



CONTEST RULES

FOR THE GENESEE COUNTY REGIONAL SPELLING BEE

Cosponsored by The Flint Journal and Genesee Intermediate School District

1. Students participating in the Genesee County Regional Spelling Bee must be a current student enrolled in a Genesee Intermediate School District school. **Two students and one alternate per grade level, grades 4-12, with the alternate only competing if the 1st or 2nd place winner is not able to compete**, as follows:
 - ◆ Genesee County schools: district-wide COMPETITION winners
 - ◆ Flint Community Schools: area COMPETITION winners
 - ◆ Nonpublic countywide: area COMPETITION winners, 3 categories (Catholic, Lutheran, all others)
 - ◆ Public School Academies (Charter Schools) countywide: area COMPETITION winners
2. The regional competition will be oral only.
3. Words shall be pronounced according to the diacritical markings in Webster's Third New International Dictionary and its Addenda Section, copyright 1993 Merriam-Webster Inc., from which 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.
4. In competition, after the pronouncer gives the contestant a word, the contestant will be encouraged to pronounce the word before spelling it and after spelling it. However, no contestant will be eliminated for failing to pronounce a word.
5. The contestant may request the pronouncer to pronounce the word again, define it, and/or use it in a sentence. The contestant may ask for the language origin of a word. No other information about the etymology or history of a word will be given. If the contestant has a specific root word in mind, the contestant may ask if the dictionary lists that word as the root of the word to be spelled. The pronouncer shall grant all such requests until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant. The judges may not disqualify a speller for asking a question. **THE JUDGES MAY DISQUALIFY ANY CONTESTANT WHO IGNORES A REQUEST TO START SPELLING.**
6. Having started to spell a word, a contestant may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning, but in retracing there can be no change of letters or their sequence from those first spoken. If letters or their sequence are changed in the respelling, the speller will be eliminated.
7. The Spelling Bee shall be conducted in rounds. Each contestant remaining in the Bee at the start of a round shall spell one word in the round, except as provided in Rule 10.
8. Upon missing the spelling of a word, a contestant will return to their seat until the end of the round. At the end of the round, a judge will announce the students, by number, advancing to the next round.
9. 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.

RULES CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

10. If only one of the contestants remaining in the Bee at the start of a round spells a word correctly during that round, the contestant shall be given an opportunity to spell the next word on the list. If the contestant succeeds in correctly spelling the new word, the contestant shall be declared the champion. Otherwise, all the contestants remaining in the Bee at the start of the round shall remain in the competition. A new round will begin, with all of the contestants spelling in their original order.
11. Webster's Third New International Dictionary and its Addenda Section, copyright 1993 Merriam-Webster Inc., shall serve as the final authority for the spelling of words in the national finals. If more than one spelling is listed for a word, any of these spellings will be accepted as correct if the word either matches the pronunciation and definition provided by the pronouncer, or if it is clearly identified as being a standard variant of the word that the contestant has been asked to spell. Spelling at other locations having archaic, obsolete, or regional labels (such as North, Midland, South, British, Irish) that are different from those at the main entry will not be accepted as correct.
12. If a word has one or more homonyms, the pronouncer will indicate which word is to be spelled. If the listed word is not properly identified, either by defining it or by distinguishing the homonyms, any correct spelling of any homonym of the word will be accepted.
13. Any question relating to the spelling of a word should be referred to the designated official at the end of a round IN WRITING ON THE OFFICIAL PROTEST FORM. The deadline for filing a protest is before the beginning of the next round. No protest from a previous round will be entertained after the beginning of the subsequent round. Protests may be made on the behalf of students participating in grades 4-8 by teachers, parents or others. Protests for students participating in grades 9-12 may be made ONLY BY THE STUDENT THEMSELVES.
14. The judges are final authority for the Bee. Their decision will be final on all questions.
15. SPELLING BEE WORDS FOR THE GRADE LEVEL COMPETITION WILL BE CHOSEN FROM PREVIOUS YEAR'S FINAL BEE LISTS. THE PRONOUNCER (AT HIS OR HER DISCRETION) MAY INCREASE THE DIFFICULTY OF THE LIST ONLY AT THE BEGINNING OF A ROUND. THE PRONOUNCERS MAY MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT ELIMINATING WORDS BECAUSE OF PRONUNCIATION DIFFICULTIES.

It has been found necessary to add the following rules:

1. No small children are allowed to watch the bee. They may cause a disturbance which might distract the speller.
2. Cell phones & Pagers must be turned off before the Bee starts. This has been a distraction at previous bees.
3. No photos are to be taken during the Bee. However, you may take pictures before the Bee, after the Bee or while the students are introducing themselves. The Flint Journal, other newspapers and/or TV stations do take pictures but they must not use a flash and they must remain on the side lines.
4. Any student who displays poor sportsmanship during the bee will be asked to leave the competition.