STATE SPELLING BEE

California State Spelling Bee

Eligibility Rules

Updated August 2022 and subject to change

These rules are guidelines designed to assist spelling bee officials and spellers at the local level. Spellers should check with their local spelling bee officials for the rules in effect in their area. Spelling bee officials include the pronouncer (spell master/moderator), judges, coordinator, or sponsor.

Preface:
The California State Spelling Bee has no authority over the conduct of local spelling bees. Consequently, the San Joaquin County Office of Education will not render judgments relating to the conduct of local spelling bees. Individuals bearing complaints about the conduct of local spelling bees should register their concerns with local spelling bee officials. Decisions of local spelling bee officials are final.

Eligibility:
This spelling championship is open to two students from each county in California in grades 4-6 and 7-9 who have been certified as county champions by their county school superintendent or authorized designee.

Once having been disqualified at any level of a qualifying spelling bee program between June 1, 2022 and May 13, 2023, the speller remains disqualified for the 2023 California State Elementary and Junior High Spelling Bee Championship programs and may not seek advancement in the 2023 California State Spelling Bee Championship through another sponsor and/or enrollment in another school or county.
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Competition Rules

1. This is a written competition in which students will be eliminated after their second misspelling. Students will be given test booklets to write their word in.

2. Words used in the competition are chosen randomly prior to the competition from any sources deemed appropriate by the Spell Master and Judges. During the competition, the words used in each successive round increase in difficulty.

3. In competition, it is the responsibility of the student to understand the word from the pronunciation, definition and sentence.

4. Once you begin to spell a word, cross it out if you feel you are incorrect and write again on the same line. Students will have 20 seconds to finalize their spelling.

5. At any time, a speller may request that a word be re-pronounced, defined, or used in a sentence. The Spell Master shall grant the request(s) until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the speller or the 20 second time limit is up.

6. No language of origin will be provided.

7. Judges may disqualify any speller who ignores a request to start spelling the word within a reasonable time period.

8. If no definition of a homonym is given, the correct spelling of either word shall be accepted as correct. When a speller is given the definition of a homonym, he or she must spell the word defined.

9. Students will be given a number which determines their seat assignment. Once a round is started, all students still remaining in the competition MUST write/spell a word within 20 seconds. The next rounds will proceed in the same manner until only one student remains. This student will be named the state champion.

10. No protests will be allowed for the 2023 written competition.
11. Once the competition begins, spellers must remain in the competition area.

12. Restroom breaks will be given after each two rounds.

13. To minimize disruptions during this competition we ask audience members to turn off cell phones and other electrical devices.

The health, safety, and wellbeing of students, staff, and our communities remain top priorities of the San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The SJCOE works closely with our public health experts and will keep you informed should activities and events need to be modified, canceled, or postponed. This may include a change in dates, times, locations, and delivery methods (in-person vs. virtual).