



December 15, 2022

La June Montgomery Tabron, President & CEO
 W.K. Kellogg Foundation
 1 Michigan Ave. East
 Battle Creek, MI 49017

Sent via Electronic Mail [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. Tabron,

On behalf of our members, the undersigned organizations write to request that the W.K. Kellogg Foundation cease its equity-centered funding of America’s public schools, as we believe that the initiatives that are being promoted in districts are negatively impacting student performance. While these donations may be well-intentioned, the impact of this programming on student achievement and well-being is creating unintended consequences that will negatively impact not only individual students but the educational system as a whole – and accordingly, we ask that these efforts be ended.

According to your website, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation has given Battle Creek Public Schools (BCPS) \$31,219,073 since May 1, 2017 – with grants to be used to “transform Battle Creek Public Schools to address structural bias and segregation.” Among the programs and policies created to fulfill these grants, BCPS has:

- Implemented “Culturally-Relevant Teaching Practices” because “core subjects are traditionally taught from a Eurocentric perspective that minimizes the contributions of people of color,” which also “can traumatize students of color”;
- Paid teachers to participate in the “Transformational Teacher Institute,” aimed at helping teachers “overcome implicit bias” and “changing school climate”; and
- Implemented a program titled “Unapologetic Focus on Achievement for Black Boys,” which included “a book club specifically for Black male middle schoolers.”

These programs operate under harmful and false assumptions about the founding of our country — namely, that the United States was founded on racism and that minority students today are victims of oppression. This perception is destructive first and foremost to minority students, who are made to feel as if our society places a ceiling on what they can achieve. Further, BCPS used your funding to create an “affinity group” style book club for students, separating young boys by their race. Racial segregation is both immoral and a violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination “on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.”

The programs your organization funds shift students’ focus away from mastering vital subject areas like reading and math. While your organization promotes divisive race ideology in Battle Creek Public Schools, students are failing to meet basic proficiency benchmarks in these subject areas.

According to *US News & World Report*, academic achievement for Battle Creek Public Schools is abysmal – which raises questions whether the Kellogg Foundation’s funding of equity initiatives is doing more harm than good. For mathematics, only 12 percent of elementary school students, 8 percent of middle school students, and 7 percent of high school students have tested proficient – while for reading, the scores are 15 percent, 16 percent, and 25 percent, respectively. These students deserve better – and it is questionable whether they will be able to succeed professionally without mastering these subjects.

Our members are America’s parents, grandparents, and concerned citizens – and we do not want standards or expectations lowered in our nation’s public schools in the name of equity. Our organizations find it deeply troubling that grants from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation are being used to advance these patronizing policies – particularly at a time when students are working to remediate the learning loss incurred during Covid-related school closures. Students deserve to be treated as individuals and not members of identity groups.

We know that the W.K. Kellogg Foundation cares about American schools – as do we. Please consider reevaluating your foundation’s grant priorities so that we might work together to address and improve the quality of America’s public education system for all children.

Sincerely,

Parents Defending Education
American Education Advocates
Army of Parents
Awake Illinois
Bellingham Parents CSC
CA Foundation for Educational Rights (CFER)
CACAGNY
CAPA Nova
Colorado Parent Advocacy Network
Concerned Parents of Round Rock ISD
Courage is a Habit
Fight for Schools
For Kids & Country
Good Trouble Parents
Louisiana Save Our Schools
Moms for Liberty
No Left Turn in Education
Olentangy for Educational Integrity

Parents Unite
Parents United RI
Poudre School District Parents for Change
Power2Parent
Purple for Parents
Push Back Idaho
Truth in Education
United Against Racism in Education
West Valley Parents Uniting