FLORIDA EDUCATION FUND
WORD WIZARD COMPETITON RULES
(amended August 2026)

MISSION

The Florida Education Fund (FEF) Word Wizard Competition aims to enhance reading skills for students in grades 3 through 5 and for students in grades 6 through 8. Students who master vocabulary words will improve their comprehension of reading material and standardized test questions.

PREFACE

The rules and guidelines set forth are to assist Competition officials and participants. Competition officials include a judge, moderator, timekeeper, and ombudsperson. The FEF will develop all rules and regulations pertaining to the Competition and facilitate Competition preparation.

A. GENERAL

1. Participants must be members of the Centers of Excellence program (i.e., National Achievers or Believers) in grades 3 through 5 for the 3rd through 5th grade contest and in grades 6 through 8 for the 6th through 8th grade contest.
2. The Competition will be conducted orally. Each participant will compete during a Web video conference at a time designated by the FEF. During competition, the participant must position his/her Web camera(s) as directed by FEF and appear on camera in the Web video conference clearly visible to the Competition officials. While competing, no participant may refer to written or online materials, receive guidance or help from any one or any source, or have any application open on his/her computer or device other than the Web video conferencing software. During the Competition, the coach may not speak to or otherwise signal the participant. The participant will be subject to disqualification if s/he or the coach violates any of these rules.
3. The Florida Education Fund will be responsible for selecting the word lists that will be used for the Competition.
4. In the Competition's spelling rounds, rounds 1 and 3, the role of the moderator is (1) to correctly pronounce words and (2) to give a sentence, definition and/or other information about a spelling word as requested. In the vocabulary rounds, rounds 2 and 4, the role of the moderator is to read the questions participants will answer.
5. The role of the judge is to determine whether the participant has spelled a word correctly, selected the best possible synonym, antonym or word to complete a given sentence, or completed given analogies
6. The role of the participant is to spell the word correctly, select the best possible synonym, antonym or word to complete a given sentence, or complete given analogies.
7. During the Competition, all participants are responsible for these rules as written.

B. COMPETITION

1. The Competition will be played at the state level.
2. The Competition will be conducted as follows:

   Round 1 — This will be a spelling round for a maximum of three complete rotations. This round will be conducted on a point basis. A participant will earn 1-point for each word spelled correctly.

   Round 2 — This round will be a 10-minute vocabulary round, with each participant receiving an equal number of questions. Participants will be required either to complete a sentence by selecting the best possible answer from given options or providing an appropriate synonym or antonym for a given word. This round will be conducted on a point basis. A 1-point question will be either a synonym or an antonym (random selection), and 2-point questions will be sentence completion items. The participant will be responsible for selecting the point value of the question, which the moderator will read. The participant then will choose the appropriate answer. At the end of the round, the top six (6) participants will proceed to the next round.

   Round 3 — This will be a spelling round for a maximum of three complete rotations. This round will be conducted on a point basis. A participant will earn 1-point for each word spelled correctly.

   Round 4 — This final round of the Competition begins when the number of participants is reduced to three (3). This will be a 10-minute round with each participant receiving an equal number of questions. This round will be conducted on a point basis, during which both 1- and 2-point analogy questions will be asked. The participant will be responsible for selecting the point value of the question. The moderator will be responsible for reading the initial analogies, and participants will be required to read the options and select the most correct answer. Participants will be required to correctly complete analogies presented.

3. During the spelling rounds of the Competition, rounds 1 and 3, after the moderator gives the participant a word, the participant will be encouraged to pronounce the word before and after spelling it. The participant will not be disqualified for failing to pronounce the word either before or after spelling it. The participant will not be disqualified for failing to note that a word is capitalized.
4. For rounds 1 and 3, the participant may ask the moderator to repeat the word, define it or use it in a sentence. The moderator will grant all such requests until the judge agrees that the word has been made reasonably clear to the participant.
5. Having started to spell a word in rounds 1 and 3, a speller may stop and start over, **spelling the word from the beginning.** Once a participant selects a point value in rounds 2 and 4, the selection will be considered final by the judge(s).
6. For rounds 1 and 3, each speller has a maximum of 15 seconds to complete spelling the word. The 15 seconds will begin once the moderator gives the participant a word and grants the participant's requests to repeat the word, define it and/or use it in a sentence. For rounds 2 and 4, each participant will have 30 seconds to answer the selected question. The 30 seconds begin once the moderator finishes reading the question.

C. SUDDEN DEATH ROUND

1. In the event there is a tie at the end of any round, a sudden death round will ensue.
2. The questions in this round will consist solely of analogies. Each sudden death round consists of two analogies. If the first participant answers the first question in the sudden death playoff correctly, then the second participant is afforded the opportunity to answer the second question. If the second participant answers incorrectly, the first participant wins. If the first participant answers the first question incorrectly and the second participant answers the second question correctly, then the second participant wins. If both participants answer correctly or incorrectly, play continues with another two-question round.

D. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

1. An oral appeal must be made by the participant immediately, that is, before the next participant would have received his/her word or question in the Competition.
2. The judge will not entertain appeals from contestants seeking to dislodge another participant from the Competition.
3. The judge is in complete control of the Competition. **The decision of the judge will be final.**

E. SUGGESTED PLANNING STRATEGIES

- ❑ Encourage students to use spelling strategies to improve ability.
- ❑ Organize words in categories that will aid students in memorizing them.
- ❑ Do not encourage students to learn off word meanings. Use strategies, for example context clues, to aid vocabulary development.
- ❑ Teach students how to identify relationships that will assist in solving analogies.
- ❑ Practice with the official Competition word lists on vocabulary.com at the following web addresses:

3rd-5th Word Wizard Vocabulary List
Part 1 (A-K): https://www.vocabulary.com/lists/6299099
Part 2 (L-Z): https://www.vocabulary.com/lists/6299101

6th-8th Word Wizard Vocabulary List
Part 1 (A-K): https://www.vocabulary.com/lists/6299076
Part 2 (L-Z): https://www.vocabulary.com/lists/6299081

SPELLING WORD LIST

Round 1 and 3 spelling words for the Competitions will be taken from the **Words Appearing Frequently** section of the **National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List**, which can be downloaded from http://fefonline.org/brain.html.

VOCABULARY WORD LIST

Vocabulary questions for rounds 2 and 4 will involve a selected group of words taken from the **Words Appearing Frequently** section of the **National Spelling Bee Consolidated Word List** and, for the 6th through 8th grade contest, from the **SAT Frequent Word List.** The FEF will

provide a list of definitions of the selected words from among which round 2 and 4 vocabulary questions will be derived.

NOTE, however, that, in any Sudden Death round, questions may involve any word defined in *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language.*

EXAMPLES OF VOCABULARY ITEMS

SYNONYM ITEMS

CHOOSE THE WORD THAT IS CLOSEST IN MEANING TO:

ANALOGY

(A) COMPARISON
(B) SIMILE
(C) ANATOMY
(D) AMBIGUITY

CHOOSE THE WORD THAT IS CLOSEST IN MEANING TO:

AMICABLE

(a) AMENABLE
(b) AMIABLE
(C) HELPFUL
(d) HURTFUL

ANTONYM ITEMS

CHOOSE THE WORD THAT IS OPPOSITE IN MEANING TO:

ACCURATE

(a) ACCUMULATE
(b) ACROBAT
(c) INCORRECT
(d) EXACT

CHOOSE THE WORD THAT IS OPPOSITE IN MEANING TO:

ALTITUDE

(a) ATTITUDE
(b) ABYSS
(c) HEIGHT
(d) PEAK

SENTENCE COMPLETION ITEMS

CHOOSE THE WORD WHICH BEST COMPLETES THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE.

1. Alice suffered from _____ as the result of a head injury.

(A) LOSS
(B) PAIN
(C) AMNESIA
(D) AMBROSIA

2. Dr. Cameron's students always enter his class with _____ and depart with reluctance.

(A) FOOD
(B) BOOKS
(C) APATHY
(D) ALACRITY

ANALOGY ITEMS

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING ANALOGIES

1.TENTACLES :OCTUPUS

(A) PETALS: FLOWER
(B) TADPOLES: FROG
(C) CLAWS: CRAB
(D) ALGAE: SEAWEED
(E) QUILLS: PORCUPINE

(To be read as *TENTACLEAS ARE TO OCTUPUS AS*)

2. COWARD : BRAVERY ::
KNAVE : _____

(A) RETREAT
(B) BEAUTY
(C) TRUTH
(D) STOICISM

(To be read as *COWARD IS TO BRAVERY AS KNAVE IS TO*)