

The International Literacy Association (ILA) William S. Gray Citation of Merit is a nonmonetary award reserved for those ILA members who have made outstanding contributions to multiple facets of literacy development—research, theory, and practice. It is the highest individual honor awarded by ILA.

Submission Timeline

- Opens week of **November 15, 2020**
- Closes **March 15, 2021**
- Applicants are notified of the results via email by the **end of June**

Candidate Qualifications

- Must be an ILA member
- Outstanding contributions in a leadership role in the field of literacy
- Notable influence through instruction, presentations, publications, research, and media (e.g., podcasts, webinars, blogs, videos) on many or all the following: students, teachers, colleagues, literacy professionals, children, and families
- Outstanding contributions of a highly original kind in the field of literacy theory
- Outstanding contributions to literacy practice
- The production of definitive material or important restructuring of existing material in given field.
- Outstanding contributions from the point of view of communication—brilliant pedagogy in print and digital formats
- Superior service in several important capacities in literacy (e.g., as teacher, scholar, researcher, literacy professional, psychologist, linguist, author, administrator, counselor, or clinician)

To become an ILA member or renew membership, please contact ILA Customer Service at 800.336.7323, 302.731.1600, or customerservice@reading.org. To join or renew online, please visit <https://literacyworldwide.org/membership>.

How to Apply/Nominate

Complete your submission using our [online application process](#).

Review Procedures and Evaluation Criteria

- Applications will be reviewed by members of the ILA William S. Gray Citation of Merit Committee.
- Decisions will be based on the quality of the application, relevance to the award's intent, and the quality of supporting materials.
- The award will be made only in those years when the committee concludes there is an application of high quality.
- Recipients are encouraged to submit a proposal for presentation at the annual ILA conference.

Please direct any questions to ILAAwards@reading.org.