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[press@reading.org](mailto:press@reading.org)

## THE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 70 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP IN LITERACY EDUCATION

*Organization marks milestone by highlighting the role of educators in advancing the field*

NEWARK, Del. (January 5, 2026) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) is celebrating its 70th anniversary, marking seven decades of leadership in literacy education.

Founded in 1956 as the International Reading Association, ILA has served as the professional home for literacy educators, researchers, and leaders. The vibrant global network spans 128 countries worldwide.

For 70 years, ILA has connected research and classroom practice, supporting educators with practical, evidence-based professional learning resources. This milestone honors that legacy—and the people whose commitment to high-quality literacy instruction form the beating heart of the organization.

“As we reflect on this significant milestone, we celebrate the collective efforts of our members and partners who have shaped literacy practice across generations,” said Nicola Wedderburn, executive director of ILA.

Throughout the year, ILA is inviting its members and supporters to share stories and reflections that capture the organization’s impact over time and its influence on their work.

“You can’t tell the story of this organization without recognizing the people who have shaped its work, extended its reach, and strengthened its impact,” Wedderburn said, adding, “Our shared commitment to ensuring literacy is guaranteed as a basic human right is what will drive ILA forward in the decades to come.”

For more information about the 70th anniversary and how to support ILA’s mission, visit [ILA’s website](#).

### ***About the International Literacy Association***

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a professional membership organization of literacy educators, researchers and experts spanning 128 countries. For 70 years, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught and evaluated, connecting research and practice to improve the quality of literacy learning across the globe. Through its Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals, ILA provides an evidence-based benchmark for the development and evaluation of literacy professional preparation programs. ILA collaborates with partners across the world to develop, gather and disseminate high-quality resources, which include three peer-reviewed and edited journals—*The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, and *Reading Research Quarterly*. Learn more at [literacyworldwide.org](http://literacyworldwide.org).

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