

## AISA STATE SPELLING BEE

*In partnership with the Alabama State Spelling Bee and Scripps National Spelling Bee*

### A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Students competing in the AISA District and State Spelling Bee **must attend a school officially enrolled in the Scripps National Spelling Bee (spellingbee.com) by the stated deadline on their website and** qualify under two basic requirements:
  - a. They cannot compete at the same grade level for two consecutive years.
  - b. They must not have passed beyond the grade in which they are competing at the time of their district finals.
  
2. Each district will send **up to 5** winners to the State Competition:  
  
One from the 4th grade  
One from the 5th grade  
One from the 6th grade  
One from the 7th grade  
One from the 8th grade  
  
Note: **The State entry form must be sent (faxed or e-mailed) to the AISA on the day of the District Spelling Bee.**
  
3. At each level (local, district, and state), contests will be conducted in oral spelling **and vocabulary**. In preparation for the classroom elimination, teachers may use a combination of written and oral spelling. **But beginning with the school contest, the AISA recommends that coordinators follow the district and state guidelines.** District and state contests will be conducted orally, with elimination on "miss-and-out" basis in the traditional Spelling Bee manner.
  
4. At local and district levels, Spelling Bee contests should be held in an area conducive to concentration. A regular classroom or a library with a no-entry sign on the door is recommended. It would be most helpful to the participants if the contests could be conducted at times when the school bell will not cause interruptions.
  
5. At each level contestants will draw for order of competition immediately prior to the start of the contest.
  
7. Each school representative bringing a student to the district or state contest should bring a copy of the official rules and be thoroughly familiar with all rules, especially the rule regarding **protests**. Any school representative has not only the **RIGHT**, but the **DUTY**, to attempt to correct anything which appears to be wrong or about which there is a question, even if it turns out to be right. Such correction or protest, however, must be done according to **Rule B-13**.

8. At district and state levels, school representatives should familiarize themselves with the rules prior to starting competition and ask questions in the presence of the coordinator and judges, if necessary.
9. At each level, at least two judges and a pronouncer are required. These individuals must be selected on an impartial basis and must not be associated with either participating students or schools. They will be in complete control of the Spelling Bee at each level and their decisions will be final on all questions and/or protests. It is recommended that the individual selected as "pronouncer" be given a copy of the current **word list** prior to the district contest. This will allow the pronouncer ample time to identify the list of words to be used for the contest and become familiar with same.
10. In local, district and state competition, words will be taken from the current year edition of the *Official Pronouncer's Guide*. These words will be pronounced in a pre-planned sequence that shall be determined by the judges and/or bee coordinator.

Note: In grades 4 - 8, if a contest last more than twelve rounds, the pronouncer may use pre-determined list of words **Intermediate and Advanced Words** from a recent addition of the *Spell It!* list of words from Natalie's Spelling Bee Organizer to complete the competition. This is a judgment call made by the pronouncer and the judges and may be based on the talent of the individual spellers remaining in the contest.

11. At each level the contestants will be allowed one practice or "ice-breaker" round. Each contestant will be given two basic words to spell, and then the pronouncer will move to the next contestant. Once the practice round is completed the official contest will begin. **Each round starts with participant number one and is over when the pronouncer returns to participant number one.**
12. Contestants should stand facing the pronouncer and judges. Once a contestant is eliminated, he/she will sit down.
13. **The AISA Spelling Bee rules should be followed at the Local, District and State level and may differ from the rules stated in the *Official Pronouncer's Guide*. While AISA rules may differ, school coordinators should be familiar with the rules stated in the *Official Pronouncer's Guide* in the event they advance to the Alabama State Spelling Bee.**

## B. STATE RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. To be consistent with AISA rules and procedures at the state level, it is recommended that the local and district spelling bee competition be conducted according to the same format.
2. Words shall be pronounced according to the diacritical markings in Webster's Third New International Dictionary or the *Official Pronouncer's Guide*, from which in every case the pronouncer shall select the definition or definitions that he/she gives.

3. In competition, after the pronouncer gives the contestants a word, the contestant may pronounce the word before spelling, after spelling, or if he/she chooses, not at all. However, it is recommended that the contestant pronounce the word both BEFORE and AFTER spelling. This will leave no doubt that the contestant understands the word.
4. The contestant may request the pronouncer to re-pronounce the word, define it, or use it in a sentence. The pronouncer shall grant the request until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant. **JUDGES MAY DISQUALIFY A CONTESTANT WHO IGNORES A REQUEST TO START SPELLING.**
5. Having started to spell a word, a contestant shall not be permitted to change letters already pronounced. He/she may retrace from the beginning of the word, provided letters and their sequence are not changed in retracing. If there is any change in the original letters and/or their sequence, the speller will be disqualified.
6. Upon the missing of a word, the contestant immediately drops out of the contest. The next word on the pronouncer's list is then given to the next contestant.
7. If none of the contestants remaining in the Bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during the round, all shall remain in the competition.
8. Webster's Third New International Dictionary or the *Official Pronouncer's Guide* shall serve as the final authority for the spelling of words in the District and State finals. If a word has two or more accepted spellings, only the spelling(s) set in boldface type and separated by the word or, and in some cases the word **also**, at the beginning of the descriptive matter will be accepted as correct. Words having the labels archaic and obsolete (abbreviated obs) and regional labels (like North, Midland, South, Brit(ish), Irish) will not be accepted as correct.
9. When a contestant is given a homonym and the homonym is properly defined, he/she must correctly spell the word defined. If, however, the pronouncer fails to give a definition of a homonym, the spelling of either word shall be accepted as correct.
10. When the contestants are reduced to two, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, when one contestant misspells a word, the other contestant shall be given an opportunity to spell that same word. If the second contestant spells that word correctly, plus the next word on the pronouncer's list, then the second contestant shall be declared the champion.
11. If one of the last two spellers misses and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the new word submitted to him/her, the misspelled new word shall be referred to the first speller. If the first speller succeeds in correcting the error and correctly spells the next word on the pronouncer's list, then he/she shall be declared the champion.

12. If both spellers misspell the same word, both shall continue in the contest, and the one who first misspelled the word shall be given a new word to spell. The contest shall continue under Rules 10 and 11.

**Winner must spell a misspelled word and a new word!**

13. Any question relating to the spelling of a word should be referred to the judges immediately. The deadline for making a protest is before the contestant affected would have received his next word had he/she stayed in the contest. **NO PROTEST WILL BE ENTERTAINED AFTER THAT WORD HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ANOTHER SPELLER.** When only two spellers remain, a protest must be made immediately, that is, before the second speller has started to spell the word given him/her, or if both have missed the same word, before the correct spelling is given to the audience. Note: Only the school's representative seated in the designated area may protest.
14. If a protest should be voiced, the contest shall be halted until such a protest has been cleared up. If, because of a protest, it should be found that a contestant, having been told he/she missed a word, shall be found to have been correct, that contestant shall be permitted to continue in the contest. But, if it is found after the protest that a word was misspelled as originally stated, the contestant must drop out of the contest. The decision of the judges on any point, however, **SHALL BE FINAL.** No contest, for any reason, once it has been held and a champion selected, can be held over.

**D. AWARDS**

1. At district level, it is recommended that the winner and runner-up at each grade level receive appropriate awards.
2. At state level, the state champion and runner-up at each grade level will receive plaques. Each participant will receive an Outstanding Student Award Certificate.
3. **The champion in each grade division of the AISA State Spelling Bee will advance to the Alabama Spelling Bee, which is a qualifier for the National Scripps Spelling Bee.**

**AISA STATE SPELLING BEE**

**ENTRY FORM**

**(District Coordinator is expected to FAX, 334-833-4086, this form to the AISA office on the day of the District Spelling Bee.)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ADMINISTRATOR**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SUBJECT AREA COORDINATOR**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**4TH GRADE WINNER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SCHOOL**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**5TH GRADE WINNER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SCHOOL**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**6TH GRADE WINNER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SCHOOL**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**7TH GRADE WINNER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SCHOOL**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**8TH GRADE WINNER**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SCHOOL**