

**Table 23.—Items most frequently cited by the general public as a major problem facing the local public schools: 1970 to 1999**

| Problems  | Percent |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|---|---------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|   | 1970    | 1975 | 1980 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| 1   | 2       | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6    | 7    | 8    | 9    | 10   | 11   | 12   | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16   | 17   | 18   | 19   |
| Lack of discipline .....                                | 18      | 23   | 26   | 25   | 24   | 22   | 19   | 19   | 19   | 20   | 17   | 15   | 18   | 15   | 15   | 15   | 14   | 18   |
| Lack of financial support ..                            | 17      | 14   | 10   | 9    | 11   | 14   | 12   | 13   | 13   | 18   | 22   | 21   | 13   | 11   | 13   | 15   | 12   | 9    |
| Fighting/violence/gangs ....                            | —       | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | 9    | 13   | 18   | 9    | 14   | 12   | 15   | 11   |
| Use of drugs .....                                      | 11      | 9    | 14   | 18   | 28   | 30   | 32   | 34   | 38   | 22   | 22   | 16   | 11   | 7    | 16   | 14   | 10   | 8    |
| Standards/quality of<br>education .....                 | —       | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | 8    | 4    | —    | 8    | 6    | 2    |
| Large schools/over-<br>crowding .....                   | —       | 10   | 7    | 5    | 5    | 8    | 6    | 8    | 7    | 9    | 9    | 8    | 7    | 3    | 8    | 8    | 8    | 8    |
| Lack of respect .....                                   | —       | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | 3    | 3    | 2    | —    | 2    | 2    |
| Lack of family structure/<br>problems of home life ..   | —       | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | 5    | 3    | 4    | —    | —    | —    |
| Crime/vandalism .....                                   | —       | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | 4    | 2    | 3    | —    | 2    | 5    |
| Getting good teachers .....                             | 12      | 11   | 6    | 10   | 6    | 9    | 11   | 7    | 7    | 11   | 5    | 5    | 3    | 2    | 3    | 3    | 5    | 4    |
| Parents' lack of interest ...                           | 3       | 2    | 6    | 3    | 4    | 6    | 7    | 6    | 4    | 7    | 5    | 4    | 3    | 2    | —    | —    | 2    | 4    |
| Poor curriculum/standards                               | 6       | 5    | 11   | 11   | 8    | 8    | 11   | 8    | 8    | 10   | 9    | 9    | 3    | 2    | 3    | —    | 1    | 2    |
| Pupils' lack of interest/<br>truancy .....              | —       | 3    | 5    | 5    | 3    | 6    | 5    | 3    | 6    | 5    | 3    | 4    | 3    | 2    | 5    | 6    | 5    | 2    |
| Integration/segregation/<br>racial discrimination ..... | 17      | 15   | 10   | 4    | 3    | 4    | 4    | 4    | 5    | 5    | 4    | 4    | 3    | 2    | 2    | —    | —    | —    |
| Management of funds/<br>programs .....                  | —       | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | 2    | —    | —    | —    | —    |
| Moral standards .....                                   | —       | —    | —    | 2    | 5    | 7    | 6    | 3    | 3    | 3    | 4    | 3    | —    | —    | —    | —    | 2    | 2    |
| Low teacher pay .....                                   | —       | —    | —    | 2    | 3    | 5    | 4    | 4    | 6    | 4    | 3    | 3    | —    | —    | —    | —    | 2    | 2    |
| Teachers' lack of interest                              | —       | —    | 6    | 4    | 4    | 5    | 3    | 4    | 4    | 2    | 2    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    |
| Drinking/alcoholism .....                               | —       | —    | 2    | 3    | 5    | 6    | 5    | 4    | 4    | 2    | 2    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    |
| Lack of proper facilities ....                          | 11      | 3    | 2    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 1    | 1    | 2    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    |

—Not available.

NOTE: Data for management of funds/programs for 1994 had less than .05 percent.

SOURCE: *Phi Delta Kappa*, "The Annual Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," various years. (This table was prepared September 1999.)