

Higher Education Teacher Preparation Standards



Speech/Theatre grades 6-12



Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

SPEECH/THEATRE

Early Adolescence through Late Adolescence
Grades 6-12 DRAFT New Standards 2026

Standard 1: Communication

The teacher candidate of speech/theatre has practical knowledge of and skills in teaching human and mass communication, including intrapersonal, interpersonal, small group, public speaking, listening, as well as foundational mass and human communication theories.

Knowledge

- K1.1 The teacher candidate understands foundational communication processes and theories (intrapersonal, interpersonal, small group, public speaking, listening, and mass communication).
- K1.2 The teacher candidate understands how to develop and use criteria for evaluating and selecting materials for speech instruction appropriate to the communication context.
- K1.3 The teacher candidate understands various assessment techniques and strategies appropriate to the communication context.

Performance

- P1.4 The teacher candidate guides students to select and evaluate their communication for the appropriate context.
- P1.5 The teacher candidate enhances preparation, presentation, and assessment of student communication in a variety of ways.
- P1.6 The teacher candidate uses pedagogical technology.
- P1.7 The teacher candidate applies contemporary trends in communication.

Standard 2: Debate and Forensics (Speech/Drama)

The teacher candidate of speech/theatre has practical knowledge and skills in teaching, coaching, and evaluating debate and forensics (speech/drama) as recognized by the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) to develop students' research, writing, critical thinking, performance, listening, and communication skills within competitive co-curricular settings.

Knowledge

- K2.1: The teacher candidate understands the structure, rules, objectives, and educational value of KSHSAA-recognized policy debate and forensics (speech/drama) events and workshops.
- K2.2: The teacher candidate understands how to design and deliver instruction that builds students' rhetorical, interpretive, analytical, and performance skills in debate and forensics (speech/drama) contexts.
- K2.3: The teacher candidate understands the principles of constructive feedback, tournament adjudication, and performance evaluation aligned with judging standards.
- K2.4: The teacher candidate understands ethical and legal considerations related to authorship, intellectual property, performance rights, and responsible research practices.
- K2.5: The teacher candidate understands methods for ensuring safety and accessibility in competitive and classroom environments.
- K2.6: The teacher candidate has the knowledge to plan, organize, promote, and manage local, regional, or state competition that reflects best practices in organization, hospitality, and compliance with KSHSAA rules.
- K2.7: The teacher candidate has the knowledge to build and sustain safe and competitive student-centered programs that emphasize collaboration, sportsmanship, and continuous improvement.

Performance

- P2.8: The teacher candidate effectively explains, models, and coaches debate and forensics (speech/drama) events that foster student growth in communication and critical thinking.
- P2.9: The teacher candidate designs instructional and practical experiences that align with KSHSAA and national standards for debate and forensics (speech/drama).
- P2.10: The teacher candidate evaluates student performances using appropriate rubrics, judging criteria, and constructive oral and written feedback.
- P2.11: The teacher candidate teaches and models ethical and legal research, performance, and authorship practices, including responsible use of digital and AI-assisted tools.

Standard 3: Theatre

The teacher candidate of speech/theatre has practical knowledge and skills in dramatic analysis, dramatic literature and history, stagecraft, technical theatre, design, performance techniques, and directing.

Knowledge

- K3.1 The teacher candidate recognizes the styles, major movements, and interaction between theatre history and dramatic literature.
- K3.2 The teacher candidate understands the artistic and pragmatic purposes, procedures, and challenges of theatre designers.
- K3.3 The teacher candidate understands the duties and role of the stage director and technical director of a theatrical production.
- K3.4 The teacher candidate recognizes contemporary trends in dramatic literature, technology, and performance techniques.

Performance

- P3.5 The teacher candidate identifies, analyzes, and interprets human actions, conflicts, and themes expressed in scripts and improvisations.
 - P3.6 The teacher candidate identifies characters in classroom, improvisation, and formal theatre presentations.
 - P3.7 The teacher candidate can select appropriate scripts and communicate appropriate/effective choices to actors and technicians during rehearsals and production meetings.
 - P3.8 The teacher candidate designs and participates in the construction of unified scenic elements, properties, costumes, make-up, lighting, sound, and technology with available resources to effectively communicate concepts appropriate to selected scripts and improvisations.
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Standard 4: Program management

The teacher candidate of speech/theatre has practical knowledge, skills, and professional ethics necessary for development, direction, and administration of theatre, competitive debate, and competitive forensics (speech/drama) programs.

Knowledge

- K4.1 The teacher candidate understands how to select, plan, produce, and direct theatrical productions, including script selection, casting, rehearsal planning, staging, costuming, technical design, and coordination of lighting, sound, and scenic construction.
- K4.2 The teacher candidate understands the rules, standards, and best practices governing KSHSAA- recognized debate, forensics, and theatre activities, including tournament operations, classification and eligibility, adjudication protocols, supervision expectations, and ethical conduct guidelines.
- K4.3 The teacher candidate understands the principles of program administration, including budgeting, resource allocation, fundraising, procurement, and the securing of royalties, licensing, and copyright permissions for performance and competition use.
- K4.4 The teacher candidate understands how to organize and manage logistics for program activities—including scheduling, transportation coordination, travel supervision, facility reservations, equipment management, and seasonal planning for productions, and competitions
- K4.5 The teacher candidate understands publicity and program-promotion strategies, including communication with families and stakeholders; development of advertising; and collaboration with school and community partners to enhance visibility and support.
- K4.6 The teacher candidate understands legal, ethical, and safety expectations governing debate, forensics, and theatre programs, including safety protocols for scene-shop operations, electrical/lighting work, tool and equipment handling, rigging, prop/weapon safety, and emergency response procedures.
- K4.7 The teacher candidate understands strategies for cultivating culturally responsive programs that encourage broad participation by all students, and reduce barriers to involvement in performance and competitive activities.
- K4.8 The teacher candidate understands strategies to collaborate with administrators, district personnel (such as transportation, custodial, and maintenance departments), colleagues, parents, booster groups, and professional organizations to sustain and grow program offerings.
- K4.9 The teacher candidate has the knowledge to administer and sustain comprehensive theatre, debate, and forensics programs that foster artistic, academic, and social development while aligning with district and KSHSAA policies.

Performance

- P4.10 The teacher candidate plans, organizes, and executes productions and debate and forensics drama competitions, including scheduling, budgeting, transportation arrangements, facility preparation, equipment management, volunteer coordination,

and documentation.

P4.11 The teacher candidate develops, manages, and monitors program budgets; secure financial resources; coordinate fundraising; and appropriately obtain, track, and maintain royalties, rights, and copyright permissions.

P4.12 The teacher candidate implements and maintains safety procedures for theatrical environments, including scene-shop operations, audio, video, and electrical systems, backstage organization, costume/prop handling, and emergency planning.

P4.13 The teacher candidate promotes programs by preparing publicity materials, coordinating communication with stakeholders, supporting school-approved online presence, and cultivating community engagement in debate, forensics, and theatre activities.

P4.14 The teacher candidate creates safe environments for all students that uphold professional ethics and support student leadership, collaboration, creative risk-taking, and responsible competition/performance practices.

P4.15 The teacher candidate hosts, manages, and assists with debate and forensics tournaments and theatre festivals, ensuring efficient operations, ethical conduct, safety compliance, proper documentation, and adherence to district and KSHSAA requirements.

P4.16 The teacher candidate advocates for debate, forensics, and theatre as essential components of a comprehensive education by communicating their academic, artistic, and community value to administrators, colleagues, families, and the public.

Standard 5: Pedagogy and real world connections

The teacher candidate in speech/theatre has practical content knowledge and skills in curriculum design and instructional methodology specific to the teaching of speech, debate, forensics (speech/drama) and theatre at the secondary level, using techniques that enable students to understand the world through communication.

Knowledge

- K5.1 The teacher candidate knows how to develop and use criteria for evaluating and selecting materials for instruction, recognizing issues that reflect the world's population.
- K5.2 The teacher candidate understands the ramifications of ethics and artistic choices in the uses and/or presentations of speech and theatre.
- K5.3 The teacher candidate has knowledge of current and emerging legal and ethical considerations and requirements.

Performance

- P5.4 The teacher candidate explains and demonstrates how diverse skills used in speech/theatre transfer to students' own lives.
 - P5.5 The teacher candidate utilizes cultural and historical information when preparing for, collaborating with, and evaluating student work.
 - P5.6 The teacher candidate implements strategies that promote self-discovery, build productive and creative relationships, manage communication apprehension, and empathize with the human condition.
 - P5.7 The teacher candidate uses a variety of strategies to stimulate students' creativity, critical thinking skills, and self-awareness.
 - P5.8 The teacher candidate helps students prepare for performance readiness in speech, debate, forensics (speech/drama), and theatre.
 - P5.9 The teacher candidate ensures physical, emotional, and psychological safety of students and others.
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Standard 6: Field experience

The teacher candidate of speech/theatre has practical field experience working with secondary students in the areas of speech and theatre content classrooms, theatrical performance (stage and technical), and competitive debate and forensics (speech/drama).

Knowledge

K6.1 The teacher candidate knows how to interact professionally with secondary students.

K6.2 The teacher candidate is knowledgeable of the KSDE Code of Ethics.

K6.3 The teacher candidate has knowledge of legal, ethical, safety expectations, and emergency response protocol governing debate, forensics, and theatre programs.

Performance

P6.4 The teacher candidate engages and interacts appropriately with students in educational, supervisory, rehearsal, performance, and public settings.

P6.5 The teacher candidate engages professionally in the mechanics of running a tournament.

For more information, contact:

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