



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

- ▶ [Watch — Marc Sternberg Talks Priorities for a New School Year: Why Governors Must Keep Kids and Their Future Prosperity at the Center of the Ed Debate](#)
- ▶ [To Fix Struggling Schools, Ed. Leaders Must Be Bold](#)
- ▶ [A Pitch for Hope](#)
- ▶ [An Important Moment 35 Years After A Nation at Risk](#)
- ▶ [New York's Bad Teachers, Back on the Job](#)

Recent News and Announcements

[Walton Family Foundation Announces Major Investments to Fuel High-Quality School Growth Nationwide](#)

The Walton Family Foundation announced efforts to build and expand on two decades of school startup grants to fuel the growth of high-quality schools across the country. The strategy, detailed in [Rooted in Opportunity: The Walton Family Foundation's Approach to Starting and Growing High-Quality Schools](#), includes continued grants to proven organizations, like those that help create successful charter schools, with an expanded focus on innovative school models to meet the learning needs of all children. Foundation grants totaling more than \$100 million will allow educators and leaders to launch hundreds of schools in the coming years.



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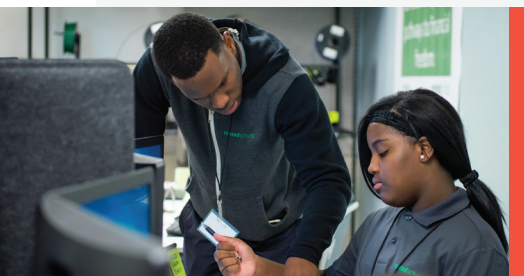
Walton Family Foundation Launches Two New Non-profit Lending Funds

The Walton Family Foundation announced the creation of the Charter Impact Fund and Facilities Investment Fund. The two distinct non-profit funds are supported through the foundation's Building Equity Initiative, an unprecedented effort to make it easier and more affordable for public charter schools to find, secure and renovate facilities. The Charter Impact Fund and Facilities Investment Fund will provide quicker access to long- and short-term financing, respectively.



Walton Family Foundation Announces Efforts to Grow and Diversify the Teacher Pipeline in the Houston Region

The Walton Family Foundation announced plans to invest \$790,000 to grow and diversify the teaching profession in Houston, Texas, by supporting the expansion of Teaching Excellence, an innovative teacher training program run by YES Prep Public Schools. With foundation support, Teaching Excellence will train and support at least 620 educators, 70 percent of whom will identify as people of color, between 2018 and 2020. Teaching Excellence educators will eventually serve Houston students across 15 charter organizations and school districts.



Walton Family Foundation Celebrates Character Day by Increasing Support for Character Research

The Walton Family Foundation announced a \$1 million donation to Harvard University to advance research on and understanding of effective character teaching, learning and evaluation practices. The grant, which is being announced on Character Day, supports the efforts of Dr. Martin West, an associate professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and will help more educators identify, implement and measure the effectiveness of character development efforts.

Walton Family Foundation Announces Efforts to Increase Number of Mixed Income Public Charter Schools in NYC

The Walton Family Foundation announced it will invest \$2.2 million to increase integration through the growth of mixed income public charter schools in New York City over the next two years. These resources will allow 2,400 additional students to attend schools combatting segregation by intentionally recruiting and serving a diverse student body. These grants directly support educators and leaders as they launch these schools.

Walton Family Foundation to Support Atlanta Public Schools Turnaround Efforts

The Walton Family Foundation announced it will invest \$2.1 million to support and evaluate the success of Atlanta Public Schools' Turnaround Strategy. The grants will also help the district launch APS Insights, a first-of-its-kind data dashboard available this summer to share information about school options and quality with Atlanta parents.

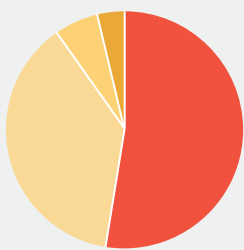


2017 K-12 Education Program Grantmaking

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.

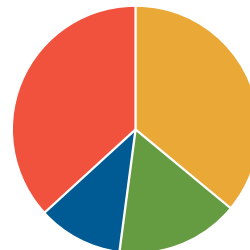
A full list of 2017 grants is available [here](#).



2017 K-12 Education Program Grants

K-12 Education: \$192.7 million

- Investing in Cities (\$100.9 million)
- High-Quality Schools (\$73.8 million)
- Innovation (\$11 million)
- Research & Evaluation (\$7 million)



2017 Grants

\$535.5 million in grants awarded in 2017

- K-12 Education (\$192.7 million)
- Environment (\$86 million)
- Home Region (\$59.9 million)
- Special Projects (\$196.9 million)

The Walton Family Foundation tackles tough social and environmental problems with urgency and a long-term approach. In this video, the children and grandchildren of our founders, Sam and Helen Walton, share stories about the foundation's origins and their commitment to the vision and values that guide its work.

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.