

ABOUT THE AWARD

The International Literacy Association (ILA) Maryann Manning Special Service Award is a nonmonetary award given annually to an individual who has demonstrated a lifelong commitment of exceptional and distinguished service to the field of literacy and to ILA. ILA members apply or are nominated by peers for this award.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

- Nominees must admirably serve the field of literacy in some specific capacity or capacities requiring special skills, knowledge, and creative effort.
- Nominees must achieve results that demonstrate support for the field of literacy.
- Nominees must be exceptionally generous and tirelessly giving of time and talents as a committee member or officer of a Special Interest Group, AUA chapter, or a local, state, provincial, or national chapter or international affiliate.
- Nominees who are retired and no longer actively serving on the executive level of an ILA-affiliated organization will still be considered for the award provided that they are still actively involved with the organization in some other capacity.

To be eligible, candidates must be ILA members in good standing and maintain active membership through **June 30, 2028**.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are submitted through [an online process](#). Supporting documentation is required 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.

Candidates may self-nominate or be nominated by a colleague. Note that recipients of the Maryann Manning Special Service Award are not eligible for future consideration. Please review the list of [past honorees](#) before submitting a nomination.

SUBMISSION TIMELINE

To be considered for the 2026 Maryann Manning Special Service Award, **applications must be completed and all required materials submitted no later than February 1, 2027, at 11:59 p.m. ET**. Applicants will be notified of the results before June 30, 2027. Those not selected may reapply for consideration the following year.

SELECTION PROCESS

The ILA Maryann Manning Special Service Award Committee will review the completed applications and submitted supporting materials of all eligible candidates. Members of the Maryann Manning Special Service Award Committee may also choose to put forth additional candidates for consideration during the discussion and deliberation phases. Please note that all applications—self-submitted, nominated, and internal—will be given equal consideration.

Decisions will be made based on the candidates' work and the impact of their contributions. 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 application process, and/or the selection process to ILAAwards@reading.org.