Strong Support for High Education Spending Across Group Lines

Question: ...[F]or each...[problem] I'd like you to tell me whether you think we're spending too much money on it, too little money, or about the right amount...education?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By Age</th>
<th>Too Much</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too Little</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-29 yrs. old</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39 yrs. old</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49 yrs. old</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59 yrs. old</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69 yrs. old</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 yrs. old+</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By Education</th>
<th>Too Much</th>
<th>About Right</th>
<th>Too Little</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than HS</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS Grad</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Grad</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Grad+</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And “Yes” Even to Higher Taxes If Education Benefits

Question: Would you be willing to pay more taxes, if the extra money were used to raise the salaries of school teachers?

1955
- No opinion: 10%
- No: 23%
- Yes: 67%

1958
- No opinion: 5%
- No: 29%
- Yes: 65%

1983
- Would not favor: 17%
- Would favor: 78%

1985
- No: 14%
- Yes: 80%

THE PUBLIC PERSPECTIVE, OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1995 27
**Education in America: How We See It**

But Look At the Marks We Give the Public Schools! Those Close to Home Look Better...But Not Good

**Question:** Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D, and FAIL to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools themselves...[in this community/in the nation as a whole] were graded in the same way. What grade would you give the public schools...?

![Graph showing percentage of grades given to public schools over time.]

A Wry View of Possible Remedy

"Now I'd like to discuss a new classroom policy..."

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Education in America: How We See It

It Wasn’t Always Thus. The Performance of Schools, Teachers, et al. Once Got Good Grades

1945

**Question:** In every community, the schools, the newspapers, the local government, each has a different job to do. Around here, would you say that the schools are doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job?

![Chart](chart)

- **Don't know:** 16%
- **Excellent/Good:** 60%
- **Fair:** 19%
- **Poor:** 5%

**NORC** October, 1945

1967

**Question:** Do you think the public schools generally do a good job or a poor job preparing children for their future?

![Chart](chart)

- **Good Job:** 71%
- **Poor Job:** 19%

**GALLUP** May 11-16, 1967

1948

**Question:** Do you think children today are being educated better or worse than you were?

![Chart](chart)

- **Better:** 62%
- **Worse:** 27%
- **Same:** 11%

**GALLUP** June 18-23, 1948

1946

**Question:** ...[D]o you think the teachers in the school where your child goes do their job well or poorly?

![Chart](chart)

- **Excellent:** 60%
- **Fair:** 29%
- **Poor:** 8%
- **No opinion:** 3%

**GALLUP** August 16-21, 1946

1954

**Question:** ...[W]hich [number] best tells me how you feel about...school teachers? [The highest position is +5--something you like very much; the lowest position is -5--something you dislike very much.]

![Rating Scale](rating)

- **+5 = Like very much**
- **-5 = Dislike very much**

**GALLUP** February 25-March 2, 1954
**Education in America: How We See It**

Over the 1970s, Assessments Worsened Markedly

1973

**Question:** As you look on your own elementary and high school education, is it your impression that children today get a better—or worse—education than you did?

- **1973:**
  - Better: 60%
  - Worse: 40%

- **1979:**
  - Better: 41%
  - Worse: 59%

- **1983:**
  - Better: 43%
  - Worse: 57%

- **1994:**
  - Better: 42%
  - Worse: 58%

**GALLUP** January 28-30, 1994

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**In Canada, the Downward Progression is the Same**

**Question:** Do you think children today are being educated better or worse than you were?

- **1948:**
  - Better: 77%
  - Same: 13%
  - Worse: 10%

**GALLUP** of Canada June 18-23, 1948

**Question:** ...[D]o you think children in public schools today are getting a better education than they would have 25 years ago, a worse education, or about the same education as they would have 25 years ago?

- **1986:**
  - Better: 42%
  - Same: 22%
  - Worse: 36%

**GALLUP** August, 1986

- **1993:**
  - Better: 30%
  - Same: 17%
  - Worse: 46%

**REID** January, 1993

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30 THE PUBLIC PERSPECTIVE, OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1995
People, Opinions, & Polls

*Education in America: How We See It*

**Why the Low Grades?:**

—We say that a series of problems involving discipline, violence, drug use, etc. are the schools’ biggest problems—

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**Look At This Progression**

**1954**

*Question:* Do you think discipline in the public schools in this community is too strict or not strict enough?

- No opinion: 18%
- Too strict: 33%
- About right: 43%

**GALLUP/PDK**

July 2-7, 1954

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**1970**

*Question:* How do you feel about discipline in the local public schools...is it too strict, not strict enough, or just about right?

- No opinion: 14%
- Too strict: 31%
- Not strict enough: 53%

**GALLUP**

April 15-20, 1970

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**1981**

*Question:* Do you think discipline in most high schools today is too strict, not strict enough, or is it about as strict as it needs to be?

- No opinion: 1%
- Too strict: 18%
- As strict as it needs to be: 80%

**ABC/WP**

September 14-20, 1981

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**1984**

*Question:* ...[Do you agree or disagree] There should be stronger discipline in the public schools?

- Disagree: 9%
- Agree: 92%

**AP/Media**

June 7-19, 1984

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