a computer. Paper and digital Braille—when used with new technologies like screen readers and magnification software— help employees who are blind successfully work in many professions.

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