

If you have a question regarding ILA 2020 that is not answered below, please contact customerservice@reading.org.

Q: Why is ILA canceling the 2020 conference?

A: Since the news of COVID-19 surfaced, ILA has been in close contact with key officials from the city of Columbus, the Ohio Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We have been tracking guidelines and recommendations from the CDC and the World Health Organization. Even though the event wasn't scheduled until October, we knew from the start we did not want to put on a conference that wasn't safe for our attendees, exhibitors, and staff.

Everyone's health and safety is of the utmost importance. Although this is a difficult announcement, it wasn't a difficult decision to make because we knew it was the right decision.

Q: Why couldn't you postpone the conference instead of canceling it?

A: Conferences of this size—an international event that draws thousands of educators and exhibitors—take years of planning. Unfortunately, it just wasn't feasible to choose a new date and still put together the type of quality professional development event that ILA is known for.

Q: The conference was scheduled for October. Isn't it a bit early to make this decision?

A: The effects COVID-19 has had on education have been detrimental. Schools and universities face enormous challenges reopening in the fall. Budget constraints and the need for teachers to maximize instruction time are likely to impact their ability to travel. Unfortunately, we just couldn't expect educators to have the funds and the time to travel at any point in 2020.

Q: Many other organizations are transitioning to a virtual event. Will ILA be doing that?

A: The quality of the ILA 2020 Conference—with its hundreds of peer-reviewed sessions in addition to dynamic keynotes, workshops, institutes, and intensives—could not be replicated in a digital environment.

We have, however, taken this time to expand upon our digital offerings in other ways. For example, we launched the ILA 2019 Replay, free access in April and May to six of the most popular sessions from the ILA 2019 Conference; we held the first ILA Edcamp Online, a free, participant-driven PD event (and you can expect more in the future); and we launched ILA at Home, a new series of webinars beginning with Timothy Shanahan on May 3, with a second scheduled for May 31 with Donalyn Miller. For more information, visit [the Digital Events page](#) of the ILA website.

We're also in the process of developing a new, progressive model of professional development that will build upon this foundation and provide an even deeper, more personal virtual learning experience—one that will help provide the type of quality, digital PD that is needed now more than ever. Stay tuned for more on that!

Q: As an exhibitor/sponsor, what is the process of getting reimbursed?

A: We will be contacting each exhibitor and sponsor individually and directly with this information, and we will share information about the new, progressive model of professional development ILA will offer. This model will feature a digital exhibit hall, sponsorship opportunities, and advertising options that will still allow you to showcase your products and services to literacy leaders and education professionals around the world. There is no need to do anything at this time, as we will reach out to you.

Q: How do I cancel my hotel reservation?

A: The ILA hotel team will be reaching out with hotel cancellation information. If you have any questions, you can email ilaregistration@executiveevents.com.

Q: I've already made air travel arrangements. How do I get a refund?

A: You'll need to check with your airline carrier to see what their refund policies are. We do know that, considering the circumstances, many of them have been more than willing to help their customers.

Q: Now that the ILA 2020 Conference has been canceled, what are the options for exhibiting with ILA?

A: The new multiweek event we are planning for the fall is being created specifically for the digital space and will incorporate a robust virtual exhibit hall as well as several digital sponsorship and advertising opportunities. We are working with our technology partners to design enhanced digital features that allow for more attendee/exhibitor interaction and high-quality lead generation.

In addition, ILA will be rolling out a full slate of digital events ranging from hour-long to full-day events, opening even more opportunities for exhibits, sponsorship, and advertising. We will be reaching out to you over the next several weeks to talk through the possibilities.

Q: Will ILA's new digital events include opportunities for paid exhibitor sessions?

A: That's the plan. We're also looking at incorporating demonstrations and other activities that typically take place on the show floor.

Q: Does the cancellation of ILA 2020 impact the 2021 conference?

A: No. Plans are well underway for our 2021 conference in Indianapolis, IN, scheduled for October 14–17. Of course, we will continue to monitor the situation with Indianapolis officials and follow recommendations and guidelines issued by the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure the health and safety of all involved.

Q: Can we resubmit our ILA 2020 proposals for ILA 2021?

A: Yes.

Q: When will proposal submissions open for ILA 2021?

A: We're hoping to open the process before the end of the year.

Q: What is the process for requesting refunds on paid fees for ILA 2020?

A: We will be contacting each exhibitor and sponsor individually and directly with this information, as we will share information about the new, progressive model of professional development ILA will offer. This model will feature a virtual exhibit hall, sponsorship opportunities, and advertising options that will still allow you to showcase your products and services to literacy leaders and education professionals around the world. There is no need to do anything at this time, as we will reach out to you.

Q: Can we roll paid fees over to the ILA 2021 Conference?

A: Absolutely! You may also opt to redirect those fees into our new offerings.