



2019 FIRST BOOK RESEARCH & INSIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS

Top 10 learnings from a network of more than 450,000 educators exclusively serving kids in need.*

The **toxic stress of poverty** is the biggest barrier to learning for kids in need.

62% of educators report that trauma and extreme stress are common barriers to learning

67% of educators report that inadequate access to mental and emotional health support impacts kids' learning

90% of educators report that they could have a greater impact if they had the right resources

Meeting basic human needs would have the greatest impact on students' learning potential.

57% of educators report that meeting basic needs would have the greatest impact on their students' learning potential

56% of educators report they would spend their own money on basic needs items

Rural and urban communities face many of the same challenges.

Educators cite **lack of family engagement** as an issue:

75% in rural areas **VS** **72%** in urban areas

Educators need more **training and resources** to support students with special needs.

88% felt they could better serve children with special needs if they had the right resources

60% said they needed professional development **47%** said they need funding

Educators cite **complex family structures** as an issue:

74% in rural areas **VS** **76%** in urban areas

Educators cite **hunger** as an issue:

52% in rural areas **VS** **55%** in urban areas

Educators want to talk about **diversity and inclusion** with students, but need resources.

63% report that a lack of culturally relevant books is a common barrier to learning

51% report that diverse, inclusive books are a #1 priority when spending their own money

Educators are **focusing on what they can control.**

Educators cited a lack of family engagement as a top barrier to learning, but they also indicated they are focusing less on family engagement and more on classroom success.

45% selected "encourage reading/learning in the home" as an objective in 2019, vs. 56% in 2018 and 64% in 2017

To better serve kids affected by trauma and stress,

66% said they need professional development

44% said they need funding

In many cases, educators **prioritize professional development over funding.**

Creating a school library is, in many cases, **innovative.**

Emerging Trend: Kids don't see themselves as learners.

Educators reported that kids often don't see themselves as learners because education is not viewed as essential in their homes.

Educators want to add **their voice** to a movement.

NEARLY 1/3 of educators in the First Book Network say that they joined to "become part of a movement that promotes equal access to quality education for kids in need."

More and more educators indicate their school or community has no library.

*These learnings are compiled from multiple surveys fielded in 2019 and are based on survey samples that are representative of the First Book Network in terms of organization type, job title, geographic setting, etc. Some learnings are from qualitative research rather than quantitative.