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Walton Family Foundation Pledges \$1 Billion to Charter Schools

By Arianna Prothero on January 7, 2016 10:18 AM | [1 Comment](#)

The Walton Family Foundation says it plans to spend \$1 billion over the next five years to support new charter schools and bolster current programs, [according to the Associated Press](#).

That pledge matches what the foundation has poured into charter schools and other K-12 initiatives over the past 20 years, including \$385 million to help launch charter schools in low-income communities.

This newest round of funding will be targeted toward opening new schools in low-income communities that the foundation has already invested in and developing talent pipelines.

The Walton Family Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton's heirs and has long been a major supporter of charter schools and other forms of school choice. Last fall, the foundation announced new, but much smaller investments in a new area for its education philanthropy: [research on the measurement of noncognitive traits such as grit and persistence in classroom settings](#).

(The [Walton](#) Family Foundation provides grant [support](#) for *Education Week's* coverage of school choice and parent-empowerment issues.)

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