



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
 REGION I  
 SCHOOLS DIVISION OF VIGAN CITY

Division Memorandum  
 No. 644, s. 2025

**CONDUCT OF THE SM SUPER SPELLING BEE COMPETITION**

TO: Asst. Schools Division Superintendent  
 Chief Education Supervisors – CID and SGOD  
 Public School Heads (Elementary & Secondary)  
 All Others Concerned

1. In reference to Regional Memorandum No. 1155, s. 2025 and the Advanced DepEd Memorandum on the “*Conduct of the SM Super Spelling Bee Competition*” issued by the Office of the Undersecretary for Operations on August 20, 2025, this Office reiterates DepEd’s commitment to promoting learner-centered activities that foster literacy, critical thinking, and character formation.
2. The 2025 SM Super Spelling Bee competition is more than an academic contest. It is a holistic experience that:
  - a. sharpens spelling, reading and vocabulary skills, which are vital to lifelong learning;
  - b. teaches the value of fair play, sportsmanship, and respect for others in a competitive environment; and
  3. provide a platform for learners to demonstrate their academic skills.
3. The competition is open to learners aged 10 to 12 years old (Grades 4 to 6) from both public and private schools, allowing the learners to demonstrate their spelling ability and language skills in a fair and engaging contest.
4. Interested participants are required to complete their pre-registration through the following options:
  - a. **Via SM Laoag, Admin Mall Office:** From August 18, 2025 (10:00 AM) until September 13, 2025 (12:00 NN)
  - b. **Via the SM Online (SMO) App:** From August 18, 2025 (10:00 AM) until September 12, 2025 (12:00 NN)
  - c. **On the day registration:** SM Laoag, September 13, 2025, at 10:00 AM-12:00 NN

**Late registrations shall no longer be accepted beyond the indicated deadlines. Eliminations will begin at 2:00 PM, and the cut-off time for the on-the-spot registration is 12:00 noon.**
5. For detailed rules, guidelines, and procedures of the competition, please see the attached Contest Mechanics.



Address: Mena Crisologo St. corner Rivero St., Brgy. IX, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur  
 Telephone No: (077) 722-20-23 / (077) 632-05-33  
 Email Address: vigan.city@deped.gov.ph  
 Website: www.depedviganacity.com

Your Feedback is important to us. Visit this link [bit.ly/SDOViganCityCSM](https://bit.ly/SDOViganCityCSM)





Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
REGION I  
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF VIGAN CITY

6. Travel and other allowable expenses will be charged to local funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
7. For any concerns and inquiries, please contact Ms. Trish Nicole Patio, SM Supermalls, Marketing Officer at 0949-344-5617 or via email at [trish.pation@smsupermalls.com](mailto:trish.pation@smsupermalls.com).
8. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is enjoined.

*Vilma D. EDA*  
**VILMA D. EDA, CESO V**  
Schools Division Superintendent

Encl.: As stated  
Reference: RM 1155, s. 2025  
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
Under the following subjects:

CONTESTS  
LEARNERS  
PARTNERSHIPS



**Address:** Mena Crisologo St. corner Rivero St., Brgy. IX, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur  
**Telephone No:** (077) 722-20-23 / (077) 632-05-33  
**Email Address:** [vigan.city@depd.gov.ph](mailto:vigan.city@depd.gov.ph)  
**Website:** [www.depedvigancity.com](http://www.depedvigancity.com)

Your Feedback is important to us. Visit this link [bit.ly/SDOViganCityCSM](https://bit.ly/SDOViganCityCSM)





Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
 REGION I



**REGIONAL MEMORANDUM**

No. 1155 s. 2025

**CONDUCT OF THE SM SUPER SPELLING BEE COMPETITION 2025**

To: Schools Division Superintendents

1. This pertains to the Advanced DepEd Memorandum on the “*Conduct of the SM Super Spelling Bee Competition*” issued by the Office of the Undersecretary for Operations on August 20, 2025. The said issuance encourages the DepEd’s commitment to promoting activities that support literacy, critical thinking, and character formation.
2. The 2025 SM Super Spelling Bee competition is more than an academic contest. It is a holistic experience that:
  - a. Sharpens spelling, reading, and vocabulary skills, which are vital to lifelong learning;
  - b. Teaches the value of fair play, sportsmanship, and respect for others in a competitive environment; and
  - c. Provide a platform for learners to demonstrate their academic skills.
3. The competition is open to learners aged 10 to 12 years old (Grades 4 to 6) from both public and private schools, allowing the learners to demonstrate their spelling ability and language skills in a fair and engaging contest.
4. All interested participants must complete their pre-registration through the following options:
  - a. **Via SM Laoag, Admin Mall Office:** From August 18, 2025 (10:00 AM) until September 13, 2025 (12:00 NN)
  - b. **Via the SM Online (SMO) App:** From August 18, 2025 (10:00 AM) until September 12, 2025 (12:00 NN)
  - c. **On the day registration:** SM Laoag, September 13, 2025, at 10:00 AM – 12:00 NN

Late registrations shall no longer be accepted beyond the indicated deadlines. Eliminations will begin at 2:00 PM, and the cut-off time for the on-the-spot registration is 12:00 noon.

5. For detailed rules, guidelines, and procedures of the competition, please see the attached Contest Mechanics.



Flores St., Catbangan, City of San Fernando, La Union  
 Telephone Nos.: (072) 607-8137/682-2324  
 DepEd Region I region1@deped.gov.ph  
 www.depedregion1.com

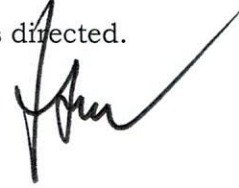
Doc. Ref. Code	RM-ORD	Rev	00
Effectivity	11.18.2024	Page	1 of 2



6. Travel and other allowable expenses will be charged to local funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

7. For any concerns and inquiries, please contact Ms. Trish Nicole A. Patio, SM Supermalls, Marketing Officer, at 0949-344-5617 or via email at trish.patio@smsupermalls.com.

8. Immediate dissemination of this memorandum is directed.



**TOLENTINO G. AQUINO**  
Director IV  
N

Encl.: None

Reference: None

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
Under the following subjects:

CONTESTS  
LEARNERS  
PARTNERSHIPS

ESSD-SQC/rmb/RM\_ConductoftheSMSuperSpellingBeeCompetition  
September 1, 2025





### SM Super Spelling Bee 2025: Contest Mechanics

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The **SM Super Spelling Bee** is an exciting and competitive spelling contest designed to test students' spelling and language comprehension skills. The competition will consist of two main stages: the **Elimination Stage** and the **Grand Finals Stage**, each with various phases to keep the competition fast-paced and engaging.

#### 2. ELIGIBILITY

- The contest is open to students currently enrolled for academic year 2025-2026 in schools across the Philippines.
- Participants must be between the ages of **10 to 12** years old on the date of the elimination schedule and proficient in English spelling.

#### 3. WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO JOIN

The following are **not eligible** to join the SM Super Spelling Bee 2025:

- Previous winners or placers from similar contests (2024–2025) by companies/sponsors that may conflict with Shopping Center Management Corporation ("SCMC"), or its retail affiliates (SM

Store, SM Markets and Toy Kingdom only) (collectively referred hereinafter as “SM Supermalls”)

- **Top 10 winners** of SM Super Spelling Bee 2024.
- Contestants who are children or relatives up to the third degree of consanguinity or affinity of employees and suppliers of Shopping Center Management Corporation (SCMC), sponsors, organizers, advertising agencies, and judges of the contest are not eligible to participate in this promotion.

*Any contestant found ineligible will be disqualified at any stage, and all prizes and titles will be forfeited.*

#### 4. HOW TO JOIN

4.1. Parents or legal guardians of the students must complete the registration through one of the following channels:

- **SM Malls Online (SMO) app**
- [www.smsupermalls.com/superspellingbee/](http://www.smsupermalls.com/superspellingbee/)
- In person at the **Mall Administration Office (Marketing Department)** of any participating SM Mall

4.2. Submission requirements:

- Completed and signed application form
- Original and photocopy of valid school ID or certificate of enrollment (original copy will be returned after proper verification of the photocopy)

4.3. Registration Schedule:

- **Pre-registration via SMO app: Starts August 18, 2025 (10:00 AM)**

The deadline varies depending on the contestant’s preferred elimination schedule and venue. Please refer to the table below for the registration schedule:

	<b>AUGUST 23, 2025</b>	<b>PERIOD OF APPLICATION VIA SMO</b>
1	SM City Bacolod	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 22   11:59 AM
2	SM City Legazpi	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 22   11:59 AM
3	SM Center San Pedro	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 22   11:59 AM
4	SM City Marilao	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 22   11:59 AM
5	SM City Urdaneta Central	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 22   11:59 AM
6	SM City Fairview	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 22   11:59 AM
7	SM City Caloocan	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 22   11:59 AM
8	SM City Sto. Tomas	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 22   11:59 AM

	<b>AUGUST 30, 2025</b>	<b>PERIOD OF APPLICATION VIA SMO</b>
1	SM City Davao	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 29   11:59 AM
2	SM City Bacoar	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 29   11:59 AM
3	SM City Laoag	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 29   11:59 AM

4	SM City Cabanatuan	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 29   11:59 AM
5	SM City Mindpro	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 29   11:59 AM
6	SM City Iloilo	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 29   11:59 AM
7	SM City Sorsogon	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 29   11:59 AM
8	SM City Tuguegarao	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 29   11:59 AM

	<b>SEPTEMBER 6, 2025</b>	<b>PERIOD OF APPLICATION VIA SMO</b>
1	SM City Tarlac	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 5   11:59 AM
2	SM City Lucena	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 5   11:59 AM
3	SM City Lipa	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 5   11:59 AM
4	SM City Tanza	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 5   11:59 AM
5	SM City Marikina	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 5   11:59 AM
6	SM Seaside City Cebu	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 5   11:59 AM
7	SM City Bataan	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 5   11:59 AM
8	SM City East Ortigas	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 5   11:59 AM

	<b>SEPTEMBER 13, 2025</b>	<b>PERIOD OF APPLICATION VIA SMO</b>
1	SM City Trece Martires	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 12   11:59 AM
2	SM City North EDSA	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 12   11:59 AM

3	SM City San Jose Del Monte	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 12   11:59 AM
4	SM City Clark	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 12   11:59 AM
5	SM City CDO Uptown	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 12   11:59 AM
6	SM City Batangas	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 12   11:59 AM
7	SM City Roxas	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 12   11:59 AM
8	SM City Baliwag	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 12   11:59 AM
9	SM City Baguio	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 12   11:59 AM

	SEPTEMBER 20, 2025	PERIOD OF APPLICATION VIA SMO
1	SM City Olongapo Central	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 19   11:59 AM
2	SM City Manila	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 19   11:59 AM
3	SM City Rosario	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 19   11:59 AM
4	SM City Bicutan	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 19   11:59 AM
5	SM City Grand Central	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 19   11:59 AM
6	SM City General Santos	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 19   11:59 AM
7	SM City Puerto Princesa	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 19   11:59 AM

- **Pre-registration via Mall Administration Offices: Starts August 18, 2025 (10:00 AM)**
  - Contestants may also submit their printed application and requirements at the Mall Administration Office (Marketing Department) of the participating SM Supermalls starting August 18, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM daily.
  - The deadline depends on the contestant's preferred elimination schedule and venue. Please refer to the table below for the registration schedule:

	AUGUST 23, 2025	PERIOD OF APPLICATION VIA SMO
1	SM City Bacolod	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 23   12:00 NN
2	SM City Legazpi	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 23   12:00 NN
3	SM Center San Pedro	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 23   12:00 NN
4	SM City Marilao	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 23   12:00 NN
5	SM City Urdaneta Central	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 23   12:00 NN
6	SM City Fairview	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 23   12:00 NN
7	SM City Caloocan	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 23   12:00 NN
8	SM City Sto. Tomas	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 23   12:00 NN

	AUGUST 30, 2025	PERIOD OF APPLICATION VIA SMO
1	SM City Davao	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 30   12:00 NN
2	SM City Bacoor	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 30   12:00 NN
3	SM City Laoag	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 30   12:00 NN
4	SM City Cabanatuan	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 30   12:00 NN
5	SM City Mindpro	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 30   12:00 NN
6	SM City Iloilo	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 30   12:00 NN

7	SM City Sorsogon	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 30   12:00 NN
8	SM City Tuguegarao	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Aug 30   12:00 NN

	SEPTEMBER 6, 2025	PERIOD OF APPLICATION VIA SMO
1	SM City Tarlac	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 6   12:00 NN
2	SM City Lucena	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 6   12:00 NN
3	SM City Lipa	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 6   12:00 NN
4	SM City Tanza	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 6   12:00 NN
5	SM City Marikina	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 6   12:00 NN
6	SM Seaside City Cebu	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 6   12:00 NN
7	SM City Bataan	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 6   12:00 NN
8	SM City East Ortigas	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 6   12:00 NN

	SEPTEMBER 13, 2025	PERIOD OF APPLICATION VIA SMO
1	SM City Trece Martires	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 13   12:00 NN
2	SM City North EDSA	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 13   12:00 NN
3	SM City San Jose Del Monte	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 13   12:00 NN
4	SM City Clark	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 13   12:00 NN

5	SM City CDO Uptown	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 13   12:00 NN
6	SM City Batangas	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 13   12:00 NN
7	SM City Roxas	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 13   12:00 NN
8	SM City Baliwag	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 13   12:00 NN
9	SM City Baguio	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 13   12:00 NN

	SEPTEMBER 20, 2025	PERIOD OF APPLICATION VIA SMO
1	SM City Olongapo Central	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 20   12:00 NN
2	SM City Manila	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 20   12:00 NN
3	SM City Rosario	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 20   12:00 NN
4	SM City Bicutan	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 20   12:00 NN
5	SM City Grand Central	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 20   12:00 NN
6	SM City General Santos	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 20   12:00 NN
7	SM City Puerto Princesa	Aug 18   10:00 AM – Sep 20   12:00 NN

- **On-the-day Registration:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 NN at designated mall venues on the following dates:
  - August 23, 2025
  - August 30, 2025
  - September 6, 2025
  - September 13, 2025
  - September 20, 2025

*Note: Eliminations will begin at 2:00 PM, and the cut-off time for on-the-spot registration is 12:00 noon.*

#### 4.4. Schedule and Venue for Submission of Application Forms

- For participants that **pre-registered via Mall Administration Offices**, the mall where their application is submitted will be their elimination venue.
- For **on-the-day registrants**, the mall where their application is submitted will be their elimination venue.

### 5. CONTEST FORMAT

The **SM Super Spelling Bee** contest will consist of two main stages:

- **Elimination Stage:**
  - Phase 1: **Written Spelling Test**
  - Phase 2: **Oral Spelling Test**
- **Grand Finals Stage:**
  - Phase 1: **Written Spelling Round** (for the 40 finalists)
  - Phase 2: **Oral Spelling Round** (for the top 10)
  - Phase 3: **Final Oral Spelling Round** (for the top 3 using buzzer/signages)

## 6. GENERAL RULES

- Contestants must arrive at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start time for registration and orientation.
- Contestants are required to follow all instructions given by the emcees and judges throughout the event.  
**Prohibited behavior:** Cheating, the use of electronic devices, or receiving outside assistance will result in immediate disqualification.

## 7. OFFICIAL DICTIONARY AND WORD SOURCE

- The **Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary**, available at <http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com>, is the official dictionary and word source for the SM Super Spelling Bee. Unless otherwise noted, it will serve as the authoritative reference for all rounds of the competition. Words marked as archaic or obsolete will not be eligible for use.
- The list of competition words will be selected by an official from our contest partner, National University, and verified by a representative from the SM Super Spelling Bee team.
- The word list will be accessible only to event organizers and participating malls during the competition, including both the eliminations and grand finals. The SM Super Spelling Bee team will provide a link to the word pool exactly at 2:00 pm on the day of the contest.

## 8. CONTEST PROCEDURE AND MECHANICS

### 8.1. ELIMINATION STAGE: PHASE 1 – WRITTEN SPELLING TEST

**Objective:** To assess the contestants' ability to spell words correctly. The top **10 contestants** from this phase will move on to the **Oral Spelling Test**.

- Contestant Grouping & Preparation:**
  - Contestants will be divided into **batches** of up to **20 participants** each, depending on the total number of registrations.
  - Each contestant will receive a **spelling sheet** and a **marker**.
- Word Pronunciation & Time Limit:** The pronouncer will announce the word, pronouncing it twice, followed by the definition and usage in a sentence.
- Writing Time:** Contestants will be given **10 seconds** to write the word on their sheet.
- Countdown Timer:** A countdown timer will be displayed on a screen for all contestants to see, indicating the remaining time.
- Signal to Start:** Contestants must wait for the pronouncer's signal (e.g., "You may now begin spelling") before starting to write the word. This ensures fairness and allows all participants to start at the same time.
- Disqualification Rule:**
  - Contestants are strictly prohibited from spelling the word before the countdown timer begins or before the emcee gives the official signal (e.g., "You may begin spelling").
  - Contestants must be able to write the correct spelling of the word within 10 seconds.
  - Violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification, regardless of whether the answer is correct or not.
  - The timer will be clearly displayed on a screen, and the pronouncer will provide the clear verbal cue to begin.
- Submission of Writing Sheets:** Once the contestant has finished writing, they will submit their sheet to a staff member.
- Accuracy Check & Immediate Elimination:** A panel of judges will review each contestant's spelling sheet.
- Elimination:** Contestants who misspell the word will be eliminated from Phase 1.
- Advancement:** Only contestants who spell the word correctly will advance to the next round.
- Next Round:** After all batches complete their first round, only those who spelled their words correctly will move on to the next round.
- Re-grouping:**

- Contestants who correctly spelled their word in the first round will be **re-organized** into new groups with other correct spellers from their respective batches.
- New words will be provided to these new groups in the subsequent round.
- The same rules will apply in the subsequent rounds.

Example:

- **First Round (Batch 1):** Out of the 20 contestants, 8 contestants spelled the word correctly. These 8 will be joined by other contestants who spelled their words correctly in their respective batches (Batch 2, Batch 3, etc.).
- These contestants will now form a new group for the **next round** of words.
- **Repeat:** This process will continue until we have **10 contestants** remaining who have correctly spelled the word in each round.

**m. Multiple Rounds (If Necessary):**

- If fewer than 10 contestants spell correctly in the first round, additional rounds will take place, introducing new words to give more contestants the chance to advance.
- As each round progresses, the group will shrink as more contestants are eliminated due to incorrect spelling. Contestants who continue to spell correctly will advance to the next round until we have exactly 10 contestants.
- In each new round, the remaining contestants will be grouped together based on their previous correct spelling performance.

**n. Final Grouping & Advancement to Oral Spelling Phase:**

After the final round, only **10 contestants** who have correctly spelled the word in the most rounds will proceed to **Phase 2: Oral Spelling Test**.

**8.2. ELIMINATION STAGE: PHASE 2 – ORAL SPELLING TEST**

**a. Advancement to Phase 2:** The top **10 contestants** from Phase 1 will advance to Phase 2.

**b. Order of Spelling:** Contestants will draw lots to determine their turn order.

**c. Word Pronunciation & Signal to Begin:**

- The emcee will announce each contestant's word, and the contestant may **choose only one of the following options:**
  - The **definition** of the word.
  - The **part of speech** of the word.
  - A **sentence** using the word.
- The pronouncer will announce the word, pronounce the word twice for the contestant and give them a signal (e.g., "You may begin") to start spelling.
- **Countdown Timer:** A countdown timer will be displayed, giving the contestant **20 seconds** to spell the word aloud.
- Contestants must **pronounce the word before spelling it, spell the word aloud,** and then **pronounce the word again** after spelling it.

**d. Disqualification Rule:**

- Contestants are strictly prohibited from spelling the word before the countdown timer begins or before the pronouncer gives the official signal (e.g., "You may begin spelling").
- Contestants must be able to pronounce the word before and after spelling the word within 20 seconds.
- Violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification, **regardless of whether the answer is correct or not.**
- The timer will be clearly displayed on a screen, and the pronouncer will provide the clear verbal cue to begin.

**e. Elimination:** Contestants who misspell the word or fail to complete the spelling within the time limit will be immediately eliminated from Phase 2.

**f. Continuation of the Phase:** The contest will continue until only **one contestant remains** who spells their word correctly. This contestant will be declared the winner of Phase 2 and will advance to the Grand Finals Stage.

## 9. GRAND FINALS STAGE:

### 9.1. PHASE 1: WRITTEN SPELLING ROUND

- a. **Contestants:** The finalists/winners from the Elimination Stage will proceed to Phase 1 of the Grand Finals.
- b. **Word Pronunciation & Signal to Begin:**
  - o **Pronouncer:** The pronouncer will announce the word, pronouncing it twice, followed by the definition and usage in a sentence.
  - o **Writing Time:** Contestants will be given **10 seconds** to write the word on their sheet.
  - o **Countdown Timer:** A countdown timer will be displayed on a screen for all contestants to see, indicating the remaining time.
  - o **Signal to Start:** Contestants must wait for the pronouncer's signal (e.g., "You may now begin spelling") before starting to write the word. This ensures fairness and allows all participants to start at the same time.
- c. **Disqualification Rule:**
  - o Contestants are strictly prohibited from writing or spelling before the countdown timer begins or before the pronouncer gives the official signal (e.g., "You may begin spelling").
  - o Contestants must be able to write the word within 10 seconds.
  - o Violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification, **regardless of whether the answer is correct or not.**
  - o The timer will be clearly displayed on a screen, and the pronouncer will provide the clear verbal cue to begin.
- d. **Submission & Accuracy Check:**
  - o Contestants will raise their spelling sheets, and the judges will review them for accuracy.
  - o Finalists will earn a point for every word spelled correctly.
- e. **Advancement to Phase 2 (Oral Spelling Test):**
  - o The **first 10 contestants who correctly spell 10 words** (or accumulate 10 points) during the written rounds will advance to Phase 2: Oral Spelling Test.
  - o Contestants will continue to participate in successive rounds of written spelling until 10 participants reach the 10-word milestone.
  - o Once 10 contestants have achieved this, they will move on to the next phase.

### 9.2. PHASE 2: ORAL SPELLING ROUND (TOP 10 CONTESTANTS)

- a. **Contestants:** The top **10 contestants** who advanced from the Written Spelling Round will now move to the **Oral Spelling Round**.
- b. **Order of Spelling:** Contestants will draw lots to determine their turn order.
- c. **Word Pronunciation & Signal to Begin:**
  - o The pronouncer will announce each contestant's word, and the contestant may choose only one of the following options:
    - The **definition** of the word.
    - The **part of speech** of the word.
    - A **sentence** using the word.
  - o The pronouncer will pronounce the word twice for the contestant and give them a signal (e.g., "You may begin") to start spelling.
  - o **Countdown Timer:** A countdown timer will be displayed, giving the contestant **20 seconds** to spell the word aloud.
  - o Contestants must **pronounce the word** before spelling it, **spell the word aloud**, and then **pronounce the word again** after spelling it.
- d. **Disqualification Rule:**
  - o Contestants are strictly prohibited from spelling the word before the countdown timer begins or before the pronouncer gives the official signal (e.g., "You may begin spelling").
  - o Contestants must be able to pronounce the word before and after spelling the word within 20 seconds.

- o Violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification, **regardless of whether the answer is correct or not.**
- o The timer will be clearly displayed on a screen, and the pronouncer will provide the clear verbal cue to begin.
- e. **Elimination:** Contestants who misspell the word or fail to complete the spelling within the time limit will be immediately eliminated from Phase 2.
- f. **Advancement to Phase 3:** The top 3 contestants who spell the most words correctly will proceed to **Phase 3: the Final Oral Spelling Round.**

**9.3. PHASE 3: FINAL ORAL SPELLING ROUND (TOP 3 CONTESTANTS)**

- a. **Contestants:** The top 3 contestants from Phase 2 will compete in the final round of oral spelling.
- b. **Buzzer/Signaling System:** In this round, the contestants will have a **buzzer** or **handheld sign** to indicate when they are ready to spell. This ensures that only **one contestant at a time** will answer.
- c. **Word Pronunciation & Time Limit:**
  - o The pronouncer will announce the word, pronouncing it twice, followed by the definition and usage in a sentence.
  - o **Signal to Begin:** In the buzzer/sign round, contestants may press the buzzer or raise their handheld sign **at any point** during the round — even before the emcee finishes the sentence or definition — if they are confident they know the correct spelling. The **first contestant to signal** will be acknowledged by the emcee and given the chance to spell the word.
  - o **Countdown Timer:** A countdown timer will be displayed, giving the contestant **20 seconds** to spell the word aloud.
  - o Contestants must **pronounce the word** before spelling it, **spell the word aloud**, and then **pronounce the word again** after spelling it within 20 seconds.
- d. **Disqualification Rule:**
  - o Contestants are strictly prohibited from spelling the word before the countdown timer begins or before the pronouncer gives the official signal (e.g., “You may begin spelling”).
  - o Contestants must be able to pronounce the word before and after spelling the word within 20 seconds.
  - o Violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification, **regardless of whether the answer is correct or not.**
  - o The timer will be clearly displayed on a screen, and the pronouncer will provide the clear verbal cue to begin.
- e. **Elimination & Winner:**
  - o **Elimination for Incorrect Spelling:** Contestants who misspell the word or fail to complete the spelling within the time limit will be immediately eliminated from Phase 3.
  - o The contest will continue until one contestant remains who spells all words correctly.
  - o This contestant will be declared the **Champion** of the **SM Super Spelling Bee** and will win the **Grand Prize.**

**10. PRIZES AND RECOGNITION**

- The **Champion** will receive the **Grand Prize** and be crowned the **SM Super Spelling Bee 2025 Champion.**
- Other top contestants will receive **consolation prizes, certificates, and medals.**
- Please see the complete list of prizes below:

ELIMINATIONS	PRIZES
Winners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Php 10,000 worth of SM gift certificates</li> <li>• Php 10,000 worth of National Bookstore gift card</li> </ul>

GRAND FINALS	PRIZES
<b>Grand Winner</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% discount on tuition fees and miscellaneous fees at National University ("NU") (In any four-year degree program only in any NU campus nationwide.)</li> <li>• Total of Php 50,000 worth of cash and SM gift certificates (Php 25,000 cash &amp; Php 25,000 worth of SM gift certificates)</li> <li>• Php 150,000 worth of National Bookstore gift card</li> <li>• Php 20,000 worth of Jollibee e-gift card</li> <li>• 13-inch MacBook Air from Power Mac Center</li> </ul>
<b>First Runner-Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% discount on tuition fees at National University (In any four-year degree program only in any NU campus nationwide.)</li> <li>• Total of Php30,000 worth of cash and SM gift certificates (Php15,000 cash &amp; Php15,000 worth of SM gift certificates)</li> <li>• Php100,000 worth of National Bookstore gift certificates</li> <li>• Php 15,000 worth of Jollibee e-gift card</li> <li>• 13-inch MacBook Air from Power Mac Center</li> </ul>
<b>Second Runner-Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% discount on tuition fees at National University (In any four-year degree program only in any NU campus nationwide.)</li> <li>• Total of Php20,000 worth of cash and SM gift certificates (Php10,000 cash &amp; Php10,000 worth of SM gift certificates)</li> <li>• Php50,000 worth of National Bookstore gift certificates</li> <li>• Php 10,000 worth of Jollibee e-gift card</li> <li>• 13-inch MacBook Air from Power Mac Center</li> </ul>
<b>Top 4-5 finalists</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% discount on tuition fees at National University</li> <li>• Php15,000 worth of National Bookstore gift certificates</li> <li>• iPad 9th Gen from Power Mac Center</li> </ul>
<b>Top 6-10 finalists</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% discount on tuition fees at National University</li> <li>• Php15,000 worth of National Bookstore gift certificates</li> <li>• Php5,000 worth of Power Mac Center gift certificates</li> </ul>
<b>Top 11-40 finalists</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Php3,000 worth of Power Mac Center gift certificates</li> </ul>

- **Gift Certificates:** Gift certificates are transferable but not convertible to cash.
- **Prize Tax:** A 20% prize tax on prizes exceeding Php 10,000 will be covered by SM Supermalls.
- **Cash Prizes:** All cash prizes will be issued by check in the name of the parent or guardian.
- **Prize Redemption Period:** Prizes must be redeemed within 60 days from the date of notification from SM Supermalls. Winners are notified on the day of the Grand Finals. After the redemption period, unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in accordance with Section 21.
- Please see Section 20 for the guidelines on claiming of prizes.

## 11. CONTEST FLOW AND TIMING

- **Elimination Stage: Phase 1** (Written Spelling Test):
  - Time: Approximately **5-10 minutes** per batch of up to **20 contestants**
  - The **top 10 contestants** will advance to Phase 2
- **Elimination Stage: Phase 2** (Oral Spelling Test):
  - Time: Approximately **30 minutes** for the **top 10 finalists**
  - This phase will determine who advances to the **Grand Finals**
- **Grand Finals Stage: Phase 1** (Written Spelling Round):
  - Time: Approximately **30 minutes**
- **Grand Finals Stage: Phase 2** (Oral Spelling Round):
  - Time: Approximately **30-45 minutes** for the **top 10 contestants**
- **Grand Finals Stage: Phase 3** (Final Oral Spelling Round):
  - Time: Approximately **15-30 minutes** for the **top 3 contestants**

## 12. JUDGES AND MODERATORS

- The contest will be overseen by official judges from the **Department of Education (DepEd)** and the **Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)** to ensure proper conduct and fair judgment.
- A **moderator** (from SM Supermalls/event organizer) will ensure smooth execution of the contest and enforce time limits.

## 13. CODE OF CONDUCT

- Contestants must behave respectfully toward fellow participants, judges, and moderators.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct or violations of contest integrity will result in immediate disqualification.

## 14. ELIGIBILITY FOR SUBSEQUENT ELIMINATIONS

- Contestants who do not win in the eliminations at a specific SM Supermalls branch may still participate in future eliminations at other SM branches.
- A new application form and required documents must be submitted to the Mall Administration Office or the official event organizer on the day of the next elimination.

## 15. ANNOUNCEMENT OF GRAND FINALS QUALIFIERS

Contestants who qualify for the Grand Finals will be announced on the Facebook page of the SM Supermalls branch where they won, within 5 to 10 days after each elimination round. A representative of SM Supermalls – Marketing will also contact winners via phone and/or email.

## 16. FINALITY OF RESULTS

The announcement of the winner by representatives from DepEd and DTI, with DTI's concurrence, is final. Any disqualification decisions made by the DepEd and DTI representatives, including violations of contest rules, will be final.

## 17. GRAND FINALS QUALIFICATION

The top 40 contestants from the eliminations will qualify for the Grand Finals.

**Date:** October 4, 2025

**Time:** 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**Venue:** Music Hall, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay, 1300 Metro Manila

## 18. TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR GRAND FINALISTS

SM Supermalls will cover the airfare for the grand finalists and one accompanying parent or guardian to and from Metro Manila. This applies only to finalists requiring air travel.

- **Hotel Accommodations:** SM Supermalls will provide hotel accommodations for grand finalists traveling from provincial malls (requiring air and/or over 5 hours of land travel) and one accompanying parent or guardian.
- **Other Expenses:** All other expenses, including taxes, food, land transportation, and personal costs, will be the responsibility of the grand finalists and their accompanying parent or guardian.

## 19. CONTESTANT AND GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

- Contestants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. If a guardian is accompanying the contestant, the following must be submitted:
  - A signed authorization letter from the parent(s)
  - A copy of the parent's and guardian's valid IDsThe parent or guardian is responsible for the contestant's behavior, safety, welfare, and any costs incurred during the contest.
- The contestant and their parent/guardian must:
  - Follow all instructions from SM Super Spelling Bee representatives and event organizers.
  - Abide by the contest's rules and regulations.
- SCMC, event organizers, and staff are not liable for accidents, injuries, or loss of property during the contest period due to negligence or failure to comply with the contest rules.

- Parents and guardians are responsible for the care of their belongings and those of the contestant, including electronics and personal items. SCMC and event organizers are not liable for any loss or damage.

## 20. CLAIMING OF PRIZES

- **GIFT CERTIFICATES:** Prizes to be released after the Grand Finals:

1. SM Gift Certificates
2. National Bookstore Gift Cards
3. Jollibee Gift Cards

To claim these prizes, please proceed to Music Hall, SM Mall of Asia after the Grand Finals program and provide the following requirements:

1. Photocopy of Winner's School ID
2. Photocopy of Winner's Birth Certificate
3. Photocopy of Parent's valid Government-issued ID

- **CASH PRIZES:** Cash prizes will be issued by check within 60 days from the date of the Grand Finals.

**Payee Name: Parent's or Guardian's Name**

Requirements:

1. TIN ID of the Parent
2. Signed authorization letter from the parent – if the guardian will claim the prize.
3. Photocopy of Parent's and/or Guardian's valid Government-issued ID
4. TIN of the Winner (One-Time TIN) – if parent's TIN ID is not available
5. Home Address, Email Address and Contact Number of the Parent/s

- **For Metro Manila winners/consolation prize winners,** checks will be released at the Head Office of SM Supermalls at the SM Prime Headquarters. Parents will be notified via email when the check is ready.
  - SM Prime Headquarters, MOA Square, Mall of Asia Complex, Coral Way, corner Seashell Lane, Pasay, 1300 Metro Manila
  - Schedule of Releasing of Check: every Tuesday and Thursday only, 2 pm to 5pm
- **For Provincial, Visayas, and Mindanao winners/consolation prize winners,** a check will be released by the Representing Mall Branch of the contestants. Parents will be notified via email when the check is ready.

Requirements for the claiming of cash prize:

1. Photocopy of Winner's School ID
2. Photocopy of Winner's Birth Certificate
3. Photocopy of Parent's valid Government-issued ID

- **CERTIFICATE OF SCHOLARSHIP FROM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY ("NU"):** The Certificate of Scholarship from NU will be presented during the Grand Finals program. A designated representative from NU will formally award the scholarship certificate to the winners, with a representative from SM serving as a witness.
- **LAPTOP/GADGET/GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM POWER MAC CENTER:** Laptops, gadgets, and/or gift certificates from Power Mac Center will be awarded following the Grand Finals program. A designated representative from Power Mac Center will present the prizes to the winners, with a representative from SM acting as a witness.

## 21. PRIZE FORFEITURE

- Failure to claim the prize within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification will result in forfeiture of the prize in favor of SM Supermalls, with prior approval of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The prize shall be forfeited under any of the following circumstances:
  - Failure to respond to the official notification of winning within sixty (60) days from date of notice;

- Failure to present valid identification and/or required documentation necessary to claim the prize;
  - Non-compliance with the contest eligibility requirements;
  - Violation of any of the official contest mechanics, terms, or conditions.
- Forfeited prizes will not be redeemable, transferable, or convertible to cash and shall be subject to DTI's applicable rules and prior written approval.

**PER DTI FAIR TRADE PERMIT NO. FTEB-\_\_\_\_\_, SERIES OF 2025**