

## GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION



Please take a moment to read the information below regarding the 2024 IRC Conference.

- **IRC Conference is an Open Forum**

The IRC Conference serves as an open forum and exchange of ideas and opinions. Opinions that are expressed by featured speakers, program presenters, and participants do not reflect endorsements by the Illinois Reading Council.

- **Conference Sessions**

All conference sessions will be held in the Bank of Springfield Center, President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, and Wyndham Hotel.

- **Pre-Registration & Registration**

Pre-registered conferees may obtain their registration packets at the Registration Desk in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center. On-site registration is also available. Hotel reservations and meal function tickets should be secured prior to arrival in Springfield. Registration Hours: Wednesday, March 13 – 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Thursday, March 14 – 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Friday, March 15 – 7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- **ISBE PD Clock Hours**

IRC is an approved ISBE Professional Development Provider. Registered conference attendees can earn up to one clock hour for each session attended. Registered presenters can also earn up to eight clock hours for presenting a session. At the end of the conference, plan to submit your clock hours for the sessions that you attended and/or presented at the conference via an online form. The ISBE Evidence of Participation will be sent to you about two weeks after the conference.

- **Admission to Meetings**

Paid conferees receive a badge with their registration packet. Badges are required at all times and for all conference functions. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-purchased tickets are required for all meal functions.

- **Special Accommodations**

Individuals who need special accommodations should make specific requests in writing to the IRC office three weeks prior to the conference in order for their needs to be met.

- **Food**

All scheduled meal functions require pre-purchased tickets. The concession area in the Bank of Springfield Center will be open during exhibit hours. Springfield restaurant information will be available at the hospitality table in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center.

- **Hospitality & Information Table**

A hospitality and information table is located in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center.

- **Message Board**

There will be a message board for conferees to leave notes in the registration area in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center. A phone line (309-454-1341) has been established at the Registration Desk to receive emergency phone calls.

- **Lost and Found**

Inquire at the Registration Desk in the Exhibit Hall at the Bank of Springfield Center regarding lost and found items. IRC is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

- **Parking Options**

Downtown Springfield has many public parking options that cost anywhere from \$5 to \$10 a day to park. Details on the public parking will be available under the Resource Tab in the Conference APP.

- **Program Book and Conference APP**

In accordance with ILA guidelines, individuals have not been designated by titles. Acknowledgments to publishers and other companies for sponsoring speakers and special events are current as of this printing. Information in this program is subject to change. **Don't forget to bring a device to download the Conference App or the PDF of the Final Program Book as there will not be a printed Final Program Book or a tote bag.**

- **No Smoking**

In consideration of others we request your cooperation in observing the NO SMOKING regulations inside buildings.

- **Cell Phones**

Please silence phones during sessions at the conference.

- **Videotaping/Audiotaping/Photos**

Unless notified in writing, registration to the conference constitutes an agreement that the registrant's image, likeness, and appearance can be used in photographs of such events and activities. It is also not permitted to videotape, audiotape, or take photos of conference speakers without the speaker's consent.

- **Anti-Harassment Policy**

The Illinois Reading Council (IRC) does not allow harassment or discrimination of any kind at any IRC affiliated event. IRC and its affiliates will take appropriate and immediate action in response to complaints or knowledge of violations of this policy including removal from the event. To report an issue, please visit the Event Registration Desk.

- **Cancellation/Refund Policy**

Conference refund requests must be in writing and postmarked by February 1, 2024. Requests can also be faxed to (309) 454-3512 or emailed to [irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org](mailto:irc@illinoisreadingcouncil.org). A \$25 processing fee will be assessed. Please note that membership fees are non-refundable. Conference registrations are transferable, but replacement names must be requested by March 5, 2024.

For more information, visit [www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org](http://www.illinoisreadingcouncil.org)

# IRC CONFERENCE IS AN OPEN FORUM

The Illinois Reading Council's mission is to provide support and leadership to **ALL** who promote and teach **LIFELONG LITERACY**.

At the 2024 IRC Conference, attendees are encouraged to delve into our mission and further explore it through this year's conference theme, *Pillars of Literacy: Skills, Strategies, Joy, and Magic*. In the conference sessions, you will find literacy **SKILLS** that work, **STRATEGIES** to help others learn, and how to encourage the **JOY** of reading and make **MAGIC** happen for **ALL LEARNERS**.

The annual IRC Conference serves as an open forum and exchange of ideas and opinions. IRC does not endorse opinions expressed by featured speakers, presenters, and participants and instead provides a forum for voices to be heard and ideas discussed. We are proud to provide a conference that addresses a wide range of literacy topics, views, and learning opportunities with the intent of advancing and supporting literacy knowledge and learning for all.

IRC encourages our attendees to grow, learn, and be informed about current literacy topics, allowing us to share our voices in literacy practices, research, application, student needs, and more. As professionals, we strive to engage in these experiences with humility and professionalism.

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***We want to make a difference for all literacy learners, now and in the future!***



## **IRC believes...**

- ★ literacy is a fundamental human right.
- ★ literacy is a powerful tool for justice and equity and must be protected as a right for all students.
- ★ in diversity, equity, and inclusion because representation matters.
- ★ in protecting reader's rights, which include access to learning in a variety of methods, access to books, and access to choice.
- ★ in the importance of libraries and librarians.
- ★ in promoting the joy of reading, writing, and the power of story for lifelong learning.
- ★ educators need to be equipped with peer-reviewed, sustainable, research-based practices.
- ★ equitable assessment is a blend of informal and formal measures that informs instruction.
- ★ learners have different strengths and needs, and therefore should have access to peer-reviewed, research-based strategies, methods, and practices within differentiated multi-tiered systems of support.
- ★ educators need access to high quality resources and professional development that prepares them to be flexible and adaptable to best serve their students.
- ★ families are an integral part of children's literacy lives.
- ★ in celebrating creators of children's literature and young adult literature.
- ★ that education is a valued profession, and therefore educators must be trusted and empowered as decision-makers.
- ★ in community, collaborative conversations, and collegiality.