



Premier's Message

On behalf of the province of Nova Scotia, I am happy to welcome students from across Atlantic Canada participating in the 2021 Braille Challenge, a national program of the Braille Institute® hosted by the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA).

Braille Challenge is the only annual academic competition of its kind in North America for students who are blind or visually impaired. Braille Institute developed Braille Challenge to motivate students to practice and hone their braille literacy skills, which are essential to well-being, academic and employment success.

Nova Scotia implemented our province's first Inclusive Education Policy this year which is grounded in a collective commitment to ensure a high-quality, culturally, and linguistically responsive and equitable education to support the well-being and achievement of every student. We believe that all students belong in an inclusive school and should feel accepted, safe, and valued so they can learn and succeed. This includes access to fundamental literacy skills and equitable access to all educational opportunities for students who are Blind or Visually Impaired through the use of Braille.

Nova Scotia schools are proud to collaborate with students, families, and our partners at APSEA to ensure that students who are Blind or Visually Impaired experience stimulating and accessible learning opportunities such as the Braille Challenge.

I want to congratulate all the students taking part in this year's virtual event. No matter the results, I believe that this opportunity will have long-lasting impacts on your future education and lives!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Iain Rankin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Honourable Iain Rankin, M.L.A.
Premier

