

Table 2.4

Attitudes toward the biggest problems facing public schools

By school status, United States, 1988-2003

Question: "What do you think are the biggest problems with which the public schools of your community must deal?"

	Lack of financial support/funding/money ^a	Lack of discipline/more control ^b	Fighting/violence/gangs	Overcrowded schools/large schools	Use of drugs/dope	Difficulty getting good teachers/quality teachers
<u>National</u>						
1988	12%	19%	1%	6%	32%	11%
1989	13	19	NA	8	34	7
1990	13	19	2	7	38	7
1991	18	20	3	9	22	11
1992	22	17	9	9	22	5
1993	21	15	13	8	16	5
1994	13	18	18	7	11	3
1995	11	15	9	3	7	2
1996	13	15	14	8	16	3
1997	15	15	12	8	14	3
1998	12	14	15	8	10	5
1999	9	18	11	8	8	4
2000	18	15	11	12	9	4
2001	15	15	10	10	9	6
2002	23	17	9	17	13	8
2003	25	16	4	14	9	5
<u>Respondents with no children in school</u>						
1988	10	20	2	4	34	10
1989	11	20	NA	6	35	8
1990	18	19	2	6	40	6
1991	15	20	4	8	24	11
1992	20	18	9	6	26	4
1993	19	15	12	6	17	4
1994	12	18	19	5	11	4
1995	10	17	9	3	7	2
1996	14	16	14	6	17	3
1997	15	15	12	6	14	3
1998	13	15	14	5	10	6
1999	9	18	10	6	9	4
2000	17	17	11	10	10	4
2001	15	17	11	7	9	6
2002	23	18	9	14	14	8
2003	26	17	3	12	10	5
<u>Respondents with children in public schools</u>						
1988	17	15	1	10	30	11
1989	18	16	NA	11	30	6
1990	17	17	2	10	34	10
1991	26	18	4	11	17	11
1992	25	15	9	13	17	7
1993	24	15	14	11	14	7
1994	16	17	16	11	13	2
1995	12	11	8	5	7	3
1996	13	12	15	11	14	3
1997	14	12	12	10	14	4
1998	11	9	20	11	12	4
1999	9	15	12	12	6	5
2000	19	9	11	14	9	4
2001	17	10	9	15	10	6
2002	23	13	9	23	11	8
2003	24	13	5	16	7	5

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2003 are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,011 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted May 28-June 18, 2003. Some problems mentioned by a small percentage of respondents have been omitted. Some data have been revised by the Source and may differ from previous editions of SOURCEBOOK. For a discussion of public opinion survey sampling procedures, see [Appendix 5](#).

^aThe response "funding/money" was added in 1998.

^bThe response "more control" was added in 1997.

Source: George Gallup, Jr., *The Gallup Report*, Report No. 276, p. 41; Report No. 288, p. 41 (Princeton, NJ: The Gallup Poll); Stanley M. Elam, "The 22nd Annual Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1990), pp. 53, 54; Stanley M. Elam, Lowell C. Rose, and Alec M. Gallup, "The 24th Annual Gallup/Phi Delta Kappa Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1992), p. 43; "The 26th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1994), p. 43; "The 28th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 1996), p. 49; Lowell C. Rose and Alec M. Gallup, "The 30th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappa* [Online]. Available: <http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/kp9809-3.htm> [Jan. 5, 1999]; and Lowell C. Rose and Alec M. Gallup, "The 34th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 2002), p. 51; "The 35th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 2003), p. 50. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.