

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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 New Hampshire'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

New Hampshire's inflation-adjusted education revenue grew from \$12,939 per student in 2002 to \$20,131 per student in 2020, a 55.6% growth rate that ranked 2nd highest in the U.S. During this time, real spending on employee benefits grew by 141.8%—ranking 4th in the country—going from \$1,919 per student to \$4,639 per student. In 2020, New Hampshire had \$746,959,000 in total education debt, down \$924 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	\$12,939	\$20,131	55.6%	2	8
Support Services	\$3,726	\$6,280	68.6%	1	11
Instruction	\$7,094	\$11,228	58.3%	1	6
Benefits	\$1,919	\$4,639	141.8%	4	12
Capital	\$1,329	\$842	-36.7%	48	45
Total Debt	\$5,361	\$4,438	-17.2%	45	44

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

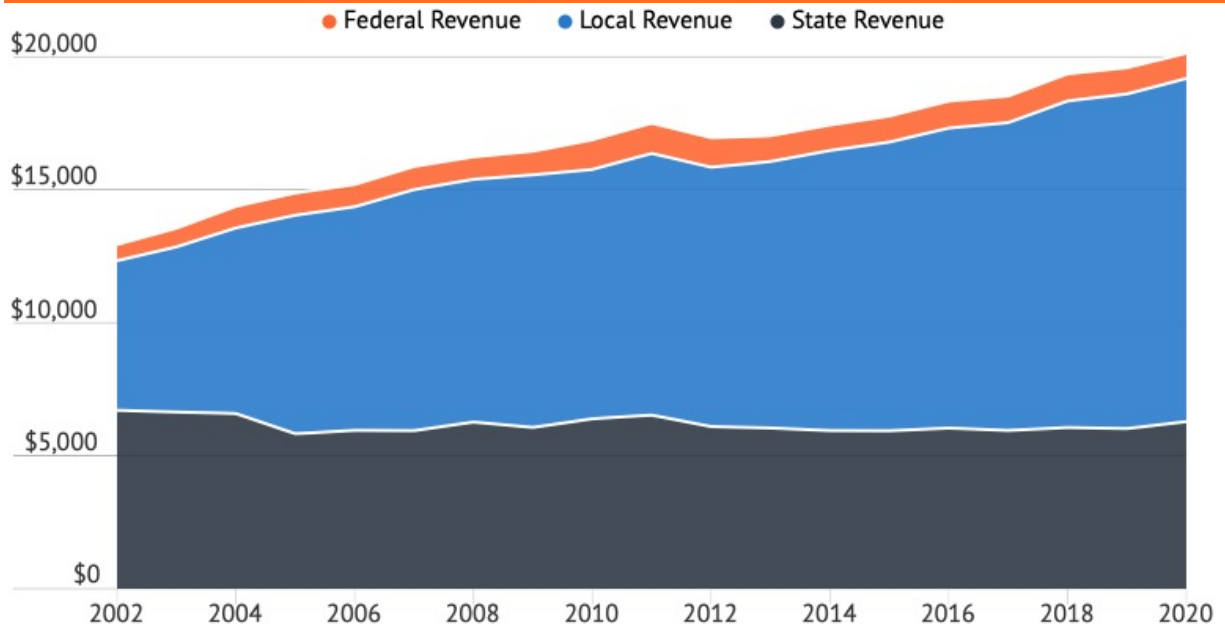
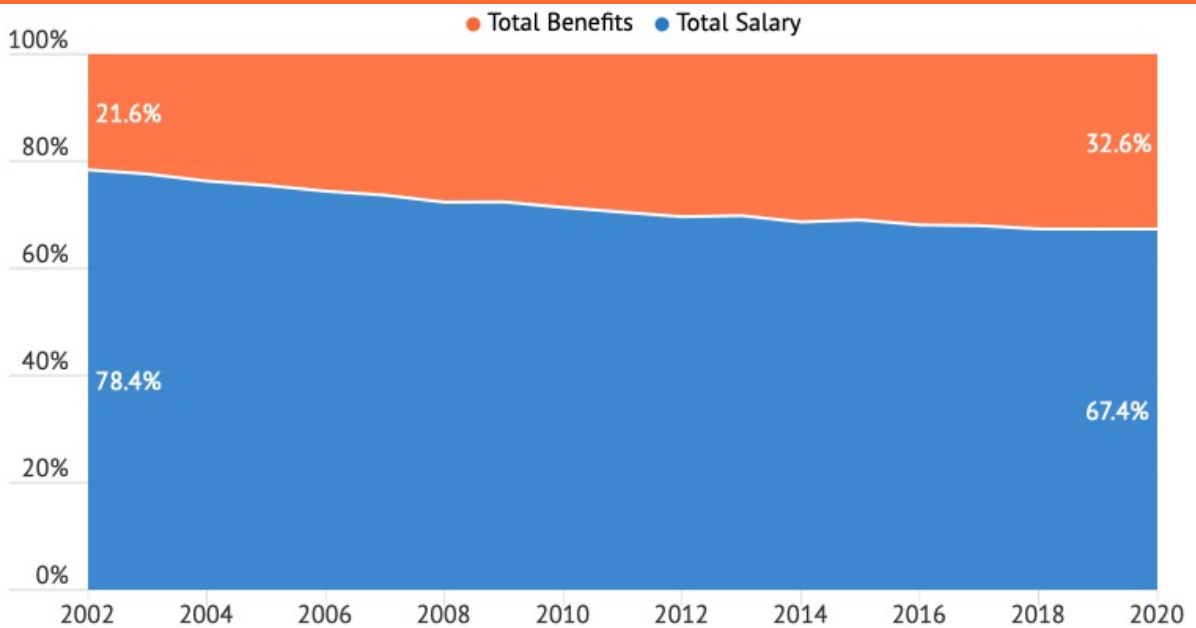


FIGURE 2: K-12 TOTAL SALARY & BENEFITS (2002-2020)



ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS

Between 2002 and 2020, New Hampshire’s student population declined by 14.3%. At the same time, the number of total public education staff grew by 9.9%, with teachers increasing by 0.1% and non-teachers increasing by 19.8%. The average inflation-adjusted teacher salary in the state went from \$57,637 in 2002 to \$59,622 in 2020, a 3.4% growth rate that ranked 16th in the U.S.

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

Category	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Enrollment	206,847	177,351	-14.3%	50	42
Total Staff	29,141	32,018	9.9%	32	40
Teachers	14,677	14,695	0.1%	38	41
Non-Teachers	14,464	17,324	19.8%	28	39
Average Teacher Salary	\$57,637	\$59,622	3.4%	16	20

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

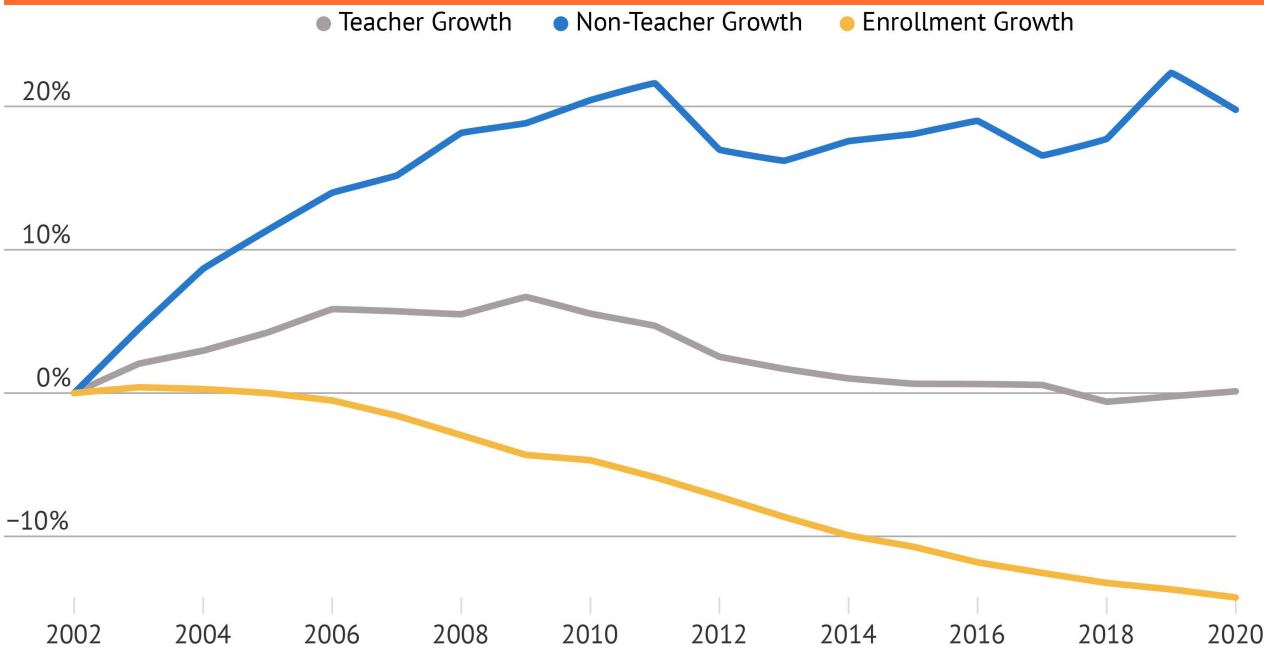
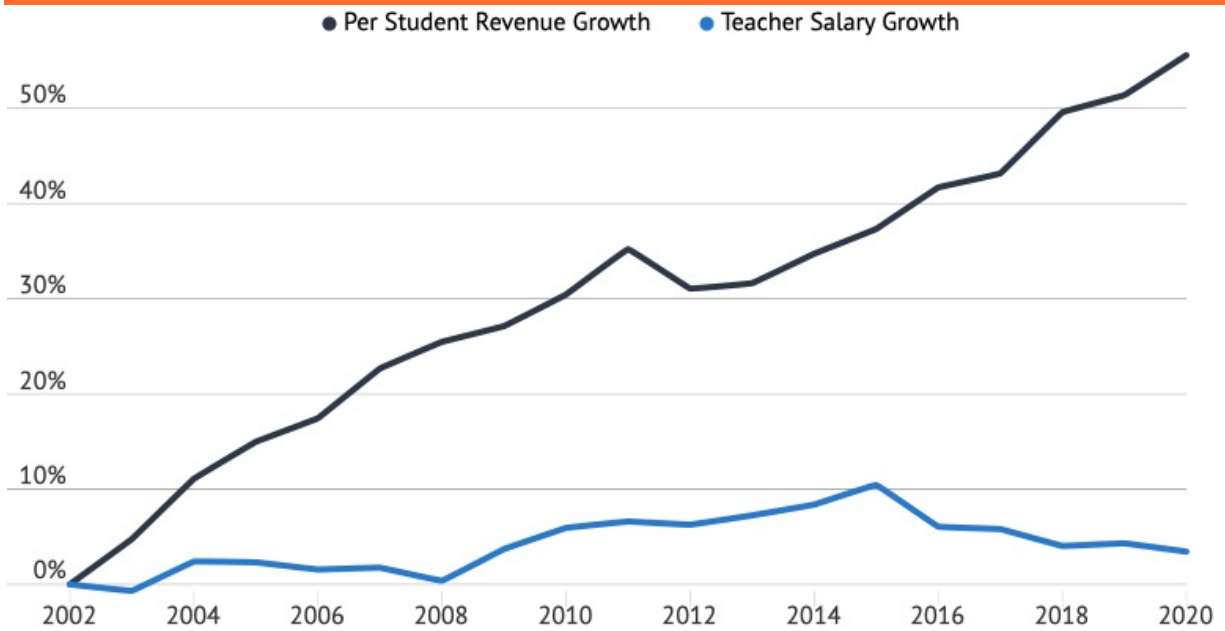


FIGURE 4: TEACHER SALARY GROWTH VS. REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH (2002-2020)



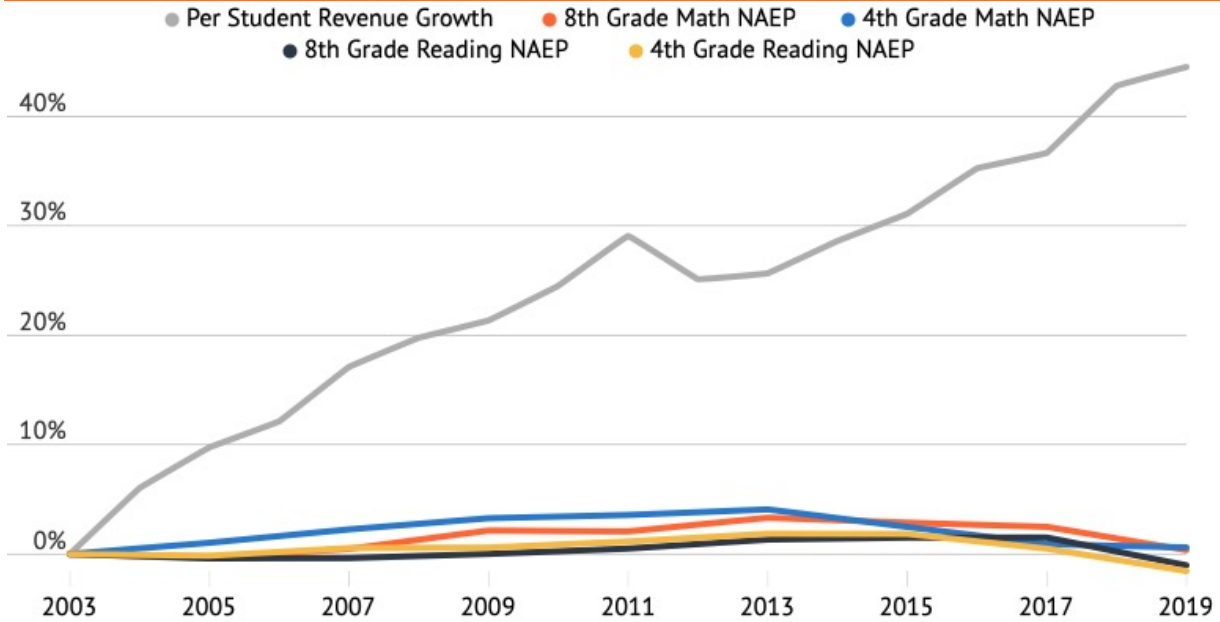
NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, New Hampshire's 4th grade NAEP reading scores decreased by four points (-1.5%), ranking 44th in the U.S., while its 4th grade math scores grew by one point (+0.6%), ranking 40th. During this time, the state's 8th grade reading scores decreased by three points (-1.0%), ranking 34th in the U.S., while its 8th grade math scores grew by one point (+0.4%), ranking 38th.

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	44	8	-3	34	5
Math	1	40	8	1	38	5

FIGURE 5: NAEP SCORE GROWTH VS REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH¹



LOW-INCOME NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, New Hampshire’s low-income 4th grade NAEP reading scores increased by two points (+0.9%), ranking 30th in the U.S., while its 4th grade math scores grew by three points (+1.5%), ranking 35th. During this time, the state’s 8th grade reading scores decreased by five points (-1.8%), ranking 44th in the U.S., while its 8th grade math scores grew by two points (+0.9%), ranking 35th.

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	2	30	16	-5	44	22
Math	3	35	9	2	35	7

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

