



International Reading Association

A membership organization of literacy professionals

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Alan E. Farstrup

Alan E. Farstrup is executive director of the International Reading Association.

Farstrup attended Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa, during 1959–1961. He completed his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, earned his teaching credential from the University of California at Berkeley, and received his Ph.D. in Reading Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Minnesota in 1977. He has been a classroom remedial reading and English teacher at the junior high level, has served on the reading education faculties of the University of Texas at San Antonio and the University of Rhode Island, and has worked as a reading specialist, consultant, and project administrator. He served with the U.S. Peace Corps in Afghanistan, where he worked in rural development and village education programs.



Farstrup supervised and directed the Association's research activities from 1985 to 1991, served as acting executive director during 1991 and 1992, and has served as the executive director since 1992. His responsibilities include representing the Association in many settings, serving as cochair of the International Book Committee, providing leadership in the development of educational standards, and acting as IRA liaison to UNESCO and many other groups and organizations around the world. He is the coeditor with S. Jay Samuels of *What Research Has to Say About Reading Instruction* (third edition) published by the Association in 2002.

Under his leadership the Association has moved aggressively to implement its five key goals: professional development, advocacy, partnerships, research, and engagement with emerging global issues. He and the staff of the Association have an enviable record of introducing new and innovative professional development materials and other services with the strong and effective support and advice of its volunteer members and elected leaders.