

**If you have a question regarding ILA 2020 that is not answered below, please contact [customerservice@reading.org](mailto: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: I already registered for ILA 2020. How will I get my refund?**

**A:** The ILA registration team will be reaching out to each registered attendee with refund information. If you have any questions, you can email [ilaregistration@executiveevents.com](mailto:ilaregistration@executiveevents.com).

Registered attendees can choose to apply the 2020 registration fee to the 2021 conference, to be held October 14–17 in Indianapolis, IN, with no additional increase for the 2021 conference, or choose a refund of their conference registration.

**Q: How do I cancel my hotel reservation?**

**A:** The ILA hotel team will be reaching out to each registered attendee with hotel cancellation information. If you have any questions, you can email [ilaregistration@executiveevents.com](mailto:ilaregistration@executiveevents.com).

**Q: Who can I contact with any questions about registration/hotels?**

**A:** For any questions regarding registration or hotels, you can email [ilaregistration@executiveevents.com](mailto: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: I rely on the ILA conference for PD/clock hours every year. Are there plans to do any other events?**

**A:** We've expanded upon our digital offerings to help provide the resources we know educators need right now. 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.

The webinars will be archived for one year. If you attend/attended one and you'd like clock hours, you can get a letter of attendance by emailing [customerservice@reading.org](mailto:customerservice@reading.org).

**Q: Will this affect plans for the 2021 conference?**

**A:** No. Plans were already 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 we will follow all World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for large gatherings to ensure the health and safety of all involved. At this time, there are no changes anticipated, and we look forward to seeing everyone in person next year!