



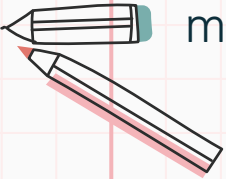
## Working On Our Academic Puzzle

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## WHY WE SHOULD HAVE AN ACADEMIC QUIZ BOWL IN NCSD INSTEAD OF A SPELLING BEE

While both Academic Bowls and Spelling Bees offer valuable educational experiences, Academic Bowls tend to provide a broader scope for knowledge acquisition and skill development.

Unlike Spelling Bees, which primarily emphasize memorization, Academic Bowls promote critical thinking, collaboration, and rapid recall across multiple subject areas.



# Yes, spelling is a standard (part of...)

## ELA.L.2

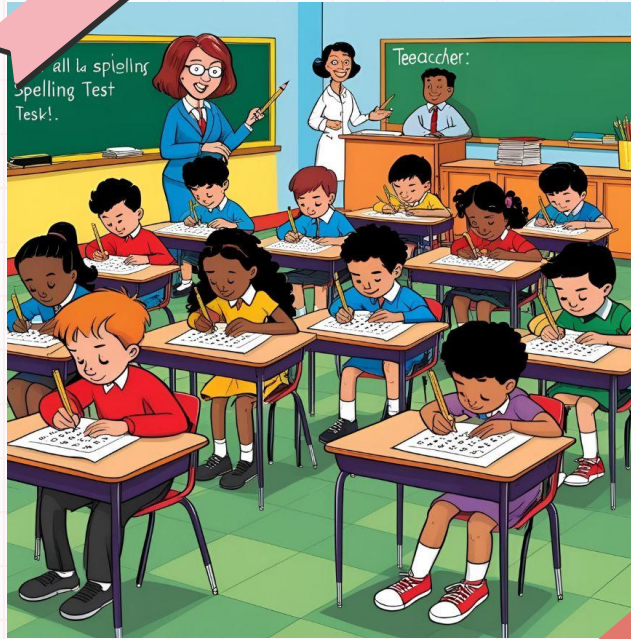
Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

For grades K-12 spelling is mentioned as a portion of the overall standard.

But in addition to spelling, students are to additionally know how to sound out the words, use phonetics, use commas, use capitalization, use quotations, understand and use ellipsis and dashes correctly, etc.

Spelling should be taught as a part of reading and writing, not as a separate memorization skill.





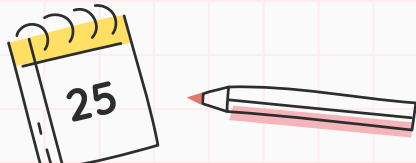
As a part of our strategic plan, NCSD has been concentrating on essential standards.

All teachers in the district were able to have a vote on the essential standards.

Only one grade level, district-wide selected L.2, which contains spelling, as essential.

Rather, teachers know that spelling has to be taught within context and with purpose.

The traditional nature of spelling bees do not improve student spelling practices. In its very nature, spelling bee competitions eliminate the students who are poor spellers.



Those students who are engaged the longest in the competitions often have to memorize infrequently used words.

To improve students' spelling ability and improve their writing, high frequency words should be practiced and used.



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○ Spelling Bees are generally oral tests, but the mere nature of spelling is to aide in the writing process and to assist in reading.

Students who can read, are not necessarily good spellers either.

○ The human brain doesn't process letters individually but recognizes words as whole units and uses context to understand the meaning.



# So what's this Academic Quiz Bowl?

The Academic Bowl is a competitive academic event designed to challenge and enrich students' knowledge across core subjects. The competition is open to students in Grades K-5, with events organized at both the school and district levels based on grade bands. Questions will be included from a variety of subjects, including math, history, literature, science, and spelling.



# Our Plan



## Grade-Level Participation

- **Grades K-2:** Competitions are conducted at the **school level only**.
- **Grades 3-5:** Competitions are held **district-wide**, allowing for broader participation and inter-school engagement.
- Schools may involve **additional students in practices**, especially beneficial for smaller schools to ensure wider participation and skill development.



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# Our Plan



## Team Composition

- Each Academic Bowl team consists of **4 active members** and **4 alternates**.
- Schools may involve **additional students in practices**, especially beneficial for smaller schools to ensure wider participation and skill development.

## Match Structure

- Each match is **15 minutes** in length, followed by a **5-minute break**.
- Teams compete in **two 15-minute matches** per event.
- The **highest total score** across both matches determines the bracket winner.
- In the event of a tie, a **5-question tiebreaker round** is conducted. This process repeats until a winner is declared.
- Each elementary grade levels 3-5 has one team and will compete against the each other in a bracket style competition

# Our Plan



## Question Development

- All practice and competition questions are provided by the **district**, ensuring consistency, fairness, and academic alignment.
- Categories may be **intermixed throughout the competition**, requiring students to demonstrate agility across subjects.



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# Our Plan



## Sample School-Based Format

To select team members and prepare students, the following multi-step process is recommended:

### Step 1: Classroom Preparation

- Grade-level teachers conduct an initial **classroom challenge** using sample questions.
- Students are given **one week to study** district-provided materials.

### Step 2: Class-Level Quiz

- All students take a **written quiz** using questions supplied by the district.
- This serves as a preliminary selection step.

# Our Plan



## Step 3: Initial Selection

- The **top 5 students** from each class receive new sample questions for further study over the course of a week.

## Step 4: Grade-Level Assessment

- A written quiz is administered to the group of **20 students** (5 from each class) per grade level.
- District-provided questions are used to ensure standardization.



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# Our Plan



## Step 5: Final Team Selection

- Based on the results of the grade-level quiz, the **top 8 students** are selected:
  - To **practice and represent the school** in the K-2 Academic Bowl.
  - To **practice and represent the school** in the district-wide Grades 3-5 Academic Bowl.

## Modifications for 4-day Schools

For **northern schools** with only one class per grade level:

- **Steps 1 and 2 remain the same.**
- The **top 8 students** from each grade band (K-2 and 3-5) will be selected to compete against other **northern and southern schools** in their respective brackets.

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By having an academic bowl over a spelling bee, we will be able to piece together core tier one instruction with standards and challenge our students on concepts that will pertain to real life applications.

Our goal is to have the academic bowl built and ready for action at the start of the 26/27 school year for all elementary schools.

There will be a cost involved. Equipment and supplies to run the bowl and for schools to practice. Advisor and/or sub pay will also be needed and can vary.

