



**Arkansas Communication
and
Theatre Arts Association**

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2014-2015

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In concern for the quality of our students' educational experience, the Arkansas Communication and Theatre Arts Association has drafted the attached position statement regarding two fundamental issues affecting our schools immediately and having strong, detrimental implications for the futures of individual students and academic norms: (a) the degradation of our professional standards as educators through licensure requirements and, (b) the acceptance of amalgamated courses that dilute communication standards into core and other courses, reducing the quality of both Oral Communication and the assorted courses into which it has been disseminated.

Our organization specifically requests that members of the State Board of Education deny the request of administrators from the North Little Rock School District to provide joint credit for rewritten Oral Communication/English courses, the Bentonville School District for Oral Communication/Pre-AP English, and future integrated Oral Communication course waiver requests for the reasons asserted above and in our attached statement.

We furthermore request that the amalgamated courses previously approved in other districts be reevaluated for their ability to adequately serve our students' needs given the essential nature of communication mastery in the academic, professional, technical, and personal realms of student and adult life.

