

November 16, 2022

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of the State of Florida
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399



Dear Governor DeSantis:

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. **Two school districts in Florida were among the top recipients** of funding from these organizations.

Broward County Public Schools received **\$1,845,182** from the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**, the **Wallace Foundation**, and the **Windward Fund** between 2017 and 2021. The district participated in a math literacy and equity initiative called FLAME with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Through FLAME, the district is “ramping up [their] actions to support students in **liberating themselves**” from the “trap” of being used as “**sacrificial lambs to undemocratic engines of oppression.**”

The **School District of Palm Beach County** received **\$7,066,785** from the **Wallace Foundation** and the **Windward Fund**. The district inked multiple year-long contracts with the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (**CASEL**) using funding from the Wallace Foundation. Through **social-emotional learning (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.**”

This report just scratches the surface. The role woke foundations play in promoting harmful ideology in our public schools merits further investigation.

Parents Defending Education appreciates your commitment to restoring Florida’s education system. The fight for America’s schools is long from over. Unfortunately, these behemoth foundations have found yet another way to infuse divisive ideology into Florida’s classrooms.

You can find our Cracked Foundations report on this [webpage](#), which includes more information on Broward County Public Schools and the School District of Palm Beach County 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