

ABOUT THE AWARD

The International Literacy Association (ILA) Carrice Cummins Outstanding Preservice Literacy Educator Award is a \$1,000 award honoring an exemplary student or recent graduate who demonstrates exceptional promise as a future classroom teacher of literacy learners up to age 12 (pre-K-grade 5). The award showcases candidates who, through their outstanding potential and dedication to the field, embody the highest standards of literacy teacher professional preparation.

Sponsored by Carrice Cummins

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

- Nominees must currently be enrolled in a college or university literacy teacher preparation program (undergraduate or graduate); educators who have completed a literacy teacher preparation program during calendar year 2026 are eligible **provided they meet all additional requirements**.
- Nominees must not have held a full-time, paid teaching position for a period exceeding six (6) months.
- Nominees must have at least a 3.5 GPA in literacy courses and a 3.2 GPA overall.
- Nominees must be planning to pursue a career as a future classroom teacher of literacy learners up to age 12 (pre-K-grade 5).
- Nominees may be nominated by a professor, advisor, or similar; candidates may also submit on their own behalf.
- Nominees must demonstrate an exceptional desire to base their pedagogy in current, evidence-based practices needed in today's classrooms.
- Nominees must be innovative, forward-thinking learners and campus leaders who demonstrate an interest in literacy-related community service projects and in leadership positions in appropriate college, school, community, and/or professional organizations that display great promise for the field.

To be eligible, a candidate must be an ILA member in good standing and maintain active membership through **June 30, 2028**.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations must be submitted through [an online application process](#). Supporting documentation is required and may be supplied in the body of the form, as a PDF attachment, or by linking to relevant material (such as a CV) provided that the source is reputable and up to date.

The nomination must include at least two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a teacher or administrator from the nominee's clinical experience setting or from a professor in the nominee's educator preparation program.

SUBMISSION TIMELINE

Nominations are accepted on a rolling basis. To be considered for the 2027 Carrice Cummins Outstanding Preservice Literacy Educator Award, **nomination forms must be completed and received no later than February 1, 2027**. Applicants will be notified of the results before June 30, 2027.

SELECTION PROCESS

The ILA Outstanding Preservice Literacy Educator Award Committee will review the completed applications and submitted supporting materials of all eligible candidates. Decisions will be made based on the candidate's work. Please note that the award will be made only in those years when the committee concludes there is an application of high quality that meets the criteria.

Please direct any questions about eligibility, selection criteria, the nomination process, and/or the selection process to ILAAwards@reading.org.