

October 2013

Since the adoption of the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards in ELA, KSDE has elected to maintain on its web site the “2006 Listening, Viewing, Speaking, and Related Areas” standards under the non-assessed “Communications” title. This decision was made with the knowledge that many teachers in the areas of speech, debate, forensics, and other courses rich in media use may still rely on these standards for guiding curriculum and course content. Prior to the KCCRS, English Language Arts teachers were also responsible for addressing speaking, listening, viewing and critical thinking standards – in addition to reading and writing standards – in their Language Arts classrooms.

Knowing that the new standards in ELA cover speaking and listening and are supposed to be fully implemented in schools by this 2013-14 school year, a committee reconvened to address the need to maintain these old standards in areas that may be covered elsewhere by more updated standards. The committee decided that the KCCRS for English Language Arts do address standards in speaking, listening, and viewing. Likewise, the new standards for both ELA and Library Media cover other areas within the old document – specifically information retrieval and media literacy. While media production is also covered within the ELA standards as well as the visual arts standards, the committee recommended waiting until updated fine arts standards were released before removing the 2006 media production standards from the site. The committee also discussed a possible need to maintain standards in the area of Forensics as well, as they are specific to that area and though they may be covered by ELA in general terms, there is some specific language included in those standards that educators may need. Work is being done to transform the 2006 Forensics standards into a support document for educators as opposed to an alternate set of standards.