

# Benefits of Speech and Debate

## K-12 Focus

From NSDA: [2021 Flyer StudentImpactData.pdf \(speechanddebate.org\)](#)  
[Administrator-Flyer.pdf \(speechanddebate.org\)](#)

From Brookings: [How competitive debate can improve public education \(brookings.edu\)](#)

Related study of Boston UDL:

[schueler-larned-2023-interscholastic-policy-debate-promotes-critical-thinking-and-college-going-evidence-from-boston.pdf \(harvard.edu\)](#)

Narrative about Boston UDL: [Making the Case for Student Debate Leagues - Education Next](#)

Baltimore UDL: [\[PDF\] The BUDL Effect: Examining Academic Achievement and Engagement Outcomes of Preadolescent Baltimore Urban Debate League Participants | Semantic Scholar](#)

Chicago UDL: [Impact of participating in a policy debate program on academic achievement: Evidence from the Chicago Urban Debate League - 1967ABB6575 \(academicjournals.org\)](#)

Skills in demand by employers: [The Top Skills In Demand For 2024—Most In-Demand Skills Companies Need Most \(linkedin.com\)](#)

From Illinois State Activities Association - [Playbook for legislative action approving Speech/Debate to fulfill arts graduation requirement.](#)

Kansas DOE approves .5 graduation requirement in communication (speech, debate, forensics, journalism, public speaking). [State Board of Education approves new graduation requirements](#)

Utah legislature approves .5 communication requirement for graduation.

<https://le.utah.gov/%7E2023/bills/static/HB0475.html>

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The following is the beginning of examining the state graduation requirements that include speech or another communication course (i.e. speech/debate, forensics, broadcasting, etc.).

[Speech - State-by-state \(2022\)](#) - Illinois

[Alabama](#) - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

[Alaska](#) - May take Speech/Debate to fulfill English requirement.

[Arizona](#) - Communication courses may satisfy elective requirements.

Arkansas - .5 Oral Communication requirement

California - No Communication/Speech requirement

Colorado - Communication courses may satisfy elective requirements.

Connecticut - Communication courses may satisfy elective (arts) requirements.

Delaware - Communication courses may satisfy elective requirements.

[Florida](#) - Speech/Debate included for arts requirement.

Georgia - Speech course is an option to meet ELA graduation requirements.

Hawaii - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

Idaho - Mandatory Speech/Communication course as part of ELA requirement.

Illinois - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

[Indiana](#) - Mandatory Speech/Communication course as part of ELA requirement.

Iowa - Communication courses may satisfy elective requirements.

[Kansas](#) - .5 communication graduation requirement

Kentucky - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

Louisiana - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

[Maine](#) - Speech/Debate included for arts requirement.

Maryland - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

Massachusetts - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

Michigan - Communication courses may satisfy elective requirements.

Minnesota - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

Mississippi - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

[Missouri](#) - Mandatory Speech/Communication course as part of ELA requirement.

Montana - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

Nebraska - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

Nevada - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

New Hampshire - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

New Jersey - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

New Mexico - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

New York - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

North Carolina - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

North Dakota -Mandatory Speech/Communication course as part of ELA requirement.

Ohio - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

[Oklahoma](#) - Speech fulfills either communication or fine arts requirements.

Oregon - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

Pennsylvania - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

Rhode Island - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

South Carolina - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

[South Dakota](#) - Mandatory Speech/Communication course as part of ELA requirement.

Tennessee - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

[Texas](#) - Speech course is an option to meet ELA graduation requirements.

[Utah](#) - .5 verbal communication graduation requirement.

[Vermont](#) - Communication is built into the general curriculum as a transferable skill.

Virginia - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

Washington - Communication courses may satisfy elective requirements.

[West Virginia](#) - Speech fulfills an additional graduation requirement.

Wisconsin - No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.

Wyoming.- No Communication/Speech requirement or elective opportunity.