

NEW YORK

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 York'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 York's inflation-adjusted education revenue grew from \$18,054 per student in 2002 to \$30,723 per student in 2020, a 70.2% growth rate that ranked 1st highest in the U.S. During this time, real spending on employee benefits grew by 141.4%—ranking 5th in the country—going from \$2,929 per student to \$7,069 per student. In 2020, New York had \$31,611,501,000 in total education debt, up \$2,281 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	\$18,054	\$30,723	70.2%	1	1
Support Services	\$4,759	\$7,213	51.6%	8	5
Instruction	\$11,473	\$17,813	55.3%	2	1
Benefits	\$2,929	\$7,069	141.4%	5	1
Capital	\$2,440	\$2,746	12.6%	24	4
Total Debt	\$10,207	\$12,488	22.3%	29	10

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

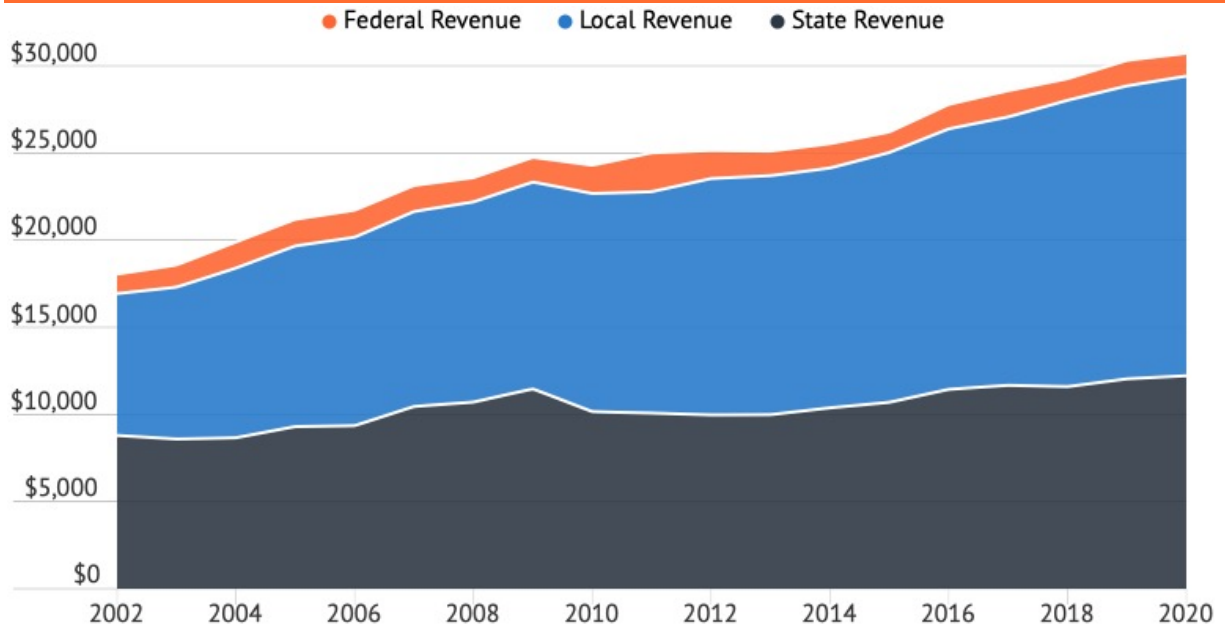
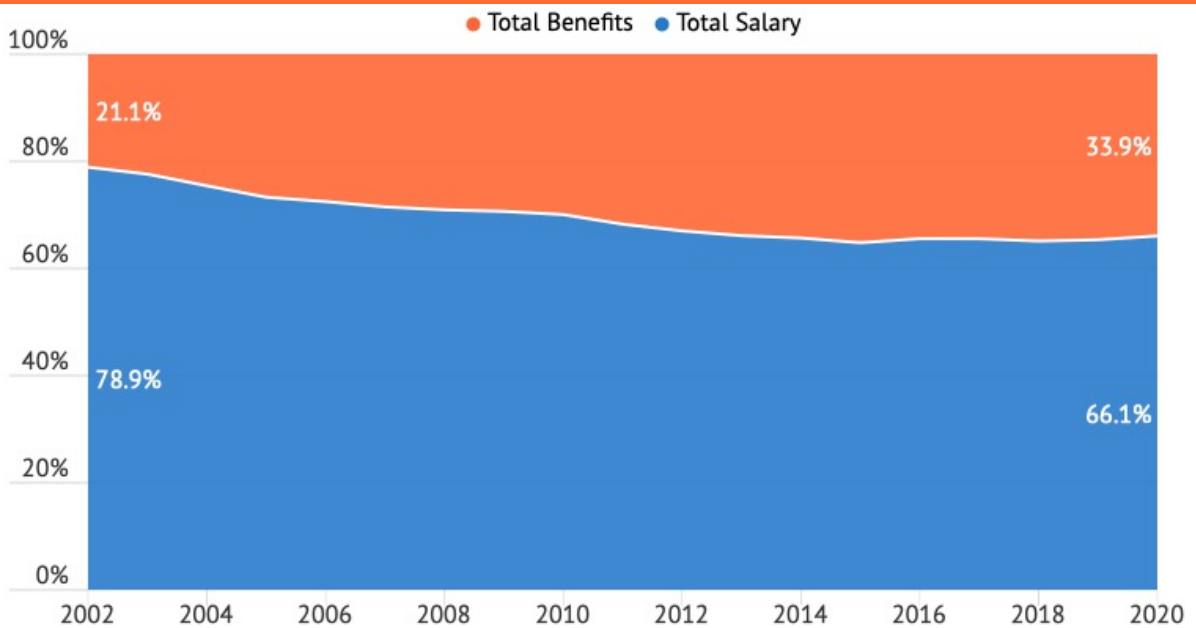


FIGURE 2: K-12 TOTAL SALARY & BENEFITS (2002-2020)



ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS

Between 2002 and 2020, New York’s student population declined by 6.3%. At the same time, the number of total public education staff grew by 0.7%, with teachers increasing by 4.0% and non-teachers decreasing by 2.5%. The average inflation-adjusted teacher salary in the state went from \$75,088 in 2002 to \$87,069 in 2020, a 16.0% growth rate that ranked 3rd in the U.S.

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

Category	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Enrollment	2,872,132	2,692,589	-6.3%	42	4
Total Staff	423,199	426,192	0.7%	41	3
Teachers	209,128	217,398	4.0%	30	3
Non-Teachers	214,071	208,794	-2.5%	44	4
Average Teacher Salary	\$75,088	\$87,069	16.0%	3	1

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

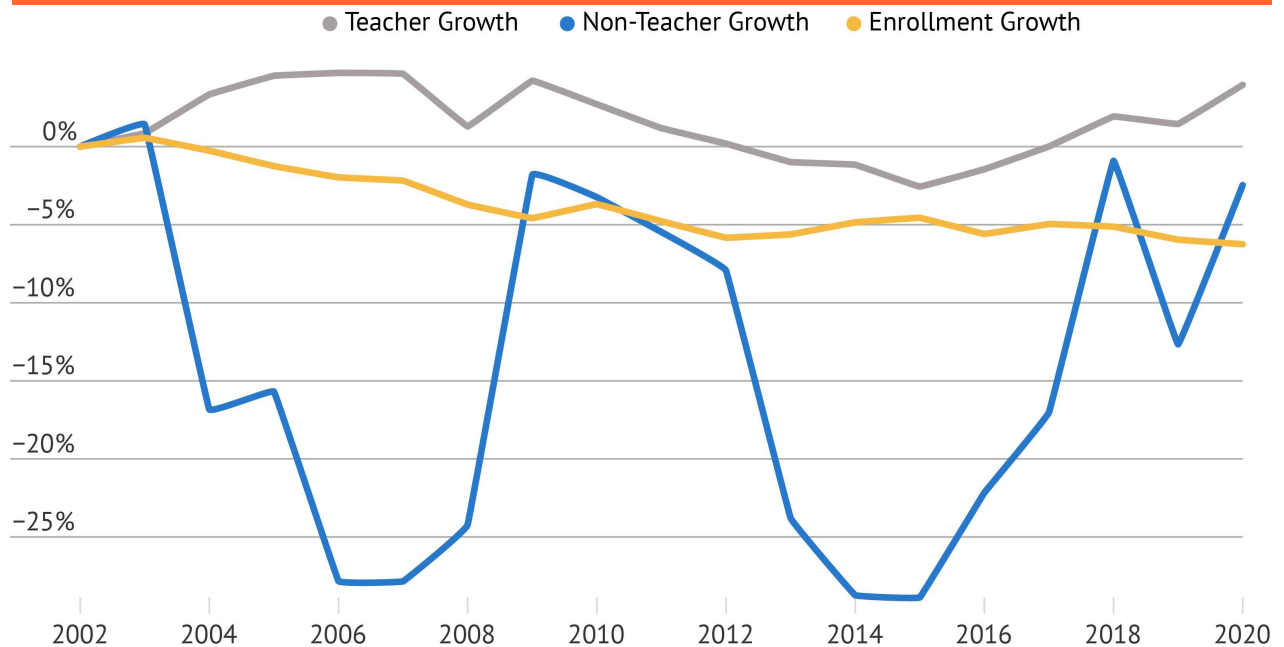
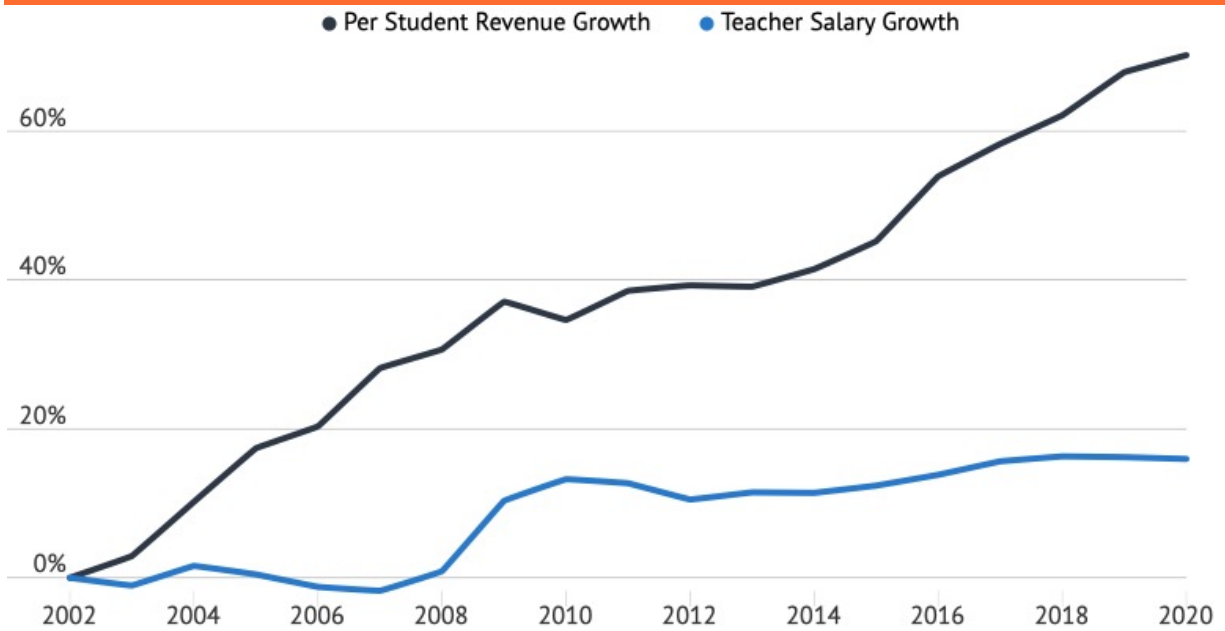


FIGURE 4: TEACHER SALARY GROWTH VS. REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH (2002-2020)



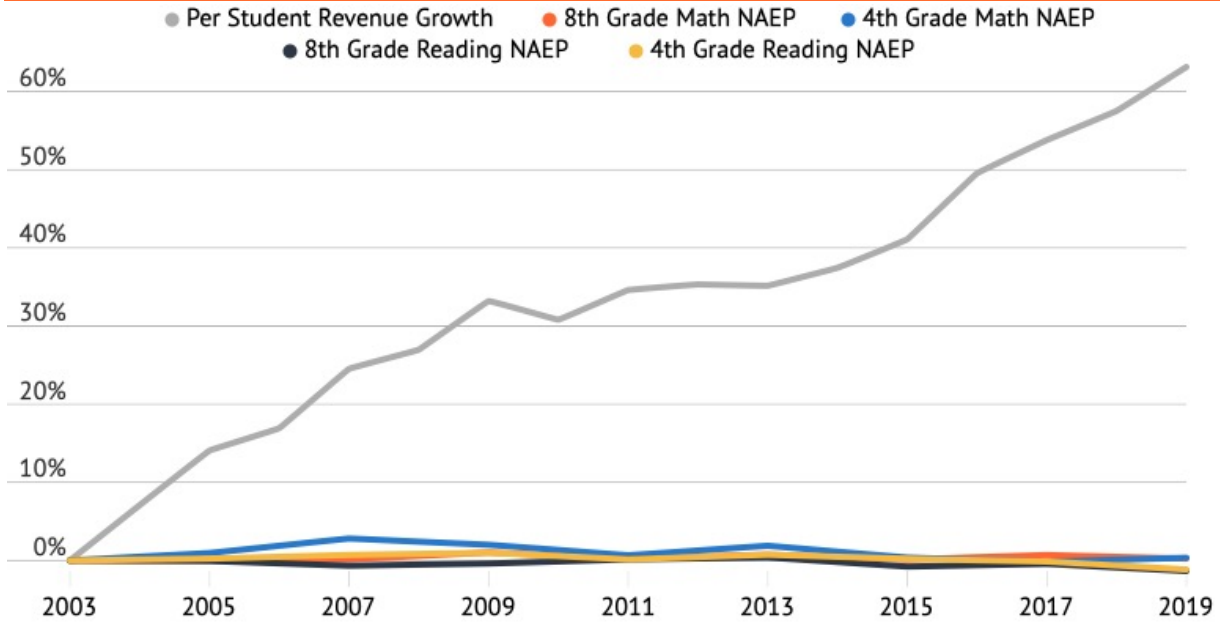
NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, New York’s 4th grade NAEP reading scores decreased by three points (–1.2%), ranking 41st in the U.S., while its 4th grade math scores grew by one point (+0.3%), ranking 43rd. During this time, the state’s 8th grade reading scores decreased by four points (–1.3%), ranking 40th in the U.S., while its 8th grade math scores grew by one point (+0.2%), ranking 40th.

TABLE 3: NAEP SCORES (2003-2019)

Subject	4th Grade			8th Grade		
	Score Growth	Growth Rank	2019 Rank	Score Growth	Growth Rank	2019 Rank
Reading	–3	41	28	–4	40	35
Math	1	43	40	1	40	27

FIGURE 5: NAEP SCORE GROWTH VS REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH¹



LOW-INCOME NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, New York’s low-income 4th grade NAEP reading scores decreased by one point (-0.7%), ranking 40th in the U.S., while its 4th grade math scores grew by one point (+0.5%), ranking 41st. During this time, the state’s 8th grade reading scores increased by one point (+0.4%), ranking 25th in the U.S., while its 8th grade math scores grew by four points (+1.5%), ranking 29th.

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	-1	40	29	1	25	23
Math	1	41	41	4	29	30

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

