

BENJAMIN FEIT, J.D.

Benjamin Feit has dedicated his career to broadening access to high-quality educational opportunities for students and families who have historically been deprived of schools designed to meet their unique needs. A Newton native and a product of the Massachusetts public school system, Ben pivoted away from a conventional career path shortly after graduating from law school and has spent the past decade as a charter school leader, central office administrator, teacher, board member, technical assistance provider, and researcher. Ben is passionate about fusing his backgrounds in law, educational leadership, and nonprofit management to promote educational equity and racial justice.

Ben's career in education began as a physical education teacher and boarding instructor at the Prem Tinsulanonda International School in Chiang Mai, Thailand. After clerking for a federal appellate court judge, Ben joined Democracy Prep Public Schools where he helped an organization in its relative infancy transition into a sustainable nationwide operation with over 20 Title I schools in five states. As Vice President of Strategy and Chief of Staff, Ben assembled and supervised large and diverse teams, worked directly with hundreds of students and families, secured significant competitive revenue streams from public and private funding sources, administered sizable budgets, testified in front of legislative bodies, interfaced with governmental entities and partner organizations ranging from foundations to social service providers, and cultivated both talent pipelines and support networks.

During the 2016–17 school year, Ben served as the Interim Executive Director of Democracy Prep Congress Heights Public Charter School, a turnaround Title I school educating 675 students in Southeast, Washington, D.C. In Congress Heights, Ben drew on his experience cultivating stakeholder support in communities across the country to repair the trust that had been squandered during the uneven first two years of the turnaround. Under his leadership, the school recorded its highest student and staff retention rates.

Most recently, Ben has served as the Director of the Charter Center at the Boston-based Community Training and Assistance Center. In that capacity, Ben advises charter school operators and authorizers across the country. In 2020, Ben secured \$93 million in competitive grants under the U.S. Department of Education's Charter Schools Program on behalf of the states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and he was the sole lead author on an evaluation of the Texas Education Agency's federally funded efforts to replicate effective charter school models throughout the state. In 2018, Ben served as the chief legal officer on a state-level Massachusetts political campaign, crafting policies designed to promote voter access and inclusion.

Ben has a BA in History from Yale and a JD from Duke University School of Law, and he is currently pursuing his doctorate through the Urban Education Leaders Program at Teachers College, Columbia University.