



How Sunburst achieved 100% decoding growth across adolescent readers

A structured literacy approach helped cadets strengthen decoding, improve fluency, and rebuild confidence through consistent, evidence-based instruction.

DISTRICT
Sunburst Youth Challenge Academy, California

SCHOOLS
1

STUDENTS
36

100%

of students demonstrated decoding growth across the semester

40%

average fluency growth across the instructional cycle

11 → 30

words per minute growth in one week for one student

THE CHALLENGE

Many cadets entered Sunburst significantly below grade level in reading after years of interrupted learning and limited intervention success.

Reading difficulties often affected confidence, engagement, and participation in academic instruction.

- ☀ Students struggled with decoding and fluency
- ☀ Reading confidence remained low
- ☀ Intervention lacked consistency and structure
- ☀ Students needed targeted foundational skills support

WHAT SUNBURST DID

Science of Reading Alignment

ICadets received explicit, systematic, structured literacy instruction focused on decoding, fluency, spelling patterns, and foundational reading skill development.

Professional Learning & Support

Structured routines, multisensory lessons, and small-group instruction helped educators deliver targeted intervention aligned to student needs.

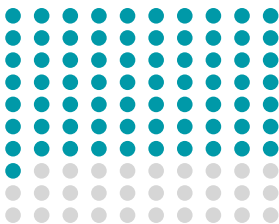
Data Visibility & Implementation

Diagnostic Decoding Surveys, fluency tracking, and progress monitoring guided instruction, measured growth, and strengthened intervention planning.

“These students are not only learning to read; they’re learning to believe in themselves again.”

– Jacqueline Newman, Program Specialist
Orange County Department of Education

FLUENCY GROWTH DATA



71%

of students showed growth in their reading fluency.

KEY OUTCOMES

- ☀ 100% of students demonstrated measurable decoding growth
- ☀ Students increased reading fluency by an average of 40%
- ☀ Structured literacy improved student engagement and confidence
- ☀ Consistent intervention routines strengthened reading participation and persistence