

What They're Saying About Marc Sternberg

“For the last two decades, our family foundation has pioneered efforts across this country to ensure that all children – regardless of family income or zip code – have access to a high-quality education. Our work is guided by my grandfather’s belief that education is the path to achieving the American dream and is inspired by the vision of my late uncle John Walton. In our many years of working with a strong collection of heroic and hard-working partners from across the country, we’ve learned what is possible when we put the interest of children first. As we enter the next frontier of our work, we are more optimistic and more committed than ever to deepening our involvement in this work, and to accelerating the pace of change in American education. Our family intends to deepen our involvement in this, the civil rights issue of our generation, and we are fortunate to have an individual of Marc's talent and experience lead us in this work.”

– **Carrie Walton Penner, member of the Walton Family Foundation Board of Directors**

“Marc Sternberg leads with the heart of a world-class high school principal (which he was), shaping a culture of high expectations, building a community of teachers, and guiding low-income children up the mountain to college. He also solves problems with the innovative spirit of the urban school district leader change-maker (which he also was), turning around poor performing schools, creating choice opportunities for parents and teachers, and bringing accountability systems to scale. Most importantly, Marc gets stuff done!”

– **Norman Atkins, Founder/Board Chair, Uncommon Schools and Co-Founder/President, Relay GSE**

“Marc has been absolutely instrumental to our Children First reforms, seizing every opportunity to make the transformational changes needed to take our city’s schools to the next level. I want to thank him for his unwavering commitment to our city’s 1.1 million public school children – and for helping us to achieve an unprecedented amount of progress.”

– **Mayor Michael Bloomberg, New York City**

“Marc is a very innovative and courageous education leader, and I very much look forward to working with him and the Walton Family Foundation to drive the changes and improvements our kids need.”

– **Tom Boasberg, Superintendent, Denver Public Schools**

“The Walton Family Foundation has been at the forefront of supporting parent choice as a key element of the movement to reform education in America. For over two decades the foundation has invested in efforts that have led to the empowerment of parents, particularly low income and working class parents to be able to choose the best learning environment for their children. Given Marc’s first-hand knowledge of the power of parent choice for these parents, I am excited that he will now be able to build on John Walton’s unparalleled legacy and lead the foundation’s investment strategy in the education reform area for years to come. We look forward to working with Marc to make a real difference in the lives of the children who need the help the most in our country.”

– **Howard Fuller, Marquette University, Chair of the Board, Black Alliance for Educational Options**

“Marc is well positioned to lead the Walton Family Foundation’s efforts to give more and more parents across the country the opportunity to send their child to the publicly funded school that best meets their individual needs. On behalf of the entire Charter School Growth Fund team and portfolio charter organizations, I congratulate Marc and look forward to working with him in what is perhaps the most exciting time for educators and education advocates in recent history.”

– **Kevin Hall, President and CEO, Charter School Growth Fund**

“Marc has been a friend for nearly twenty years. He is passionate, dedicated, and knows urban public education through and through. As a New York City teacher, principal, and district leader, he has shown time and again that he knows how to make schools work for every child, of every background. In this new role, I know Marc will have a transformative and enduring impact on children across the country, helping ensure that they receive every educational opportunity they deserve. Congratulations!”

– Jason Kamras, Chief of Office of Human Capital for D.C. Public Schools and 2005 National Teacher of the Year

“Marc is a trailblazer with a track record of leading visionary and bold education reform - in his classroom, in his school and in his leadership of our nation's largest school district,” said Joel Klein, former chancellor of the New York City Department of Education and now CEO of Amplify, a subsidiary of News Corporation. “The chance to work with the Walton Family Foundation to improve educational choices for all kids will allow him to marry his demonstrated commitment to creating new opportunities with the foundation's groundbreaking work in this area.”

– Joel Klein, former Chancellor, New York City Department of Education

“I am thrilled about this appointment and the opportunity it presents for Marc and for the Walton Family Foundation. As a teacher, as the founding principal of one of New York City's most successful small schools, and most recently as Deputy Chancellor, Marc has stood out for his commitment to putting economically disadvantaged children on a dramatically different educational trajectory than their backgrounds would predict. I'm excited to watch him bring his perspective and experience to bear at the Walton Family Foundation, which has already played such an important role in growing the impact of Teach For America and other initiatives to strengthen urban and rural public schools.”

– Wendy Kopp, Founder, Teach For America

“New York City's loss is Walton's gain. Marc Sternberg is a passionate advocate for school choice and the role of charter schools in increasing educational opportunities. He's an outstanding choice for the Walton Family Foundation, which has been such an extraordinary engine of reform throughout the country.”

– Eva Moskowitz, Founder and CEO, Success Academy Charter Schools

“During the ten years that I've known and worked with Marc Sternberg, he has consistently made invaluable contributions to the New York City Public Schools and the students and families served. Through the founding of Bronx Lab High School, as well as the creation of hundreds of new small district and charter schools thereafter, Marc has taken New York's schools into the 21st Century, and provided a road map for other districts to follow. He is that rare visionary leader who can also succeed in both conceiving and implementing great ideas for the benefit of the entire nation.”

– Eric Nadelstern, Prof. of Educational Leadership & Director of the Principals Academy at Teachers College Columbia University & Former Deputy Chancellor for School Support & Instruction for the NYC Dept. of Ed.

“From our first day entering the Evander Childs campus, Marc let us know that he would take care of people first. He understood the leverage points to build the school, and challenged everyone - students, faculty and staff – to work together to meet the highest of expectations, such as 100 percent student attendance. It seemed impossible at times, but he had this contagious optimism that made us all believe, do our little part to make it happen, and then think it was inevitable.”

– Karena Ostrem, Founding Teacher and Co-Director of the Bronx Lab School and currently Dean of Faculty at The Lawrenceville School

“I have witnessed Marc's leadership, courage, and ability to bring people together from different perspectives to achieve one common goal – ensure all kids get a great education, regardless of their zip code. His collaborative spirit, unwavering commitment to all children and strong vision of ‘what's possible’ in our education system will help to lead the Walton Family Foundation as it continues its legacy of empowering parents with quality, publicly funded educational options.”

– Dacia Toll, Co-CEO and President of Achievement First Public Charter Schools

“Marc Sternberg is an education reformer and advocate who has tremendous ‘on the ground’ experiences working to fix our nation's public schools. By taking this important position with the Walton Family Foundation, we will see the coupling of a bold visionary with an institution that has the resources and courage to implement truly innovative school reforms. This is an exciting development for the movement!”

– Michelle Rhee, CEO and Founder, StudentsFirst

“From our work with Marc, we know that he is unabashed in his commitment to providing every child a great teacher and school leader. His experience in districts, schools and classrooms will undoubtedly help the Walton Family Foundation’s efforts to place more strong teachers in high-need classrooms across the country. This will be positive for educators and students everywhere.”

– Ariela Rozman, Co-CEO, The New Teacher Project

“Thousands of New York City students now have access to a better education thanks to Marc’s work as a teacher, principal and administrator at the New York City Department of Education. He has been instrumental in advancing our work of eradicating poverty by giving children the educational and social support they need to ensure their success.”

– David Saltzman, Executive Director of Robin Hood

“Marc’s impact and commitment to improved educational outcomes is tangible in classrooms, schools and administrative buildings across New York City. His experience as a teacher, school leader and district administrator will undoubtedly support the Walton Family Foundation’s efforts to give all parents, regardless of zip code, the opportunity to choose the best publicly funded school for their child.”

–John White, State Superintendent of Education, Louisiana

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