Academic standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. The Kansas English Language Arts (KELA) standards focus on reading, writing, speaking, listening and communication development. Your student’s mastery of these academic standards ensures they are well prepared for life after high school graduation.

The KELA standards are a collection of skills that students should learn and be able to perform at advancing levels in order to meet the five foundational practice for language arts.

Language arts foundational practices:
- Speak, read and listen appropriately in all subject areas.
- Seek to understand different viewpoints.
- Use knowledge gained from reading and writing to help solve problems.
- Create different versions of texts for a range of purposes and audiences.
- Self-regulate and monitor growth in writing, speaking, reading and listening.

Example KELA expectations:

**Ask and answer questions.**

**Name** letter and identify sounds.

**Read** high-frequency words by sight (the, of, to, you, she, my, is, etc.)

**Spell** simple words phonetically.

**Compare** stories and make connections among characters and events.

**Retell** stories using details from the text.

**Utilize** a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to compose opinion pieces, explanatory pieces or narrate an event.

**State** opinions and preferences in writing.

**Use** frequently occurring nouns and verbs in writing.

**Respond** to questions and suggestions from peers and adults.

**Explore** a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing.

**Collaborate** with peers, including shared research and writing projects.

**Express** thoughts, feelings and ideas.

**Use** question words (who, what, where, when, why, how).
What might this look like in a classroom?

Students in a language arts classroom should be able to...

Write, speak, read and listen in all content areas to build knowledge.

Set goals and monitor their progress.

Solve problems.

Create meaning.

Think critically about real-world issues.

Develop a deep understanding of the world using foundational literacy practices.

Build on their literacy skills from prior years.

What can I do to support learning at home?

- Talk to your child at home!
- Encourage your child to read.
- Visit the library and read a book together.
- Look at your child’s work and talk to them about it.

Outside Resources

- Learning Heros: https://bealearninghero.org/learning-tools/parents/
- Parents’ Guide to Students Success, National PTA: https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents-Guides-to-Student-Success
- Parent Toolkit: https://www.parenttoolkit.com/
- English Language Arts, KSDE: www.ksde.org/ela

For more information, contact:

Joann McRell
Education Program Consultant
(785) 296-2144
jmcrell@ksde.org

Career, Standards and Assessment Services
Kansas State Department of Education
Landon State Office Building
900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 653
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212
www.ksde.org

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 S.W. Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.