

# IDAHO

Faced with an unprecedented set of challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, public education is at a crossroads. To be sure, much has changed since 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic swept the nation, but pre-pandemic trends provide policymakers with a critical anchor for navigating post-pandemic decisions. This section provides a snapshot of Idaho's K-12 public education resources and outcomes so that policymakers are better equipped to make critical choices that will shape generations to come. Looking forward, they should use this information to ask important questions like what their goals are for students and whether resources are being deployed toward those aims.

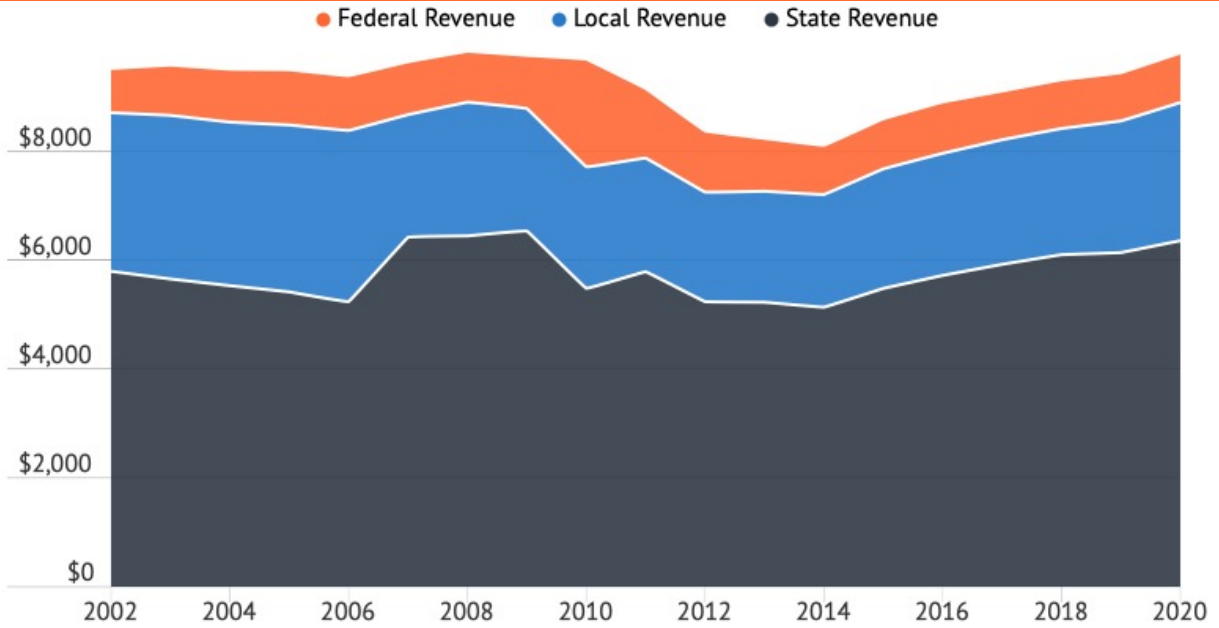
## SPENDING TRENDS

Idaho's inflation-adjusted education revenue grew from \$9,518 per student in 2002 to \$9,802 per student in 2020, a 3.0% growth rate that ranked 48<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. During this time, real spending on employee benefits grew by 8.9%—ranking 49<sup>th</sup> in the country—going from \$1,652 per student to \$1,800 per student. In 2020, Idaho had \$1,521,014,000 in total education debt, up \$1,228 per student in real terms since 2002.

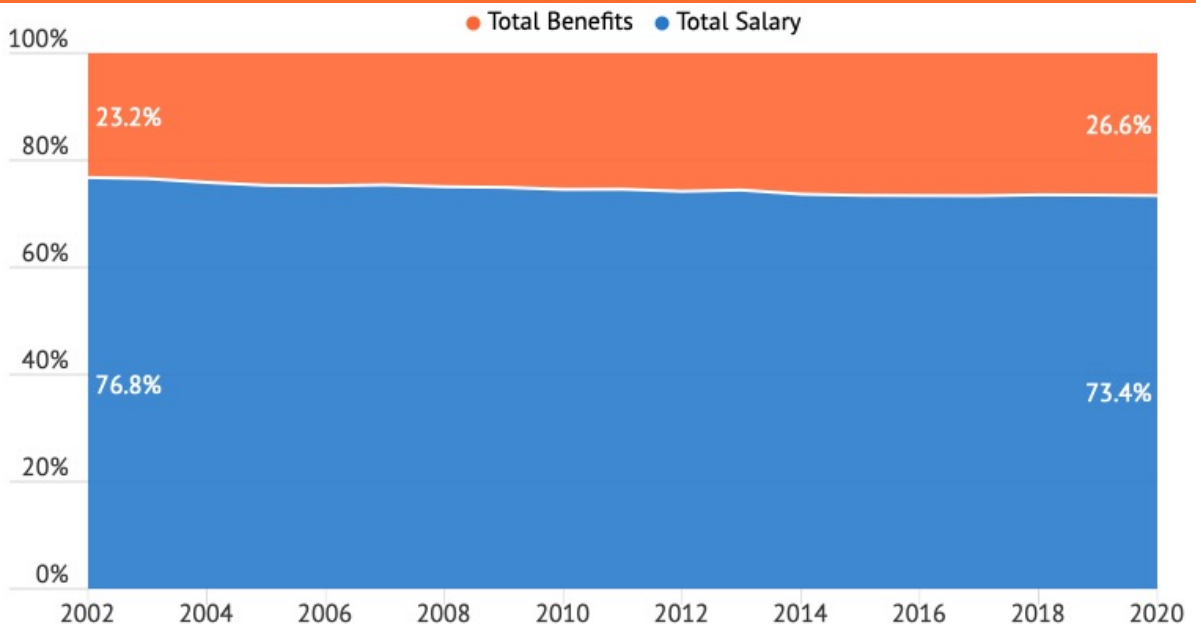
**TABLE 1: SPENDING TRENDS (2002-2020)**

Category (Per Student)	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Revenue	\$9,518	\$9,802	3.0%	48	50
Support Services	\$2,924	\$2,924	0.0%	50	49
Instruction	\$5,255	\$4,975	-5.3%	49	49
Benefits	\$1,652	\$1,800	8.9%	49	46
Capital	\$984	\$760	-22.7%	41	49
Total Debt	\$4,031	\$5,258	30.5%	27	40

**FIGURE 1: REVENUE PER STUDENT BY FUNDING SOURCE (2002-2020)**



**FIGURE 2: K-12 TOTAL SALARY & BENEFITS (2002-2020)**



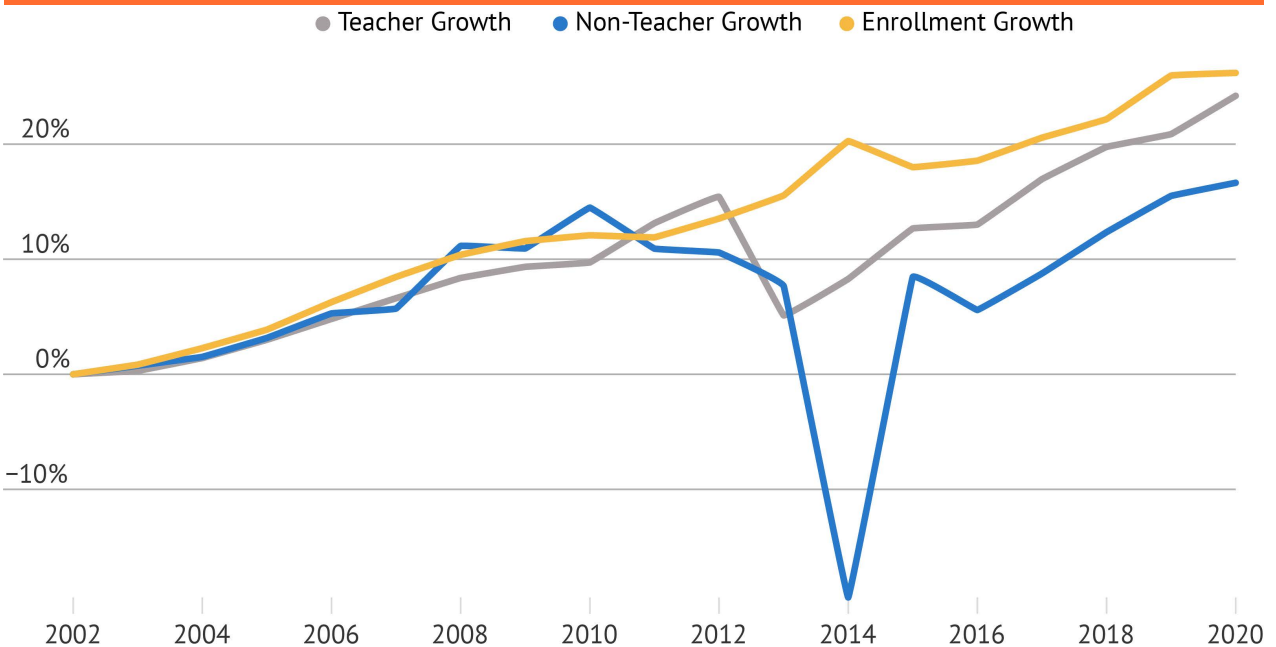
## ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS

Between 2002 and 2020, Idaho’s student population grew by 26.2%. At the same time, the number of total public education staff grew by 20.9%, with teachers increasing by 24.2% and non-teachers increasing by 16.6%. The average inflation-adjusted teacher salary in the state went from \$57,169 in 2002 to \$52,875 in 2020, a -7.5% growth rate that ranked 45<sup>th</sup> in the U.S.

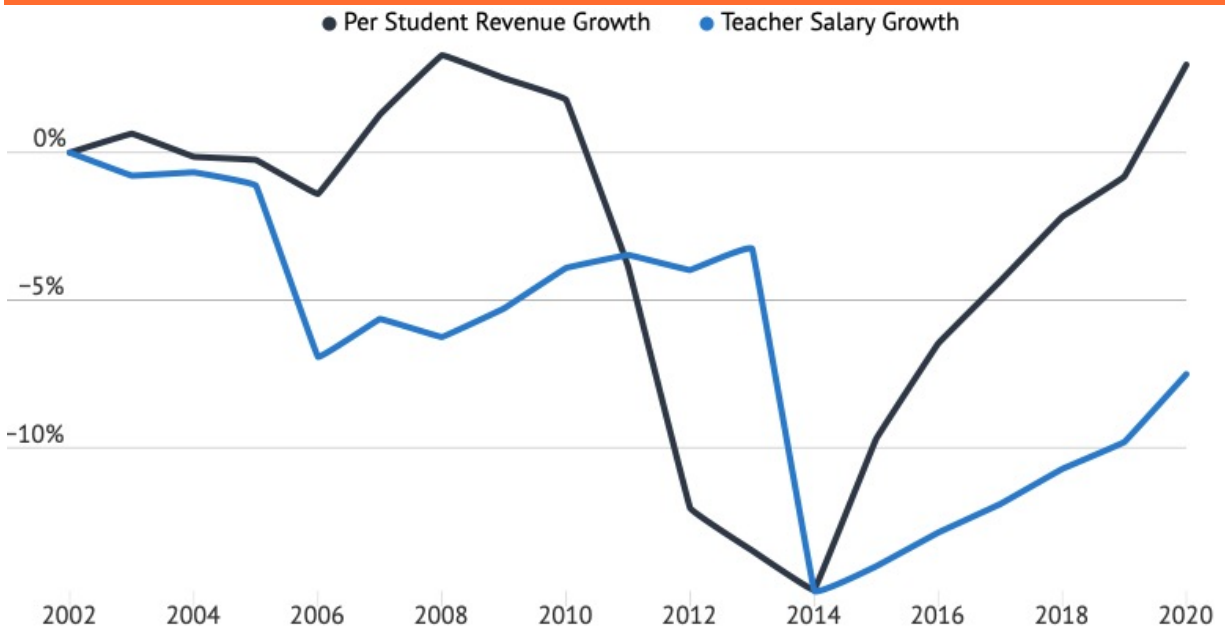
**TABLE 2: ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS (2002-2020)**

Category	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Enrollment	246,521	311,096	26.2%	4	38
Total Staff	24,773	29,943	20.9%	15	41
Teachers	13,854	17,207	24.2%	6	39
Non-Teachers	10,919	12,736	16.6%	29	41
Average Teacher Salary	\$57,169	\$52,875	-7.5%	45	38

**FIGURE 3: ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS (2002-2020)**



**FIGURE 4: TEACHER SALARY GROWTH VS. REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH (2002-2020)**



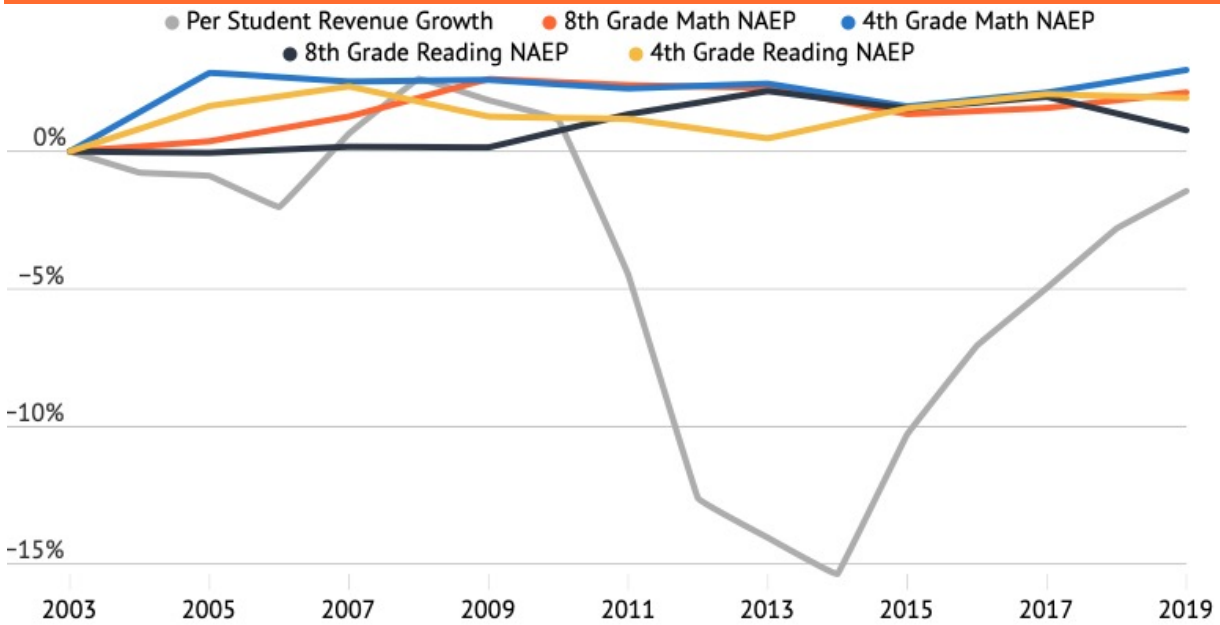
## NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Idaho's 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP reading scores increased by four points (+1.9%), ranking 15<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 4<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by seven points (+3.0%), ranking 18<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the state's 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores increased by two points (+0.8%), ranking 13<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 8<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by six points (+2.1%), ranking 13<sup>th</sup>.

**TABLE 3: NAEP SCORES (2003-2019)**

Subject	4th Grade			8th Grade		
	Score Growth	Growth Rank	2019 Rank	Score Growth	Growth Rank	2019 Rank
Reading	4	15	11	2	13	10
Math	7	18	15	6	13	11

**FIGURE 5: NAEP SCORE GROWTH VS REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH<sup>1</sup>**



## LOW-INCOME NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Idaho's low-income 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP reading scores increased by four points (+1.7%), ranking 22<sup>nd</sup> in the U.S., while its 4<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by six points (+2.7%), ranking 25<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the state's 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores increased by one point (+0.4%), ranking 27<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 8<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by four points (+1.6%), ranking 27<sup>th</sup>.

**TABLE 4: LOW-INCOME NAEP SCORES (2003-2019)**

Subject	4th Grade			8th Grade		
	Score Growth	Growth Rank	2019 Rank	Growth	Growth Rank	2019 Rank
Reading	4	22	6	1	27	4
Math	6	25	7	4	27	5

<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that NAEP scores and revenue are inherently different in their potential for growth and shouldn't be expected to move in perfect unison (e.g. a 10% increase in funding shouldn't be expected to result in a 10% improvement in NAEP).

**FIGURE 6: NAEP SCORE GROWTH VS REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH (LOW-INCOME STUDENTS)<sup>1</sup>**

