



**ABOUT 826 NATIONAL** 826 National is a nonprofit organization that provides strategic leadership, administration, and other resources to ensure the success of its network of eight writing centers. Co-founded by best-selling author Dave Eggers and award-winning educator Nínive Calegari, 826 centers offer a variety of inventive programs that provide under-resourced students, ages 6-18, with opportunities to explore their creativity and improve their writing skills. 826 also helps teachers get their classes excited about writing. Its mission is based on the understanding that great leaps in learning can happen with one-on-one attention, and that strong writing skills are fundamental to future success.

**LOCATIONS** Our first center and namesake, 826 Valencia opened in San Francisco in 2002. Since then, additional chapters have opened in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle, Ann Arbor, Boston, and Washington D.C.

**BY THE NUMBERS** Through its programs — after-school tutoring, field trips, in-schools projects, publishing, and workshops — 826 centers serve more than 24,000 students and produce more than 850 publications. Over 5,000 dedicated volunteers help make this possible.

**RESPONSES TO OUR WORK** “I think 826 is a great program. We need more and more adults coming in [to help students] before school, after school, weekends, whatever it might be. I would love to have more students engage in programs like (826) across the country.” —United States Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan at an NPR Roundtable with 826DC students on June 13, 2011

“826 helps young people learn that language can be play, that work can be joyful, and that they themselves can be the inventors and caretakers of their world. I have seen it with my own eyes. 826 is a good thing in a world of bad things, and a good place in a world of hard ones.” —Michael Chabon, Pulitzer Prize-winning author and 826 volunteer



“What makes 826 so unique is our ability to inspire young people to unlock the creative writer inside and have fun doing it. The pride a student feels when his or her story or poem or drawing becomes a published piece of work is something that will last forever. The outpouring of interest in 826 programs from educators, parents and students across the globe lets us know we are on to something that will help to foster the next generation of innovative leaders.”

- Gerald Richards, CEO 826 National

## 826 PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO:

**Strengthen fundamental writing skills among students, ages 6 to 18, focusing on underserved students**

- 81% of after-school students surveyed report that their writing skills have improved within the academic year because of our services.
- Over 90% of students we serve are from low-income families.

**Increase students' confidence in their work**

- 91% of in-schools project students say they are proud of their work at the end of the program.

**Improve students' academic performance**

- 91% of parents reported that their child is getting better grades upon completing a year of after-school tutoring.
- 96% of parents of after-school tutoring students reported that their child completes all of his/her homework at 826 in comparison to 66% who reported their child completes all homework when not at 826.
- Over 50% of participating students show improved scores on Test of Written Language.

**Enhance writing and reading skills**

- 92% of parents reported that their child's writing skills had improved with the help of 826 after a year of after-school tutoring.
- 91% of parents reported that their children were enjoying reading more after a year of after-school tutoring.

MEMBERS OF THE PRESS CAN CONTACT US AT [PRESS@826NATIONAL.ORG](mailto:PRESS@826NATIONAL.ORG).

FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES, PLEASE READ OUR FAQ PAGE OR CALL US AT 415-864-2098.

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