

FLORIDA

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 Florida'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

Florida's inflation-adjusted education revenue grew from \$10,707 per student in 2002 to \$11,526 per student in 2020, a 7.6% growth rate that ranked 43rd in the U.S. During this time, real spending on employee benefits grew by 18.2%—ranking 47th in the country—going from \$1,515 per student to \$1,791 per student. In 2020, Florida had \$14,023,848,000 in total education debt, down \$202 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	\$10,707	\$11,526	7.6%	43	43
Support Services	\$3,228	\$3,377	4.6%	47	47
Instruction	\$5,071	\$6,082	19.9%	20	40
Benefits	\$1,515	\$1,791	18.2%	47	47
Capital	\$1,733	\$1,151	-33.6%	46	40
Total Debt	\$5,142	\$4,940	-3.9%	41	42

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

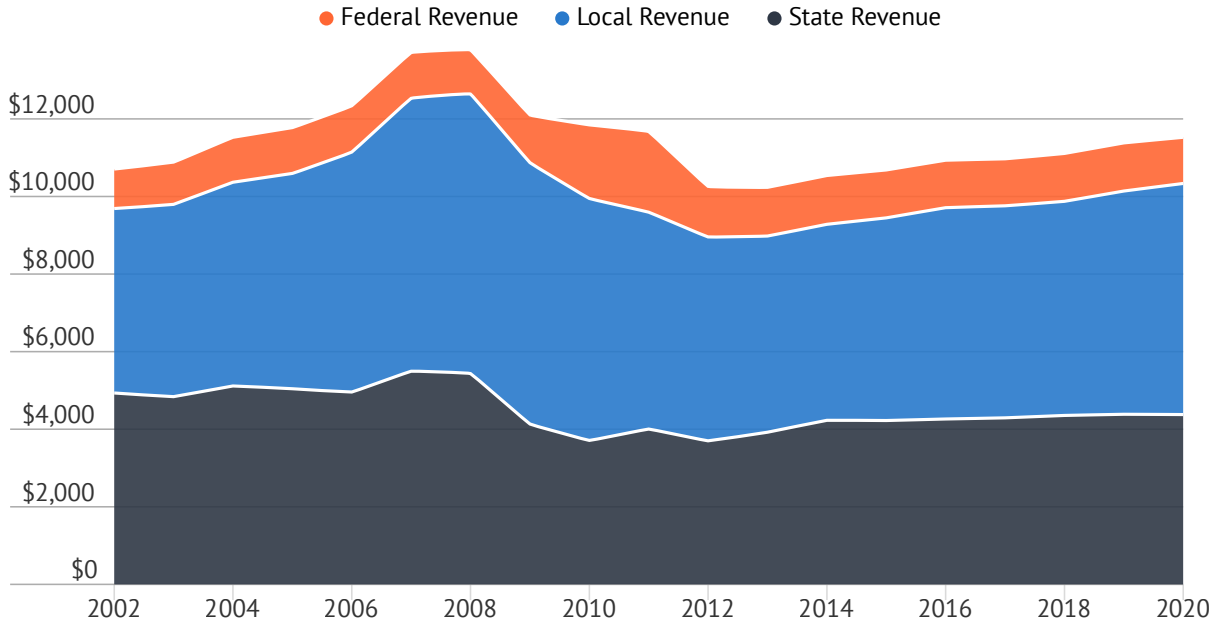
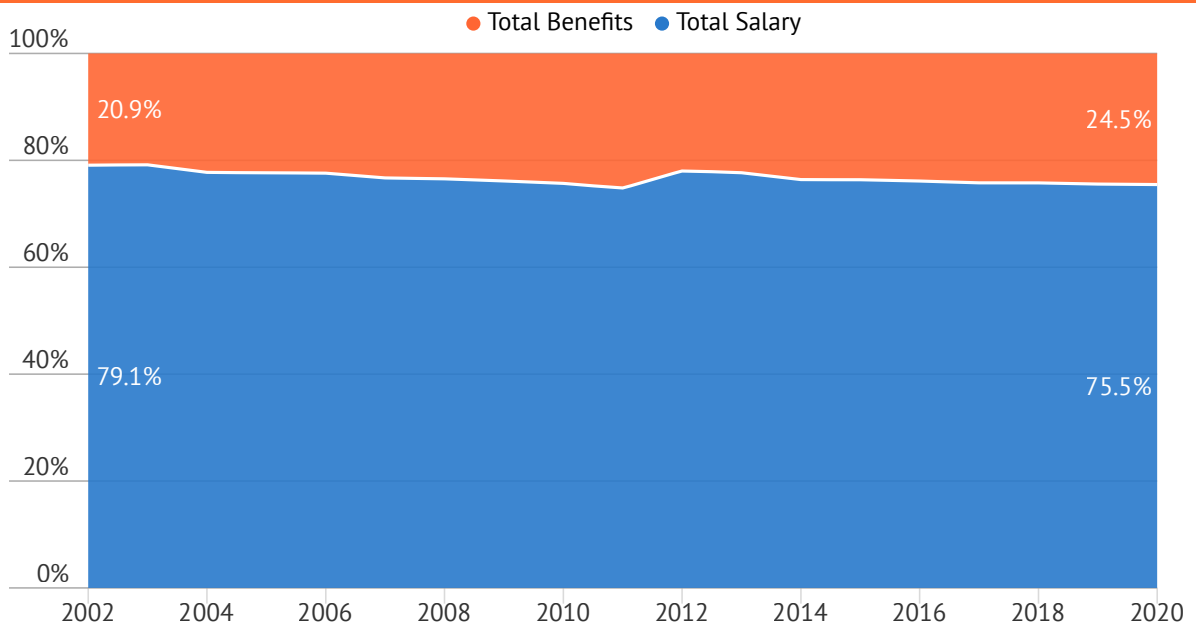


FIGURE 2: K-12 TOTAL SALARY & BENEFITS (2002-2020)



ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS

Between 2002 and 2020, Florida’s student population grew by 14.3%. At the same time, the number of total public education staff grew by 21.7%, with teachers increasing by 23.3% and non-teachers increasing by 20.3%. The average inflation-adjusted teacher salary in the state went from \$56,713 in 2002 to \$49,102 in 2020, a -13.4% growth rate that ranked 48th in the U.S.

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

Category	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Enrollment	2,500,478	2,858,461	14.3%	12	3
Total Staff	282,696	344,008	21.7%	12	4
Teachers	134,684	166,002	23.3%	7	4
Non-Teachers	148,012	178,006	20.3%	27	5
Average Teacher Salary	\$56,713	\$49,102	-13.4%	48	48

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

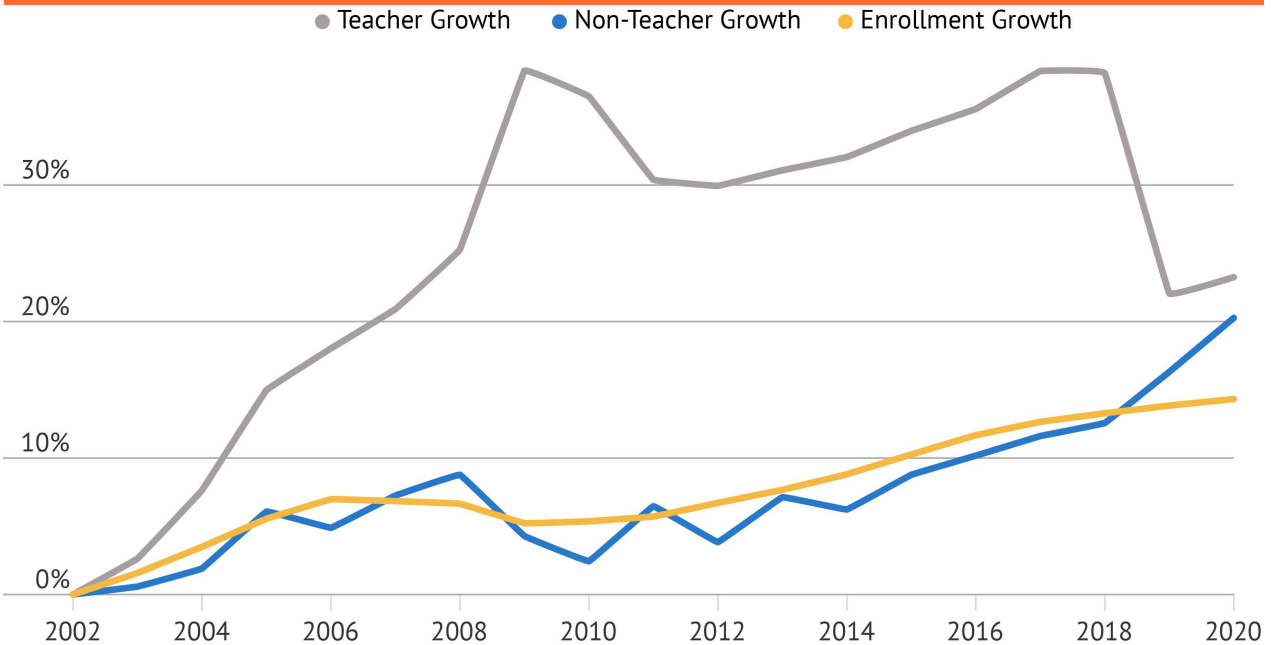
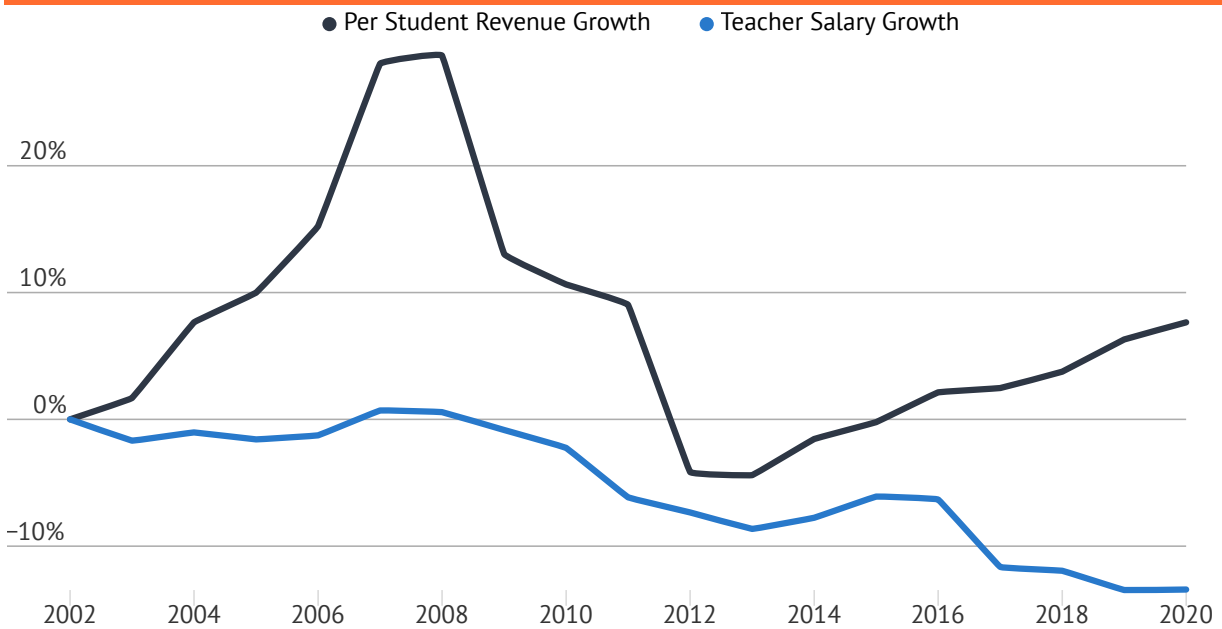


FIGURE 4: TEACHER SALARY GROWTH VS. REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH (2002-2020)



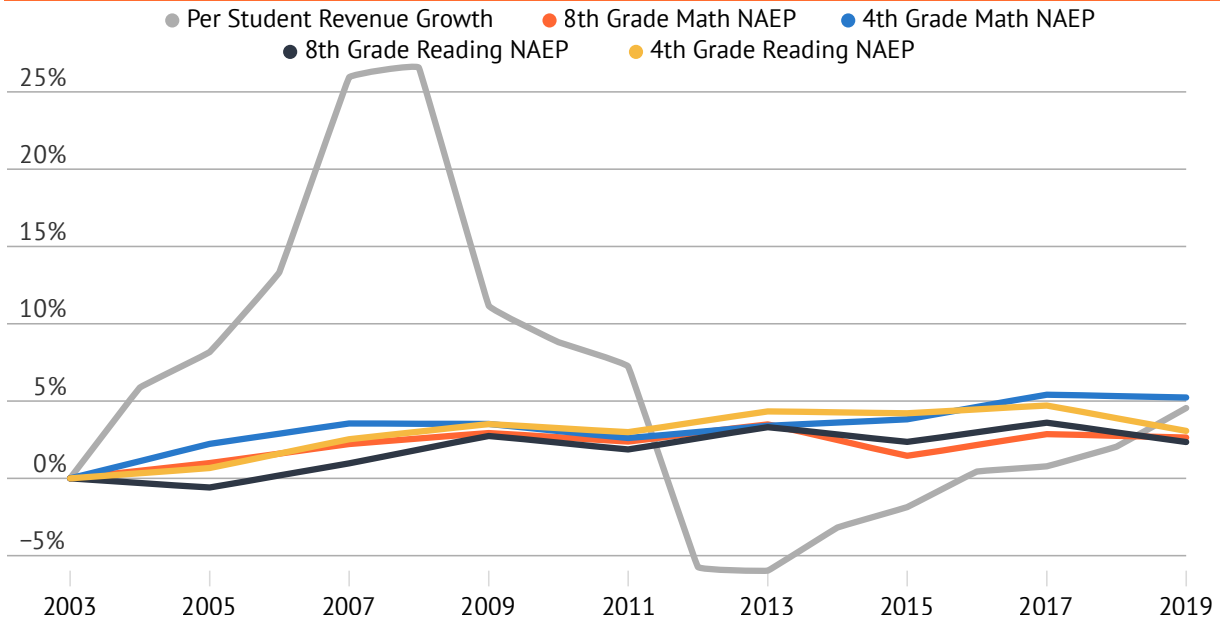
NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Florida's 4th grade NAEP reading scores increased by seven points (+3.1%), ranking 7th in the U.S., while its 4th grade math scores grew by 12 points (+5.2%), ranking 2nd. During this time, the state's 8th grade reading scores increased by six points (+2.4%), ranking 3rd in the U.S., while its 8th grade math scores grew by seven points (+2.6%), ranking 10th.

TABLE 3: NAEP SCORES (2003-2019)

Subject	4th Grade			8th Grade		
	Score Growth	Growth Rank	2019 Rank	Score Growth	Growth Rank	2019 Rank
Reading	7	7	6	6	3	22
Math	12	2	4	7	10	35

FIGURE 5: NAEP SCORE GROWTH VS REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH¹



LOW-INCOME NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Florida's low-income 4th grade NAEP reading scores increased by 11 points (+5.4%), ranking 4th in the U.S., while its 4th grade math scores grew by 17 points (+7.5%), ranking 2nd. During this time, the state's 8th grade reading scores increased by nine points (+3.8%), ranking 2nd in the U.S., while its 8th grade math scores grew by 11 points (+4.4%), ranking 8th.

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	11	4	1	9	2	5
Math	17	2	1	11	8	25

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

