

Table 2.4.2011

**Attitudes toward the biggest problems facing public schools**

United States, 1988-2011

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

	Lack of financial support/ funding/money <sup>a</sup>	Lack of discipline/ more control <sup>b</sup>	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
2004	21	10	6	10	7	5
2005	20	10	8	11	9	3
2006	24	11	5	13	8	4
2007	22	10	6	7	4	5
2008	17	10	6	6	4	4
2009	32	10	4	9	5	3
2010	36	10	NA	NA	4	NA
2011	36	6	3	6	2	NA
<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
2004	22	10	6	9	7	5
2005	19	12	7	9	9	3
2006	25	12	6	12	8	4
2007 <sup>c</sup>	21	11	5	6	5	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
2004	20	8	6	13	7	5
2005	21	8	10	15	8	3
2006	21	7	4	16	7	4
2007	26	5	8	9	3	4
2008	19	3	8	11	4	3
2009 <sup>c</sup>	30	8	6	10	5	2

See notes at end of table

Table 2.4.2011

Attitudes toward the biggest problems facing public schools

United States, 1988-2011--Continued

Note: Sample sizes vary from year to year; the data for 2011 are based on telephone interviews with a randomly selected national sample of 1,002 adults, 18 years of age and older, conducted June 4-13, 2011. 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](#).

<sup>a</sup>The response "funding/money" was added in 1998.

<sup>b</sup>The response "more control" was added in 1997.

<sup>c</sup>Recent data do not break down respondents based on whether or not they have children in public schools.

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 Kappan* (September 1998), p. 51; "The 32nd Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 2000), p. 46; "The 35th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 2003), p. 50; "The 39th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan* (September 2007), p. 44; William J. Bushaw and John A. McNee, "The 41st Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Kappan* (September 2009), p. 10; William J. Bushaw and Shane J. Lopez, "The 42nd Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Kappan* (September 2010), p. 12; "The 43rd Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Kappan* (September 2011), p. 18. Table adapted by SOURCEBOOK staff. Reprinted by permission.