

# K-12 EDUCATION PROGRAM

We believe children must have access to a high-quality education that works for them in order to have a lifetime of opportunity. We:

- Support the growth of schools that transform the lives of children, especially those from low-income communities;
- Collaborate with schools of all kinds - public charter schools, districts schools and private schools - on bold ideas for change;
- Support excellence in teaching by helping educators do their best for students; and
- Believe in the uniqueness of each child, school and community, and that there is no one-size-fits-all solution.

## Our Strategy: Lessons Learned

Since the Walton Family Foundation began our support of K-12 education two decades ago, we have helped grow a movement of high-performing schools, creating more choice and opportunity.

Today, we know that choice is essential, but on its own is not enough. In order for choice and opportunity to make a real difference in students' lives, we must create city-wide environments that help school quality thrive across all schools and for all students. This means creating enrollment platforms, equitable transportation access, fair funding and readily accessible, current information on schools and student performance for families and other stakeholders.

Under its 2020 strategic plan, the foundation is aiming to create more high-quality educational options, spur innovation and build more of the environmental factors that support opportunities for students and families in cities. Over a five-year period, the foundation will invest \$1 billion to expand educational opportunity across the United States.

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# Marc Sternberg

## K-12 Education Program Director



Marc Sternberg leads the foundation's initiatives to improve K-12 education for all of our nation's children by empowering parents with quality options. Before joining the foundation, Marc served as the Senior Deputy Chancellor at the New York City Department of Education, where he directed the citywide portfolio planning efforts, including new school development and placement, school improvement and accountability planning, and the Pre K-12 enrollment team. Marc also served as senior advisor to the chancellor and the mayor's office on education policy and strategy.

Prior to his service as deputy chancellor, Marc was founder and principal of the Bronx Lab School, an unscreened high school on the Evander Childs High School campus. After earning a B.A. from Princeton University in 1995, Marc served as a Teach For America corps member in the South Bronx. He then earned a joint MBA and Masters in Education from Harvard University. Marc was selected as a 2009-2010 White House Fellow.

## Recent Publications

- ▶ [By Identifying and Fostering Innovators, Schools Can Lift Students to Prosperity](#)
- ▶ [A Great Education Begins With a Great Teacher](#)
- ▶ [For San Antonio to Keep Rising, So Must its Schools](#)
- ▶ [Social-Emotional Learning Is Vital — but Needs to Be Measured Correctly and Can't Usurp Academics, Panelists Say](#)
- ▶ [How should schools approach teaching, measuring whole-child competencies?](#)

## Recent News and Announcements

### 26 Schools Chosen as Spark Opportunity Grant Winners

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) announced inaugural winners of the Spark Opportunity Grant Program, which supports high-quality public charter schools, serving students in economically distressed communities, in planning for appropriate and permanent facilities. Twenty-six schools serving students in economically distressed communities will use their respective grants, ranging from \$15,000 to \$50,000, to plan, finance and build facilities that meet the needs of their communities.

### Walton Family Foundation Opens Applications for Innovative Schools Program

The Walton Family Foundation announced the launch of the third round of its Innovative Schools Program (ISP) grant opportunity. Educators and entrepreneurs with ideas for schools that offer transformative opportunities for students are encouraged to apply for up to \$325,000 in funding. The foundation launched the ISP in 2017 to identify new, exciting school models and leaders.

## **Major Investments to Support, Retain and Increase the Diversity of Educators Nationwide**

The Walton Family Foundation announced funding totaling more than \$20 million to support efforts to make the teaching profession more dynamic and sustainable. These grants build on decades of giving dedicated to support, retain and increase the diversity of educators nationwide. "Access to a great education can be life changing," said Alice Walton in an open letter published in *The New York Times Magazine*. "For decades, the Walton Family Foundation has supported innovative approaches to education. Of the many things we've learned over the years, this truth stands out: A great education begins with a great teacher."



## **Equitable Facilities Fund to Issue \$100M in Bonds to Support Public Education**

Equitable Facilities Fund (EFF) will issue \$100 million in A-rated tax-exempt bonds to further its mission of supporting an equitable, high-quality public education for all students by providing financing to excellent public charter schools to build, grow and renovate facilities. Through EFF's Preliminary Official Statement, the nonprofit lender has laid out plans that will support 30,000 public charter school students by providing affordable funds for their schools' buildings, equipment and other capital projects, thus directing more resources into the classroom and helping students realize academic success and a lifetime of opportunity.



## **4.0 Launches \$15M Fund to Grow the Field of Education Entrepreneurs and Expand Innovative Approaches to New Schools**

4.0 announced the launch of its next fundraising campaign, Fund III, with matching \$5 million donations from the Charles Koch Foundation (CKF) and the Walton Family Foundation (WFF). Fund III will support 600 diverse education entrepreneurs in incubating, testing and launching innovative approaches to education that will transform America's education system by creating more high-quality schools and programs that meet the unique needs of students and communities. The CKF and WFF combined gifts of \$10 million comprise two-thirds of the entire goal for Fund III.

## **NewSchools Venture Fund Announces Fund to Diversify the PreK-12 Teaching Profession**

NewSchools Venture Fund, with financial support from the Walton Family Foundation, today announced the launch of a new \$3.5 million competitive funding opportunity to diversify the PreK-12 teaching profession. Up to 14 concepts or early-stage organizations with bold ideas to enhance the recruitment, development and retention of underrepresented teachers (including Black, Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American/Alaskan Native teachers) will be eligible for \$200,000 on average in funding.



## **Trinity University Launches School Design Network to Incubate and Grow Great Public Schools for San Antonio Region Students**

Trinity University announced the creation of the School Design Network, a fellowship and incubator program. The Network will enable more than 40 educators and entrepreneurs to launch innovative, high-quality, traditional district, autonomous district and charter schools in the San Antonio region over the next five years. The Network will launch with support from a \$5 million grant from the Walton Family Foundation.

## **Walton Family Foundation Supports Traditional Colleges of Education, Diverse Teacher Pipelines Across the Country**

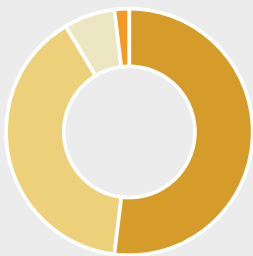
The Walton Family Foundation announced \$1.8 million in new funding to support traditional colleges of education that are incorporating best practices in efforts to recruit, train and increase the diversity of future teachers. The teacher preparation programs at Bank Street College of Education, Marian University and New York University are utilizing emerging, proven trends in teacher development. All programs will prepare teachers to serve students with diverse and varied learning needs, including a focus on students with special needs and English language learners.

# 2019 K-12 Education Program Grantmaking

The Walton family believes the most important thing we can do to give young people the opportunity to succeed is to make sure they have a high-quality education that works for them. The foundation is committed to increasing access to great schools that can transform the lives of children, particularly those in low-income communities.

The foundation's K-12 Education Program is guided by this fundamental belief. We embrace efforts to ensure all families can access high-quality school options, so that a great education — and the opportunities that enables — isn't just for the lucky few.

A full list of 2019 grants is available [here](#).



## 2019 K-12 Education Program Grants

**K-12 Education: \$207.4 million**

- Investing in Cities (\$108 million)
- High-Quality Schools (\$81.8 million)
- Innovation (\$13.8 million)
- Research & Evaluation (\$3.8 million)



## 2019 Grants

**\$525.8 million in grants awarded in 2019**

- K-12 Education (\$207.4 million)
- Environment (\$90.5 million)
- Home Region (\$66.1 million)
- Special Projects (\$161.8 million)

The Walton Family Foundation is, at its core, a family-led foundation. Three generations of the descendants of our founders, Sam and Helen Walton, and their spouses, work together to lead the foundation and create access to opportunity for people and communities. We believe the best ideas can come from anywhere, so we stay open to new thinking from all over. And we partner with those who are closest to the problem because they're usually closest to the solution.

No one ever solved big problems by thinking small. Creating lasting change in society requires leaders driven by a spirit of innovation, a curiosity to explore what is possible and an urgent willingness to be bold where others are cautious. It's how we seed success – it's how opportunity takes root.