STEFAN BEAN, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

Orange County Department of Education
Educational and Student Services Division

2027 Scripps National Spelling Bee

Student Eligibility Requirements

A speller qualifying for the 2027 Scripps National Spelling Bee must meet all of the following requirements:

1. The speller must not have completed the eighth grade or an international equivalent on or before August 31, 2026.

2. The speller must not have reached their 15th birthday on or before August 31, 2026.

3. The speller must not have any first, second, or third-degree relatives (i.e. sibling, parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, half-sibling, first cousin or great grandparent) who are current employees of The E.W. Scripps Company as of February 1, 2027. Additionally, the speller may not be a first, second, or third-degree relative of any person directly involved in administering the regional partner's program.

4. The speller must not have won a Scripps National Spelling Bee (SNSB) national competition.

5. The speller must attend a school that is officially enrolled with the SNSB.

6. The speller must not have repeated any grade for the purpose of extending spelling bee eligibility. If the speller has repeated any grade, the speller must notify the SNSB of the circumstances of grade repetition by March 31, 2027; and the SNSB will, at its sole discretion, determine the speller's eligibility status on or before April 30, 2027.

7. The speller or the speller's parent, legal guardian, or school official acting on the speller's behalf must not have declared to another entity an academic classification higher than eighth grade for any purpose, including high school graduation equivalency or proficiency examinations and/or examinations such as the PSAT, SAT, or ACT.

8. The speller must not have earned the legal equivalent of a high school diploma.

9. The speller must not bypass or circumvent normal school activity to study for spelling bees. The SNSB defines normal school activity as adherence to at least four courses of study other than language arts, spelling, Latin, Greek, vocabulary, and etymology for at least four hours per weekday for 34 of the 38 weeks between August 19, 2026 and May 24, 2027.

10. Once having been disqualified at any level of a regional partner's spelling bee program between August 2026 and April 2027, the speller may not seek advancement in the 2027 SNSB program through another regional partner and/or enrollment in another school.

11. The speller must have been declared a champion of a SNSB-sanctioned regional spelling bee taking place on or after February 1, 2027 or be named a national competitor by competing in an official SNSB program or by a SNSB regional partner.

    The speller, upon qualifying for the 2027 SNSB national competition, must submit to the Scripps National Spelling Bee a completed Champion Registration, an Appearance Consent and Release Agreement signed by speller and speller's parent/legal guardian, a signed Certification of Eligibility Form, a liability waiver signed by speller and speller's parent/legal guardian, and a photo. The speller will notify the SNSB, at least 24 hours prior to the first day of the SNSB national competition, if any of the statements made on the Certification of Eligibility Form are no longer true or require updating. The speller's regional partner will provide access to all necessary items.

    The SNSB may disqualify prior to or during competition any speller who is not in compliance with any of its eligibility requirements; and it may at any time between the conclusion of the 2027 Scripps National Spelling Bee national competition and April 30, 2028 require any speller who is found to have not been in compliance with any of the eligibility requirements to forfeit any prizes, rank, and other benefits accorded to the speller as a result of participation in the 2027 SNSB national competition.