

Dr. Jhanae Wingfield is an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood and Literacy Education in the Department of Urban Education at Rutgers University–Newark. A nationally active scholar and practitioner, she brings more than 15 years of experience across K–12 schools, higher education, and community-based settings. Her research and teaching advance culturally relevant pedagogy, equitable access to high-quality early education specifically literacy, and the preparation of teachers to meet the needs of diverse learners in urban communities.

Dr. Wingfield’s scholarship examines the cultural and sociopolitical forces that shape the reading lives of Black and Brown youth. She investigates how race, language, power, and popular culture inform what children are allowed to see, say, and imagine as they engage with literacy. Her work speaks directly to ongoing debates about the “science of reading,” the future of teacher preparation, and the need for literacy instruction that is both evidence-based and culturally sustaining.

In addition to her academic contributions, Dr. Wingfield is a committed community leader. She has served on the Board of Trustees of the Orange Public Library in New Jersey, consulted with school districts and organizations on equity and strategic planning, and provided literacy coaching and professional development to educators nationwide. Her consulting practice centers on early literacy, equity audits, and culturally responsive instructional design, helping schools and districts translate research into impactful practice.

Dr. Wingfield frequently contributes to state and national conversations on education policy, literacy, and equity, with publications and projects that bridge scholarly research, classroom practice, and community needs. Her leadership reflects a clear vision: to strengthen public education by ensuring that every child, particularly those in historically marginalized communities, has access to meaningful, affirming, and transformative learning opportunities.