

**Table 23. Items most frequently cited by the general public as a major problem facing the local public schools: Selected years, 1970 to 2003**

Problem	Percent																		
	1970	1975	1980	1985	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
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	19	19	20	17	15	18	15	15	15	14	18	15	15	17	16
Lack of financial support .....	17	14	10	9	13	13	18	22	21	13	11	13	15	12	9	18	15	23	25
Fighting/violence/gangs .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	13	18	9	14	12	15	11	11	10	9	4
Use of drugs .....	11	9	14	18	34	38	22	22	16	11	7	16	14	10	8	9	9	13	9
Standards/quality of education ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	4	—	8	6	2	5	—	—	4
Large schools/overcrowding .....	—	10	7	5	8	7	9	9	8	7	3	8	8	8	8	12	10	17	14
Lack of respect .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	2	—	2	2	2	—	—	—
Lack of family structure/prob- lems of home life .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Crime/vandalism .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	3	—	2	5	5	—	—	—
Getting good teachers .....	12	11	6	10	7	7	11	5	5	3	2	3	3	5	4	4	6	8	5
Parents' lack of interest .....	3	2	6	3	6	4	7	5	4	3	2	—	—	2	4	4	—	—	—
Poor curriculum/standards .....	6	5	11	11	8	8	10	9	9	3	2	3	—	1	2	2	—	—	—
Pupils' lack of interest/truancy ..	—	3	5	5	3	6	5	3	4	3	2	5	6	5	2	—	—	—	—
Integration/segregation/racial discrimination. ....	17	15	10	4	4	5	5	4	4	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Management of funds/programs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Moral standards .....	—	—	—	2	3	3	3	4	3	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
Low teacher pay .....	—	—	—	2	4	6	4	3	3	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	—	4
Teachers' lack of interest .....	—	—	6	4	4	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drinking/alcoholism .....	—	—	2	3	4	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lack of proper facilities .....	11	3	2	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

—Not available.

NOTE: Respondents were permitted to select multiple or no major problems.

SOURCE: Phi Delta Kappa, *Phi Delta Kappan* "The Annual Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," selected years 1970–2003. (This table was prepared August 2003.)