1. Spellers in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch 2022 Regional Spelling Bee must meet all requirements below in accordance with the Scripps National Spelling Bee (SNSB).
   • The speller must not have won a SNSB national finals.
   • The speller must attend a school that officially enrolled with the SNSB.
   • The speller must not have passed beyond the eighth grade on or before August 31, 2021.
   • The speller must not have repeated any grade for the purpose of extending spelling bee eligibility. If the speller has repeated any grade, the speller must notify the SNSB of the circumstances of grade repetition by March 31, 2022; and the SNSB will, in its sole discretion, determine the speller’s eligibility status on or before April 30, 2022.
   • The speller – or the speller’s parent, legal guardian, or school official acting on the speller’s behalf – must not have declared to another entity an academic classification higher than eighth grade for any purpose, including high school graduation equivalency or proficiency examinations and/or examinations such as the PSAT, SAT or ACT.
   • The speller must not have earned the legal equivalent of a high school diploma.
   • The speller must not eschew normal school activity to study for spelling bees. The SNSB defines normal school activity as adherence to at least four courses of study other than language arts, spelling, Latin, Greek, vocabulary and etymology for at least four hours per weekday for 34 of the 38 weeks between August 23, 2021, and May 16, 2022.
   • The speller must not have reached his/her 15th birthday on or before August 31, 2021.
   • The St. Louis Post-Dispatch 2022 Regional Spelling Bee winner, upon qualifying for the 2022 SNSB national finals, must submit a completed Champion Bio Profile, a Certification of Eligibility Form, a signed Appearance Consent and Release Form and a photo. The speller will notify SNSB, at least 24 hours prior to the first day of competition in the 2022 SNSB national finals, if any of the statements made on the Certification of Eligibility Form are no longer true or require updating. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch will provide access to the necessary forms. SNSB may disqualify prior to or during competition any speller who is not in compliance with any of the Eligibility Requirements; and it may – at any time between the conclusion of the 2021 SNSB national finals and April 30, 2023 – require any speller who is found to have not been in compliance with any of the Eligibility Requirements to forfeit any prizes, rank and other benefits accorded to the speller as a result of participation in the 2022 Spelling Bee.
   • The speller must not have any first-, second- or third-degree relatives (i.e., sibling, parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, half-sibling, first cousin or great grandparent) who are current employees of The E.W. Scripps Company.

2. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch 2022 Regional Spelling Bee Semi-Final is a virtual competition consisting of 30 questions. Students will hear 15 words that they will type the answer into the answer form on their computer. Students will also answer 15 multiple choice vocabulary questions. These multiple choice questions will require spellers to select the correct answer from four possible choices. The 15 spelling words will have the following information displayed: the audio pronunciation of the word (and alternate pronunciation(s) if applicable), part of speech, origin, definition, the word used in a sentence and any additional information needed to spell the word. These questions will require students to type in the word spelling using a keyboard.
   If a word has one or more homonyms, the test will indicate which word is to be spelled.

3. There is only ONE Semi-Final Bee round. All students in all divisions must participate at 10am on Saturday, March 5, 2022 round.

4. Spellers have 30 seconds to answer each question after which the test will automatically continue to the next question. Spellers are unable to change their answers once the question has passed. Spellers that refresh their browser and lose a portion of their questions will NOT be able to resubmit the questions lost. Spellers will not be able to re-enter the test after closing the browser window.
5. Words used and definitions given in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch 2022 Regional Spelling Bee MAY BE SELECTED from words that appear in the current edition of SpellCheck, the School Spelling Bee Study List and Words of the Champions, generated by the SNSB. Also, these word lists end with a section of words that do not appear in the aforementioned study resources and are for use near the end of a local/ regional spelling bee, if the local/regional bee officials determine that their use in the spelling bee is warranted. All words appearing on 2022 SNSB word lists are entries in Merriam-Webster Unabridged, the official dictionary of the SNSB, available at http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com/. Merriam-Webster Unabridged is the final authority and sole source for the spelling of words; the primary source used to craft the pronunciations, definitions and language origins for the SNSB word lists; and the only authority to be consulted by spelling bee officials, as well as the sole source used during the spelling bee to verify the information in 2022 SNSB word lists. Some alternate pronunciations appearing in 2022 SNSB word lists may have been drawn from Merriam-Webster print publications because the SNSB deemed the information helpful to the speller.

6. Parents, friends and family members cannot provide assistance on the semi-final bee test in any way. Resource materials and electronic devices (cellphones, tablets, iPads, laptops, etc.) are prohibited. If it is discovered that the speller uses any outside assistance, their test will be immediately disqualified.

7. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch provides accommodation for spellers with physical challenges involving sight, hearing, speech and/or movement. Individuals who need special accommodation must contact the St. Louis Post-Dispatch Spelling Bee at 314-340-8914 NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022.

8. All tests will be scored by two independent graders. If the two graders disagree on the results of the test, the judges will rule on each discrepancy. Once all tests are graded, the scores will be ranked by the number of correctly answered. A minimum of 10 spellers, with the most correct from the semi-finals, will advance to the oral final bee. Winners from the virtual semi-final round will be announced on the NIE website (STLtoday.com/bee) by 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2022.

9. A copy of the test results for spellers who do not qualify for the oral final bee may be obtained through a special request after March 21, 2022. Please email nie@post-dispatch.com for more information.

10. The SNSB office will not render judgments relating to the conduct of local or regional spelling bees. Individuals bearing complaints or questions about the conduct of their local spelling bee should register their concerns with their local spelling bee officials. If an error occurred at a local bee and was not addressed during the competition, the local bee must determine ONE winner regardless of the error. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch will only take one winner from each local bee. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, which serves as the official regional bee reserves the right to revise or amend these rules at any time. The judges serve in control of the competition. DECISIONS OF LOCAL/ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH REGIONAL SPELLING BEE OFFICIALS/JUDGES ARE FINAL.