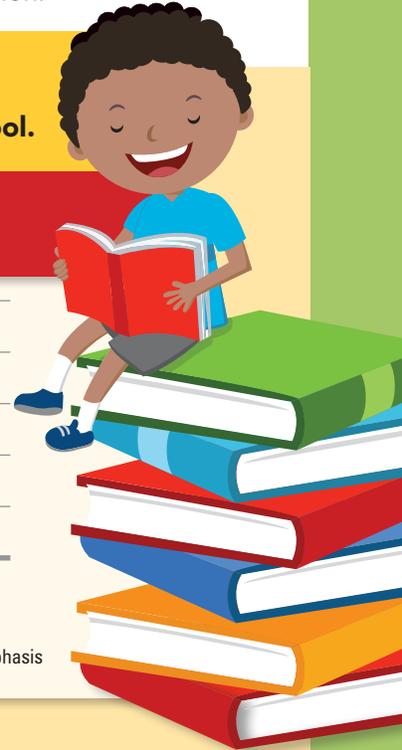


Rise & Shine

Insights from new principals

Reflecting the perspectives of hundreds of new principals across the nation.

This month's survey focused on how you are **building literacy** and **love of reading** at your school.



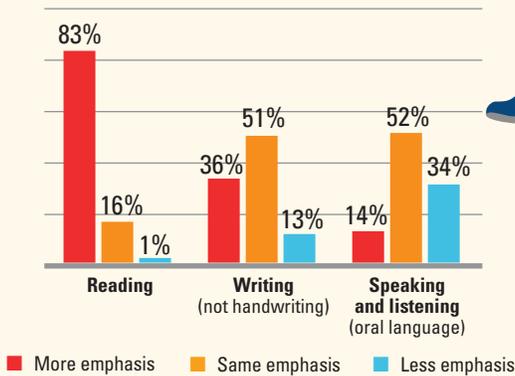
Of the foundational skills for literacy, **reading** clearly gets the most attention:

- **83%** of schools place more emphasis on reading than other curriculum areas; while only **36%** give extra attention to writing, and only **14%** do so for oral language.

In 8 of 10 schools, it's the norm to spend between **1-2 hours per day** on reading instruction.

- Less than 1 hour **3%**
- 1 to 1.5 hours **34%**
- 1.5 to 2 hours **46%**
- Over 2 hours **17%**

Building literacy compared with other core subject areas...



Three-quarters of schools ask their students to read between **20-30 minutes at home** each night – including required texts and student-selected material.

- Less than 20 minutes **17%**
- **20-30 minutes 76%**
- 30-60 minutes **6%**
- Over 1 hour **1%**

It's rare to find a school in which every classroom has a **well-stocked classroom library** containing **250-300 fiction and nonfiction books**. Only **14%** of schools report that at least three-quarters of their classrooms have these.

Percent of your school's classrooms with fully stocked libraries:

- Less than one-fourth of classrooms **45%**
- One-fourth to one-half of classrooms **23%**
- One-half to three-fourths of classrooms **18%**
- Three-fourths to 100% of classrooms **14%**

Print materials still rule as a basis of instruction in reading, though basal readers are no longer omnipresent.

Schools using materials as a basis for instruction:

- Reading series – basal, leveled, etc. **47%**
- Children's books – nonfiction and fiction **40%**
- Textbooks **31%**
- Computer-based reading instruction programs **11%**
- E-books and other digital reading material **6%**



Digital formats are on the rise for use as supplemental materials – joining children’s newspapers, magazines, and books. Schools using these materials as reading supplements or enrichment:

- Computer-based reading instruction programs **64%**
- Children’s newspapers and magazines **55%**
- Children’s books – nonfiction and fiction **50%**
- E-books/digital reading material **40%**

Note: Only 9% of panelists report using no computer-based reading instruction.

Metrics are an established part of the mix – the majority of your schools are collecting regular data to measure students’ literary skills. Percent of panelists reporting that assessments are being conducted **monthly or even more frequently**:

- Formative assessments in reading **75%**
- Classroom visits to observe teaching practices in literacy **68%**
- Formative assessments in writing (including spelling) **64%**

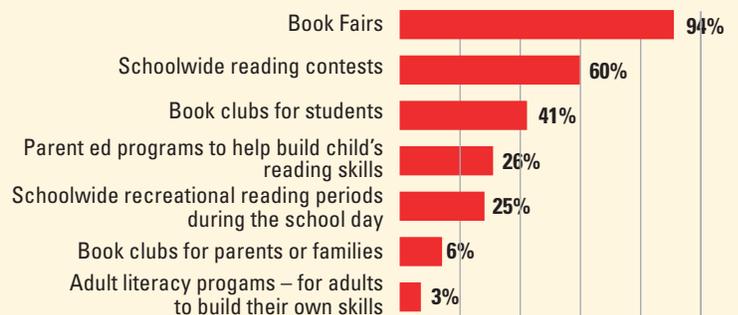
In nearly 9 out of 10 schools, teachers get ongoing **professional development in literacy** through grade level or team meetings. In addition, the majority of your schools provide several types of professional development:

- **87%** Grade level or team meetings on literacy
- **75%** Professional learning community discussions and learning opportunities
- **69%** District-sponsored professional development
- **62%** Large group workshop sessions for all teachers in the school

Book Fairs are very popular! **94% of your schools** host them to promote literacy engagement among families and students.

Other widely used programs include schoolwide reading contests and student book clubs. Very few schools offer literacy programs aimed at parents.

Literacy Programs and activities at your school



Your own most impactful **professional learning** in the area of literacy has come through a variety of sources. About half of you cite co-planning with teachers or attending district PD workshops as most meaningful. However, collaborative study with fellow principals, personal reading/online learning, and attending professional conferences have provided key learning for many.

- Co-planning with teachers **51%**
- PD workshops provided by my district or school **49%**
- Collaborative study and inquiry with other principals **42%**
- Personal reading or online learning via webinars, etc. **39%**
- Attending a professional conference **38%**
- A workshop I chose myself (from outside provider) **30%**
- Coursework at a university **11%**

Best ideas you've seen this year to spark your students interest in reading.

You shared lots of great examples! Many reported that book clubs, cross-level reading buddies, contests, "Battle of the Books," and use of Accelerated Reading Programs have helped build enthusiasm for reading at your school. And here's a few more fun ideas:

- **We had our students create reading spaces out of refrigerator boxes.** Now they all want to get a book and read so that they can read in one of the "boxes." *Asia Armstrong, Principal at Indian Trail Elementary, Canal Winchester, OH*
- **Tasty Tuesday:** Students read a recipe, follow the directions to make the recipe, and write a review after tasting the recipe. *Melinda Myers, Principal at Eden Elementary, Eden, WI*
- **An 8th grade teacher gave students the opportunity to "speed date"** an assortment of different genres and books at stations throughout the classroom, to pick outside reading material. *Christopher Chew, Principal at Stony Brook School, Westford, MA*
- **Flashlight Friday:** Students are allowed to select an area of the room, the teacher darkens the room and they use the flashlights to read stories to one another. *Valerie Martinez, Principal at Heritage Elementary, Wilmington, DE*
- **I have painted a mural on a wall in the front foyer.** Students can post their picture on the wall when they reach a certain number of Accelerated Reading points. *Roxie Baker, Principal at Gary Road Intermediate School, Byram, MS*
- **I agreed to – and did – eat a worm** (from the book "How to Eat Fried Worms") if my school read over 1,000 hours outside of school in one week. *Scott Simpson, Principal at Osceola Magnet School, Vero Beach, FL*

Resources you recommend

to help you become a better instructional leader in the area of literacy in your school.

- **Most often cited:** *Fountas and Pinnel: Guided Reading – Good First Teaching for All Children*; also *Balanced Literacy Training* and other works
- **Other popular authors and resources**
 - Lucy Calkins: *The Reading and Writing Project* and others
 - Jennifer Serravallo: *Independent Reading Assessment* and others
 - Jan Richardson: *Next Step in Guided Reading*
 - Douglas Fisher and Nancy Frey: *Close Reading in Elementary Schools* and others
 - Teachers College: *Reading and Writing Summer Institutes*
 - Donalyn Miller: *Book Whisperer, Reading in the Wild*
 - Daily 5 and Café

Taking the pulse of your work life:



You are still putting in lots of hours each week.

Less than 40: 1% **60-70:** 27%
40-50: 18% **70+:** 11%
50-60: 43%

And your job satisfaction remains strong.

(It has even inched up by 1.5% from our last survey!)

