

## Key finding of 2015 PDK/Gallup Poll:

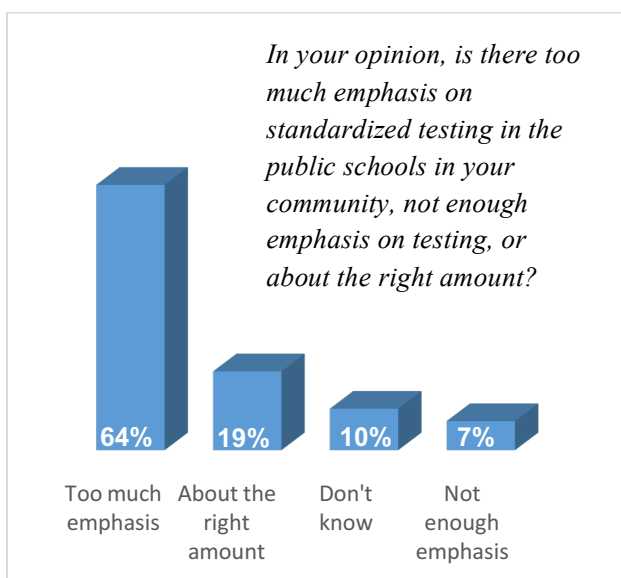
“Most Americans believe there’s too much emphasis on standardized testing in public schools, and they rank standardized testing lower than other approaches to measuring student progress ...”

The PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public’s Attitudes Toward the Public Schools has been a trusted and independent source of information since it began in 1969. Families, education professionals, policy makers, and researchers rely on this highly respected poll to discern public opinion on key education issues.

This year’s poll report is titled “Testing Doesn’t Measure Up for Americans.” The survey found the public believes student engagement and whether students feel hopeful about their future are far better factors to consider when evaluating schools than standardized test scores.

Here are key findings from the 2015 survey:

- A strong majority (about eight in 10) of Americans believe how engaged students are with their classwork and their level of hope for the future are very important for measuring the effectiveness of the public schools in their community. Fewer rated the percentage of graduates attending college and getting a job right after high school as very important. Testing came in last as a measure of effectiveness with just 14% of public school parents rating test scores as very important, making it the last in the list of options.
- When asked what ideas were most important for improving public schools in their community from a list of five options, testing ranked last in importance once again.
- When asked to select from four approaches that would provide the most accurate picture of a public school student’s academic progress, standardized testing was again at the bottom of the list when compared with three other indicators of progress.
- Americans across the board once again named lack of financial support as the biggest problem facing their local schools — the 10th consecutive year in which that issue has landed at the top of the list.



The 2015 PDK/Gallup poll was conducted in May by telephone and a web-based survey. The phone-based approach surveyed 1,001 adults, ages 18+ in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The web-based survey had a sample of 3,499 adults ages 18+ in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The margin of sampling error for the phone survey is  $\pm 4.79$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

The margin of sampling error for the web-based survey is  $\pm 3.02$  percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Read more at: <http://bit.ly/PDKpoll>