

If you have a question regarding ILA 2020 that is not answered below, please contact 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: My proposal was accepted for ILA 2020. Will it be part of the new digital event ILA is designing as well?

A: Unfortunately, no. The format for our new professional learning model is very different from our traditional face-to-face conference. We are, however, encouraging attendees and speakers to share content suggestions with us. We are always interested in your feedback and interests as we curate future professional development experiences. If you'd like to reach out with suggestions, please [fill out our survey](#).

Q: Can I still list my accepted, peer-reviewed presentation on my CV?

A: Yes. Your work was peer reviewed and accepted, so you are encouraged to include it. Simply add "(Conference canceled)" at the end of your reference. The [ILA 2020 program proceedings document](#) shows your presentation in program format for your records.

Q: Can I submit the proposal accepted for ILA 2020 to another conference?

A: Absolutely. Speakers are welcome to submit their accepted proposals to other organizations or resubmit with ILA when the ILA 2021 proposal process opens. If submitting with another organization, be sure to check their guidelines to see if any changes will need to be made.

Q: Will we need to resubmit for ILA 2021, or is our proposal automatically accepted?

A: ILA 2021 will have its own proposal submission period and review process, so you will need to resubmit. You are welcome to submit your current proposal, though. ILA 2021 will have a different conference theme, so you may want to make some revisions to your proposal first.

Q: When will the proposals process for ILA 2021 open?

A: We're hoping to open the process before the end of the year.

Q: Will the ILA 2021 Conference take place in Columbus, OH?

A: No. ILA 2021 is scheduled to take place October 14–17, 2021, in Indianapolis, IN.

Q: What kind of event are you planning for ILA 2021? Digital? On-site? A combination of both?

A: We are monitoring the situation with Indianapolis officials and will continue to follow recommendations and guidelines issued by the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Provided that we can ensure the health and safety of all involved, we will be in Indianapolis as planned. That said, we do anticipate growing options for virtual participation for those unable to travel to our face-to-face event.