

**Table 24.—Public opinion on selected education topics: 1997, 2000, 2001, and 2002**

| Question   | Percent distribution |      |      |      |                       |      |      |      |                       |      |      |      |     |
|--|----------------------|------|------|------|-----------------------|------|------|------|-----------------------|------|------|------|-----|
|  | National totals      |      |      |      | No children in school |      |      |      | Public school parents |      |      |      |     |
|  | 1997                 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 1997                  | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 1997                  | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 |     |
| 1  | 2                    | 3    | 4    | 5    | 6                     | 7    | 8    | 9    | 10                    | 11   | 12   | 13   |     |
| In your opinion, is there too much emphasis on achievement testing in the public schools in this community, not enough emphasis on testing, or about the right amount?   |                      |      |      |      |                       |      |      |      |                       |      |      |      |     |
| Percent responding .....   | 100                  | 100  | 100  | 100  | 100                   | 100  | 100  | 100  | 100                   | 100  | 100  | 100  | 100 |
| Too much emphasis .....  | 20                   | 30   | 31   | 31   | 20                    | 28   | 29   | 30   | 19                    | 34   | 36   | 32   |     |
| Not enough emphasis .....  | 28                   | 23   | 22   | 19   | 28                    | 26   | 22   | 20   | 26                    | 19   | 20   | 14   |     |
| Just the right amount of emphasis .....  | 48                   | 43   | 44   | 47   | 46                    | 41   | 45   | 46   | 54                    | 46   | 43   | 54   |     |
| Don't know .....   | 4                    | 4    | 3    | 3    | 6                     | 5    | 4    | 4    | 1                     | 1    | 1    | —    |     |
| A proposal has been made that would allow parents to send their school-age children to any public, private, or church-related school they choose. For those parents choosing non-public schools, the government would pay all or part of the tuition. Would you favor or oppose this proposal in your state? |                      |      |      |      |                       |      |      |      |                       |      |      |      |     |
| Percent responding .....   | 100                  | 100  | 100  | 100  | 100                   | 100  | 100  | 100  | 100                   | 100  | 100  | 100  | 100 |
| Favor .....  | 49                   | 45   | 44   | 52   | —                     | —    | —    | 51   | 55                    | 47   | 52   | 51   |     |
| Oppose .....   | 48                   | 52   | 54   | 46   | —                     | —    | —    | 47   | 43                    | 51   | 47   | 46   |     |
| Don't know .....   | 3                    | 3    | 2    | 2    | —                     | —    | —    | 2    | 2                     | 2    | 1    | 3    |     |

—Not available.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

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