

AISA STATE SPELLING BEE

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Students competing in the AISA District and State Spelling Bee must 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. 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 ORAL SPELLING ONLY. 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.
6. Each school should bring a copy of the official rules of the Spelling Bee. The words are presented in Valerie's Spelling Bee Supplement in an abbreviated format that is helpful to students who are preparing for competition (school, district, or state). The Supplement can be ordered from Hexco, Inc., Phone: 1-800-725-2627, www.hexco.com.

7. Each school representative bringing a student to the district or state contest should 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 Hexco's Spelling Bee Organizer at least one month 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 district and state competition, words will be taken from the current year practice speller, Valeries' Spelling Bee Supplement. A list of words chosen at random will be prepared before the contest from the practice speller. These words will be pronounced in a pre-planned sequence and will not be in alphabetical order. The order for calling words in AISA Spelling Bees (District and State) will follow the plan established by Hexco's Natalie's Spelling Bee Organizer. Each topical list is divided into three approximately equal parts: **Novice Words** (beginning); **Junior Varsity Words** (intermediate); and **Varsity Words** (advanced).
 - a. In grades 4, 5, and 6, contest words will consist of five rounds of **Novice Words**, ten rounds of **Junior Varsity Words**, and then, **Varsity Words**. Note: Each round starts with participant number one and is over when the pronouncer returns to participant number one.
 - b. In grades 7 and 8, contest words will consist of two rounds of **Novice Words**, five rounds of **Junior Varsity Words**, and then, **Varsity Words**.
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. Ordering Information:

Valerie's Spelling Bee Supplement

Hexco, Inc.

P.O. Box 199

Hunt, TX 78024-0199

FAX: (830) 238-4964

Phone: 1-800-725-2627

14. The AISA State Spelling Bee has no connection with county and state contests; however, a student from an AISA school may enter the county contest. To be eligible for the State and National Championship through the county competition, the student must contact the local county officials in charge of the program.

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 (this will be the final authority in the District and State finals) and/or Hexco's Natalie's Spelling Bee Organizer, from which in every case the pronouncer shall select the definition or definitions that he/she gives. With the approval of the judges, he/she may give a fuller explanation of the meaning of the word to supplement the dictionary definition or definitions quoted.
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 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.

C. **TIE BREAKER PROCEDURES**

If two or more contestants at any grade level tie for five consecutive rounds (words), then the following procedure is used one time (only). The pronouncer will start over with five rounds of **Junior Varsity Words** that have not been used at this grade level.

If a tie still exists, then **Varsity Words** will be called until a winner is declared. Local and District Spelling Bees are urged to follow the same procedure.

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.

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

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS OF THE DISTRICT SPELLING BEE:

1. _____	2. _____
3. _____	4. _____
5. _____	6. _____
7. _____	8. _____
9. _____	10. _____
11. _____	12. _____
13. _____	14. _____