

Education in America: How We See It Solutions?

—One Response to Lack of Discipline—

Spanking—Has Lost Favor

1958

1964

Question: Some teachers say they should have the right to punish students in grade school by paddling them. Do you think they should be allowed to do this, or not?

Question: [Do you agree or disagree]...Teachers should be allowed to paddle children who do not behave in school?



GALLUP December 3-8, 1958

NORC October, 1964

1983

1994

Question: As a way of maintaining proper discipline in public schools in your community, do you favor or oppose allowing teachers to physically punish elementary school students—for example spanking?

Question: ...[D]o you approve or disapprove of the use of spanking as a form of punishment in the public schools?



NYT February 7-12, 1983

PSRA April 7-8, 1994

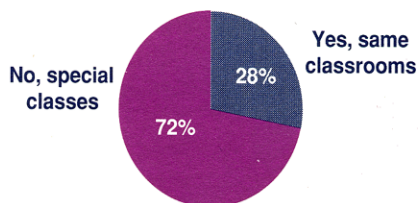
Solutions: "Standards" Reforms Are Endorsed

Growing Support for National Testing

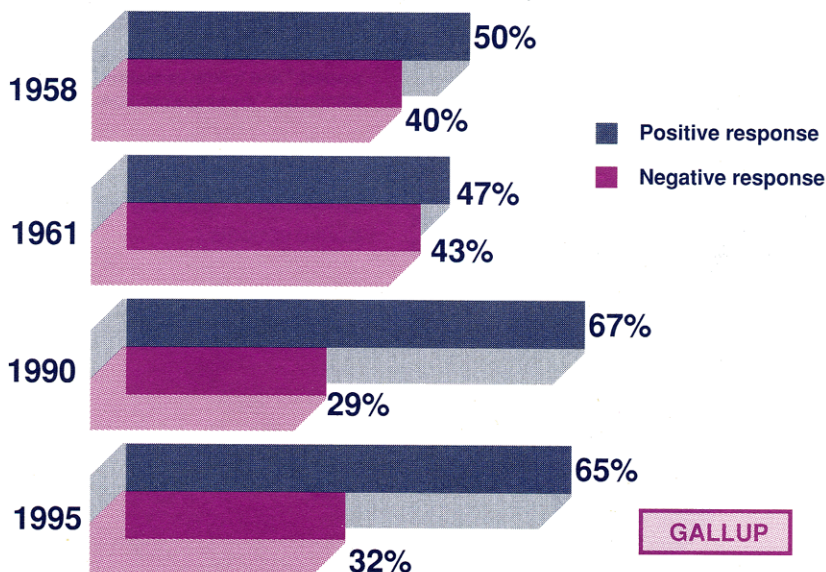
Question: Should all high school students in the U.S. be required to pass a standard nationwide examination in order to get a high school diploma?*

A Strong No To "Mainstreaming"

Question: ...[S]hould children with learning problems be put in the same classes with other students, or should they be put in special classes of their own?



GALLUP/PDK
1995



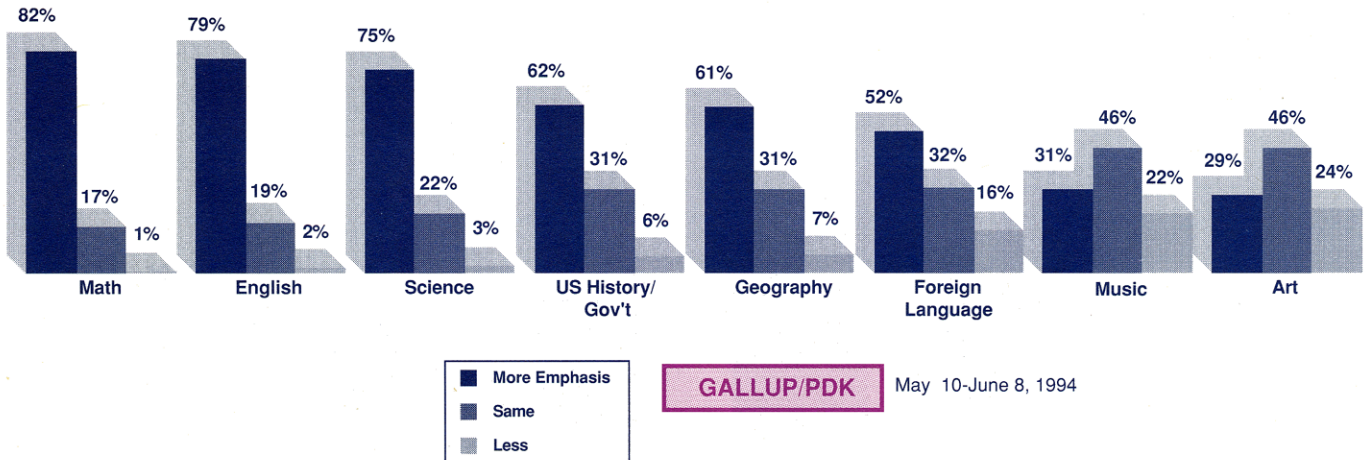
*Note: Question wording varies slightly in 1990 and 1995. The 1990 and 1995 survey was done for Phi Delta Kappa.

Education in America: How We See It Solutions: Stress the "Basics"

1994

Question: ...[Do you]think...[the subject listed] should be given more emphasis, less emphasis, or the same emphasis it now receives in high school, regardless of whether or not you think it should be required?

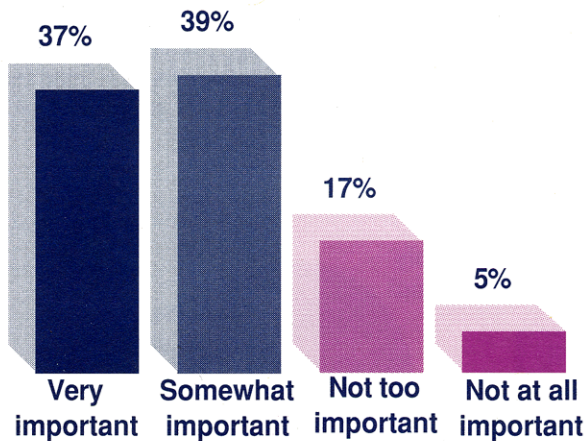
% responding "more emphasis"



—Yes, And More Homework Isn't a Bad Idea—

1986

Question: To improve the quality of education in American schools, how important is it for schools to...increase homework...?

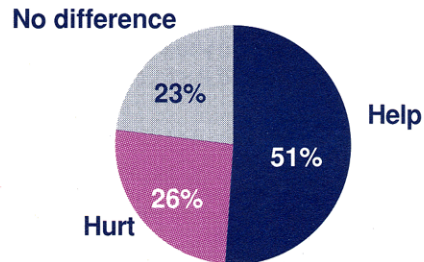


HARRIS

July 29-August 7, 1986

1990

Question: Would...[more homework] help or hurt the education of students, or wouldn't it make much difference?



CBS

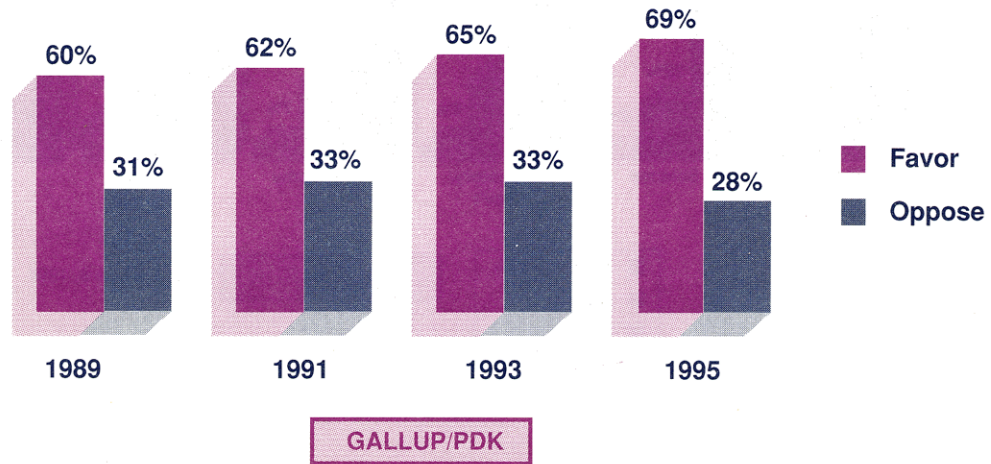
May 30-June 2, 1990

Education in America: How We See It

Solutions: More Parental Choice

If "Which Public School?," Strong Support for Parental Choice

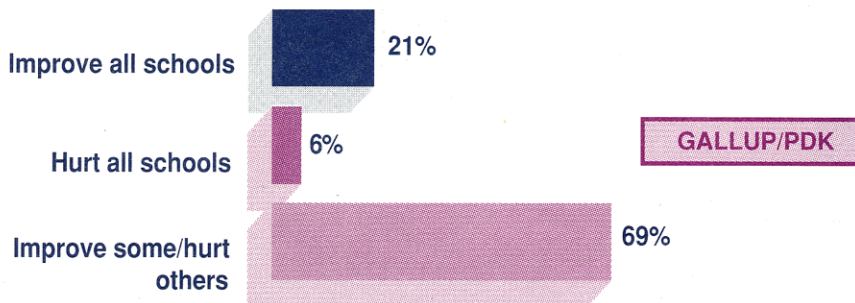
Question: Do you favor or oppose allowing students and their parents to choose which public schools in this community the students attend, regardless of where they live?



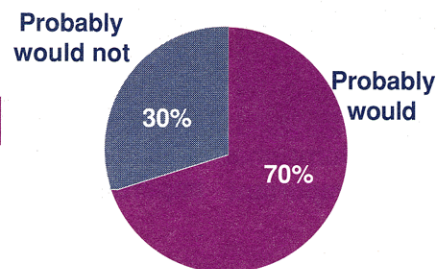
But Even Here, A Downside is Recognized

Question: What effect do you think allowing students and their parents to choose the students' schools would have on the public schools of this community? Do you think it would improve all schools, hurt all schools, or would it improve some and hurt others?

Question: [If parents were given a choice between several different public schools for their child]...[Do you think]...it probably would happen, or probably would not happen [that] some schools would be unpopular and children going there would lose out?



May 21-June 9, 1993



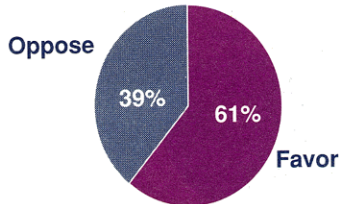
May-June 1987

Education in America: How We See It

On the Question of Public Tax Money for Private Schools, A Very Different Response

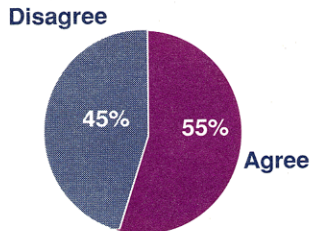
Conflicted Values—So, How It's Asked Shapes the Answers

Question: Would you favor or oppose giving parents education tax credits or vouchers to pay for their children's tuition at the public or private school of their choice?



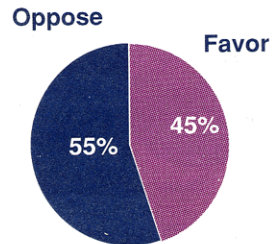
NBC/WSJ May 10-14, 1991

Question: ...[Do you agree or disagree]...Parents should be given government-funded school vouchers so they can send their children to the public, private, or religious school of their choice?



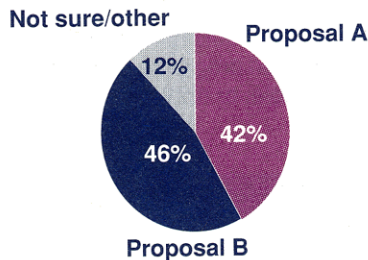
September 1993
Family Research Council

Question: ...[Do you]...strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose... vouchers or government financial aid to help parents pay the costs of sending a child to a church-run or other private school?



PSRA August 26-September 1, 1994

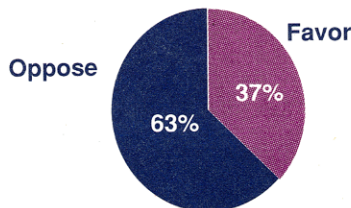
Question: Two proposals have been made for allowing parents more choice in deciding what schools their children attend....which one...[do] you prefer...?



Proposal A would provide tax vouchers to elementary and high school students which they could use to pay for attending the public, parochial or private school of their choice. Proposal B would allow parents to choose among different public schools, but would not provide vouchers for use in parochial or private schools?

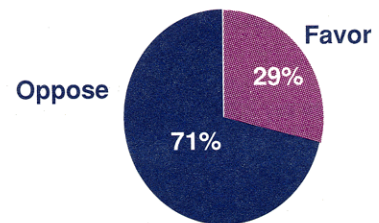
LAT October 2-5, 1992

Question: ...[Do you]...strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose...Giving government vouchers to parents who send their children to private schools?



NBC/WSJ July 23-26, 1994

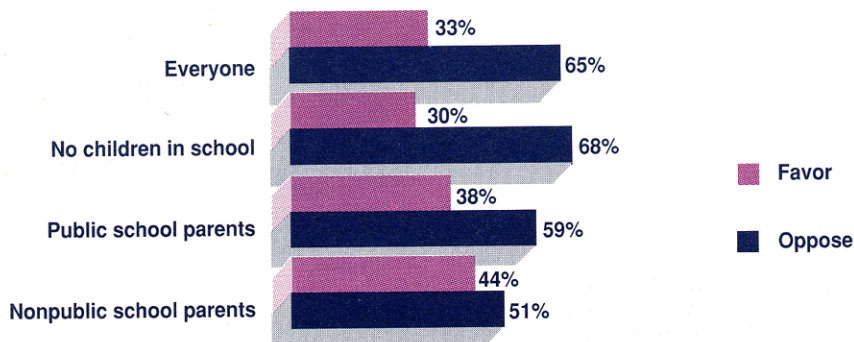
Question: Do you favor or oppose using public education money to give parents a choice of sending their children to private and religious schools?



Y/C/S May 8, 1991

Even Private School Parents Say No

Question: Do you favor or oppose allowing students and parents to choose a private school to attend at public expense?



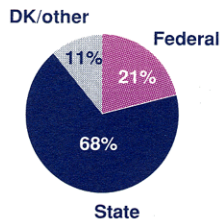
GALLUP/PDK
1995

Education in America: How We See It

A Long-Standing Commitment to State/Local Control...

1943

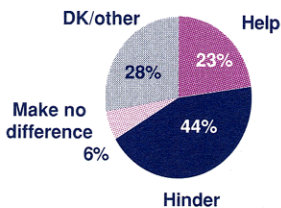
Question: Do you think that public school systems should be mostly controlled by the federal government...or...each state government?



NORC November, 1943

1978

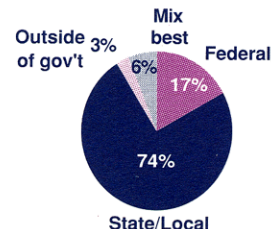
Question: Some people worry that the state and federal government are adopting regulations regarding educational matters which don't take account of the local school situation. Do you think these actions...are more likely to help...or hinder public school education?



GALLUP April 27-May 1, 1978

1981

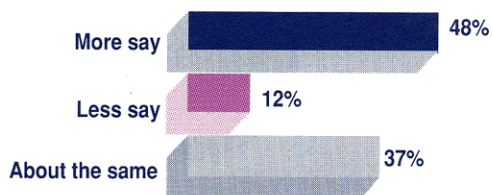
Question: ...[Do you think elementary and high school education]...is best provided by the federal...state...or local government or should mostly be provided outside government?



ROPER/STARCH November 14-21, 1981

...That's Perhaps Even Stronger Today

Question: ...[S]hould your state have more say in the way money from federal education programs is spent in your state, less say, or about the same as now?



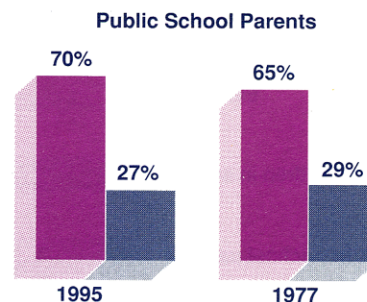
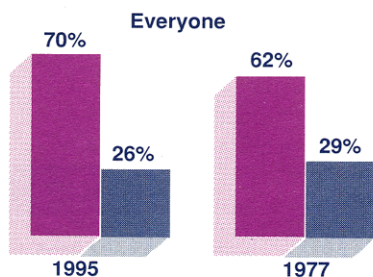
Question: ...Do you think your state should have more say in the way money from federal education programs is spent, if it means less money would be available, or not?



GALLUP/PDK 1995

Question: .When the federal government appropriates money for educational programs, it usually requires the schools that receive this money to spend it as the federal government directs. Should or should not this be changed to permit local school authorities to decide how the money is to be spent?

- Yes, should be changed
- No, should not be changed



GALLUP/PDK