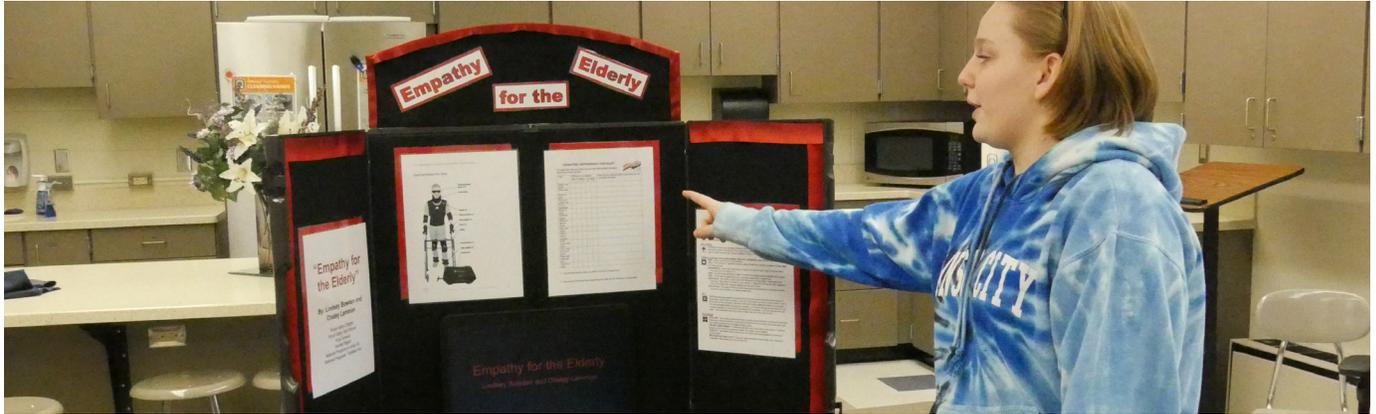




FAMILY GUIDE TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 8



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.

Determine central ideas of themes of a text and analyze their development.

Follow the progression of logic in an argument, recognizing flaws in the argument.

Cite evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of a text.

Analyze how two or more texts address similar

themes or topics in order to build knowledge.

Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, drafting, editing and revising.

Engage in a writing conference with an adult.

Create coherent, well-sequenced texts for specific purposes, audiences and tasks.

Support ideas with sound reasoning and evidence, precise word choices, transitions and different sentence structures.

Engage in an inquiry process to build an understanding of a range of topics, and create meaningful work based on learning.

Analyze the purpose of information presented in multiple formats, including its social, political or

commercial motives.

Engage in civil discourse, and express original ideas professionally, clearly, and persuasively in a variety of settings and with diverse partners who both agree and disagree with their point of view.

Interpret literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases presented in a text.

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.

How can language arts help me in the real world?

In your job ...

- You will need to **understand** other points of view.
- You will need to **problem solve**.
- You will need to **communicate** with others effectively.

In your life ...

- You will need to **gather information** to make good decisions.
- You will need to **form opinions** and **support them** through action.
- You will need to know how to **express yourself through speaking** and **writing**.

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

For more information, contact:

Sarah Perryman
Education Program Consultant - ELA
(785) 296-1074
sperryman@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