

November 16, 2022

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of the State of Texas
State Insurance Building
1100 San Jacinto
Austin, Texas 78701



Dear Governor Abbott:

Today, Parents Defending Education released an explosive investigation into five philanthropic foundations and their role in promoting divisive race and gender ideology in public schools.

Dallas Independent School District received **\$4,398,711** from the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** and the **Wallace Foundation** from 2017 to 2021. The district agreed to participate in the Wallace Foundation’s Partnerships for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Initiative.

As part of the initiative, Dallas Independent School District promotes an SEL curriculum based on the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL)’s skill development criteria. Through SEL, CASEL pushes students to address **“implicit biases” and practice “antiracism.”**

The Wallace Foundation promotes **equitable SEL**, which “affirms diverse identities; incorporates student cultural values, practices, and assets... and **acknowledges and addresses persistent environmental stressors such as racism, transphobia, homophobia, and classism.**”

The district began its partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s Network for School Improvement in 2019. The initiative seeks to promote “equity” in schools. A 2021 presentation detailing the district’s equity-focused “theory of improvement” claimed that an “equity perspective must be applied to data analysis to understand the root cause” of “complex problems.”

While Dallas Independent School District officials focus on equity, **elementary and middle school students are failing to meet basic benchmarks in reading and math.** Just 44 percent of elementary students and 43 percent of middle school students tested at or above proficient level for reading. In math, 48 percent of elementary students and 50 percent of middle school students tested at or above proficiency.

You will find our Cracked Foundations report on this [webpage](#), which includes more information on Dallas Independent School District for your consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Best,

Nicole Neily, Executive Director, PDE Action

Alex Nester, Political Director, PDE Action