

Education in America: How We See It

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?

	Too Much	About Right	Too Little
By Age			
18-29 yrs. old	2%	18%	80%
30-39 yrs. old	2%	16%	81%
40-49 yrs. old	4%	20%	76%
50-59 yrs. old	7%	28%	65%
60-69 yrs. old	8%	32%	60%
70 yrs. old+	9%	33%	58%
By Education			
Less than HS	7%	25%	68%
HS Grad	5%	23%	72%
Some College	3%	21%	77%
College Grad	4%	21%	75%
College Grad+	4%	17%	79%

	Too Much	About Right	Too Little
By Race			
White	5%	23%	72%
Black	2%	18%	80%
By Income			
Less than \$15,000	5%	22%	73%
\$15,000-\$30,000	3%	19%	78%
\$30,000-\$50,000	5%	20%	75%
\$50,000+	2%	25%	73%
By Family Status			
No children under 17 yrs. of age	6%	25%	69%
Children under 17 yrs. of age	2%	19%	79%

NORC GSS

1994

And "Yes" Even to Higher Taxes If Education Benefits

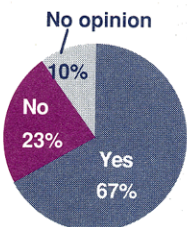
Question: Would you be willing to pay more taxes, if the extra money were used to raise the salaries of school teachers?

Question: Would you be willing to have your income taxes raised...to help build schools and increase teachers' salaries?

Question: Would you favor placing more emphasis on...[things involving public schools in the community]... even if it meant you would have to pay higher taxes?

Question: Would you be willing to pay higher taxes to improve the education in your community?

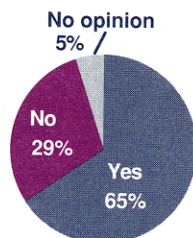
1955



GALLUP

September 15-20

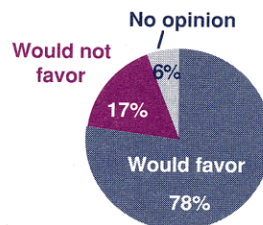
1958



GALLUP

January 2-7

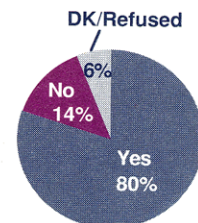
1983



CBS/NYT

February 7-12

1985



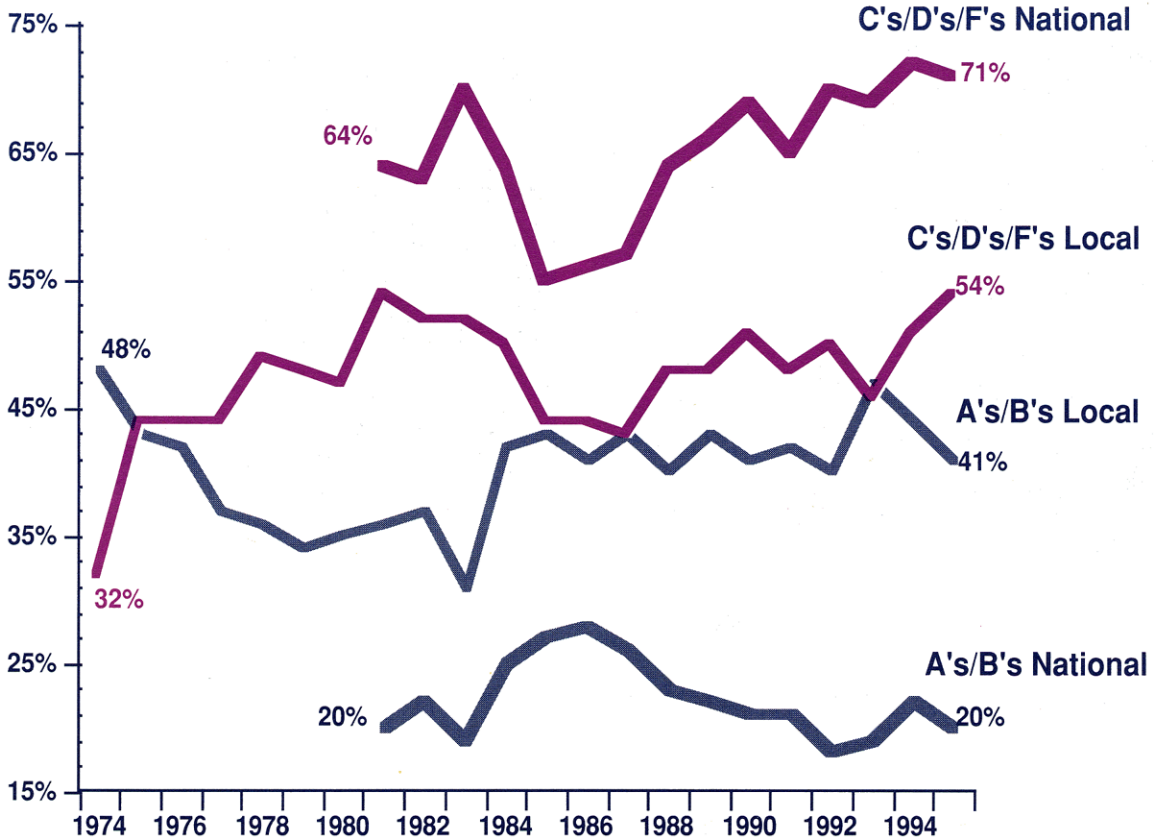
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April 25

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...?



GALLUP/PDK 1995

A Wry View of Possible Remedy



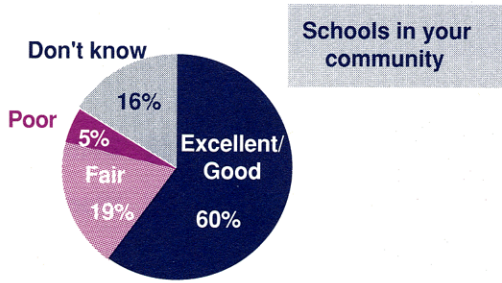
"Now I'd like to discuss a new classroom policy . . ."
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Education in America: How We See It

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

1945

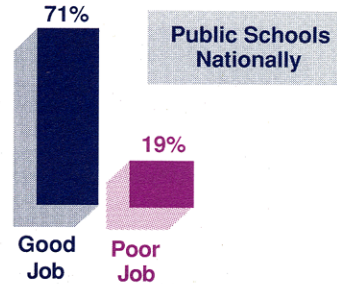
Question: In every community, the schools, the newspapers, the local government, each has a different job to do. Around here, would you say that the schools are doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job?



NORC October, 1945

1967

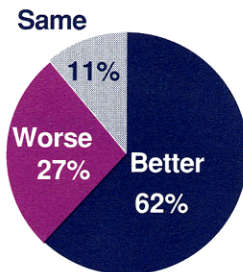
Question: Do you think the public schools generally do a good job or a poor job preparing children for their future?



GALLUP May 11-16, 1967

1948

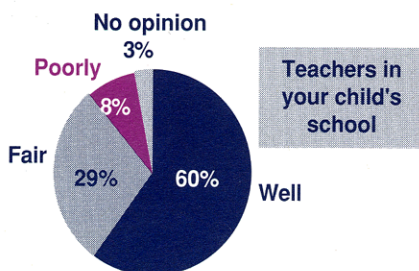
Question: Do you think children today are being educated better or worse than you were?



GALLUP June 18-23, 1948

1946

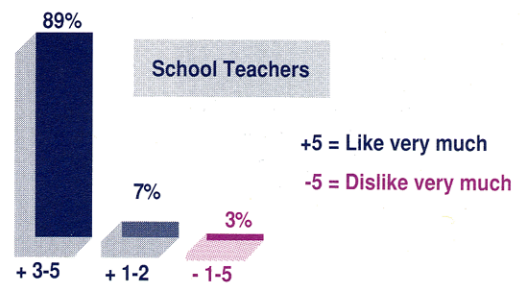
Question: ...[D]o you think the teachers in the school where your child goes do their job well or poorly?



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.]



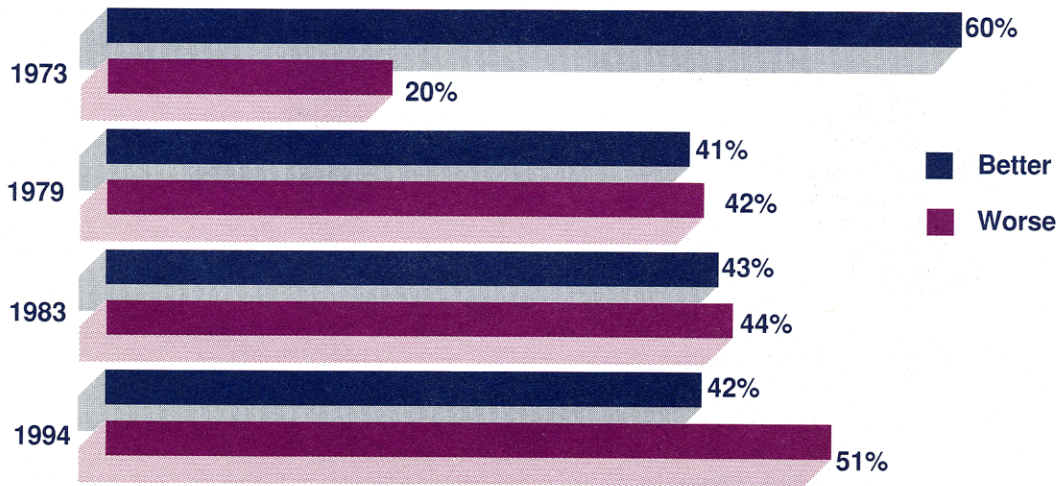
GALLUP February 25-March 2, 1954

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?



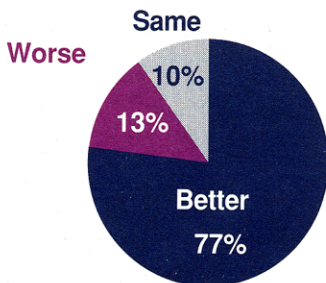
GALLUP January 28-30, 1994

In Canada, the Downward Progression is the Same

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

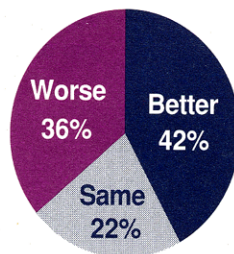
Question: ...[D]o you think children in public schools today are getting a better education than they would have 25 years ago, a worse education, or about the same education as they would have 25 years ago?

1948



GALLUP June 18-23, 1948
of Canada

1986



August, 1986

1993



REID January, 1993

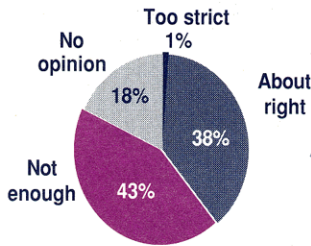
Education in America: How We See It

Why the Low Grades?:

Look At This Progression

1954

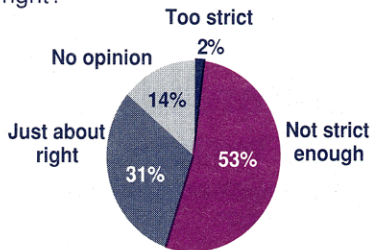
Question: Do you think discipline in the public schools in this community is too strict or not strict enough?



GALLUP July 2-7, 1954

1970

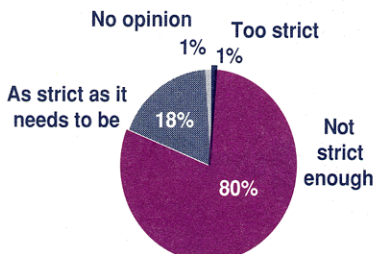
Question: How do you feel about discipline in the local public schools...Is it too strict, not strict enough, or just about right?



GALLUP April 15-20, 1970

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?



ABC/WP September 14-20, 1981

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

GALLUP/PDK

—**Question:** What do you think are the biggest problems with which the public schools in this community must deal?

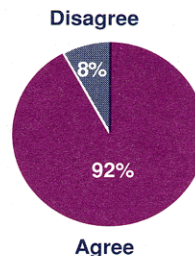
Percentage of all mentions of a problem

	Discipline	Standards	Financial Matters	All Other Responses
1995				
Everyone	52%	9%	23%	16%
Public school parents	49%	8%	31%	12%
Non-Public school parents	64%	8%	9%	20%
1987				
Everyone	48%	6%	26%	20%
Public school parents	41%	7%	29%	22%
Non-Public school parents	43%	5%	24%	28%

Note: For 1995, "discipline" includes "lack of discipline," "fighting/violence/gangs," "drug abuse," "lack of respect," and "crime/vandalism." For 1987, "discipline" includes "use of drugs," "lack of discipline," "moral standards," "drinking/alcoholism," "lack of respect for teachers/other students," and "fighting."

1984

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



AP/Media

June 7-19, 1984