



[The Premier's Spelling Bee](#) was introduced in 2004 as a fun and educational way for primary school students to engage in spelling. The program includes activities to encourage all students to engage with spelling and to promote improved literacy in combination with the English K-6 Syllabus.

## Who is eligible to compete?

The Premier's Spelling Bee is open to all NSW government primary, central and community schools. The competition comprises two divisions – Junior for Years 3&4 and Senior for Years 5&6. Each school can enter a maximum of two students per division (i.e. a maximum of four students per school).

## How do schools enter the Premier's Spelling Bee?

The Competition launches on **Wednesday 26/04/2017**, the first day of Term 2, at which time an online entry form will be available at [www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au](http://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au). Entries should be submitted before close of business on **Friday 30 June 2017**. Please ensure that you include contact details for the teacher who will be looking after the entry. All teachers must provide a direct email address (preferably your departmental address) to assist with our organisation. Entries can be submitted before schools know the names of the students they will be entering.

## How much does entry cost?

There is no cost associated with the Premier's Spelling Bee.

## What are the competition stages?

- **School:** Schools either follow official competition procedures or devise their own spelling activities to select students (a maximum of 4) to represent the school at Regional Finals.
- **Regional:** Regional Finals will take place between **Monday 04 September** and **Friday 15 September** (Weeks 8 - 9 Term 3). The Premier's Spelling Bee Coordinator will advise schools of the dates and venues of Regional Finals in early Term 3. The winner of each division of each regional final progresses to the State Final (please note: the runner-up does not)
- **State:** The State Final will be held on **Wednesday 8 November 2017** at the Eugene Goossens Hall, ABC Centre, Ultimo.

## What does the School Spelling Bee Coordinator do?

- Submit the online entry form for your school
- Download word lists
- Select your Regional Finalists
- Submit names – fill out the form on our website, [available April 2017](#), or email the names of your school representatives for the Regional Finals to the [PSB Support Officer](#) by **Friday 11 August 2016**
- Check your email – The PSB Coordinator will let you know the date and venue of your Regional Final in early Term 3

## What word lists are used?

Words for the competition are provided by Macquarie Dictionary and are divided into several categories. Junior and Senior students study different wordlists. Regional and State Finals also include unseen words in later rounds. Wordlists will be available for download from the from the Arts Unit website from **Wednesday 26 April 2017**. School Spelling Bee coordinators will be notified of their availability and given the access password by email. They can and should be freely distributed to all students taking part in the competition.

## A note on US spelling variants.

These will not be accepted within the competition.

*Examples: Aus centre / US center, Aus metre / US meter.*

Words which have US variants will be used in the competition but the US spellings will not be accepted as correct.

## What are the competition procedures?

- There is a demonstration round using simple words to help familiarise contestants with the competition format. No one is eliminated in this round.
- This is followed by elimination rounds of increasing difficulty.
- The announcer reads the word, then a sentence including the word, and then repeats the word again.
- Each contestant must repeat the word to the satisfaction of the announcer before they spell, and then say the word again to indicate they have finished spelling. Up until this point, contestants may self-correct if they clearly indicate that they are starting again.
- Students have 45 seconds in which to spell the word. A warning bell is rung at 30 seconds with two bells at 45 seconds to indicate the contestant's time has expired.
- Contestants may ask the announcer to repeat the word – this is included in their 45 second time limit. Any self-corrections must also be made within the time limit. At the second bell, any incomplete spelling will be taken as the contestant's final answer.
- When a student has finished spelling a word, the announcer will either state 'That is correct' or 'That is incorrect. The correct spelling is...'

## How is a winner determined?

- At the Regional and State Finals, the elimination process continues, round by round. To win the competition a contestant must spell more words correctly than all the other contestants.
- A contestant will only be eliminated if at least one other contestant in the same round spells their word correctly. If all contestants in a particular round misspell their words then no one is eliminated.

## What are the prizes?

- All Regional Finalists receive a certificate of participation.
- Regional winners and runners up receive compact Macquarie Dictionaries and Thesaurus.
- State Finalists receive silver medallions and a Macquarie Dictionary.
- State Champions receive gold medallions, a Scrabble board game and are acknowledged with their school on a perpetual trophy.
- The schools of winners and runners up at the Regional and State Finals will receive a free school-wide subscription to Macquarie Dictionary Online.

## Contact details

If you have any questions about the Premier's Spelling Bee, please contact Désirée Lane, Premier's Spelling Bee Support Officer on (02) 8512 1173 or email: [desiree.lane2@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:desiree.lane2@det.nsw.edu.au). You may also check our website at [www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au](http://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au)

## Organisation and sponsorship

The competition is organised by The Arts Unit of the NSW Department of Education with support from media partner ABC Local Radio. The official word list supplier is Macquarie Dictionary. The prize sponsor is Scrabble.

