Adults give good grades to schools

Asked to rate the quality of their lo-cal public schools, four out of every 10 Michigan adults (42 percent) gave the schools an "A" or "B" on a report card rating scale. Another 30 percent rated the public schools a "C", while 14 percent gave schools a "D" or "E." The ratings were part of an exten-sive public opinion survey with 802 adults in the state, conducted last Dec. "10 by the staff of the State Board of Educations" "Project Outreach" pro-gram.

RESULTS of the survey were re-legged by Phillip E. Runkel, state su-perintendent of public instruction, State Board of Education President Barbara Dumouchelle and Project Out-reach Director Ned S. Hubbell. Michigan residents rated the schools significantly higher than a nationwide sample of adults of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the project of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the control of the control of the sample of the control of the sample of the control of the

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Forty-seven percent felt public schools have enough money to provide a good school program, while another 38 percent believe the schools need more

DISLIKES focused chiefly on school discipline, some teachers, some curric-ulum weaknesses and school financial

ulum weaknesses and scnool innation need.

The latter — school financial need — was named the biggest problem facing local school boards last year. Forty-seven percent felt is schools have enough money to provide a problem facing before the schools have enough money to provide any percent believe the schools need more funds. Only 6 percent of the survey respondents feel the schools have too much money.

Acked for rate how public schools

vey respondents tee the schools have too much money. Asked to rate how public schools spent available funds, 5 percent said "excellent," 35 percent said "good," and 32 percent said "fair." One out of every five adults in the state (19 per-cent) gave schools a "poor" rating in school spending practices. The opinion survey found a vast ma-jority (69 percent) favored changing

teachers, school facilities and special the school tax collection period from programs or services.

SURVEY participants also were asked to react to a list of 10 possible ways school districts could save mon-

Only two of these cost-cutting proce-

Only two of these cost-cutting procedures were favored reducing the number of school administrators (72 percent tawored this) and reducing bus transportation costs by increasing the walking distance of students (53 percent support). Most vigorously opposed suggestions were reductions in special reading services (84 percent opposed), and increasing class sizes by reducing the number of teachers (71 percent opposed).

OTHER SURVEY findings:

• 70 percent favor having students pay for driver education in public schools.

pay for driver education in poons eschools.

• Majority support was evident for sending students in low-enrollment vocational education classes to a nearby school that offers the classes, and for sending students in low-enrollment, advanced high school classes to a nearby school, rather than dropping those courses entirely.

• Residents are nearly equally divided between the options of school district consolidation vs. voting more mil-

room.

57 percent favored the use of schools as public meeting places for senior citizens, even though students occupy part of the building. However, Michigan adults strongly opposed, by a margin of 2-1, having public schools provide child care services for preschool children.

lage to remain a separate school district. Some 48 percent of those polled favored consolidation, and 41 percent were opposed. Forty-four percent would pay more millage to remain as a separate school district, but 46 percent

separate school district, but 46 percent are opposed.

• Overwhelming support was given to the concept of more citizen involvement in public schools, with volunteers serving as addes in classrooms, libraries, lunchrooms and on playgrounds. One out of every three people polled said he or she would like to become such a volunteer in the schools.

• 83 percent of adults favored public schools' providing retraining and job skill classes for unemployed adults; 66 percent also endorsed the idea of permitting adults who have not com-

school children.

SURVEY RESPONDENTS were asked what a student graduating five years from now will need to know and be able to do to be successful.

Top curriculum priorities named installed to the survey of the



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at the University of Michigan this summer.

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Fifty men and women will attend the program at U-M June 27-July 3, so-sponsored by Phi Delta Kappa professional fraternity in education and the U-M Institute of Gerontology. The courses offered are "Learning Through, Games," "Making Membership Organizations More Effective" and "The Break through in Life-Long Learning." Green also plans trips to local muse-ums, the Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, historic walking fours an dother recreational and cultural activities. "Ann Arbor combines all of the advantages of a small town college atwantages of the proposition city. The college college of the move in the properties of the college of the move, including the properties of the move, not just in terms for travely but intellectual outrach," explains, Green, who is a former program director with U-M's Institute of Gerontology.

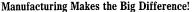
tor with U-M's Institute of Gerontology.

Registration for all Elderhostel programs is conducted through a central national office: Elderhostel, Inc., 100 Boylston St., Suite 200, Boston, Mass., 0216, telephone (617) 426-8056. A complete catalogue of all courses offerings throughout the United States is available mone recomb

able upon request.

For further information on the program at U-M, contact Lila Green, director, Elderhostel Program, 1228
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