



FISD Spelling Philosophy and Practice

FISD supports direct spelling instruction with embedded opportunities for the authentic application of learning through writing. The goal of spelling instruction is to develop independence, fluency, and accuracy in writing. A quality program equips students with strategies for spelling words independently and proofing personal writing.

Spelling instruction should be ongoing, daily, and purposeful. Instruction should be interrelated and interconnected with all strands of language. The primary focus of instruction should be on teaching a variety of effective spelling strategies rather than on just memorizing lists of words. Students must be given opportunities to work with words, to proofread their own writing, and to study regular spelling patterns. The key to spelling development is the understanding and application of spelling strategies that enable students to become independent and competent spellers.

The following curriculum updates will begin during the 2013-2014 school year:

- Students will not be given a spelling pre-test, in order to provide each student additional instructional time to work authentically with words.
- Students in grades 1-5 will receive a weekly spelling test grade based on the correct spelling of weekly lists and editing sentences/paragraphs.
- All students will have the opportunity to access the weekly challenge lists.

Spelling Test Grading Criteria:

- Students will be assessed on the weekly regular spelling words and editing sentences/paragraphs. The students' grade will be derived from the total amount of items, including spelling words and editing errors. *For example: 12 spelling words + 8 editing errors = 20 assessed items, meaning the correction of each editing error and spelling word will be worth 5 points each.*
- When the challenge test is given, each word spelled correctly on the challenge test will be counted as an additional point to be added to the weekly spelling test grade, a graded daily spelling reinforcement activity, or a graded weekly word work activity.
- A student's average spelling score at the end of the nine weeks cannot be more than 100.

Additional spelling information can be found on the Curriculum & Instruction portion of the FISD website.