



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, **some, but not all, words will come from the practice lists**. Our spelling bee competitions are more than memorization competitions. Encourage your child to read widely and to know as many words as possible. Practice words are available on our website at: www.faccs.org. The official dictionary of the bee is the *American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*. Both spelling and pronunciation will follow this dictionary. In cases where the exact word is not listed in the dictionary (ex. plurals and possessives) the accepted rule will be followed.
2. **Your child should say, spell, 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 them. After the student pronounces the word, he will have 30 seconds to begin spelling the word and then another 30 seconds to complete spelling the word. Once he starts spelling the word, he will have only 30 seconds to complete the spelling. Failure to do either of these will result in elimination.
3. If a word is a homophone (two, to, too) it is the student's responsibility to ask for a definition or a sentence to determine which word the Bee Master is referring to. The Bee Master will not identify for the students which words are homophones.
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 immediately drops out of the contest. The next word is given to the next contestant. When there are two contestants left, the procedure changes. At this point, when one participant 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 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 corrects the first word and misses the second word, then the first contestant has a chance to correct the misspelled word and is provided with his new word to spell. The first contestant to correct a misspelling and correctly spell his new word will be declared the champion.
6. **The Judges have the right for all final rulings**. If there is a discrepancy, we ask that a school official, if present, lodge an official protest as per the IACCS/FACCS Spelling Bee Manual v.4.2 which may be downloaded at www.faccs.org. If no school official is present, a parent may file a protest. If there is a protest in the spelldown, the student must file the protest himself. All protests must be filed to the judges table before the student would have received the next word had he stayed in the competition. The Judges will look at their notes, replay the recording if necessary and will make a final decision. All Judges decisions are final.
7. For the initial spelldown, 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. 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 12, 2010 to be held at the Delaney Street Baptist Church of Orlando**. 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 online practice lists and other resources. We encourage your child to study up at least two grade levels for this event.

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.

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,

Wesley L. Scott, EdD, PhD
FACCS/IACCS Director of Program Services
Psalm 19:14