

Top Takeaways From the 2018 What's Hot in Literacy Report

1. Early Literacy takes the No. 1 spot as the most important topic for the second year in a row.

It is the most valued topic among respondents, with **87%** ranking it *extremely* or *very important*, compared with **57%** ranking it *extremely* or *very hot*.

2. Family Engagement and Community Partnerships are more important than they are hot.

Both topics should be getting more attention. In fact, Family Engagement has the second largest gap between hot and important ratings among the topics.

3. More focus is needed on Teacher Preparation.

It ranks **No. 3** among important topics but falls to **No. 12** in terms of how much attention it receives—representing the largest gap in the report.

4. Equity in Literacy Education is a critical global issue.

Although **86%** of respondents feel it is *extremely* or *very important*, only **50%** rate it *extremely* or *very hot*. It's the **No. 2** most important topic in developing countries and the United States and **No. 1** in other developed countries.

5. Strategies for Differentiating Instruction ranks among the top five hottest and most important topics.

It accompanies only Early Literacy as an issue on both top five lists.

6. Access to Books and Content again ranks as more important than hot.

The issue comes in only at **No. 11** among hot topics but rises to **No. 5** in importance.

7. Mother Tongue Literacy is not as hot or important to respondents in the United States as it is to respondents in other countries.

The topic is among those with the greatest gaps, but U.S. survey takers rate it **23%** *extremely* or *very hot* (compared with **41%**) and **62%** *extremely* or *very important* (compared with **71%**).

8. Digital Literacy is not nearly as important to our respondents as other topics.

It ranks **No. 1** among all hot topics but comes in at **No. 13** in terms of importance.

9. Formative Assessments are valued much more than Summative Assessments.

Summative Assessments falls last at **No. 17** in importance, but Formative Assessments ranks **No. 8**.

10. Reading/literacy specialists and literacy/instructional coaches value Formative Assessments more than classroom teachers do.

It surprised us that **74%** of classroom teachers rate the topic *extremely* or *very important*, whereas **86%** of reading/literacy specialists and **89%** of literacy/instructional coaches do.