

**THE NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO/ KAISER FAMIL FOUNDATION/  
KENNEDY SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SURVEY**

National Topline

Methodology:

The NPR/Kaiser/Kennedy School Poll is an ongoing project of National Public Radio, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Representatives of the three sponsors worked together to develop the survey questionnaire and to analyze the results, with NPR maintaining sole editorial control over its broadcasts on the surveys. The project team includes: from NPR: Marcus D. Rosenbaum, Special Projects Editor; from the Kaiser Family Foundation: Mollyann Brodie, Vice President, Director of Public Opinion and Media Research; and Ana Maria Arumi, Research Associate; from the Kennedy School: Robert J. Blendon, a Harvard University Professor who holds joint appointments in the School of Public Health and the Kennedy School of Government; and John Benson, Deputy Director for Public Opinion and Health/Social Policy at the Harvard School of Public Health. For more information on these findings and to hear the NPR stories, visit NPR ([www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)) or the Kaiser Family Foundation ([www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org)).

The results of this survey are based on nationwide telephone interviews administered by ICR/International Communications Research, between June 25 and July 19, 1999, with 1,422 adults, 18 years or older (570 were parents and 852 were non-parents). In this survey, parents are defined as adults who have children in grades K-12. Non-parents are defined as adults who either do not have children or whose children are not in grades K-12. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on subsets of respondents the margin of error is higher.

Note: VOL means response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice. Some questions were asked of random split-halves of the respondents. An \* indicates values of less than one percent.

## EDUCATION AS A PROBLEM

1. What do you think are the two most important problems facing the country?

	Total	Parents	Non-parents
Abortion	*	1	*
AIDS	1	1	1
Campaign finance	*	-	1
Clinton/ Lewinsky scandal	4	3	5
Crime/violence	26	30	25
Defense	1	2	1
Domestic/social issues (non-specific)	2	2	3
Drugs	13	15	12
The economy (non-specific)	5	5	5
Education	14	13	14
Employment/jobs	5	6	4
Environment	3	2	3
Ethics in government	12	12	12
Family values (decline of)	11	13	10
Federal deficit/budget	3	3	4
Foreign policy (non-specific)	2	2	2
Gun control	6	7	6
Health care (not Medicare)	6	5	6
Homelessness	4	6	3
Human/civil/women's rights	1	1	1
Immigration	1	1	1
Issues involving children	4	4	4
Kosovo/Bosnia/ Serbia/Yugoslavia	2	1	2
Media	*	*	*
Medicare	3	1	3
Middle East/Iraq/Saddam Hussein	*	*	*
Morality/sex on TV	9	7	9
National security	*		*
Overpopulation	*	*	*
Peace/world peace/nuclear arms	5	6	5
(Programs for) the poor/poverty	7	10	6
Other programs for the elderly	1	*	1
Race relations	5	6	5
Religion (decline of)	5	5	5
Social Security	3	1	4
Taxes	4	3	4
Teen pregnancy/sex	1	1	1
Terrorism	*	*	*
Welfare	1	2	1
World hunger	2	4	1
Y2K	*	*	1
Other	2	1	3
Don't know	6	4	6

## A. SCREEN FOR PARENTS

Now I am going to ask you some questions about education issues in your community and in the United States

3. During the past school year, that just ended, did you have any children in grades kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Total	32	68	-
Parents	100	-	-
Non-parents	-	100	-

- 3a. ( If yes to Question 3) During the school year that just ended, what grades were your children in?

	Total	Parents
Kindergarten-5 <sup>th</sup> grade	20	62
6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	12	38
9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	11	35
Don't know	*	*
No school-age children	68	NA

- 4a. ( If yes to Question 3) During the school year that just ended, did you have any children in public school, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	No school-age children
Total	27	5	-	68
Parents	84	16	-	NA

- 4b. ( If yes to Question 3) How about a religious or parochial school?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	No school-age children
Total	4	28	-	68
Parents	13	87	-	NA

- 4c. ( If yes to Question 3) How about a non-religious private school?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	No school-age children
Total	2	30	-	68
Parents	5	95	-	NA

4d. ( If yes to Question 3) During the school year that just ended, did you have any children who were schooled at home rather than at a school?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	No school-age children
Total	1	31	-	68
Parents	4	96	-	NA

5. (Asked of those with school-age children in different types of school) What kind of school does your oldest school-age child attend?

	Public	Religious/parochial	Non-religious private	Home schooling	Did not name	No school-age children
Total	27	3	1	1	1	68
Parents	83	10	3	2	2	NA

6. During the past five years have you had any children in grades kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Have school-age children
Total	6	62	-	32
Non-parents	8	92	-	NA

6a. (Asked of parents with children in grades K-12 during the past five years) Did any of these children attend...

TOTAL:

	Yes	No	No school-age children now or in past 5 years	Parents with school-age children now
Public school	6	*	62	32
Religious/ parochial school	1	5	62	32
Non-religious private school	*	6	62	32

NON-PARENTS:

	Yes	No	No school-age children now or in past 5 years	Parents with school-age children now
Public school	8	1	92	NA
Religious/ parochial school	1	7	92	NA
Non-religious private school	1	8	92	NA

6b. (Asked of parents with children in grades K-12 during the past five years) Were any of these children schooled at home rather than at school?

	Yes	No	No school-age children now or in past 5 years	Parents with school-age children now
Total	*	6	62	32
Non-parents	*	8	92	NA

### C. RATINGS OF SCHOOLS

7. Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D, or FAIL to denote the quality of their work. Suppose the public schools themselves, in your community, were graded in the same way. What grade would you give your community's public schools --A, B, C, D, or FAIL?

	A	B	C	D	Fail	Don't Know
Total	12	40	28	8	5	6
Parents	17	43	27	7	4	2
Non-parents	10	39	29	9	5	8

8. How about the public schools in the nation as a whole? What grade would you give the public schools nationally--A, B, C, D, or FAIL?

	A	B	C	D	Fail	Don't Know
Total	2	21	51	14	4	8
Parents	3	21	51	13	5	8
Non-parents	2	21	50	15	4	7

9. Is the grade you give to the public schools in the nation as a whole based mainly on your own experience, on what you've learned from friends and family, or on what you've seen and heard on television or radio, in newspapers, or other things you have read?

	Own experience	Friends and family	Seen/heard in media	Don't Know
Total	26	13	53	7
Parents	31	12	51	6
Non-parents	24	14	54	8

10. (Asked of parents of school age-children) Using the A, B, C, D, or FAIL scale again, what grade would you give the school your oldest child attends? (If necessary, the oldest child in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

	A	B	C	D	Fail	Don't Know
Parents	29	42	22	3	3	1

11. Blank Question

12. (Asked of parents of school-age children) What grade would you give your oldest child's teachers--A, B, C, D, or FAIL?

	A	B	C	D	Fail	Don't Know
Parents	37	39	17	4	2	1

13. Do you think most well-to-do people in your community send their children to public schools, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Total	63	34	4
Parents	66	31	3
Non-parents	61	34	4

#### D. PARTICIPATION

14. (Asked of parents of school-age children) How often do you help your children do homework assignments --nearly every day, once or twice a week, or less often than that?

	Nearly every day	Once/twice a week	Less often than that	Don't know
Parents	59	27	13	1

15. (Asked of parents of school-age children) How often do you meet with your children's teachers--once a month, a few times a year, or only rarely?

	Once a month	A few times a year	Only rarely	Never (vol.)	Don't Know
Parents	35	50	12	1	1

16. (Asked of parents of school-age children) Do you feel your oldest child's teachers have a good understanding of your child's academic abilities and weaknesses, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Parents	83	16	1

17. (Asked of parents of school-age children) How about your child's overall development and happiness? Do you feel your oldest child's teachers have a good understanding, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Parents	78	20	1

- 18a. (Asked of half sample of parents of school-age children) How much influence do you think you have over your children's education – a great deal, quite a lot, some, or not much at all?

	Great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Not much	Don't know
Parents	54	24	15	6	-

18b. (Asked of half sample of parents of school-age children) When you participated in school events, did you feel teachers and school officials encouraged you to do so, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Parents	82	18	1

#### E. WHAT IS WRONG WITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

19A. (Asked of half sample) Now I am going to read you a list of problems schools might face. For each one, please tell me how big a problem you think it is — a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem for the public schools in your community. How about...(Read items)?

#### TOTAL:

	Major	Minor	Not a problem	Don't know
a. Students who are undisciplined and disruptive	50	38	11	2
b. Lack of adequate academic standards	32	40	25	3
c. Overcrowded classrooms	47	31	19	2
d. Discrimination against children because of race or gender	18	43	35	3
e. Public school facilities that are unsafe or unhealthy	21	39	37	2
f. Lack of computers and technology	24	40	32	4
g. Violence and lack of school safety	35	43	21	1
h. Lack of parental involvement	55	27	16	2
i. Poor quality teachers	26	46	26	2
j. Student use of alcohol or illegal drugs	51	37	8	3
k. Poor school administration	27	44	25	4
l. Inequality in funding among school districts	34	37	23	7

PARENTS:

	Major	Minor	Not a Problem	Don't know
a. Students who are undisciplined and disruptive	40	43	17	*
b. Lack of adequate academic standards	27	39	32	1
c. Overcrowded classrooms	44	32	24	1
d. Discrimination against children because of race or gender	18	40	40	3
e. Public school facilities that are unsafe or unhealthy	18	37	45	1
f. Lack of computers and technology	24	39	36	1
g. Violence and lack of school safety	31	39	30	*
h. Lack of parental involvement	43	31	23	2
i. Poor quality teachers	21	46	32	1
j. Student use of alcohol or illegal drugs	44	34	19	3
k. Poor school administration	23	42	33	2
l. Inequality in funding among school districts	36	37	22	5

NON-PARENTS:

	Major	Minor	Not a problem	Don't know
a. Students who are undisciplined and disruptive	54	36	8	3
b. Lack of adequate academic standards	33	41	23	4
c. Overcrowded classrooms	49	31	17	3
d. Discrimination against children because of race or gender	18	45	34	3
e. Public school facilities that are unsafe or unhealthy	23	39	35	3
f. Lack of computers and technology	24	39	32	5
g. Violence and lack of school safety	37	45	17	2
h. Lack of parental involvement	60	25	13	2
i. Poor quality teachers	29	46	23	3
j. Student use of alcohol or illegal drugs	54	39	3	3
k. Poor school administration	30	43	22	5
l. Inequality in funding among school districts	32	37	23	8



19A/ 20A. Of the problems you cited, which one is the BIGGEST problem facing schools in your community?

	Total	Parents	Non-Parents
a. Students who are undisciplined and disruptive	11	8	13
b. Lack of adequate academic standards	3	3	3
c. Overcrowded classrooms	7	9	6
d. Discrimination against children because of race or gender	3	3	3
e. Public school facilities that are unsafe or unhealthy	*	1	*
f. Lack of computers and technology	2	2	2
g. Violence and lack of school safety	6	8	5
h. Lack of parental involvement	22	16	24
i. Poor quality teachers	4	4	3
j. Student use of alcohol or illegal drugs	15	12	16
k. Poor school administration	4	4	4
l. Inequality in funding among school districts	8	10	7
m. No major problems	13	18	10
n. Don't Know	2	1	2

19B. (Asked of half sample) Now I am going to read you a list of problems schools might face. For each one, please tell me how big a problem you think it is — a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem for the public schools in the nation as a whole. How about ...(Read Items)?

TOTAL:

	Major	Minor	Not a problem	Don't know
a. Students who are undisciplined and disruptive	73	23	3	2
b. Lack of adequate academic standards	50	37	11	2
c. Overcrowded classrooms	61	29	8	2
d. Discrimination against children because of race or gender	33	45	20	2
e. Public school facilities that are unsafe or unhealthy	37	44	16	3
f. Lack of computers and technology	30	48	19	2
g. Violence and lack of school safety	64	29	6	1
h. Lack of parental involvement	78	16	5	1
i. Poor quality teachers	34	48	15	3
j. Student use of alcohol or illegal drugs	69	24	5	2
k. Poor school administration	42	42	13	4
l. Inequality in funding among school districts	51	33	10	6

PARENTS:

	Major	Minor	Not a problem	Don't know
a. Students who are undisciplined and disruptive	71	24	5	1
b. Lack of adequate academic standards	46	40	12	1
c. Overcrowded classrooms	64	28	7	1
d. Discrimination against children because of race or gender	33	44	22	2
e. Public school facilities that are unsafe or unhealthy	36	43	18	2
f. Lack of computers and technology	32	47	19	1
g. Violence and lack of school safety	63	26	10	1
h. Lack of parental involvement	68	23	7	2
i. Poor quality teachers	33	51	15	1
j. Student use of alcohol or illegal drugs	62	27	9	2
k. Poor school administration	41	43	14	3
l. Inequality in funding among school districts	54	30	12	4

NON- PARENTS:

	Major	Minor	Not a problem	Don't know
a. Students who are undisciplined and disruptive	74	23	2	2
b. Lack of adequate academic standards	53	35	10	3
c. Overcrowded classrooms	59	30	9	2
d. Discrimination against children because of race or gender	32	47	19	2
e. Public school facilities that are unsafe or unhealthy	37	44	15	4
f. Lack of computers and technology	29	49	20	2
g. Violence and lack of school safety	63	31	5	1
h. Lack of parental involvement	82	13	4	1
i. Poor quality teachers	35	47	14	4
j. Student use of alcohol or illegal drugs	73	22	3	2
k. Poor school administration	43	41	12	4
l. Inequality in funding among school districts	49	35	9	7

19B/20B. Of the problems you cited, which one is the BIGGEST problem facing schools in the nation as a whole?

	Total	Parents	Non-Parents
a. Students who are undisciplined and	11	11	12

disruptive			
b. Lack of adequate academic standards	4	4	5
c. Overcrowded classrooms	6	6	6
d. Discrimination against children because of race or gender	3	2	3
e. Public school facilities that are unsafe or unhealthy	1	1	1
f. Lack of computers and technology	1	2	1
g. Violence and lack of school safety	12	16	10
h. Lack of parental involvement	24	20	26
i. Poor quality teachers	4	3	4
j. Student use of alcohol or illegal drugs	17	14	18
k. Poor school administration	5	7	5
l. Inequality in funding among school districts	6	7	6
m. No major problems	3	7	1
n. Don't Know	2	1	2

21a. Which is a more important role for schools to give students academic skills and other knowledge to prepare them for a job, a career, or college OR to develop students' character so they can make responsible decisions as adults in society about such things as drugs, sex, family, and money?

	Academic skills and knowledge	Character development	Both (vol.)	Don't Know
Total	52	34	13	1
Parents	51	33	16	1
Non-parents	51	36	12	1

21b. Which of the following two statements comes closer to your view: Schools need to return to their main function of giving knowledge to students OR Schools need to focus on teaching children how to think critically rather than worrying about how much detailed knowledge they have?

	Giving knowledge	Critical thinking	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Don't Know
Total	56	35	7	1	1
Parents	58	35	6	*	2
Non-parents	55	36	8	1	1

21c. Which of the following two statements comes closer to your view schools have gotten too far away from the basics, like reading, writing, and math OR schools need to teach about a broader range of subjects than they used to, because the world is more complex today?

	Too far from basics	Teach broader range	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Don't Know
Total	52	41	5	1	1
Parents	49	44	5	1	1
Non-parents	53	40	5	1	1

21d.

As you look back on your elementary and high school education, is it your impression that children today get a better or worse education than you did?

	Better	Worse	Same	Don't Know
Total	48	42	7	4
Parents	52	37	9	3
Non-parents	46	44	6	4

#### F. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO IMPROVE SCHOOLS

22a. (Asked of half sample) In your opinion, how much does the amount of money spent on a public school student's education affect the quality of his or her education--a great deal, quite a lot, not too much, or not at all?

	A Great deal	Quite a lot	Not too much	Not at all	Don't know
Total	37	28	25	6	4
Parents	45	27	21	5	2
Non-parents	33	28	28	7	4

22b. (Asked of half sample) How do you feel about the placement of students with learning problems in the local public schools? In your opinion, should students with learning problems be placed in the same classes as other students, or should they be placed in separate classes ?

	Same classes	Separate classes	Don't know
Total	35	57	8
Parents	39	54	7
Non-parents	33	59	8

23. I'm going to read you a short list of changes some people have suggested might improve the public schools. Please tell me whether you favor or oppose making each of the following changes in your community to improve your public schools. How about...(Read items)?. (Get answer, then ask). Do you (favor/oppose) strongly or not strongly?

TOTAL:

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			Don't know
	NET	Strongly	Not strongly	NET	Not strongly	Strongly	
c. Requiring schools to teach values/morality	<b>73</b>	55	18	<b>26</b>	13	13	2
f. Making students meet adequate academic standards to be promoted/graduate	<b>94</b>	85	8	<b>6</b>	2	4	1
g. Holding parents accountable when their children disrupt	<b>79</b>	67	12	<b>20</b>	9	11	2
i. Requiring teachers to pass standardized competency test	<b>89</b>	77	12	<b>10</b>	5	5	1

PARENTS:

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			Don't know
	NET	Strongly	Not strongly	NET	Not strongly	Strongly	
c. Requiring schools to teach values/morality	<b>76</b>	59	17	<b>24</b>	12	12	1
f. Making students meet adequate academic standards to be promoted/graduate	<b>96</b>	87	8	<b>4</b>	2	2	1
g. Holding parents accountable when their children disrupt	<b>79</b>	67	12	<b>20</b>	9	11	1
i. Requiring teachers to pass standardized competency test	<b>94</b>	82	12	<b>6</b>	3	3	-

NON-PARENTS:

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			Don't know
	NET	Strongly	Not strongly	NET	Not strongly	Strongly	
c. Requiring schools to teach values/morality	<b>72</b>	54	18	<b>26</b>	13	13	2
f. Making students meet adequate academic standards to be promoted/graduate	<b>93</b>	84	9	<b>6</b>	2	4	1
g. Holding parents accountable when their children disrupt	<b>79</b>	67	12	<b>19</b>	9	10	2
i. Requiring teachers to pass standardized competency test	<b>87</b>	75	12	<b>11</b>	6	6	1

24. Now I'm going to read you a short list of possible changes that could cost more money and require additional tax dollars. Please tell me if you would favor or oppose making each of the following changes in your community to improve your public schools. How about (Read items)? Do you (favor/oppose) strongly or not strongly?

TOTAL:

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			Don't know
	NET	Strongly	Not strongly	NET	Not strongly	Strongly	
c. Paying teachers more	<b>77</b>	60	17	<b>20</b>	9	11	3
d. Placing more computers in classroom	<b>81</b>	61	20	<b>16</b>	8	8	2
e. Reducing class sizes	<b>86</b>	69	16	<b>13</b>	7	6	1
f. Fixing run-down schools	<b>92</b>	80	12	<b>7</b>	3	4	1
h. Adding more security at schools	<b>76</b>	53	23	<b>22</b>	13	9	2

PARENTS:

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			Don't know
	NET	Strongly	Not strongly	NET	Not strongly	Strongly	
c. Paying teachers more	<b>80</b>	63	16	<b>18</b>	8	10	2
d. Placing more computers in classroom	<b>86</b>	71	15	<b>12</b>	7	6	1
e. Reducing class sizes	<b>90</b>	75	15	<b>10</b>	5	5	*
f. Fixing run-down schools	<b>94</b>	84	10	<b>6</b>	2	3	1
h. Adding more security at schools	<b>81</b>	58	23	<b>18</b>	11	8	1

NON-PARENTS:

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			Don't know
	NET	Strongly	Not strongly	NET	Not strongly	Strongly	
c. Paying teachers more	<b>75</b>	58	17	<b>21</b>	10	11	4
d. Placing more computers in classroom	<b>78</b>	56	23	<b>19</b>	9	9	3
e. Reducing class sizes	<b>84</b>	66	17	<b>15</b>	7	7	1
f. Fixing run-down schools	<b>91</b>	78	13	<b>8</b>	3	5	1
h. Adding more security at schools	<b>74</b>	51	24	<b>24</b>	13	10	2

25. To pay for this/these change(s), would you be willing to raise your taxes by (Read items)?

	Total	Parents	Non-parents
a. Willing to raise taxes by \$500	55	59	53
b. Willing to raise taxes by \$200 but not \$500	20	20	20
c. Willing to raise taxes by \$100 but not \$200	9	8	10
d. Not willing to raise taxes by \$100 or oppose all changes	16	12	17

G. SCHOOL FUNDING

27a. (Asked of half sample) Do you think elementary school students of different ability levels should be grouped together in the same classes, or separated into different classes based on their ability?

	Grouped together	Separated	Don't know
Total	43	53	4
Parents	41	55	4
Non-parents	43	53	4

27b. (Asked of half sample) Do you think high school students of different ability levels should be grouped together in the same classes, or separated into different classes based on their ability?

	Grouped together	Separated	Don't know
Total	45	51	4
Parents	43	54	3
Non-parents	46	50	4

28a. (Asked of half sample) Do you think that the amount of money that goes to education in your state should or should not be the same for all students, even if it means taking funding from some wealthy school districts and giving it to poor districts?

	Should	Should not	Don't Know
Total	83	14	3
Parents	84	15	2
Non-parents	83	14	3

28b. (Asked of half sample) Should wealthy school districts be allowed to spend as much as they want on their schools, or should their spending be capped so that poor districts are not left behind?

	Spend as much as they want	Not spend as much as they want	Don't Know
Total	27	69	5
Parents	25	71	4
Non-parents	28	67	5



## H. TESTING STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

29. All schools give their students standardized tests from time to time. Do you think standardized tests should or should not be used for the following purposes?  
How about ... (Read items)?

### TOTAL

	Should	Should not	Don't know
a. To determine level of funding each local school receives	39	57	4
b. To identify areas in which teachers need improvement	89	9	2
d. To identify areas where students need help	95	4	1
e. To determine whether students are promoted/ graduate	69	30	1
f. To rate/ rank schools	58	39	2
g. Used by employers when student graduates/applies for a job	38	59	3
h. To ensure students meet adequate natl. academic standards	87	12	1

### PARENTS

	Should be used	Should not be used	Don't know
a. To determine level of funding each local school receives	38	59	3
b. To identify areas in which teachers need improvement	89	10	1
d. To identify areas where students need help	95	4	*
e. To determine whether students are promoted/ graduate	67	32	1
f. To rate/ rank schools	57	42	1
g. Used by employers when student graduates/applies for a job	38	59	3
h. To ensure students meet adequate natl. academic standards	86	14	1

NON-PARENTS

	Should be used	Should not be used	Don't know
a. To determine level of funding each local school receives	39	56	5
b. To identify areas in which teachers need improvement	89	8	2
d. To identify areas where students need help	95	4	1
e. To determine whether students are promoted/ graduate	70	28	2
f. To rate/ rank schools	59	38	3
g. Used by employers when student graduates/applies for a job	39	58	3
h. To ensure students meet adequate natl. academic standards	87	11	2

30. Who do you think should be **primarily** responsible for developing these standard tests?

	School district	State govt.	Fed. Govt.	Private org.	Don't know
Total	37	18	16	25	4
Parents	42	18	15	22	4
Non-parents	35	18	16	26	4

31. How confident are you that the test scores on standardized tests are an accurate indicator of a student's progress and abilities--very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not confident at all?

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not confident at all	Don't know
Total	12	56	21	10	1
Parents	13	57	20	10	*
Non-parents	11	55	22	10	2

32. In general, do you think standardized tests are biased against minority students, or not?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Total	28	65	8
Parents	29	64	8
Non-parents	27	66	8

I. ISSUES OF CONTROVERSY

33a. (Asked of half sample) What effect do you think class size has on students' achievement? For elementary school students, do you think small classes make a great deal of difference, little difference, or no difference at all?

	Great deal	Little difference	No difference	Don't know
Total	73	21	5	1
Parents	79	18	3	*
Non-parents	70	23	6	1

33b. (Asked of half sample) What effect do you think class size has on students' achievement? For high school students, do you think small classes make a great deal of difference, little difference, or no difference at all?

	Great deal	Little difference	No difference	Don't know
Total	62	28	9	1
Parents	67	24	8	*
Non-parents	59	30	10	1

34a. (Asked of half sample) Do you favor or oppose the government offering parents money or "vouchers" to send their children to private or religious schools, or public schools outside their district?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't Know
Total	42	54	4
Parents	46	51	3
Non-parents	39	56	5

34b. (Asked of half sample) Do you favor or oppose the government offering parents money or "vouchers" to send their children to private or religious schools, or public schools outside their district, or haven't you heard enough about that to have an opinion?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't Know
Total	31	36	33
Parents	36	29	35
Non-parents	28	39	32

35. (If 'Favor' vouchers) Would you still favor this if it meant there would be less money for public schools in your area?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't Know
Total	52	44	5
Parents	51	46	3
Non-parents	52	42	6

34/35 Summary table: (Showing change in opinion after counter arguments are offered)

	Total	Parents	Non-Parents
a. Favor even if less money for public schools	19	21	18
b. Initially favored, but oppose if less money for public schools	16	19	14
c. Initially opposed (therefore not asked this follow-up question)	45	40	47
d. Total opposed after follow up question	61	59	61
e. Don't know	20	20	21

36. (If 'Oppose' vouchers) Would you still oppose this if it meant that children from less well-off families might not be able to attend better schools?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Total	52	43	5
Parents	50	44	6
Non-parents	53	42	4

34/36 Summary table: (Showing change in opinion after counter arguments are offered)

	Total	Parents	Non-Parents
a. Initially opposed and still opposed even if children from less well off families cannot attend better schools	23	20	25
b. Initially opposed, but favor if children from less well off families cannot attend better schools.	19	17	20
c. Initially in favor (therefore not asked this follow-up question)	36	41	34
c. Total in favor after follow up question	55	59	54
d. Don't know	21	22	21

37. (Asked of parents of public school children) Suppose the government would pay all of the tuition for you to send your oldest child to a public school in another district, a religious or parochial school, or a private school. Would you send your oldest child to the school he or she now attends or to a different school?

	Same school	Different school	Don't Know
Parents	66	29	5

38. (Of parents of school-age children) Which kind of school--a public school in another district, a religious or parochial school, or a non-religious private school?

	Same school	Public school/other district	Religious/parochial school	Non-religious private school	Don't know
Parents	66	6	13	9	6

39a. (Asked of half sample) The charter school program exempts some public schools from certain state regulations and permits them to function independently from the local school district as long as they meet state standards for student achievement. Do you favor or oppose such a program?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know
Total	62	29	9
Parents	65	28	7
Non-parents	60	30	10

39b. (Asked of half sample) The charter school program exempts some public schools from certain state regulations and permits them to function independently from the local school district as long as they meet state standards for student achievement. Do you favor or oppose such a program, or haven't you heard enough about that to have an opinion?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know
Total	25	12	63
Parents	26	9	65
Non-parents	24	14	62

40a. (Asked of half sample) Do you think children who are schooled at home rather than at a school get a better, worse, or about the same quality of education as other children?

	Better	Worse	About the same	Don't know
Total	26	31	33	11
Parents	29	28	37	7
Non-parents	24	33	30	12

40b. (Asked of half sample) Do you think children who are schooled at home rather than at a school develop as well as other children or not as well?

	As well	Not as well	Don't know
Total	38	53	9
Parents	45	48	6
Non-parents	34	55	11

41. In general, do you think African-American, Latino, and other minority children get as good an education as white children in your community, or not?

	Yes	No	There are no minorities (vol.)	Don't know
Total	72	23	2	3
Parents	73	22	2	3
Non-parents	72	23	2	3

42. Do you think African-American, Latino, and other minority children get a better education in a racially integrated school, is it worse, or does it make little difference?

	Better	Worse	Little difference	Don't know
Total	25	7	60	8
Parents	21	8	63	9
Non-parents	27	7	58	8

43. As you may know, the government requires schools to spend extra money to educate children with physical and learning disabilities. Who do you think should be primarily responsible for paying the additional costs for these children with disabilities?

	Parents of the disabled	Local public schools	State gov't	Federal gov't	Don't know
Total	6	8	33	49	4
Parents	6	7	30	53	4
Non-parents	7	8	35	46	4

43a. Do you favor or oppose cutting programs for children with physical and learning disabilities so more money could be spent on the majority of students without special needs?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know
Total	13	85	2
Parents	11	88	1
Non-parents	14	83	2

44a. (Asked of half sample) Which of the following two statements come closer to your own view?

	Total	Parents	Non-Parents
a. Whether or not students sexually active, schools should give birth control/ safe sex info.	79	80	77
b. Schools should not give young people info. About birth control/ safe sex	20	19	21
c. Don't Know	2	1	2

44b. (Asked of half sample) Do you think high school nurses or health clinics should provide young people with condoms and other forms of birth control if students ask for them, or not?

	Provide condoms	Do not provide condoms	Neither	Don't know
Total	50	46	1	3
Parents	54	43	1	1
Non-parents	48	48	1	3

45a. (Asked of half sample) Which student is more likely to succeed (Read items)?

	Total	Parents	Non-Parents
a. Student from a stable/ supportive family/ goes to poor school	71	76	69
b. Student from troubled family/ goes to a good school	20	18	20
c. Don't know	9	6	10

45b. (Asked of half sample) Which student is more likely to succeed: the student from a family where people read a lot but who goes to a poor school OR the student from a family where people are not reading so much but who goes to a good school?

	Total	Parents	Non-Parents
a. Student whose family reads a lot/ goes to a poor school	72	69	74
b. Student whose family does not read much/ goes to a good school	17	21	15
c. Don't know	11	10	12

46. Regardless of how you usually vote, which party do you think is doing a better job improving public schools--the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, both about the same, or neither?

	Democratic	Republican	Both the same	Neither	Don't Know
Total	22	11	32	30	6
Parents	19	10	30	34	6
Non-parents	23	11	33	27	6

47a. (Of parents of school-age children) Do you have any children with a physical or learning disability diagnosed by a doctor or other professional?

	Yes	No	Don't Know	No school-age children
Total	7	25	*	68
Parents	20	79	*	NA

47b. (Of parents of school-age children) Have you ever moved your child from a school you found unsatisfactory to another school?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Parents	23	77	*