



January 14, 2026

Dear Spelling Bee Coordinator,

The 16th Annual Eastern Oklahoma State Spelling Bee will take place on Friday, April 26th at the Muskogee Civic Center (425 Boston Street). **Registration starts at 4:00 P.M. with the competition beginning at 6:30 P.M. We are back upstairs with our large students hospitality area. It will open at 4:00 P.M. with soft drinks, coffee, bottled water, sandwiches, chips, cakes and cookies for all of our contestants, family members, and special guests to enjoy. There is no admission fee. Come and support your school champions and cheer them on as they compete for the state title.**

Prizes will include engraved medals for each contestant, 2026 commemorative bee t-shirts, and trophies for first, second, and third place winners. We are excited to announce that the champion of the Eastern Oklahoma State Spelling Bee will receive a **\$1,000.00** for his or her school and a **\$500.00** cash prize. Our second place student will receive **\$500.00** for his or her school and a **\$250.00** cash prize. Third place student will receive **\$250.00** for their school and **\$100.00** cash prize. We are thrilled to offer these fantastic prizes for your school and students.

All student contestants will have the opportunity to win watches, headphones, gift baskets, and other fantastic prizes during the intermissions. These prizes will be given away by random drawings to students who are participating in the BEE. Thank you to all our generous sponsors for making this occasion possible for our student contestants. We encourage all student contestants to stay in the arena until all the drawings have taken place.

Deadlines and Forms Needed:

- ***Champion and Runner-Up Registration Form – Deadline – Monday, March 16th.***
- ***Minor Appearance Release Form (2) – May send in with Champion and Runner-Up Form or bring to event.***
- ***Cassandra Gaines Art Contest - Deadline – Friday, March 13th.***

Where there is a “two” listed by the bold items above, please give one to each of your student representatives. **Let the student contestants know they must register at the state spelling bee competition with a parent, guardian, or a teacher who understands the spelling bee rules.**

****Take notice of the deadlines regarding champion and runner-up registration form and participation in the art contest. Deadlines are subject to extensions in the case of inclement weather conditions or other severe circumstances.***

We are requesting that you have a third or fourth place student attend in the absence of your champion or runner-up. Please provide these students with the same word list by origins and countries as your champion and runner-up. They will also need the spelling bee rules that can be located on our website. Some schools had no student representatives present on the stage last year. By providing this opportunity we believe each school should or will have representation at the

state spelling bee event. **The third or fourth place students will only participate if one of your winning students is not able to compete in Muskogee on Friday, April 26th**

Please let us know if you are not able to open a particular form or other needed information on our website. I will be glad to send you the requested information separately by an email attachment directly to you. Just let me know and I will get that out to you very quickly.

***If you are in need of trophies for your school-wide spelling bee one of our business sponsors I-40 Awards & Engraving in Muskogee will be glad to help you. They are located at 812 East Side Blvd. Martin Updike is the owner and you may contact him at 918-577-1956 or martin@i40awards.com. He will be more than happy to assist you and your school district.**

Rally your community! Everyone come and support your winners! This will be a wonderful experience for your students, school, and community. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at the email address or phone numbers listed below.

Thank you for all you do to ensure academic excellence!

See you at the BEE!

Susan

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