

November 16, 2022

The Honorable Kevin Stitt
Governor of the State of Oklahoma
2300 Lincoln Blvd. Rm. 212
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105



Dear Governor Stitt:

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.

Tulsa Public Schools received **\$3,674,395** from the Wallace Foundation between 2017 and 2021 to participate in the organization's Partnerships for Social and Emotional Learning Initiative (PSELI). The Wallace Foundation's goal with PSELI is to bring social-emotional learning (SEL) to after-school care. Though SEL sounds harmless, it has become just another method of [imbedding harmful race and gender ideology in schools](#). Equity is a "shared core value," the district says on its website, and to achieve equity, schools "must provide resources and support matched to student need." **Schools have a "collective responsibility for interrupting and transforming systemic educational inequities," the district claims.**

In collaboration with the National Equity Project and the K-12 Lab at Stanford Design School, Tulsa Public Schools' "Equity Design Teams" engage in a "Liberatory Design process," which seeks "to identify and resolve equity focused problems of practice." Liberatory design "requires we minimize the harmful effects of our blind spots and maximize the potential for non-oppressive partnerships." This process also involves **helping students to "see root causes and systemic inequities more clearly."**

While Tulsa Public School officials have chosen to focus on equity, **students are failing to meet basic benchmarks on reading and math tests.** Just 18 percent of elementary students, 17 percent of middle school students, and 24 percent of high school students **test at or above the proficient level in reading.** In math, 17 percent of elementary students, 12 percent of middle school students, and 36 percent of high school students test at or above proficiency for math.

You can find our Cracked Foundations report on this [webpage](#), which includes more information on Tulsa Public Schools for your consideration. This report just scratches the surface. The role woke foundations play in promoting harmful ideology in our public schools merits further investigation.

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