AASA Statement on the 2008 PDK/Gallup Education Poll

August 21, 2008

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ARLINGTON, Va. – The American Association of School Administrators, the professional organization for school superintendents and other school system leaders, issued the following statement on the Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public’s Attitudes Toward the Public Schools released today:

The PDK/Gallup poll results reveal that the public is in agreement with school system leaders and education scholars on how to move forward on education reform to best serve our nation’s students. This emerging consensus is critical as Congress and a new administration craft new education policy.

The PDK/Gallup poll findings are consistent with the 2008 AASA Legislative Agenda. Like AASA, the American public is calling for a fundamental reframing of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the law currently known as No Child Left Behind. Two-thirds of Americans believe NCLB needs to be changed significantly or permitted to expire, and only 1 in 4 believe it has helped local schools.

The poll results confirm that educators must have a leading role in crafting sound education policy. More than 7 in 10 Americans believe the next president should turn to education leaders -- not politicians or business leaders -- for guidance on education policy.

The public also agrees with AASA that the federal government should not dictate state education efforts. More than 7 in 10 Americans believe local school boards and state governments -- not the federal government -- should oversee public school curriculum.

The poll results also provide evidence that public schools are connecting well with their local communities. In the highest rating in 15 years, more than 7 in 10 parents gave a grade of “A” or “B” to the school attended by their oldest child. While these results are heartening, we must continue to work to improve educational outcomes for all students.

About AASA
The American Association of School Administrators, founded in 1865, is the professional organization for more than 13,000 educational leaders across the United States. AASA’s mission is to support and develop effective school system leaders who are dedicated to the highest quality public education for all children. For more information, visit www.aasa.org.