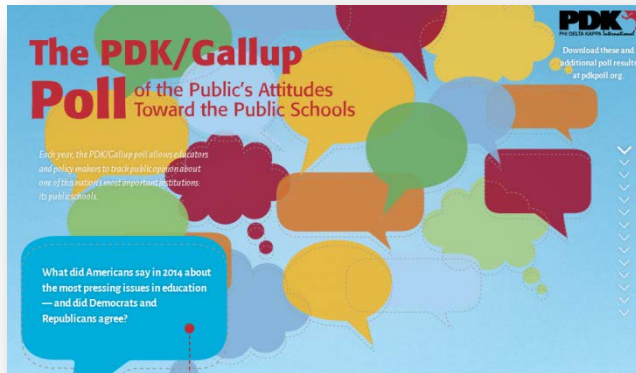


Latest Poll: Parents Want Testing Obsession to End



Educators are pushing back against high stakes testing across the nation, and, according to a new poll, parents are on their side. The 2014 PDK/Gallup Annual Survey of the Public's Attitude Toward Public Schools finds that an overwhelming majority of parents (68 percent) do not believe that standardized tests help teachers know what to teach.

Furthermore, more parents oppose using student standardized test scores to evaluate teachers. Opposition to this policy has grown from 47 percent in 2012 to 61 percent this year.

The survey's message is clear, says NEA President Lily Eskelsen García: Enough is enough.

"Students and teachers continue to lose more and more class time to testing and test preparation, and that time should be spent teaching and learning a rich, engaging curriculum," explained Eskelsen García. "The serious consequences of these toxic tests will only snowball unless parents, educators and community members push back against lawmakers determined to tie high-stakes decisions to fill-in-the-bubble tests."



Other key findings in the poll:

- ☑ 32 percent say lack of financial support is the No. 1 challenge facing public schools. Concerns about standards and discipline problems each received 9 percent.
- ☑ 50 percent of Americans give the schools in their communities either an A or B, with parents awarding local schools even higher marks.
- ☑ Two-thirds of Americans oppose public school vouchers.

The PDK/Gallup poll is a scientifically based survey of 1,001 Americans 18 years and older and is conducted annually.

