



Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools
Office of Program Services

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Dear Parents:

Congratulations, your child has been selected to participate in the **Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools' Regional Spelling Bee**. Our hope is that this will be a wonderful, challenging, and growth-inducing opportunity for your child. While our competent Regional, Event, and School- level Coordinators will advise students of all rules and procedures prior to the Bee, please allow me this opportunity to share a few things with you, the parents, to help you prepare your child for this event.

1. Please remember that for the Regional Spelling Bee, **words will come directly from the Master Word List**, available from your school. The spelling of words on this list will be considered the official spelling for the Bee. Refer to the explanation page attached to the Master Word List as for which words your student should be studying for both the Regional and the State Bees.
2. Before saying the word or beginning to spell, **participants may ask questions to help clarify the word**, such as: "May I have the definition?", "Will you please repeat the word?", "Are there any alternative pronunciations?", "May I have the word in a sentence?", "What is the part of speech?", or "What is the language of origin?" The Bee Master will not identify for the students which words are homophones.
3. **Each participant should say the word, spell the word, and then say the word again** during the Bee. Encourage them to speak loudly and clearly so that the Bee Master and other Judges can hear. After a participant pronounces the word, he will have 15 seconds to begin spelling the word. Once he starts spelling the word, he will have only 20 seconds to complete the spelling.
4. **Retracing**: Having started to spell a word, a student may stop and start over, retracing the spelling from the beginning, but in the retracing, there can be no change of letters and their sequence from those first pronounced. If any letters and/or their sequence are changed in the respelling, the speller will be eliminated.
5. **Elimination**: When a participant misspells a word, he is immediately eliminated from the Bee. The next word is given to the next participant. When there are two participants left, the procedure changes. At this point, when one participant misspells a word, the other participant shall be given an opportunity to spell that same word. If the second participant spells that word correctly, plus the next word on the Bee Master's list, then the second participant will be declared the champion of the Bee. If the second participant misses the first word, the competition continues as usual. If he correctly spells the first word and misses the second word, then the first participant has a chance to correctly spell the misspelled word and is provided with his new word to spell. The first participant to correctly spell two words in a row will be declared the champion.
6. **Capitalization**, or lack thereof, is no longer grounds for elimination from the Bee as long as the word is spelled correctly.
7. For the Regional Spell-off Bee, no spectators (including parents) will be permitted in the room. During the Final Bee, spectators are permitted, however they are expected to remain quiet as to keep distractions to a minimum.
8. **The Officials have the right for all final rulings**. If there is an inquiry in the Regional Spell-off Bee, the student must file the inquiry himself at the officials' table before he would have received the next word had he stayed in the bee. If there is an inquiry in the Final Bee, only a school official may file the inquiry as per the FACCS Spelling Bee Manual 2019-2020 which may be downloaded at www.faccs.org. If no school official is present, a parent or other spectator may NOT file an inquiry. The Judges will look at their notes, replay the official recording, if necessary and available, and will make a final decision. All officials' decisions are final.
9. If your child should place 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th in the Regional Bee, he or she will be eligible to participate in the **FACCS State Spelling Bee on November 13, 2020 to be held at the Inverness Christian Academy in Inverness**. Specific information on this Bee will be delivered to your school if any student from your school qualifies. To prepare for this Bee, we suggest continuing to study the **Master Word List**. Refer to the explanation page attached to the Master Word List regarding which words your student should be studying.

Please Remember: The purpose of this Bee is to provide opportunities for your children to study, to show commitment, to develop poise, and to expand themselves academically and socially. The final objective is not only about winning and losing, but about showing grace and dignity under pressure. The value of events like these is in the journey, not just in the event. Encourage your children to see the big picture.

FACCS intends to hold the Spelling Bee competition as planned. Because the safety of our competitors, families, and the residents of our host locations are of utmost importance, we are closely monitoring the Covid-19 situation across the state and working with our competition hosts to ensure that all events are conducted safely. Please keep the following in mind:

- 1. Any competitive event may be canceled on short notice. In the event of an event cancellation, FACCS will refund all prepaid registration fees to competitors.**
- 2. Extra precautions and restrictions will be in place at all competitions that may limit activities and the number of permitted guests. These precautions will be based on CDC guidelines, local county ordinances, and host location restrictions. Competition coordinators will provide all participants with guidelines prior to each event.**

If you have any questions regarding your Bee, location or schedule, please contact your child's school. They have access to all individual Regional Competitions and Coordinators. Thank you for allowing us to invest in your child's life and development.

God bless you,

Brent Jones, Ed.D.
Director of Program Services