



**NEW AMERICA**  
FOUNDATION

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**TESTED: SCHOOL-LEVEL PERSPECTIVES ON NCLB**  
**OCTOBER 25, 2007**

**Steve Coll**  
**President & CEO**  
**New America Foundation**

Steve Coll took over as President and Chief Executive Officer of the New America Foundation on Sept. 17, 2007. Before coming to New America, he served as Managing Editor of *The Washington Post* from 1998 to 2004, and remains a staff writer at *The New Yorker*. An author of numerous books, Coll won the Pulitzer Prize in 2005 for general non-fiction for his work, “Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001.” Mr. Coll previously won a Pulitzer Prize in 1990 for explanatory journalism for his coverage of the Security and Exchange Commission.

**Sara Mead**  
**Senior Research Fellow, Education Policy Program**  
**New America Foundation**

Sara Mead conducts research and writes about early childhood, elementary, and secondary education issues as a Senior Research Fellow at the New America Foundation. Her work has been featured in *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*, and on CBS and ABC News. Before joining New America, she was a Senior Policy Analyst with Education Sector, where she focused on issues related to early childhood education and choice and diversity in public education. She has also worked for the Progressive Policy Institute, where she remains a nonresident fellow, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Gore 2000 presidential campaign. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in public policy from Vanderbilt University.

## **Linda Perlstein**

**Author, “Tested: One American School Struggles to Make the Grade”**

Linda Perlstein is the author of “Tested: One American School Struggles to Make the Grade,” which *The Washington Post* referred to as “the best book ever written about No Child Left Behind.” She is also the author of “Not Much Just Chillin’: The Hidden Lives of Middle Schoolers.” In addition to her two books, she has also written for the *Post’s* op-ed page, *Salon*, *The Nation*, *Family Circle*, *Girls Life*, *Parents* and the *Columbia Journalism Review*. From 1994 to 2004, Perlstein worked at the *Post*, where she covered education and children. She lives with her husband in Baltimore and western Virginia.

## **Tracy Wright**

**Leadership/Achievement Specialist for Urban Principals and Schools  
New Leaders for New Schools**

Tracy Wright is a Leadership/Achievement Specialist for Urban Principals and Schools with New Leaders for New Schools, a national non-profit organization that selects and trains individuals to become urban public school principals. In this role she oversees seven New Leaders principals and assists them in managing their school’s instructional programs against targeted school improvement strategies. Before joining New Leaders in July 2007, she worked in the District of Columbia Public Schools for more than 10 years as a teacher, social worker, and assistant principal. Most recently she served as the principal of JC Nalle Elementary school in Washington, DC’s seventh ward. Tracy holds Bachelor’s and Master’s of Social Work degrees from Howard University and a Master’s degree in educational administration from Trinity University. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in educational administration and policy studies at George Washington University.