

Chandra Roughton, M.Ed.

I am the Founder and CEO of Luminous Minds, an award-winning early literacy organization, and a lifelong educator with over 25 years of experience in public education. My journey began in Title I classrooms, where I taught with an unwavering belief that all children—regardless of background—can become confident, joyful readers when given the right instruction and support.

Early in my career, I was often the first teacher to arrive and the last to leave. My students regularly outperformed district reading benchmarks, with 80–90% reading at or above grade level compared to far lower averages. This success was rooted in my commitment to structured literacy, explicit phonics instruction, making reading an engaging, joyful experience, and building relationships with each and every student that walked through my door. I learned quickly that when we combine the science of reading with a deep understanding of how children learn, learning to read becomes not only achievable, but a joyous and empowering experience.

My passion for literacy led me to earn my Master’s degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from Fresno State, along with administrative and multiple-subject teaching credentials. Over the years, I have served as a classroom teacher, academic coach, administrator, curriculum developer, and district-level professional development leader. I’ve worked alongside educators across the country to strengthen reading instruction, close achievement gaps, and ensure equitable access to high-quality literacy resources.

Today, I continue to design and deliver professional development, coach teachers, and partner with districts, schools, non-profits and community organizations. My focus remains steadfast: **empowering educators with research-based tools, training, and strategies grounded in the science of reading so every child has the opportunity to read proficiently.**

I believe that if we commit to aligning our reading instruction with what the science tells us about how the brain learns to read—and if we equip and support our teachers—we can make literacy the norm for all children in our country. **This is not just my profession; it is my life’s calling.**

Credentials:

- M.A. in Educational Leadership & Administration, with Distinction — Fresno State University
- California Administrative Services Credential
- California Multiple-Subject Teaching Credential

Publications:

- *Exploring the Benefits of Private, Out-of-School Tutoring with Students in Grades K-12* (2016)
- Co-Author, *Hidden Figures Academy Middle School Charter Petition* (2017)