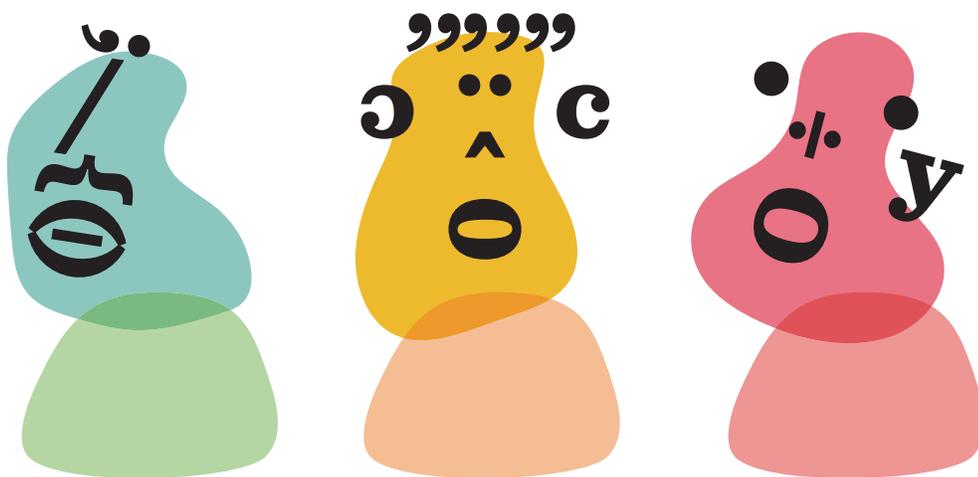


THE TRUTH ABOUT WRITING EDUCATION IN AMERICA

Part 2

Raising Teacher Voices



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Writing is an essential skill for anyone at any stage of life and in any context. Strong writing skills don't just benefit students: they're also a critical component of a strong workforce. Yet, so many individuals are not taught to write well—not as students, not as professionals in the workplace—and this is especially true for those in underfunded and underserved communities. Less explicitly talked about are the cognitive and emotional benefits of writing; it is a tool for critical thinking, self-growth, and social & emotional processing. These are among the reasons why we need to talk about writing education. We surveyed hundreds of teachers to understand the current state of writing education from their perspective.

They graded the writing education system a D-. Read on to learn why. Download full report at 826national.org/research/

KEY FINDINGS



ON TIME

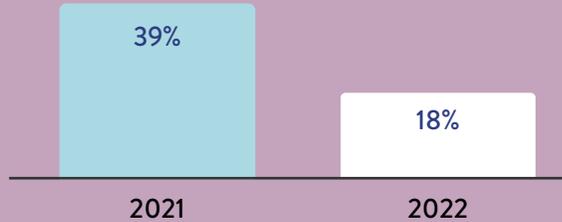
STUDENTS DON'T WRITE ENOUGH

Only

4%

of teachers report students write for the minimum recommended amount of time each day

WRITING INSTRUCTION TIME DECREASED

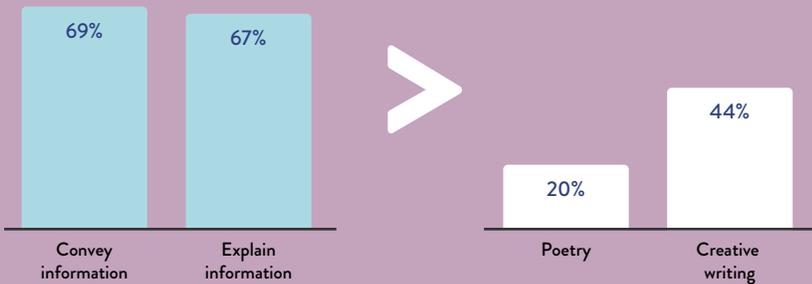


Percent of teachers spending more than 30 minutes a day teaching writing



ON CURRICULA

BULK OF WRITING ASSIGNMENTS ARE BASIC EXPLANATORY TASKS



COMPREHENSIVE WRITING CURRICULUM DOES NOT EXIST

3%

of teachers report solely using writing curriculum provided by their school or district.

ONLY ABOUT HALF OF TEACHERS FEEL SUPPORTED

55%

feel their schools prioritize writing instruction

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DIVIDE CONTINUES



Low-income areas, teachers feel less trained



High-income areas, teachers feel more trained



ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TEACHERS ARE PARTICIPATING IN WRITING PD, BUT MOST DO NOT HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET REGULARLY TO SHARE AND DISCUSS WRITING INSTRUCTION WITH OTHER EDUCATORS



38%

of teachers use social media to find PD opportunities.



ON CHALLENGES AND BENEFITS

D-

grade teachers give the current state of writing education

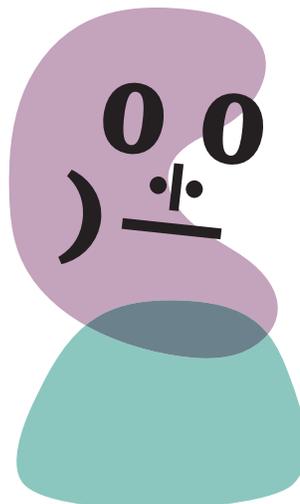
84%

of teachers believe it is important to celebrate student writing

but only

24%

report doing so

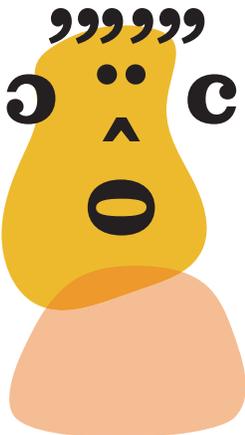


ABOUT 826

826 is the largest youth writing network in the country. It was founded in 2002 in San Francisco by educator Nínive Calegari and author Dave Eggers. 826 National serves as the hub of the movement to amplify student voices and champions the belief that strong writing skills are essential for academic and lifelong success. The 826 Network now serves more than 450,000 students ages 6 to 18 in under-resourced communities each year online via 826 Digital and through chapters in nine cities: Boston, Chicago, Detroit/Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York City, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Minneapolis/St. Paul. We work toward a country in which the power and the joy of writing is accessible to every student in every classroom. Together, we believe writing is the key to cultivating a new generation of creative and diverse thinkers who will define a better, brighter, and more compassionate future.

To learn more about how you can get involved with 826's movement for writing and creativity, please visit the 826 National website at 826national.org

**CONSIDER
THIS OUR
CALL TO RALLY.**



**SHARE THIS REPORT
WITH YOUR TEACHERS,
ADMINISTRATORS, AND
POLICY MAKERS.**

