

2016 Elementary County Spelling Bee
San Joaquin County
Grades 4-6th

Rules and Procedures

1. Participating schools may use any selection process to choose their student representatives. Students must qualify at their local site/district bee before advancing to the county competition.
2. **All 4-6th participants must attend an elimination round on the Monday before the Wednesday final round.** The elimination round is a written pretest. The top 15 spellers from the elimination round will be notified that evening and invited to return for the finals on Wednesday.
3. The Wednesday Finals is an oral competition.
4. The first two rounds of words in the final competition will be taken from the 4-6th practice list posted on the SJCOE website. These posted words will not appear in the elimination round.
5. Every participant stands alone at the podium to spell his/her word.
6. The spell master will pronounce the word, put it in a sentence, and pronounce the word again.
7. The student may write the word down on scratch paper but must spell it orally as well.
8. Participants may pronounce the word before spelling, after spelling or not at all.
9. Once a student begins to spell a word, he/she will not have a chance to change letters once pronounced. A speller may repeat the word orally, provided letters and their sequence are not changed.
10. At any time, a speller may request that a word be re-pronounced, defined, and/or used in a sentence. Student may also request the word's origin. The spell master shall grant the request(s) until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the speller. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the student to understand the word from pronunciation, definition and sentence.
11. Judges may disqualify any speller who ignores a request to start spelling the word within a reasonable time period.
12. When a speller misses their second word, he/she will take their seat in the audience.
13. Once a round is started, all students still remaining in the competition must spell a word.
14. When only 1 student remains at the end of a round, that student is named champion.
15. The spell master, proctor and judges will be in complete charge of the contest. Their decision will be final on all questions.
16. The Webster's Third New International Dictionary, unabridged, (copyright 2002) will be the official contest dictionary. No other source will be allowed.

