



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

July 31, 2023

Vice President Kamala Harris
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Madam Vice President:

Florida is the number one state in the nation for education. We've achieved this by making record investments in our students, teachers, and schools and by enacting universal school choice. Our approach has empowered parents and families, who are actively disenfranchised in many other states around the nation. But we've also secured the top spot nationally in education by returning to the fundamentals. We are committed to teaching truth, not partisan narratives. We have rooted out hateful Marxist theories like "Critical Race Theory" from our classrooms. We have eliminated "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion" initiatives in school administration and hiring practices. We have, instead, focused on the basics of reading, writing, arithmetic, science, civics and history.

Yet, time and again, D.C. politicians choose to malign our state and its residents. Over the past several weeks, the Biden Administration has repeatedly disparaged our state and misinformed Americans about our education system. Our state pushed forward nation-leading standalone African American History standards — one of the only states in the nation to require this level of learning about such an important subject. One would think the White House would applaud such boldness in teaching the unique and important story of African American History. But you have instead attempted to score cheap political points and label Florida parents "extremists." It's past time to set the record straight.

In Florida we are unafraid to have an open and honest dialogue about the issues. And you clearly have no trouble ducking down to Florida on short notice. So given your grave concern (which, I must assume, is sincere) about what you think our standards say, I am officially inviting you back down to Florida to discuss our African American History standards. We will be happy to host you here in Tallahassee. I will ask Dr. William Allen — instrumental in the development of our impressive new standards — to join. We welcome you, of course, to bring Randi Weingarten or someone else who shares your view about the standards.

I am prepared to meet as early as Wednesday of this week, but of course want to be deferential to your busy schedule should you already have a trip to the southern border planned for that day. Please let me know as soon as possible. What an example we could set for the nation — a serious conversation on the substance of an important issue! I hope you're feeling up to it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis".

Ron DeSantis
Governor