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.

**Read** text closely to find main ideas and supporting details.

**Describe** characters and events and how they relate to the overall structure of a text.

**Compare** important points and key details presented in multiple texts on the same topic.

**Write** opinions or explanations that combine information.

**Develop** topics with facts and details.

**Write** stories that define a situation and include details.

**Conduct** short research projects with help from an adult.

**Build** knowledge about various topics.

**Elaborate** on the thoughts of others.

**Read** stories and poems out loud fluently and confidently.

**Determine** the literal and nonliteral meanings of words.

**Spell** correctly and/or consult a resource to clarify spelling and the meaning of words.

**Write** clear sentences that draw on an expanding vocabulary.
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/](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](https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents-Guides-to-Student-Success)
- **Parent Toolkit:** [https://www.parenttoolkit.com/](https://www.parenttoolkit.com/)
- **English Language Arts, KSDE:** [www.ksde.org/ela](http://www.ksde.org/ela)

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