

HAWAII

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 Hawaii'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

Hawaii's inflation-adjusted education revenue grew from \$14,785 per student in 2002 to \$18,756 per student in 2020, a 26.9% growth rate that ranked 20th highest in the U.S. During this time, real spending on employee benefits grew by 260.2%—ranking 1st in the country—going from \$1,392 per student to \$5,014 per student. In 2020, Hawaii had \$0 in total education debt, down \$0 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	\$14,785	\$18,756	26.9%	20	13
Support Services	\$3,582	\$6,001	67.5%	2	12
Instruction	\$6,378	\$9,806	53.7%	3	12
Benefits	\$1,392	\$5,014	260.2%	1	8
Capital	\$330	\$1,089	230.5%	3	41
Total Debt	\$0	\$0	NA	NA	NA

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

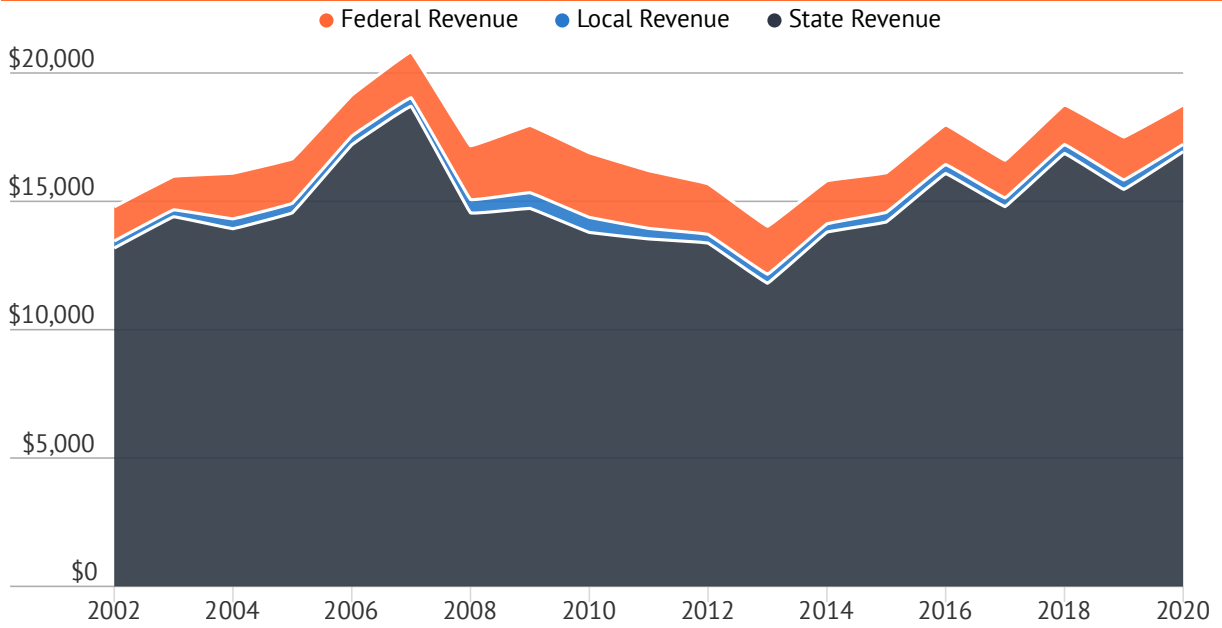
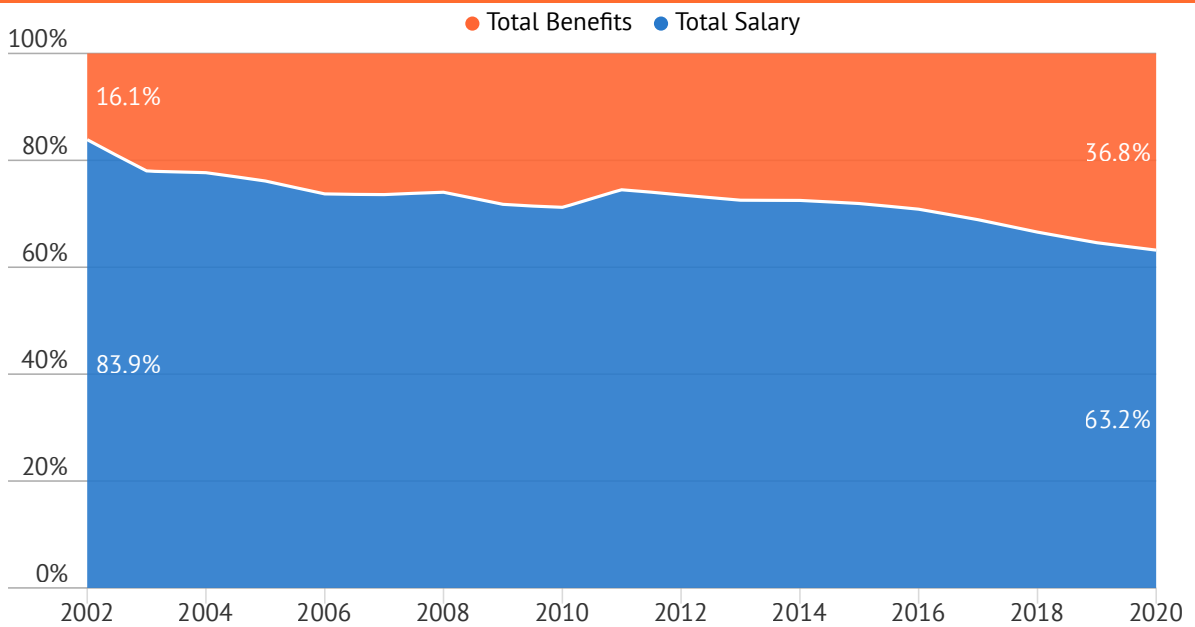


FIGURE 2: K-12 TOTAL SALARY & BENEFITS (2002-2020)



ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS

Between 2002 and 2020, Hawaii’s student population decreased by 1.9%. At the same time, the number of total public education staff grew by 19.9%, with teachers increasing by 11.0% and non-teachers increasing by 31.4%. The average inflation-adjusted teacher salary in the state went from \$61,536 in 2002 to \$65,409 in 2020, a 6.3% growth rate that ranked 10th in the U.S.

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

Category	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Enrollment	184,546	181,088	-1.9%	36	40
Total Staff	19,464	23,336	19.9%	17	42
Teachers	11,007	12,221	11.0%	17	42
Non-Teachers	8,457	11,115	31.4%	11	42
Average Teacher Salary	\$61,536	\$65,409	6.3%	10	13

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

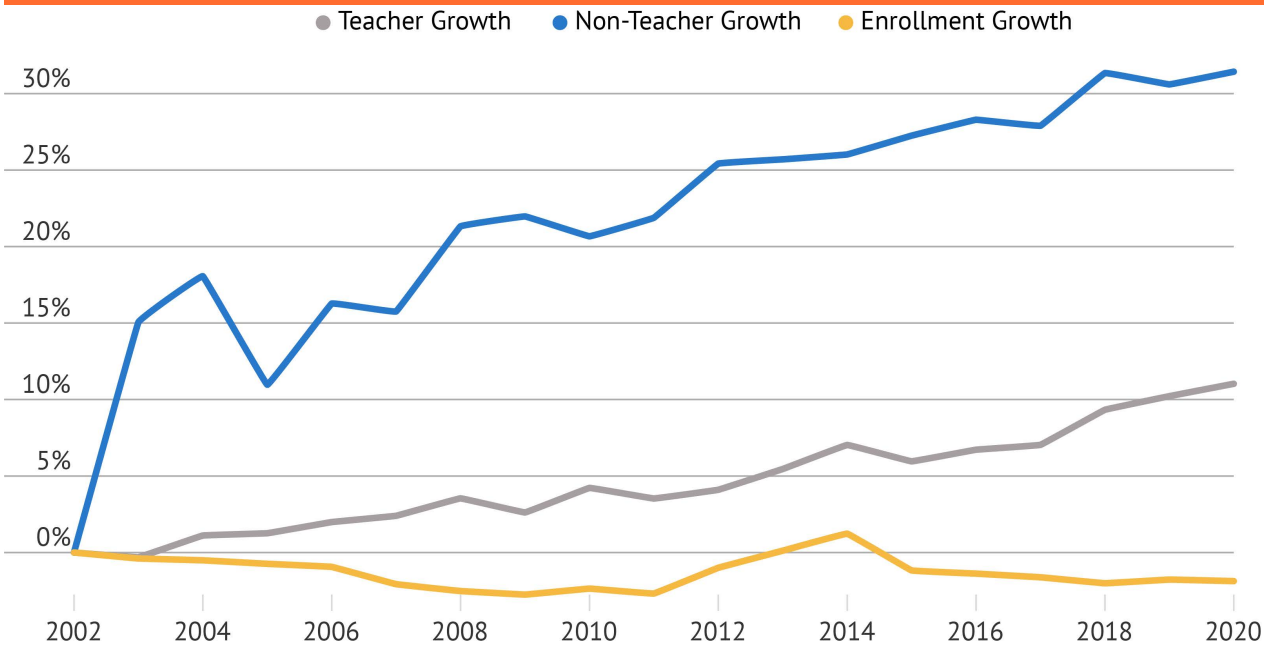
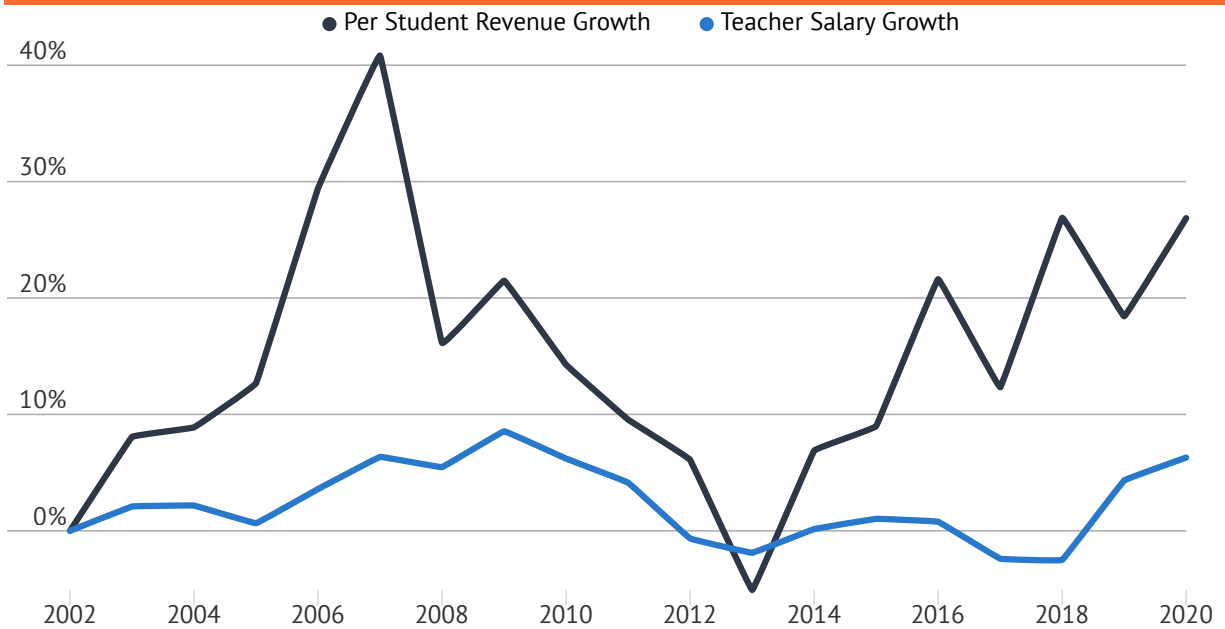


FIGURE 4: TEACHER SALARY GROWTH VS. REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH (2002-2020)



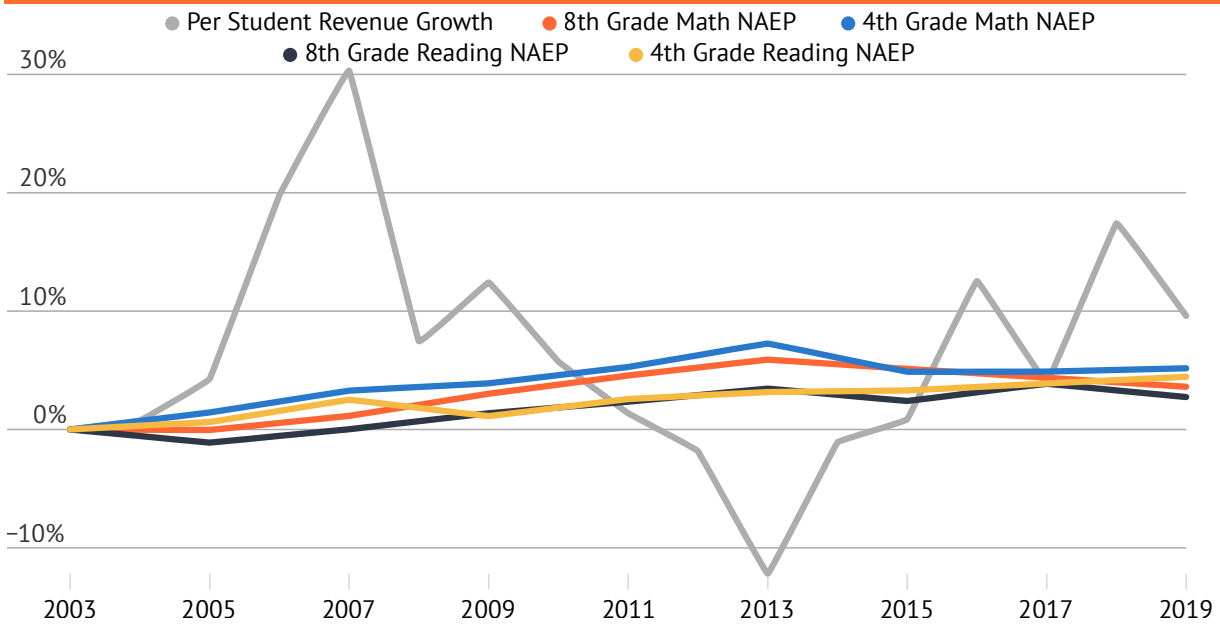
NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Hawaii's 4th grade NAEP reading scores increased by nine points (+4.5%), ranking 4th in the U.S., while its 4th grade math scores grew by 12 points (+5.2%), ranking 4th. During this time, the state's 8th grade reading scores increased by seven points (+2.7%), ranking 2nd in the U.S., while its 8th grade math scores grew by 10 points (+3.6%), ranking 5th.

TABLE 3: NAEP SCORES (2003-2019)

Subject	4th Grade			8th Grade		
	Score Growth	Growth Rank	2019 Rank	Score Growth	Growth Rank	2019 Rank
Reading	9	4	39	7	2	42
Math	12	4	32	10	5	42

FIGURE 5: NAEP SCORE GROWTH VS REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH¹



LOW-INCOME NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Hawaii’s low-income 4th grade NAEP reading scores increased by eight points (+4.3%), ranking 7th in the U.S., while its 4th grade math scores grew by 10 points (+4.7%), ranking 6th. During this time, the state’s 8th grade reading scores increased by five points (+2.2%), ranking 10th in the U.S., while its 8th grade math scores grew by eight points (+3.2%), ranking 13th.

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	8	7	35	5	10	45
Math	10	6	36	8	13	42

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

