

Table 23.—Items most frequently cited by the general public as a major problem facing the local public schools: 1970 to 2001

Problems	Percent																			
	1970	1975	1980	1985	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Lack of discipline	18	23	26	25	22	19	19	19	20	17	15	18	15	15	15	14	18	15	15	
Lack of financial support	17	14	10	9	14	12	13	13	18	22	21	13	11	13	15	12	9	18	15	
Fighting/violence/gangs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	13	18	9	14	12	15	11	11	10	
Use of drugs	11	9	14	18	30	32	34	38	22	22	16	11	7	16	14	10	8	9	9	
Standards/quality of education ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	4	—	8	6	2	5	—	
Large schools/overcrowding	—	10	7	5	8	6	8	7	9	9	8	7	3	8	8	8	8	12	10	
Lack of respect	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	2	—	2	2	2	—	
Lack of family structure/ problems of home life	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	
Crime/vandalism	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	3	—	2	5	5	—	
Getting good teachers	12	11	6	10	9	11	7	7	11	5	5	3	2	3	3	5	4	4	6	
Parents' lack of interest	3	2	6	3	6	7	6	4	7	5	4	3	2	—	—	2	4	4	—	
Poor curriculum/standards	6	5	11	11	8	11	8	8	10	9	9	3	2	3	—	1	2	2	—	
Pupils' lack of interest/truancy ..	—	3	5	5	6	5	3	6	5	3	4	3	2	5	6	5	2	—	—	
Integration/segregation/ racial discrimination	17	15	10	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Management of funds/programs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Moral standards	—	—	—	2	7	6	3	3	3	4	3	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	
Low teacher pay	—	—	—	2	5	4	4	6	4	3	3	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	
Teachers' lack of interest	—	—	6	4	5	3	4	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Drinking/alcoholism	—	—	2	3	6	5	4	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Lack of proper facilities	11	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

—Not available.

SOURCE: *Phi Delta Kappa*, "The Annual Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," various years. (This table was prepared January 2002.)