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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Application Opens for Impactful Monarch Projects: Education-focused Student Pilot Project and Employment-focused RISE Project

Both programs aim to expand braille access, whether in the classroom or boardroom.

Louisville, KY (March 11, 2026) – American Printing House (APH) is pleased to announce that applications are open for the Monarch Student Pilot Project (MSPP) and Monarch RISE Project (RISE), expanding access to the Monarch: a multiline braille device that renders tactile graphics integrated with braille on the first-of-its-kind 10-line by 32-cell refreshable braille display.

MSPP is accepting new applications for students in grades 1st through 12th who can read and write braille and will actively engage and provide regular feedback. MSPP is an initiative designed to empower young braille readers by providing them with year-round access to Monarch while gathering valuable insights from both students and their educators. [Learn more about MSPP.](#)

RISE is also accepting new applications from college students, underemployed professionals, and individuals in their early career (<2 years) who can read and write in braille and are seeking to achieve or progress in competitive integrated employment (CIE). The Monarch RISE Project is a Disability Innovation Fund project designed to empower transition-aged students and adults to achieve competitive integrated employment by expanding access to Monarch while innovating employment-focused apps, features, and workflows. [Learn more about Monarch RISE.](#)

By providing Monarchs and innovative Monarch trainings, both Education-focused MSPP and Employment-focused RISE share a foundation of access, community, and contribution. Participants in both projects will gain increased confidence in innovating their workflow with Monarch; increased collaboration with classmates, family, or coworkers;

and increased self-determination in school and work, all while shaping the future of Monarch and accessible technology.

MSPP will distribute 100+ Monarchs to students annually. RISE will distribute over 275 Monarchs to students and adults by September 2028.

“These programs represent more than access to innovative technology, they represent access to opportunity. By placing Monarch directly into the hands of students and early-career professionals, APH is not only advancing braille and tactile graphic literacy, but also building confidence, independence, and real pathways to academic and career success. MSPP and RISE empower participants to shape the future of accessible technology while shaping their own futures in school, work, and life,” said Paul Schroeder, Vice President of Impact and Outreach.

About American Printing House for the Blind

APH's goal is to break barriers and broaden access for employment and education for individuals who are blind or low vision. APH is working to create a 21st century workforce of people with disabilities through innovative applications of advanced braille technology like [the Monarch](#).

American Printing House for the Blind is a worldwide leader in designing innovative lifelong learning solutions for children and adults who are blind or low vision. In this fast-changing world, we believe in the power and necessity of learning to open the doors to educational success, satisfying employment, active citizenship, and personal well-being. We level the learning playing field by providing specialized technology, materials, products, and services that are essential for education and life. For more information, please [visit the APH website](#).

Additional information

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