

# 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.