

FLOYD COUNTY SCHOOLS

2018 District Spelling Bee Rules

1. Students in grades 4-8 are eligible to compete. The students must not have reached their 16th birthday on or before the date of the national finals.
2. The contest will be conducted orally on a *miss-and-out* basis.
3. Words used for the district competition will come primarily from the word list provided to each school spelling bee coordinator. This list is posted on the Floyd County Web page at www.floyd.kyschools.us. Proper nouns will be included in this word list.

Study Guides are provided by **2018 Ford Motor Company Ky. Derby Festival Spelling Bee** which the district winner will have the opportunity to compete at this event.

4. Words will be pronounced according to the diacritical markings in *American Heritage Dictionary*. With the approval of the judges, the pronouncer may give a fuller explanation of the beginning of the word to supplement the dictionary definition or definitions quoted.
5. 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. The judges may not disqualify a contestant for failing to pronounce the word either before or after spelling it.
6. The contestant may ask the pronouncer to say the word again, define it, and/or use it in a sentence. 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 disqualify any contestant who ignores a request to start spelling.
7. The role of the pronouncer is to correctly pronounce the word and give a sentence, definition, and other information about the word at the speller's request. The role of the judges is to determine whether the contestant has spelled the word correctly. The role of the contestant is (1) to gather as much information as possible to help him or her spell the word correctly, and (2) to spell the word correctly. The judges may not disqualify a contestant for asking a question.
8. 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 pronounced. If letters or their sequences are changed in the respelling, the speller will be eliminated.
9. The contest shall be conducted in rounds. Each contestant remaining in the spelling bee at the start of a round shall spell one word in the round.

10. 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 distinguishing the homonyms, any correct spelling of any homonym will be accepted.

11. After 20 rounds of spelling and at the discretion of the chief official, the pronouncer may begin a new word list.

12. Kentucky Derby Festival –Spelling Bee Word shall serve as the final authority for the spelling of words in the district 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.

13. Upon missing the spelling of a word, a contestant immediately drops out of the contest. The next word on the pronouncer’s list is given to the next contestant.

14. Any questions relating to the spelling of a word should be referred to the designated official immediately in writing. Appeals may be filed by parent, legal guardian, or teacher of the speller.
The judges and designated official have final decision regarding the Bee.

15. 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.

If one of the last two spellers misses and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the new word submitted to him/her, then the misspelled new word shall be referred to the first speller. If the first speller then succeeds in correcting the error and correctly spells the next word on the pronouncer’s list, then he/she shall be declared the champion.

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.

16. A district spelling champion is eligible for the state competition. More information will be provided by the designated official.