

San Joaquin County Office of Education

James A. Mousalimas, County Superintendent of Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

016-050: 2016 State Elementary Spelling Bee Results

April 23, 2016

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Ananya Vinay from Fresno County named 2016 CA State Elementary Spelling Bee Champion *56 students from 28 counties participated in the state championship*

About 300 people gathered for the California State Elementary Spelling Bee hosted by San Joaquin County Office of Education for the sixth consecutive year on Saturday, April 23. Competing for the championship were 56 fourth- through sixth-grade students from 28 counties in California who had been certified as county champions by their county superintendents of schools.

After 17 rounds, Ananya Vinay, 11-year-old fifth-grader from Fresno County, was named the 2016 California State Spelling Bee Champion. Her winning word was "pugilist." (Definition: a professional boxer.) This is Ananya's second state championship. She was also the 2015 State Elementary Spelling Bee Champion.

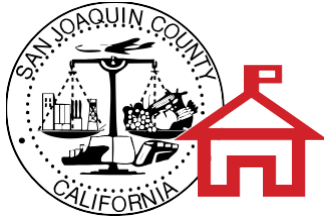
The top seven finalists (received trophies):

Jasleen Bal, Placer County
Michael Balerite, Stanislaus County
Abinayaa Murugupandiyam, Alameda County
Caleb Poole, Sonoma County
Joey O'Neill, Marin County
Kai Hansen, Humboldt County
Anisha Rao, Alameda County

Please see attached list for complete list of participants and what round they were in when eliminated.

All students who participated received medals for their participation. The top nine finalists received trophies and Ananya was awarded the championship trophy.

The 2016 California State Elementary Spelling Bee was sponsored by Teachers College of San Joaquin. All participants received an iPod shuffle inside a Spelling Bee backpack, and Ananya was awarded an iPad. For more information about Teachers College, visit



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teacherscollegesj.org.

About the San Joaquin County Office of Education:

San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) provides educational leadership, resources, and services to support schools throughout the county. With its highly regarded programs, innovative staff and community partnerships, SJCOE ensures that every student in San Joaquin County has the opportunity of a quality education. For more information, visit www.sjcoe.org.