

Table 23.—Items most frequently cited by the general public as a major problem facing the local public schools: 1970 to 1998

Problems	Percent																	
	1970	1975	1980	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
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	27	25	24	22	19	19	19	20	17	15	18	15	15	15	14
Lack of financial support	17	14	10	14	9	11	14	12	13	13	18	22	21	13	11	13	15	12
Fighting/violence/gangs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	13	18	9	14	12	15
Use of drugs	11	9	14	18	18	28	30	32	34	38	22	22	16	11	7	16	14	10
Standards/quality of education	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	4	—	8	6
Large schools/overcrowding	—	10	7	4	5	5	8	6	8	7	9	9	8	7	3	8	8	8
Lack of respect	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	2	—	—
Lack of family structure/problems of home life	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	4	—	—
Crime/vandalism	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	3	—	—
Getting good teachers	12	11	6	14	10	6	9	11	7	7	11	5	5	3	2	3	3	5
Parents' lack of interest	3	2	6	5	3	4	6	7	6	4	7	5	4	3	2	—	—	—
Poor curriculum/standards	6	5	11	15	11	8	8	11	8	8	10	9	9	3	2	3	—	—
Pupils' lack of interest/truancy	—	3	5	4	5	3	6	5	3	6	5	3	4	3	2	5	6	5
Integration/segregation/racial discrimination	17	15	10	6	4	3	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	3	2	2	—	—
Management of funds/programs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(¹)	2	—	—	—
Moral standards	—	—	—	1	2	5	7	6	3	3	3	4	3	—	—	—	—	—
Low teacher pay	—	—	—	4	2	3	5	4	4	6	4	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers' lack of interest	—	—	6	5	4	4	5	3	4	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drinking/alcoholism	—	—	2	4	3	5	6	5	4	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lack of proper facilities	11	3	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

¹ Less than .05 percent.
—Data not available.

SOURCE: "The Annual Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools," *Phi Delta Kappan*, various years. (This table was prepared September 1998.)