



New York State Education Department
Office of Bilingual Education and Foreign Language Studies
The New York State Spanish Spelling Bee
Coordinated by
The New York State Spanish BETAC
at New York University Steinhardt - Metropolitan Center for Urban education

NYS Spanish Spelling Bee Official Guidelines and Rules

The 2009 New York State Spanish Spelling Bee is a state-wide competition open to students in grades 4 through 8. The 2009 Final Competition will take place at the *Auditorium* of Scholastic Publications in New York City on May 29, 2009. The NYS Spanish Spelling Bee Final is open to all students in grades 4 through 8 regardless of their program of study. Participating schools may send up to two students – one from grades 4/5 and one from grades 6/7/8. All students in the statewide competition should have participated in and won a school-wide or district-wide Spanish Spelling Bee between September 1, 2008 and April 30, 2009.

In preparation for the Spanish Spelling Bee, students should be familiar with the *Clarification Guide of the Names of Special Letters and Sounds*. Because different Spanish-speaking countries use different pronunciations for the digraphs: *ch*, *ll*, and *rr*, we seek to ensure consistency, and therefore the statewide competition uses the standard of separating them into their individual components and pronouncing the individual letters during the NYS Spanish Spelling Bee. After extensively researching the pronunciation of letters and digraphs*, the *Real Academia Española's* 22nd edition was chosen as the standard of pronunciation. (See: <http://www.rae.es/>) All decisions at the statewide Spanish Spelling Bee on May 29, 2009 will be made based on the 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. (See the *Clarification Guide for 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 Final Competition. They are made available to participating schools, teachers, and students in advance of the statewide Spanish Spelling Bee.
2. NYS schools and districts choosing to participate in the statewide Spanish Spelling Bee may use these guidelines and rules as a model for the guidelines and rules used at their local spelling bees.
3. To qualify for the New York State Spanish Spelling Bee, a speller should have participated in and won a school or district wide Spanish Spelling Bee on or before April 30, 2009.
4. Students will compete in two categories: grades 4 and 5 will compete together, and grades 6, 7, and 8 will compete together.
5. Participating schools or districts must designate a Spanish-speaking administrator or teacher who will coordinate and promote a school/district level competition.
6. Schools/Districts may conduct classroom, school wide, and district wide competitions as they see fit, but **only one** finalist from grades 4/5 and **one** finalist from grades 6/7/8 may represent each school in the final competition on May 29, 2009.
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.

(Guidelines continue on the next page)



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8. 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.

9. A speller will **not** be disqualified for:
 - failing to pronounce the word either before or after spelling it, or
 - asking a question

10. 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 or through Spanish dictionaries or Spanish language textbooks.

11. In order to participate in the New York State Spanish Spelling Bee Final Competition on May 29, 2009, spellers and their parents or guardians must sign a ***Student Participation Form*** which must be submitted to the NYS Spanish BETAC no later than May 5, 2009.

12. The 2009 NYS Spanish Spelling Bee final competition may be televised live by local cable channels such as *NYI Noticias*, and retransmitted the following days. All participants and their parents or guardians must sign an ***Appearance Consent and Release Form*** which must be submitted to the NYS Spanish BETAC no later than May 5, 2009, that allows participants and their parents or guardians to be part of the television network broadcast.

13. To participate in the final competition, schools must register by **December 19, 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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RULES

1. Spellers must face the judges and utter each letter distinctly and with sufficient volume to be understood by the judges.
2. Spellers should pronounce the word before and after spelling it, but they will **not** be disqualified for failing to pronounce the word either before or after spelling it.
3. A pronouncer will enunciate each word in a clear and audible manner and use it in a sentence when requested by the speller.
4. Spellers may ask the pronouncer to repeat a word and the sentence in which it was used.
5. Spellers are responsible for any misunderstanding of the word unless the pronouncer did not provide a correct pronunciation or provided an incorrect sentence.
6. 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.
7. 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.)
8. 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.
9. 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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- 10.** When only 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 incorrectly; 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 incorrectly; 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 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 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 incorrectly; 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.
- 11.** 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. A question or objection must be stated 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.
- 12.** 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 FOR THE NAMES OF
SPECIAL LETTERS AND SOUNDS**

<u>CLARIFIC ATION GUIDE FOR THE NAMES OF SPECIAL LETTERS AND SOUNDS</u>	<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)