

INDIANA

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 Indiana'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

Indiana's inflation-adjusted education revenue grew from \$13,116 per student in 2002 to \$13,368 per student in 2020, a 1.9% growth rate that ranked 49th in the U.S. During this time, real spending on employee benefits grew by 20.6%—ranking 46th in the country—going from \$2,696 per student to \$3,252 per student. In 2020, Indiana had \$10,458,248,000 in total education debt, up \$8,356 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	\$13,116	\$13,368	1.9%	49	35
Support Services	\$3,848	\$4,237	10.1%	45	33
Instruction	\$6,658	\$6,213	-6.7%	50	38
Benefits	\$2,696	\$3,252	20.6%	46	24
Capital	\$1,271	\$1,994	56.9%	11	10
Total Debt	\$2,125	\$10,481	393.2%	1	16

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

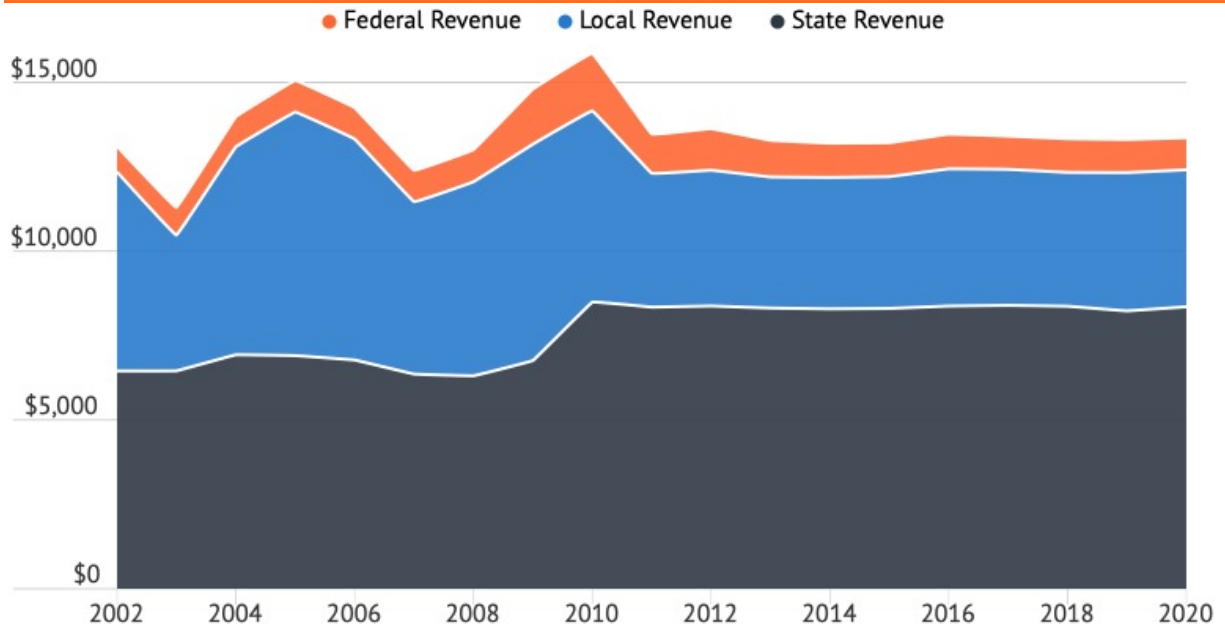
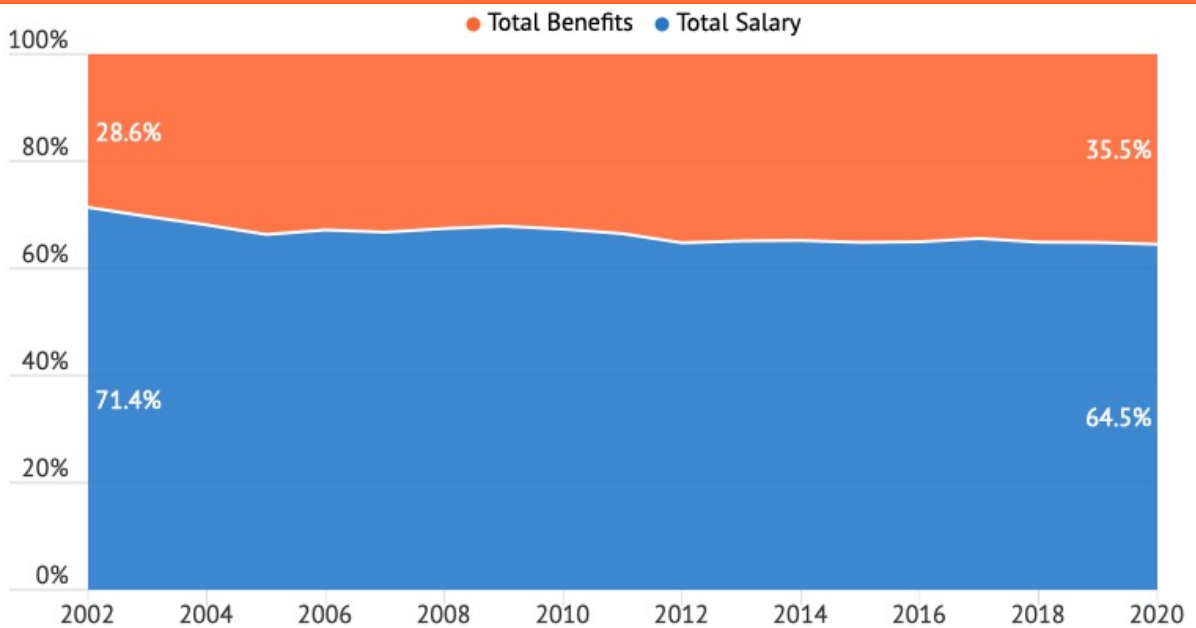


FIGURE 2: K-12 TOTAL SALARY & BENEFITS (2002-2020)



ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS

Between 2002 and 2020, Indiana’s student population grew by 5.5%. At the same time, the number of total public education staff grew by 15.3%, with teachers increasing by 3.4% and non-teachers increasing by 25.6%. The average inflation-adjusted teacher salary in the state went from \$63,818 in 2002 to \$51,745 in 2020, a -18.9% growth rate that ranked 50th in the U.S.

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

Category	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Enrollment	996,133	1,051,411	5.5%	26	15
Total Staff	128,939	148,730	15.3%	23	13
Teachers	59,659	61,712	3.4%	31	17
Non-Teachers	69,280	87,018	25.6%	19	13
Average Teacher Salary	\$63,818	\$51,745	-18.9%	50	41

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

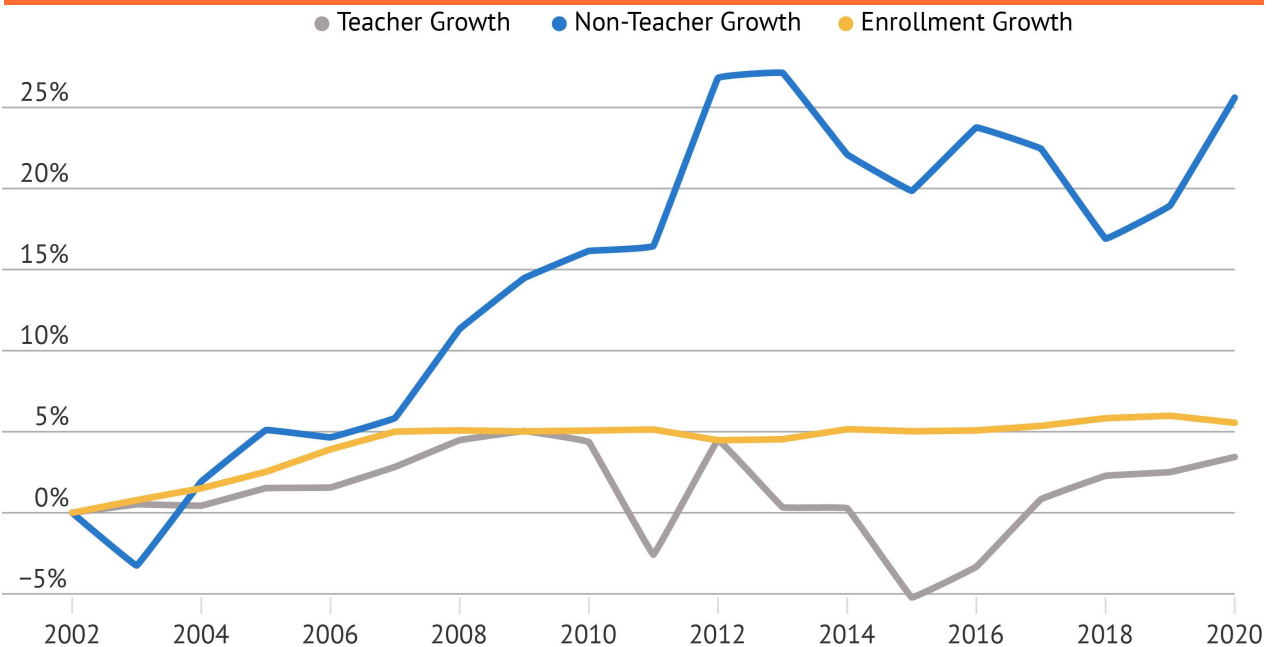
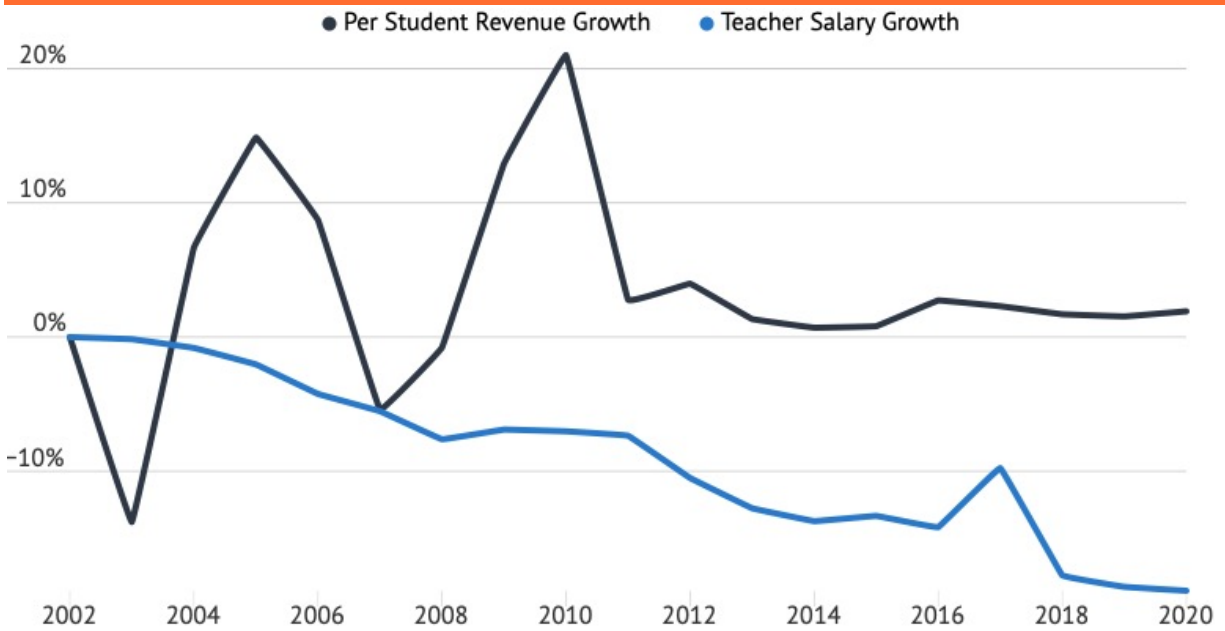


FIGURE 4: TEACHER SALARY GROWTH VS. REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH (2002-2020)



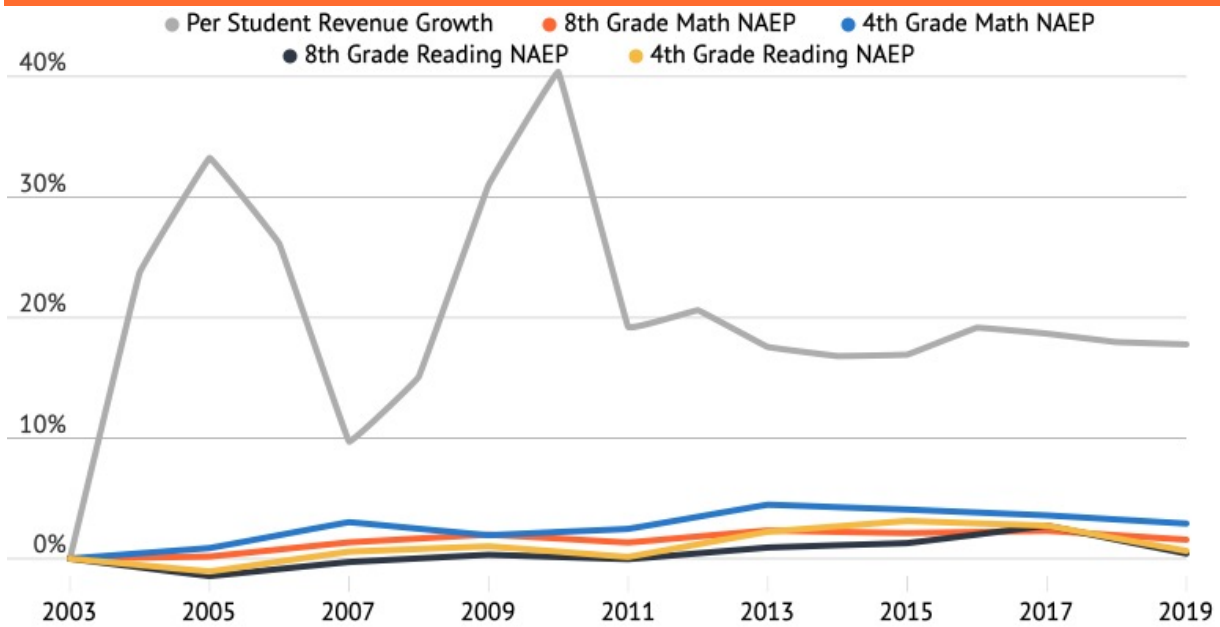
NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Indiana’s 4th grade NAEP reading scores increased by one point (+0.6%), ranking 24th in the U.S., while its 4th grade math scores grew by seven points (+2.9%), ranking 19th. During this time, the state’s 8th grade reading scores increased by one point (+0.4%), ranking 17th in the U.S., while its 8th grade math scores grew by four points (+1.6%), ranking 22nd.

TABLE 3: NAEP SCORES (2003-2019)

Subject	4th Grade			8th Grade		
	Score Growth	Growth Rank	2019 Rank	Score Growth	Growth Rank	2019 Rank
Reading	1	24	17	1	17	12
Math	7	19	7	4	22	14

FIGURE 5: NAEP SCORE GROWTH VS REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH¹



LOW-INCOME NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Indiana's low-income 4th grade NAEP reading scores increased by four points (+2.0%), ranking 19th in the U.S., while its 4th grade math scores grew by nine points (+4.2%), ranking 13th. During this time, the state's 8th grade reading scores increased by eight points (+3.0%), ranking 7th in the U.S., while its 8th grade math scores grew by six points (+2.3%), ranking 20th.

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	19	10	8	7	3
Math	9	13	5	6	20	3

¹ 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)¹

