



## The 2011 NYS Spanish Spelling Bee Final Competition

Coordinated by  
The New York State Spanish BETAC  
New York University's Steinhardt Metropolitan Center for Urban Education

### OFFICIAL 2011 GUIDELINES AND RULES

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## OVERVIEW

The 2011 New York State Spanish Spelling Bee Final Competition (aka Final Competition) will take place on Friday, June 3, 2011. The NYS Spanish Spelling Bee Final Competition is open to students who:

- are registered in grades 4 through 8 during the 2010-2011 academic year, and
- have participated in and won a school-wide or district-wide Spanish Spelling Bee between October 1, 2010 and April 29, 2011.

Students who want to participate in the NYS Spanish Spelling Bee Final Competition may be Spanish language speakers or Spanish language learners. Their participation is independent of the instructional program offered to them at school, i.e., bilingual, ESL, dual language, or foreign language.

Each school may be represented at the Final Competition in New York City by only one student in grades 4-8, regardless of the school's grade span. This student must have won a school-wide Spanish Spelling Bee.

Districts with more than one school with students who wish to participate in the Final Competition are encouraged to conduct a district-wide Spanish Spelling Bee. This will allow the district to select one winner in grades 4-8 who will represent the district in the Final Competition.



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#### GUIDELINES

The following guidelines apply to the 2011 New York State Spanish Spelling Bee Final Competition. They are available to participating schools, teachers, and students at <http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/sbetac/2011spellingbee>. NYS schools and districts are encouraged to follow these guidelines and rules for their local spelling bees.

1. Participating schools or districts must designate a Spanish-speaking administrator or teacher who will coordinate and promote a school/district level competition, facilitate the participation of the winner at the final competition in NYC and provide information about the student's participation in the Spelling Bee to the parents of the finalists. The student must be accompanied to the Final Competition by a school administrator or teacher.
2. Schools/Districts may conduct classroom, school-wide, and district-wide competitions, but only **one** finalist from grades 4 through 8 may represent each school or district in the final competition on June 3, 2011. Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 will compete together; there will be one first place winner and one second place winner for the entire statewide competition.
3. 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 for the appropriate grades available from the NYSED website or through Spanish dictionaries or Spanish language textbooks. Visit the following link for the subject area (math, science, social studies) glossaries: <http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/sbetac/2011spellingbee>
4. Registration for the 2011 Final Competition Form will be conducted electronically. Schools/districts that send an email to [nyssbetac@gmail.com](mailto:nyssbetac@gmail.com) with "Spanish Spelling Bee" in the subject line will receive an electronic registration form that must be submitted no later than November 30, 2010.
5. To qualify for the 2011 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 29, 2011.
6. The name of the local contestant must be submitted to the NYS Spanish BETAC on the *NYS Spanish Spelling Bee Final Competition Student Participation Form* no later than **May 6, 2011** via fax "ATTN: DR. GAIL SLATER" at 1-212-995-4199 or email to [nyssbetac@gmail.com](mailto:nyssbetac@gmail.com); with "Spanish Spelling Bee" in the subject line.
7. The completed *NYS Spanish Spelling Bee Final Competition Appearance Consent and Release Form* is a requirement for participation in the New York State Spanish Spelling Bee Final Competition. The competition will be both televised and recorded, and pictures of students and the audience will appear in various media, hence the release form must be signed by the parents/guardians of participating students and by all adults in attendance. The form must be submitted to the NYS Spanish BETAC no later than **May 6, 2011** via fax "ATTN: DR. GAIL SLATER" at 1-212-995-4199 or via email to [nyssbetac@gmail.com](mailto:nyssbetac@gmail.com); please write "Spanish Spelling Bee" in the subject line.

October 1, 2010



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#### 8. Responsibilities of Event Officials

- a. The NYS Spanish BETAC is responsible for the overall planning and organization of the final competition, which brings together students from throughout the State of New York and selects the competition officials: pronouncer, lead judge and judges.
- b. The pronouncer and judges are in charge of the competition on the day of the event. Preparation starts in advance of the competition when guidelines, word rounds and other relevant details are thoroughly reviewed, and the officials are selected.
- c. During the competition, if a question arises among the officials, the lead judge and the pronouncer may stop the competition and address the question in private. When they reach a final decision, the lead judge articulates to the public both the question and the decision before continuing with the event.
- d. Challenges or appeals to the judges' decisions by participants or members of the audience will not be considered.

#### 9. Responsibilities of the Judges

- a. Judges will uphold the rules and determine whether or not words are spelled correctly.
- b. Judges' decisions are final; there are no appeal mechanisms in the Final Competition.
- c. Judges will disqualify a contestant from the competition who:
  - does not comply with the eligibility requirements, prior to or during the competition
  - is not present when his/her name is called
  - engages in impolite or inappropriate conduct
  - does not approach the microphone when it is time to receive the word
  - fails to start spelling when prompted
  - alters the sequence of the letters already mentioned when in the process of restarting/retracing a spelling, or
  - utters unintelligible or nonsense sounds in the process of spelling.
- d. Judges will not allow contestants and/or members of the audience to interrupt.
- e. Only judges may ask for a playback of the current contestant's spelling.



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#### 10. Responsibilities of the Pronouncer

- a. The pronouncer meets with the judges before the start of the competition to review the words and sentences, and to make any necessary last minute adjustments where needed.
- b. The pronouncer ensures that the contestants are seated and ready, and may give words of encouragement to them.
- c. The pronouncer pauses for the individual contestant to take a position in front of the microphone.
- d. The pronouncer enunciates each word in a clear, distinct and audible manner.
- e. The pronouncer reads each word preceded by "*La palabra es....*"
- f. The pronouncer reads a sample sentence containing the word when requested by the contestant.
- g. The pronouncer may repeat a word when requested by the contestant; however, no more than two additional readings of the word are allowed.
- h. The pronouncer pauses for contestants to start within a reasonable time (no more than a minute), and encourages contestants or seeks advice from the judges if a contestant fails to begin to spell the word provided.
- i. The prepared word rounds are graduated in difficulty; the pronouncer begins a new round when each remaining contestant has received a word from the previous round.
- j. The round for the final two contestants is a separate list of more difficult words than those in previous rounds.

#### 11. Responsibilities of the Contestants

- a. Contestants are encouraged to have a nutritious meal at home before departing for the event; they should bring a bottle of water and snacks with them to the competition. However, there will be no drinking, eating or gum-chewing on the stage or in the auditorium during the event. Contestants will need to wait for an appropriate break during the competition to eat and drink.
- b. Contestants are expected to arrive appropriately dressed for the event one hour before the start of the competition.



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- c. Contestants will each receive a nametag upon arriving at the auditorium.
- d. Contestants will be seated with their parents, teachers, or guardians until their names are called to step up to the stage; they will be assisted at the stage for seating arrangements, where final instructions will be provided.
- e. Once on the stage, the group of contestants will be read the competition rules, including the guide to the accented letters and digraphs.
- f. Contestants are encouraged to pronounce each word before and after spelling it, although this is not mandatory and a contestant will NOT be eliminated for failing to pronounce the word either before or after spelling it.
- g. Contestants may ask the pronouncer for a sample sentence containing a word, if needed.
- h. Contestants may request up to two additional readings of each word.
- i. Contestants must face the judges and utter each letter distinctly and with sufficient volume to be understood by the judges.
- j. Contestants are responsible for their understanding of the pronunciation of the word. In the case that the pronunciation is not heard clearly, the judges or the event organizers may step in and have the recorded word repeated; only in extreme cases will an alternate word be provided.
- k. After beginning to spell a word, contestants may stop and start over, but there can be no change of letters or their sequence from those first pronounced.

#### 12. Winning or Losing

- a. The oral spelling must be correct and complete, including accent marks AND diereses.
- b. Upon incorrectly spelling a word, a contestant is immediately eliminated from the competition, and must exit the stage.
- c. The competition continues until there are only two contestants remaining.



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**13. Rules for the Final Round NEW RULE - 2011**

- a. There are only two contestants left at this point of the competition.
- b. Spellers alternate until one contestant misspells a word. Then, the next contestant is given a new word, and if this contestant spells it correctly, a second new word is provided.
- c. The 1<sup>st</sup> place winner is the contestant who spells two NEW consecutive words correctly after the other contestant has misspelled one word.

**14. Awards**

- a. All contestants receive a medal, a certificate of achievement, and other prizes (when possible) at the end of the Final Competition.
- b. The first and second place winners will each receive a trophy and a certificate endorsed by the NYS Department of Education.
- c. The event program will list the names of all contestants, their districts/schools, and the logos of organizations providing support for the event.

**13. See “Clarification Guide for the Names of Some Letters”.**



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### GUIDE TO THE NAMES OF SOME OF THE LETTERS

<i>Letras</i>	<i>Nombre</i>
<b>b</b>	<b>be larga; be alta</b> <i>Para este certamen no se acepta decir “be” o “be grande”.</i>
<b>ñ</b>	<b>eñe</b>
<b>q</b>	<b>cu</b>
<b>r</b>	<b>ere; erre</b>
<b>v</b>	<b>uve; ve baja; ve corta</b> <i>Para este certamen no se acepta decir “ve” o “ve chica”.</i>
<b>w</b>	<b>uve doble; ve doble; doble ve</b>
<b>y</b>	<b>i griega; ye</b>
<b>z</b>	<b>zeta; zeda; ceta; ceda</b>
<b>Dígrafos</b>	<b>Dos letras con un sólo sonido</b>
<b>ch</b>	<b>che; c, ache</b>
<b>ll</b>	<b>elle; ele, ele</b>
<b>rr</b>	<b>erre, erre; ere, ere</b> <i>Para este certamen no se acepta decir “doble erre” o “doble ere”.</i>
<b>Letra con diéresis</b> <b>ü</b>	<b>u con diéresis</b>
<b>Vocales acentuadas</b>	<b>Expresión y nombre de la vocal con acento</b> <i>(dos posibilidades en cada caso)</i>
<b>á</b>	<b>a acentuada; a con acento</b>
<b>é</b>	<b>e acentuada; e con acento</b>
<b>í</b>	<b>i acentuada; i con acento</b>
<b>ó</b>	<b>o acentuada; o con acento</b>
<b>ú</b>	<b>u acentuada; u con acento</b>

