

**Recreation Division Enrichment Program**  
**City of Carson**  
**2025 Spring Spelling Bee Rules**

- A study word list is provided, however, the words used in the competition are chosen randomly prior to the competition from many sources deemed appropriate by the Spell Master and Judges.
- During the competition, words used in each successive round will increase in difficulty.
- During the competition, spellers must pronounce words before and after spelling the word, to ensure that the speller heard the word correctly.
- Once you begin to spell a word, you will not have a chance to change letters once pronounced. A speller may repeat the word orally; provided the letters and their sequence are not changed.
- The speller must indicate words with apostrophes, capital letters, and other punctuation marks as well as any accent marks either over the letter or at the end of the word.
- At any time, a speller may request that a word be re-pronounced, defined, or used in a sentence.
- The Spell Master shall grant the request(s) until the judges agree that the word has been made reasonably clear to the speller.
- Judges may disqualify any speller who ignores a request to start spelling the word within a reasonable time period.
- If no definition of a homonym is given, the correct spelling of either word shall be accepted as correct. When a speller is given the definition of a homonym, they must spell the word defined.
- There is an element of chance in this competition. Spellers will be eliminated in the order in which they misspell words. That is, when a speller fails to spell a word correctly, they must drop out of the competition. The Spell Master may or may not announce the correct spelling of the word.
- The competition will continue with another word being given to the next speller in line. The last speller standing will be the winner.
- When only two spellers remain, the elimination procedure changes. At that point, as soon as one speller misspells a word; the other speller will be given the opportunity to spell the same word.
- If the second speller spells the word correctly PLUS the next word on the Spell Master's list, the second speller will be declared the winner.
- If the two last spellers standing misspell the same word, both spellers will continue in the contest and a new word will be given.
- The decision of the Judges and Spell Master will be final when there are inquiries. Any problem relating to the spelling of a word must be referred to the Judges immediately and before the beginning of the next round. No protest will be heard after the contest has ended.
- In the event of a protest or dispute, decisions will be based on Webster's Third New International Dictionary, the official contest dictionary. No other sources will be allowed.
- Once the competition begins, spellers must remain in the competition area until excused by the Judges or Spell Master. Breaks will be called during the competition.
- The rulings are at the sole discretion of the Spell Master and Judges and are considered final.
- All accommodation requests must be submitted and approved before the commencement of the Spelling Bee.