



New York State Spanish Spelling Bee
Sponsored by the
NYSED Office of Bilingual Education and Foreign Language Studies
Through the
NYS Spanish BETAC at New York University

NYS Spanish Spelling Bee
Official Guidelines and Rules

The Guidelines and Rules and the Clarification Guide of the Names of Special Letters and Sounds for the New York State Spanish Spelling Bee have been revised (**January 2008**). All decisions at the statewide Spanish Spelling Bee will be made based on these official guidelines and rules for New York State. Therefore, spellers, parents, teachers, and local spelling bee officials are encouraged to become familiar with and use these guidelines at all local spelling bees.

The 2008 New York State Spanish Spelling Bee final statewide competition is open to students in grades 4 through 7 in schools in New York State. The final competition for 2008 will take place at The Scholastic Auditorium in New York City on May 30, 2008 and will draw students from districts all over New York State. Each participating district may send only two students – one from grades 4/5 and one from grades 6/7. The NYS Spanish Spelling Bee is open to all students in grades 4 through 7 regardless of their program of study.

For the purpose of the statewide competition, the Clarification Guide of the Names of Special Letters and Sounds was modified from the rules of pronunciation previously used in NYS Spanish Spelling Bees. After extensively researching the pronunciation of letters and digraphs*, the Real Academia Española (22nd edition; <http://www.rae.es>) was chosen as the standard of pronunciation. Since references from the many Spanish-speaking countries show great diversity concerning the pronunciation of the digraphs: *ch*, *ll*, and *rr*, the decision was made to separate them into their individual components and thus pronounce the individual letters during the NYS Spanish Spelling Bee. (See the Clarification Guide of the Names of Special Letters and Sounds below.)

*A pair of letters that represents a single sound.



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GUIDELINES

1. These guidelines and rules apply to the New York State Spanish Spelling Bee. They will be distributed to participating schools, teachers, and students in advance of the statewide Spanish Spelling Bee.
2. NYS districts, regions, and cities choosing to participate in the statewide Spanish Spelling Bee may use these guidelines and rules as a model for the guidelines and rules of their local spelling bee.
3. In order to qualify for the New York State Spanish Spelling Bee, a speller must have participated and won a school wide **and** a local (i.e. district wide or citywide) Spanish Spelling Bee on or before April 30, 2008.
4. Students will compete in two categories: grades 4 and 5 will compete together; grades 6 and 7 will compete together.
5. Participating districts, regions, or cities must designate a Spanish-speaking administrator who will coordinate and promote a district/region/city level competition.
6. Districts/Cities may conduct classroom, school-wide, district-wide, and citywide competitions as they see fit, but only one finalist from grades 4/5 and one finalist from grades 6/7 may represent the district/city in the final competition on May 30, 2008.
7. Judges will uphold the rules and determine whether or not words are spelled correctly. The judges' decisions are final. There are no appeal mechanisms in this competition. Judges will articulate their decisions to the public through the lead judge.
8. Spellers must face the judges and utter each letter distinctly and with sufficient volume to be understood by the judges.

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9. Judges will disqualify a speller from the competition who:
- refuses a request to start spelling;
 - does not approach the microphone when it is time to receive the word;
 - does not comply with the eligibility requirements, prior to or during the competition;
 - engages in unsportsmanlike/impolite/inappropriate conduct;
 - alters the letters or sequence of letters from those first uttered in the process of retracing a spelling; or
 - utters unintelligible or nonsense sounds in the process of spelling.
10. A speller will **not** be disqualified for:
- failing to pronounce the word either before or after spelling it or
 - asking a question
11. Local spelling bee officials are responsible for selecting the word lists for use at the local spelling bees. Word lists may be developed through the Spanish glossaries available from the NYSED website: http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/biling/bilingual_glossaries.htm
12. In order to participate in New York State Spanish Spelling Bee Final Competition on May 30, 2008, spellers and their parents or guardians must sign both a ***Student Participation Form*** and an ***Appearance Consent and Release Form*** which must be submitted to the NYS Spanish BETAC no later than May 5, 2008.
13. The 2008 NYS Spanish Spelling Bee final competition will be televised live by *NYI Noticias*, and retransmitted the following day. All participants and their parents or guardians must sign and submit a consent form which must be submitted to the NYS Spanish BETAC no later than May 5, 2008, that allows participants and their parents or guardians to be part of the television network broadcast.
14. To participate in the final competition, districts must register by **January 31, 2008** by contacting Dr. Gail M. Slater, NYS Spanish BETAC, via email at gail.slater@nyu.edu or by calling 212-998-5060.



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1. Since seeing the speller's lip movements may be critical in detecting misunderstandings or misspellings, spellers must face the judges when pronouncing and spelling the word. Spellers should pronounce the word before and after spelling it.
2. A pronouncer will articulate the spelling bee words and respond to spellers' requests to have a word repeated and/or used in a sentence. The pronouncer must be able to enunciate each word in a clear and audible manner.
3. Spellers may ask the pronouncer to say the word again and use it in a sentence.
4. Spellers are responsible for any misunderstanding of the word unless the pronouncer did not provide a correct pronunciation or provided an incorrect sentence.
5. After starting to spell a word, a speller can stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning. In retracing, there can be no change of letters or their sequence from those first pronounced.
6. The oral spelling must be correct and complete. Accent marks **must** be mentioned. (See the Clarification Guide of the Names of Special Letters and Sounds below.)
7. The spelling bee word lists are graduated in difficulty. The pronouncer will begin a new word list when the previous list is exhausted or when there are not enough words on the previous list for each speller remaining in the competition to spell a new word.
8. Upon incorrectly spelling a word, the speller shall immediately be eliminated, until there are only two spellers remaining in the competition.

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RULES

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9. When the last two spellers remain in the competition, the following rules apply:
 - a. If either speller spells a word incorrectly, the other speller must spell the **same** word.
(i.e. Speller A spells a word wrong; Speller B spells the same word.)
 - b. If the second speller spells the **same** word incorrectly, the competition continues with the next word on the list given to the first speller.
(i.e. Speller B spells the same word as Speller A and spells it wrong; Speller A gets a new word.)
 - c. If the second speller spells the **same** word correctly, s/he must spell the next word on the list correctly in order to be declared the winner.
(i.e. Speller B spells the same word as Speller A and spells it correctly; Speller B gets a new word and spells it correctly. Speller B wins the competition.)
 - d. If the second speller spells the **same** word correctly, but misspells the next word on the list, the misspelled word goes back to the first speller.
(i.e. Speller B spells the same word as Speller A and spells it correctly; Speller B gets a new word and spells it incorrectly. Speller A spells the word that Speller B spelled wrong.)
 - e. The first speller must then correctly spell the misspelled word as well as the next word on the list in order to be declared the winner.
(i.e. Speller A correctly spells the word that Speller B spelled wrong; Speller A gets a new word and spells it correctly. Speller A wins the competition.)
 - f. This continues until one of the two remaining spellers correctly spells two consecutive words.

10. In the event that a question or objection arises regarding the spelling of a word, the lead judge or the pronouncer may stop the competition. The time allowed for a question or objection is before the next speller receives a word. No question or objection will be entertained after the new word has been given to the subsequent speller.

11. The pronouncer and the judges will convene in order to address questions or objections. The judges will render the final decision, articulated to the public through the lead judge. Participants and members of the audience will not be allowed to challenge or appeal the judges' decision.



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CLARIFICATION GUIDE OF THE NAMES OF SPECIAL LETTERS AND SOUNDS

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Clarification</u>
b	be larga or be grande
ñ	eñe
q	cu
r	ere
v	ve corta or ve chica or uve
w	doble u or doble v
y	i griega or ye
z	zeta

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<u>Accented Vowels</u>	<u>Name of Vowel with Accent</u>
á	a acentuada or a con acento
é	e acentuada or e con acento
í	i acentuada or i con acento
ó	o acentuada or o con acento
ú	u acentuada or u con acento

<u>Dieresis</u>	<u>Name of Vowel with Dieresis</u>
ü	u con diéresis

<u>Digraphs*</u>	<u>Name of Digraph</u>
ch	ce hache
ll	ele ele
rr	ere ere

*A pair of letters that represents a single sound.

Reference: <http://www.rae.es/> (Real Academia Española – 22nd edition)