

## FAX ALERT

### PHI DELTA KAPPA/GALLUP ANNUAL EDUCATION POLL: *SCHOOL CHOICE AGAIN FALLS VICTIM TO LEADING QUESTIONS, HIDDEN RESULTS*

(Washington, D.C. 8/24/04) – A poll released today by Phi Delta Kappa (PDK)/Gallup on America's views on education is the latest in the organization's annual tradition of using misleading questions to skew the public's view of school choice.

The Center for Education Reform (CER) provides a reality check through a whole host of survey research that tells the story PDK failed to tell: **Americans, especially parents, value educational options.**

#### *What Survey Research Really Reveals:*

- Most Americans (64 percent) support using tax dollars already allocated to a school district for education to be used to help parents pay for the school of their choice, according to an August 2004 Friedman Foundation poll.
- About 60 percent of Americans would be more likely to vote for a candidate supporting school choice, according to the same Friedman poll.
- The 2002 National Survey of Attitudes Toward School Choice conducted by CER and Zogby International in August 2002 with Zogby, found widespread support as well in the African American community: 72 percent of African Americans support permitting parents to use tax dollars allotted for their child's education in the form of a scholarship to attend a private school, as do 64 percent of Hispanics.
- A 2002 National Opinion Poll on Education issued in May 2003 by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies finds that 57 percent of African Americans support vouchers (up from 48 percent in 1996), versus 43 percent who oppose them. In the general population, 52 percent of people support vouchers (up from 43 percent in 1996). In ranking their public schools, only 35.2 percent of African Americans rated their school "Excellent/Good," (down from 41 percent in 1996) versus 53.7 percent of the general population down from 63.7 percent in 1996).
- August of 2002 saw the release of the BAMPAC 2002 National Opinion Poll (Black America's Political Action Committee, August 2002). Their findings were similar to CER's with: 63 percent of respondents (all African Americans) saying they would place their children in either private or charter schools were the option offered. In addition, 64 percent of respondents reported having a favorable impression of BAMPAC when they learned the group supports "opportunity scholarships." In addition, 56 percent of African Americans rated their schools a "C" or below.

- Despite designing the question to elicit negative responses, *The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Phi delta Kappa/Gallup Poll (August 2002)* found: 52 percent of respondents support giving parents the ability to send their children to a public, private or religious school. In addition, 63 percent of “nonwhites ” supported allowing parents “to send their school-age children to any public, private, or church-related school they choose ” even when “the government would pay for all or part of the tuition.”
- The Associated Press Poll on school vouchers (August 2002) stated: 51 percent of respondents would support “providing parents in low-income families with tax money in the form of school vouchers to help pay for their children to attend private or religious schools.” 45 percent of respondents said if vouchers were available to send their children to private school, they would take them.
- And, The ABC News.com Poll (July 16, 2002) reported: 50 percent of respondents support helping low-income parents pay private or religious school tuition. Support is 57 percent among “low-income ” groups.

For additional information, visit [www.edreform.com](http://www.edreform.com)

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*The Center for Education Reform (CER) is a national advocacy and research organization working with states and communities to provide more choices in education and better schools for all children. For more information, contact Mary Kayne Heinze of CER at (202) 822-9000.*