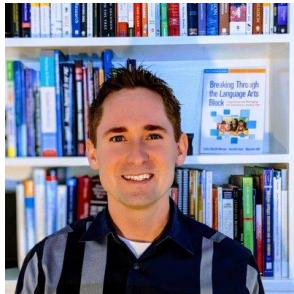


## A Message from the NJLA President



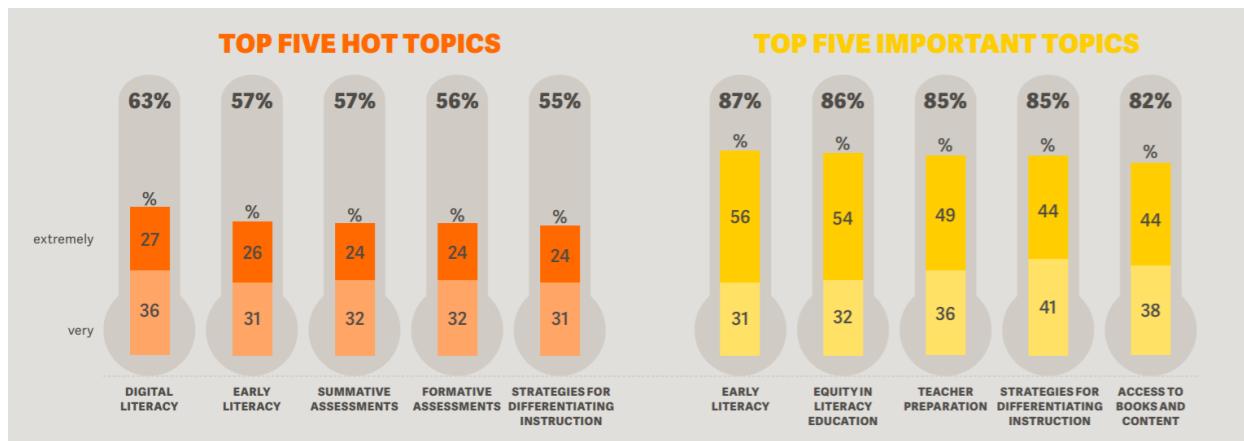
Dear NJ Literacy Changemakers,

I hope this newsletter finds you back in our schools doing what you do best: loving and caring for students across the great State of New Jersey! So many of you have reached out to the New Jersey Literacy Association (NJLA) to find ways to get involved, and our group looks forward to creating more avenues so that we can serve and impact readers and writers from all corners of New Jersey. We continue to keep our membership free so that all teachers and literacy leaders are reached and represented.

There is so much work to do, and we need changemakers like you to get it done. You may have read news where this past July, a Federal District Court judge in Michigan ruled that access to literacy is *not* a Constitutional right. I hope you will consider joining NJLA and the ILA community as plans were unveiled on September 7, 2018 to advocate for every child's right to read, regardless of zip code or socioeconomic status. This date also coincides with International Literacy Day! As a newly elected ILA Board Member, I was recently selected to serve on the international task force aimed at ensuring that this message gets out there. We need to be loud and we need to be strategic. Check out Children's Rights to Read.

1. Children have the **basic human right** to read.
2. Children have the right to **access** texts in print and digital formats.
3. Children have the right to **choose** what they read.
4. Children have the right to read texts that **mirror** their experiences and languages, provide **windows** into the lives of others, and open **doors** into our diverse world.
5. Children have the right to read for **pleasure**.
6. Children have the right to **supportive** reading environments with knowledgeable literacy partners.
7. Children have the right to extended **time** set aside for reading.
8. Children have the right to **share** what they learn through reading by collaborating with others locally and globally.
9. Children have the right to read as a springboard for other forms of **communication**, such as writing, speaking, and visually representing.
10. Children have the right to benefit from the financial and material resources of governments, agencies, and organizations that **support** reading and reading instruction.

NJLA will be actively starting a campaign to set a goal of having all school districts adopt these important rights. You can share these with your school leaders by visiting: [literacyworldwide.org/rightstoread](http://literacyworldwide.org/rightstoread).



As a literacy changemaker, it is also important to check out what's hot and what's important. While assessment, strategy instruction, early literacy, and digital literacy top the list of hot topics, we know that equity, teacher preparation, and access to books are also highly important. Your role in NJ literacy education is important. No work could be more rewarding. On behalf of readers and writers everywhere, thank you for being a literacy changemaker.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ken Kunz  
President, NJLA  
Board Member, ILA