

# Road to the Santa Clara County Spelling Bee

A Quick Reference Guide for District and School  
Administrators



August 28, 2024

3:30-4:30 p.m.

Facilitated by  
Mary Katayama

[https://sccoe.to/Spelling\\_Bee\\_Info\\_Slides](https://sccoe.to/Spelling_Bee_Info_Slides)

Working collaboratively with school and community partners, the **Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE)** is a regional service agency committed to serving, inspiring, and promoting student and public school success. The SCCOE is a premier service organization driven by the core principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, and partnership.

---

For more information about the Santa Clara County Office of Education, please visit [www.sccoe.org](http://www.sccoe.org)



@SCCOE



@santaclarasccoe



@santa-clara-county-  
office-of-education

# Leadership, Service, & Advocacy

## County Superintendent



Dr. Mary Ann Dewan

## County Board of Education



Victoria Chon  
Area 5



Joseph Di Salvo  
Area 4



Don Rocha  
Area 3



Grace Mah  
Area 1



Maimona Afzal Berta  
Area 6



Raeena Lari  
Area 7



Tara Sreekrishnan  
Area 2

# Welcome



In the chat, please introduce yourself:

Name, position, school/district

Name one of your strengths or something you are good at doing

# Spelling Bee Experience

Poll:

I am new to running Spelling Bees

I have experience running Spelling Bees

# What is a Spelling Bee?

A spelling bee is an academic competition where contestants spell words aloud that are assigned by a judge. Contestants are eliminated when they misspell a word. To win, a contestant must spell words of increasing difficulty until he/she is the last contestant to remain.



# Interesting Facts

- The History:
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Santa Clara County Spelling Bee was in 2016
  - At the 2023 National Spelling Bee, one Santa Clara County winner placed third and one placed fifth.
  - Last year, one SCC winner won at the state spelling Bee and placed 9th in the National Spelling Bee.

# What do I need to Know?

- The SCCOE will host an Elementary (4th-6th grade) and a Junior High (7th-9th grade) Spelling Bee
- The top two winners from each District will advance to the Santa Clara County Spelling Bee, held on **March 8, 2025**.
- Select an alternate in case one of the two winners can not attend the Santa Clara County Spelling Bee.



# Who Is Eligible?

Student representatives from:

- Santa Clara County school districts\*
- Charter schools, whose chartering agency is located within Santa Clara County
- Home-school organizations that meets special criteria (and reside in SCC)
- Private schools located in a district zoned to Santa Clara county (and reside in SCC)

*\*Individual public schools cannot register students in the SCCOE Spelling Bee. A district must register two students from that will represent the entire district. in the county spelling bee.*

# Who Is Eligible?

- Students in **grades 4-6** and **grades 7-9** can participate in the Santa Clara County Spelling Bee.
- Two students for the elementary level and two students for the junior high level per district, charter school, or private school
- One alternate should be selected in case one of the two students is not able to attend the county spelling bee.

# What Happens To the Winners?

The two winners of the Santa Clara County Elementary and Junior High Spelling Bees advance to the [California State Elementary Spelling Bee](#). SCCOE will register the winners in the state spelling bee.

Winners of the state spelling bee advance to the national spelling bee.

Note: The Santa Clara County Spelling Bee is **not** associated with SCRIPPS Spelling Bees.

# Next Steps?

- a) Register for the Santa Clara County Spelling Bee and fill out the “[Intent to Participate](#)” form by **February 7, 2025**. \*\$200 fee. When you register you will gain access to advanced word lists, sentences, definitions, spelling bee forms, and a sample flyer.
- b) Create a timeline and inform schools
- c) Share public lists. Hold school spelling bees.
- d) Hold a **district/charter/private school spelling bee by February 21, 2025**.

# Next Steps After Winners are Identified?

Once you have the names of the students moving on to the Santa Clara County Spelling Bee

- Submit names of 1st and 2nd place winners and name of an alternate to the SCCOE by **February 25, 2025.**
- Provide students' photos
- Provide contact information for students' parents/guardians
- Submit signed photo release form
- Provide information about SCCOE parent/student informational meeting and the SCCOE Spelling Bee to the winners' families

# Sample Timeline

- **September** - Create timeline, select date of district spelling bee, distribute flyer template, share study word lists and information with site administrators
- **October** - Sites select date for school spelling bee(s), create flyer, and recruit spelling bee coordinator.
- **November** - Sites share information about school spelling bee with school community and word lists
- **January** - Host classroom and school spelling bees
- **February** - Host district spelling bee and submit names for Santa Clara County Spelling Bee





# What should the Layout Look Like?



# What will the Contestants Do?

The contestants, who have 30 seconds to spell a word, will:

- Repeat the word before spelling. This is to ensure that the student heard the correct word.
- The head judge will have the responsibility for stopping the student if the student fails to pronounce the word or if the student pronounces the word incorrectly. If the student still begins to spell without pronouncing the word and misspells the word, the student will be disqualified from the contest.
- Look at the Spelling Master or judges when spelling the word.
- Spell the word orally.
- Then repeat the word.
- **Option - Give 45 seconds to say the word, write the word on paper, cross out misspelled words, turn over paper, then spell word orally, and state the word. Written word can be used if judges need verification.**
-



# What might a Bee sound like?

The Spell Master says the word and a sentence with the word in it.

The contestant might ask for a definition of the word.

The Spell Master says the definition of the word.

The contestant asks the Spell Master to repeat the pronunciation. The Spell Master repeats the word.

The Spell Master says “Please begin spelling the word.”

The contestant says the word, spells the word and then restates the word.

**Example:**

**Listless**

“The listless dog lay on the floor by the fire.”

**Listless**



**Listless:** having no interest in what is going on, as a result of illness, weariness, dejection, etc., spiritless; languid

# What Happens when a Word is Spelled Incorrectly?



**Upon missing the spelling of a word, the Head Judge will tell the Spell Master the correct spelling. The contestant leaves the stage and sits in a different location than the current contestants.**

# What If a Contestant Tries to Self-correct While Spelling?

If a contestant starts to spell a word, s/he may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning; **but** in the retracing, there cannot be a change of letters or sequence from those first pronounced. If letters and their sequence are changed in the respelling, the speller will be disqualified.

# Example

- If the word is WELCOME, a student may do the following:
  - ***Welcome, W-E-L, W-E-L-C-O-M-E, welcome***
- A student may NOT do the following:
  - ***Welcome, W-A-L, W-E-L-C-O-M-E, welcome***



# When there are 2 contestants left

- The contest becomes a volley back and forth until one contestant is able to spell two words in a row correctly, including the word that his/her opponent missed.



# When there are 2 contestants left

- As soon as contestant 1 misses a word, contestant 2 shall be immediately given the opportunity to spell the same word (contestant 1 is not out yet)
- If contestant 2 correctly spells that word, s/he must now spell another word correctly (still, contestant 1 is not out yet)
- If contestant 2 then spells his/her second word correctly, s/he is then declared the champion
- If both contestants spell the same word incorrectly, then the Spelling Master will give a new word to whichever contestant is up next (both contestants shall continue in the competition)

# What Resources are Available?

## 2025 Santa Clara County Spelling Bee

### 2024-25 Timeline of Important Spelling Bee Dates

Spelling Bee Virtual Informational Session <i>Must register</i>	<b>August 28, 2024</b> 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	For school administrators or spelling bee coordinators. <b>Registration Link:</b> <a href="https://sccoe.to/SpellingBee2025Info">https://sccoe.to/SpellingBee2025Info</a>
County Spelling Bee Intent to Participate Registration Final Due Date <i>Must register</i>	<b>February 7, 2025</b>	<b>Registration is limited to districts, private schools and charter schools.</b> <b>Registration link:</b> <a href="https://sccoe.to/Spelling_Bee_2025">https://sccoe.to/Spelling_Bee_2025</a>
District/School Spelling Bee Student Form Due Date	<b>February 25, 2025</b>	All districts and private or charter schools must submit names of students competing in the county Spelling Bee by this deadline date.
Spelling Bee Virtual Q&A Discussion Session	<b>March 5, 2025</b>	Zoom link will be shared one week before the event.
Santa Clara County Office of Education Spelling Bee Competition	<b>March 8, 2025</b>  <b>Grades 4-6:</b> 9 a.m. to Noon  <b>Grades 7-9:</b> 1 to 4 p.m.	County Spelling Bee at Santa Clara County Office of Education 1290 Ridder Park Dr. San Jose, CA 95131
California State Spelling Bee Competition San Joaquin County	<b>April 26, 2025</b>	State Elementary Bee held at: Great Wolf Lodge/Northern California 2500 Daniels St. Manteca, CA

## Santa Clara Spelling Bee Resources

**WATCH: Why is Spelling Important?**

**Spelling Apps for Students**

# Next Steps

- Add your name to the [Contact Form](#) for the SCCOE's information list.
- Set a District Spelling Bee date.
- Register for the Santa Clara County Spelling Bee.
- Contact, Srijita at the SCCOE, ([ssenguptasaha@sccoe.org](mailto:ssenguptasaha@sccoe.org)) if you have any questions.





Thank  
You!