

OREGON

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 Oregon'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

Oregon's inflation-adjusted education revenue grew from \$12,426 per student in 2002 to \$15,844 per student in 2020, a 27.5% growth rate that ranked 18th highest in the U.S. During this time, real spending on employee benefits grew by 56.8%—ranking 26th in the country—going from \$2,630 per student to \$4,124 per student. In 2020, Oregon had \$9,698,660,000 in total education debt, up \$8,698 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	\$12,426	\$15,844	27.5%	18	22
Support Services	\$4,193	\$4,995	19.1%	37	20
Instruction	\$6,442	\$7,460	15.8%	27	26
Benefits	\$2,630	\$4,124	56.8%	26	15
Capital	\$1,462	\$3,358	129.6%	7	1
Total Debt	\$8,008	\$16,706	108.6%	9	3

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

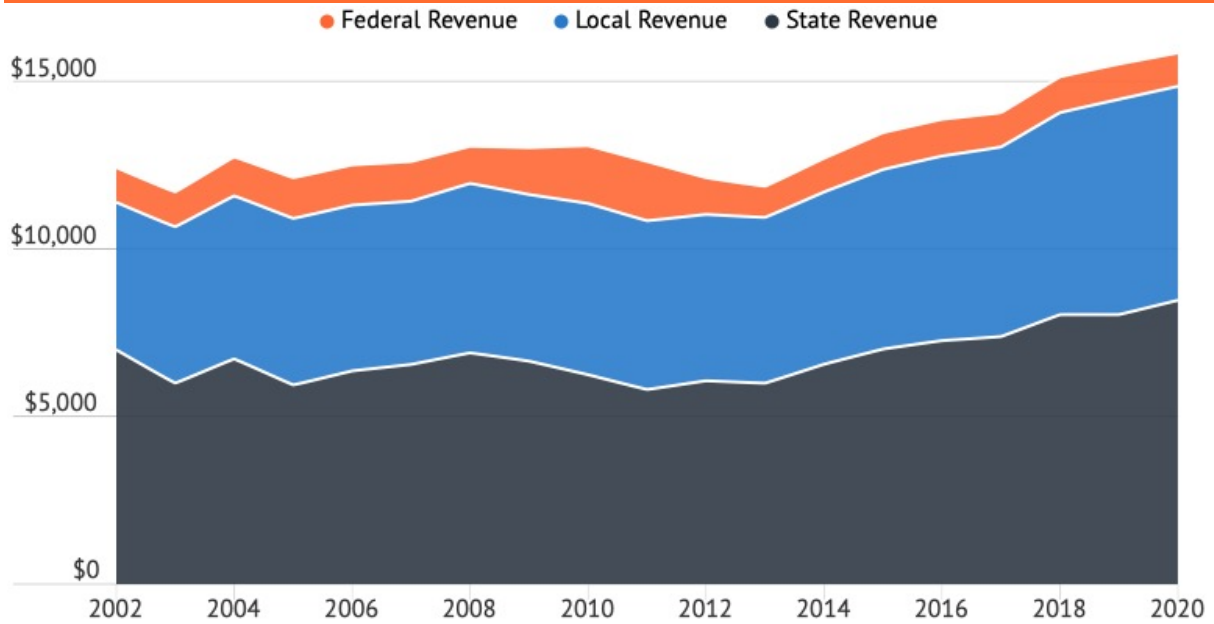
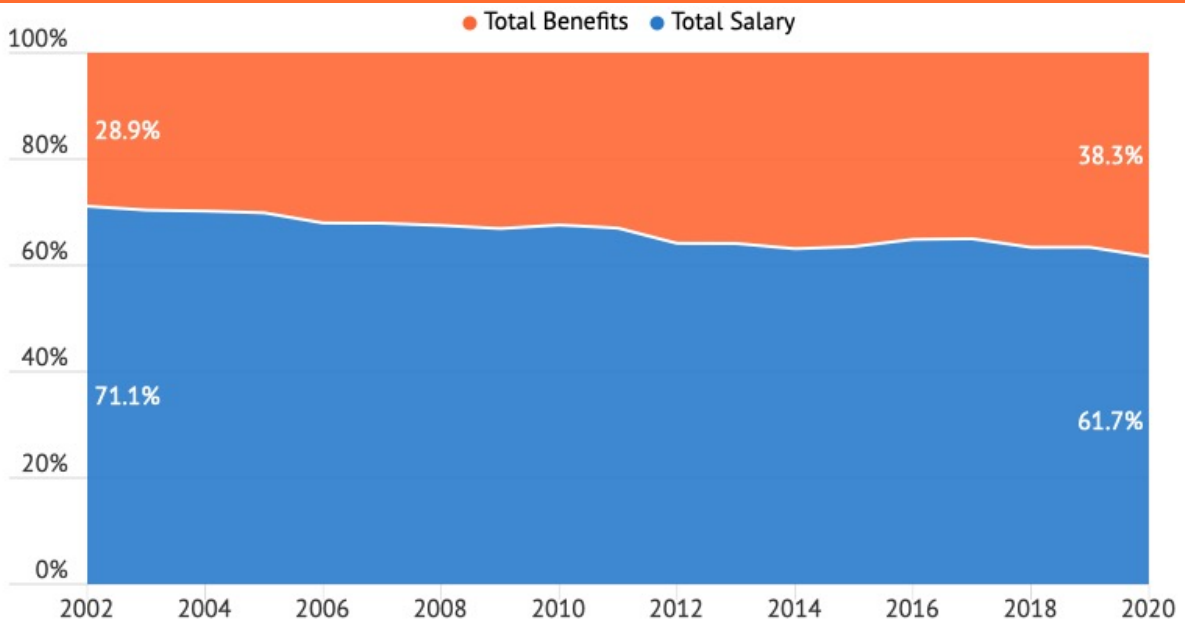


FIGURE 2: K-12 TOTAL SALARY & BENEFITS (2002-2020)



ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS

Between 2002 and 2020, Oregon’s student population grew by 10.7%. At the same time, the number of total public education staff grew by 22.2%, with teachers increasing by 7.0% and non-teachers increasing by 37.0%. The average inflation-adjusted teacher salary in the state went from \$66,541 in 2002 to \$67,685 in 2020, a 1.7% growth rate that ranked 19th in the U.S.

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

Category	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Enrollment	551,480	610,648	10.7%	16	29
Total Staff	57,333	70,069	22.2%	10	32
Teachers	28,262	30,238	7.0%	22	34
Non-Teachers	29,071	39,831	37.0%	8	29
Average Teacher Salary	\$66,541	\$67,685	1.7%	19	12

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

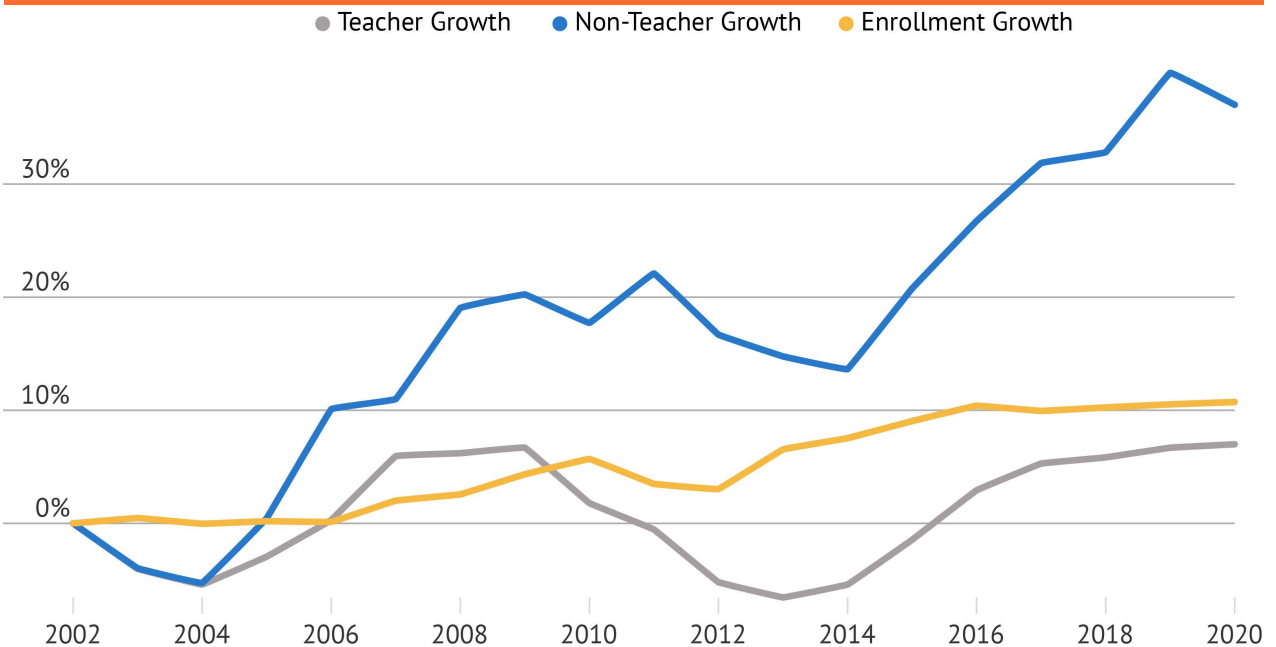
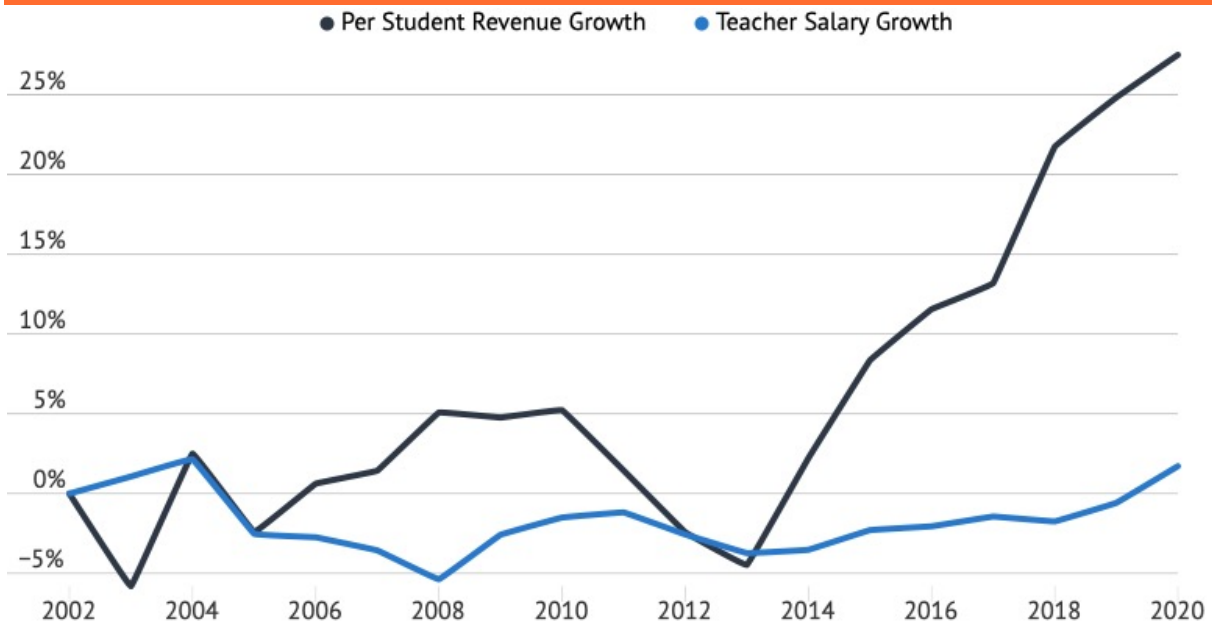


FIGURE 4: TEACHER SALARY GROWTH VS. REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH (2002-2020)



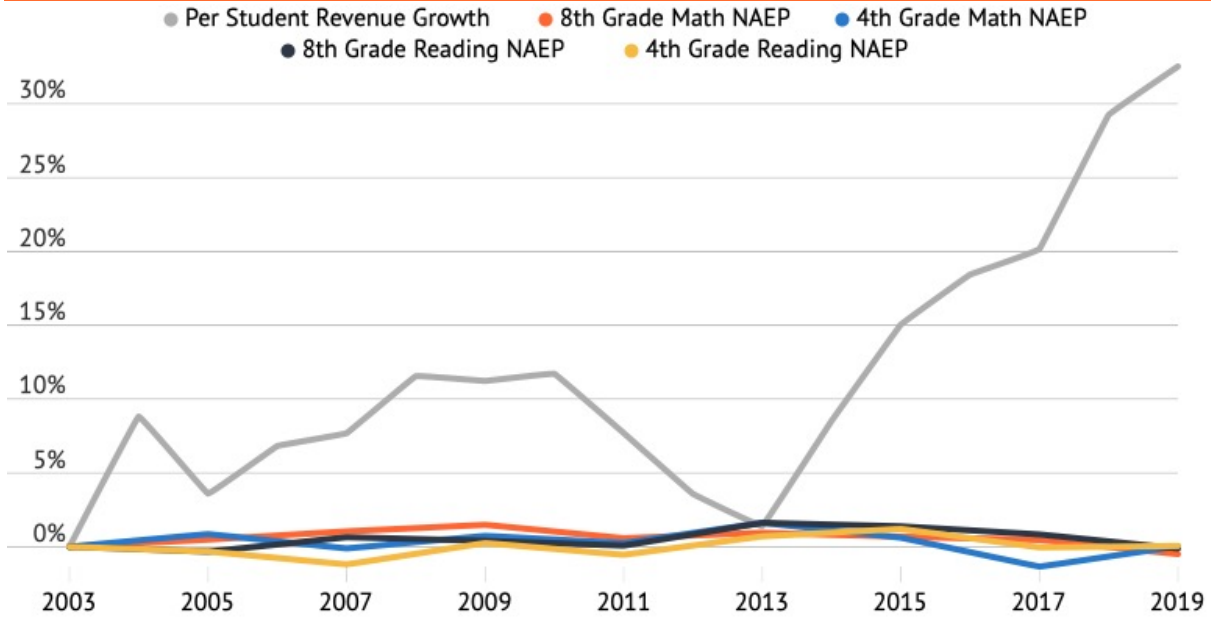
NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Oregon's 4th grade NAEP reading scores increased by zero points (+0.0%), ranking 31st in the U.S., while its 4th grade math scores grew by zero points (+0.0%), ranking 46th. During this time, the state's 8th grade reading scores decreased by zero points (-0.1%), ranking 28th in the U.S., while its 8th grade math scores decreased by one point (-0.5%), ranking 45th.

TABLE 3: NAEP SCORES (2003-2019)

Subject	4th Grade			8th Grade		
	Score Growth	Growth Rank	2019 Rank	Score Growth	Growth Rank	2019 Rank
Reading	0	31	36	0	28	21
Math	0	46	41	-1	45	33

FIGURE 5: NAEP SCORE GROWTH VS REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH¹



LOW-INCOME NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Oregon's low-income 4th grade NAEP reading scores increased by one point (+0.6%), ranking 34th in the U.S., while its 4th grade math scores grew by one point (+0.5%), ranking 42nd. During this time, the state's 8th grade reading scores increased by zero points (+0.0%), ranking 30th in the U.S., while its 8th grade math scores grew by one point (+0.3%), ranking 39th.

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	34	27	0	30	7
Math	1	42	29	1	39	24

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

