



FAMILY GUIDE TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 4



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.

Paraphrase and respond to information presented in discussions.

Report orally on a topic.

Engage in collaborative conversations.

Explain what a text

says explicitly, as well as draw inferences from a text.

Determine the theme of a story, drama or poem.

Distinguish between fact and opinion.

Introduce a topic clearly, state an opinion and create an organizational structure in which related ideas

are grouped according to the writer’s purpose.

Support reasons with facts and details.

Describe characters, events and settings in a story by drawing on specific details from the text.

Use features of informational books and articles to create understanding and

locate information.

Explain how an author uses facts, details and evidence to support a point.

Compare and contrast information.

Summarize information with a set of well-organized facts, details and examples.

Conduct short research projects that build knowledge.

Gather information from print and digital sources, taking notes and categorizing information.

Write complete sentences with correct capitalization and spelling.

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!

What did you learn today?

Did you understand?

What was difficult or what do you need more help with?

- 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://belearninghero.org/learning-tools/parents/>
- **Parents' Guide to Students Success, National PTA:** <https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Parents-Guides-to-Student-Success>
- **Kansas Vision for Education, Kansas State Department of Education:** <http://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/Communications-and-Recognition-Programs/Vision-Kansans-Can>
- **Parent Toolkit:** <https://www.parenttoolkit.com/>
- **English Language Arts, KSDE:** www.ksde.org/ela

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