

KANSAS

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 Kansas'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

Kansas's inflation-adjusted education revenue grew from \$11,718 per student in 2002 to \$14,588 per student in 2020, a 24.5% growth rate that ranked 26th in the U.S. During this time, real spending on employee benefits grew by 92.2%—ranking 16th in the country—going from \$1,364 per student to \$2,622 per student. In 2020, Kansas had \$6,699,785,000 in total education debt, up \$4,742 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	\$11,718	\$14,588	24.5%	26	25
Support Services	\$3,671	\$4,394	19.7%	36	31
Instruction	\$6,016	\$7,790	29.5%	13	23
Benefits	\$1,364	\$2,622	92.2%	16	32
Capital	\$711	\$1,958	175.2%	6	12
Total Debt	\$8,719	\$13,461	54.4%	21	8

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

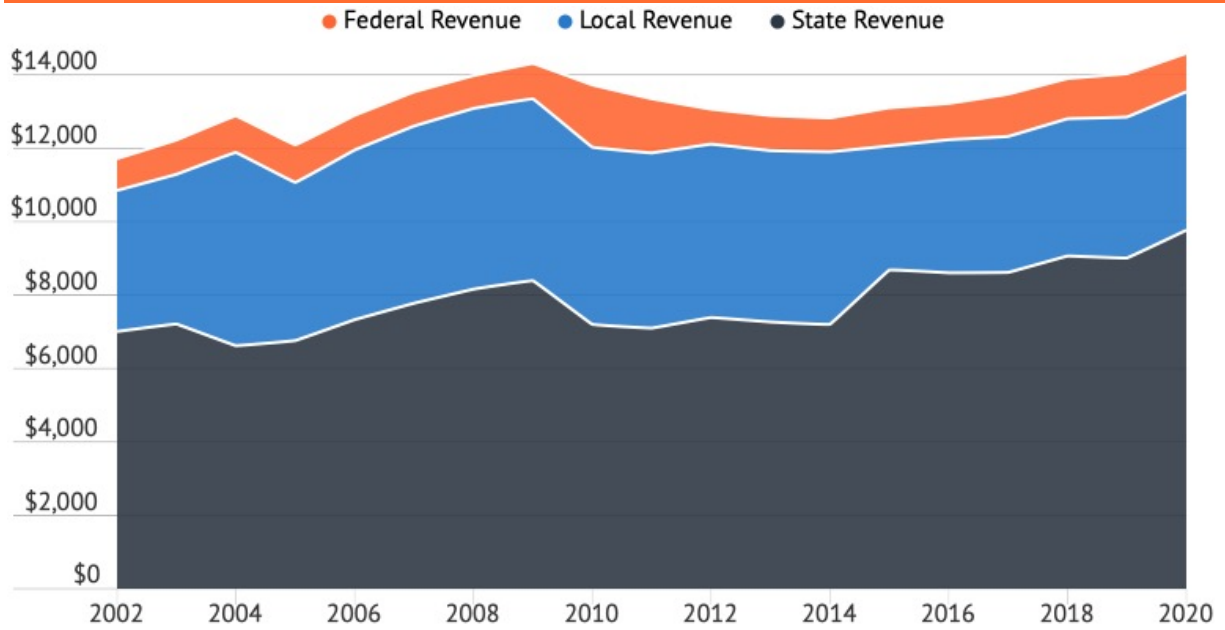
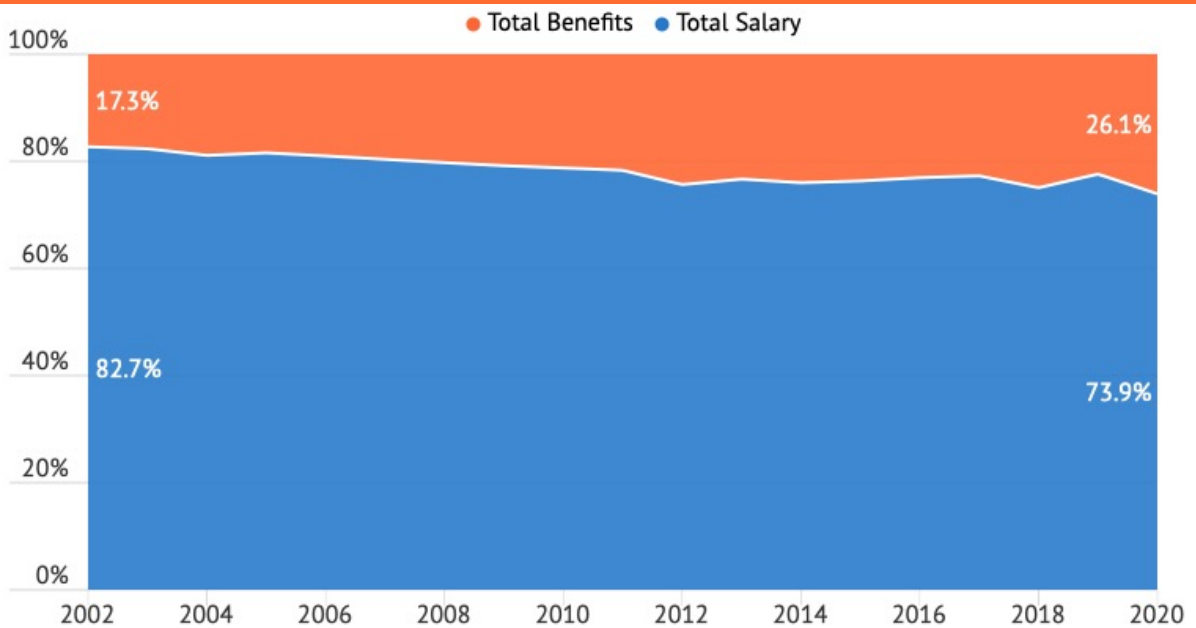


FIGURE 2: K-12 TOTAL SALARY & BENEFITS (2002-2020)



ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS

Between 2002 and 2020, Kansas’s student population grew by 5.9%. At the same time, the number of total public education staff grew by 11.3%, with teachers increasing by 10.6% and non-teachers increasing by 12.1%. The average inflation-adjusted teacher salary in the state went from \$53,562 in 2002 to \$51,320 in 2020, a -4.2% growth rate that ranked 35th in the U.S.

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

Category	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Enrollment	470,205	497,963	5.9%	23	32
Total Staff	65,155	72,548	11.3%	29	31
Teachers	33,084	36,603	10.6%	20	30
Non-Teachers	32,071	35,945	12.1%	34	31
Average Teacher Salary	\$53,562	\$51,320	-4.2%	35	43

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

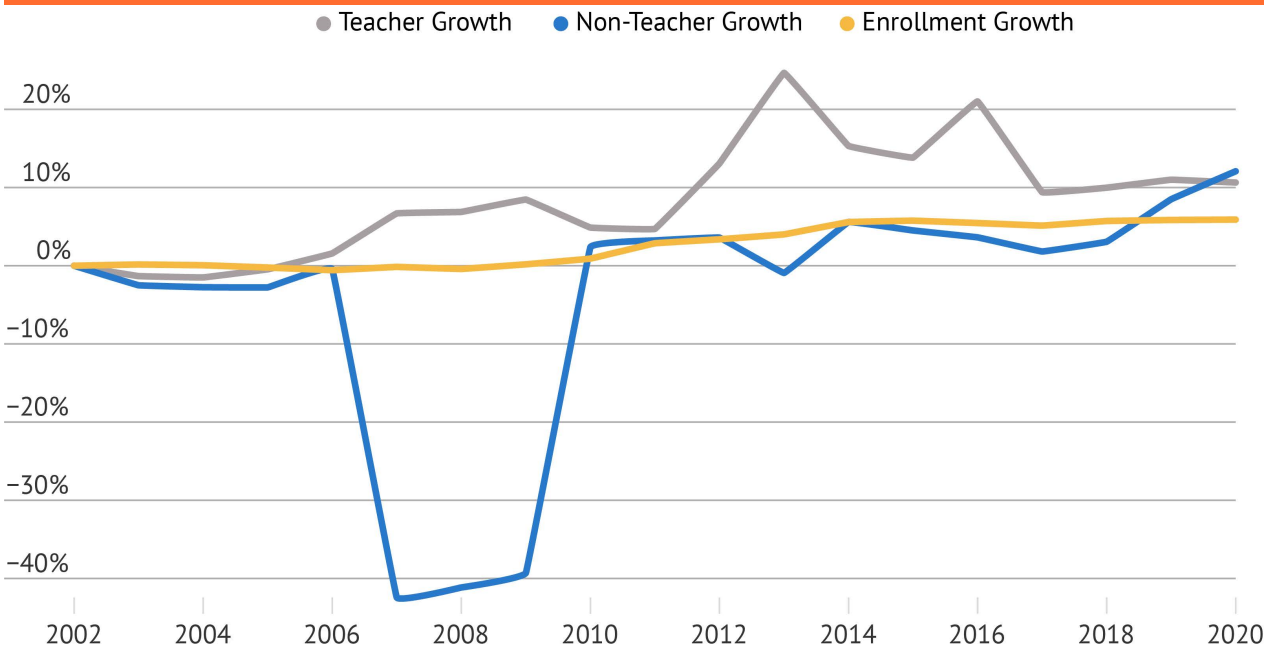
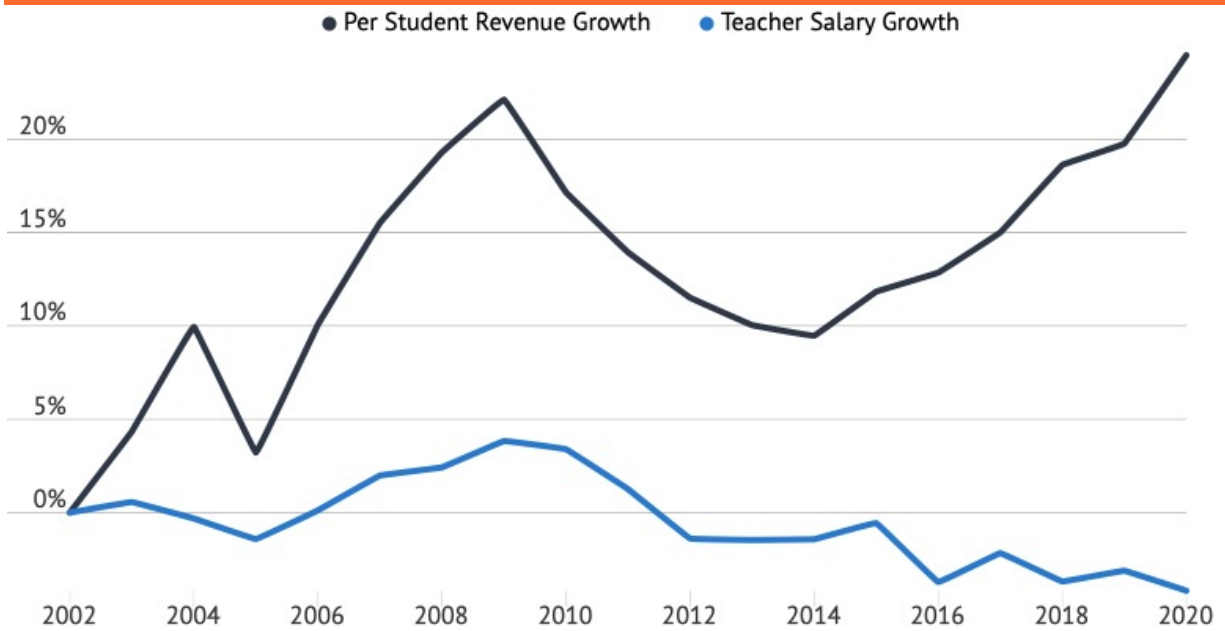


FIGURE 4: TEACHER SALARY GROWTH VS. REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH (2002-2020)



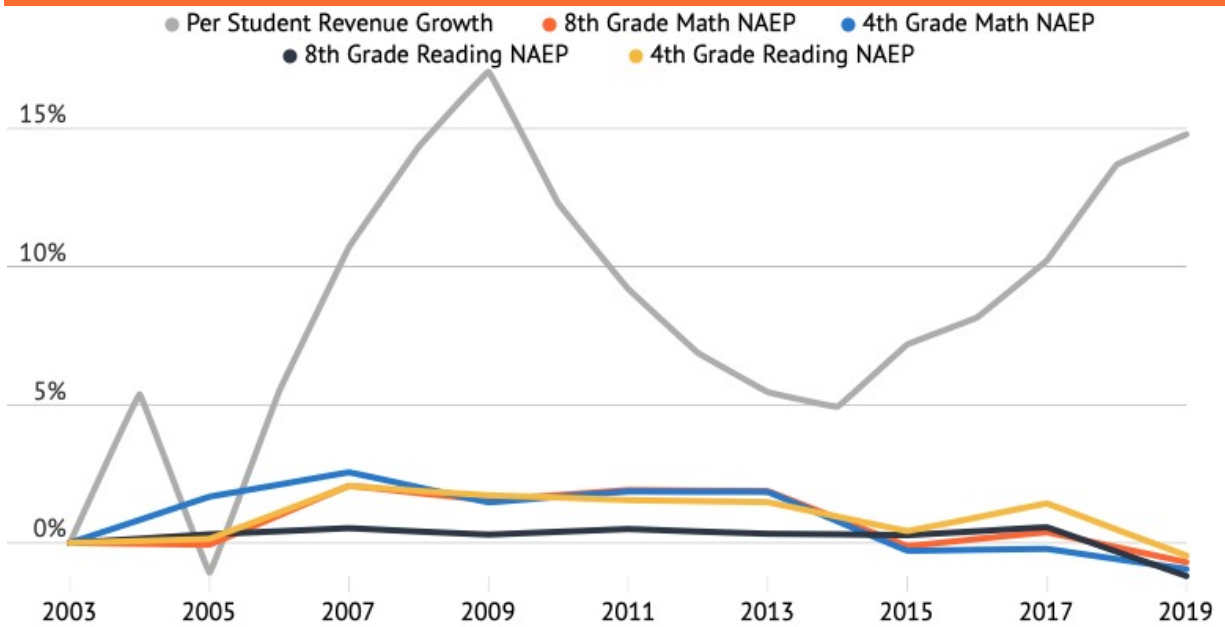
NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Kansas's 4th grade NAEP reading scores decreased by one point (-0.5%), ranking 37th in the U.S., while its 4th grade math scores fell by two points (-1.0%), ranking 49th. During this time, the state's 8th grade reading scores decreased by three points (-1.2%), ranking 37th in the U.S., while its 8th grade math scores fell by two points (-0.7%), ranking 48th.

TABLE 3: NAEP SCORES (2003-2019)

Subject	4th Grade			8th Grade		
	Score Growth	Growth Rank	2019 Rank	Score Growth	Growth Rank	2019 Rank
Reading	-1	37	30	-3	37	26
Math	-2	49	27	-2	48	24

FIGURE 5: NAEP SCORE GROWTH VS REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH¹



LOW-INCOME NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Kansas's low-income 4th grade NAEP reading scores decreased by zero points (-0.1%), ranking 38th in the U.S., while its 4th grade math scores fell by three points (-1.3%), ranking 50th. During this time, the state's 8th grade reading scores decreased by one point (-0.6%), ranking 37th in the U.S., while its 8th grade math scores fell by one point (-0.4%), ranking 45th.

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	0	38	30	-1	37	17
Math	-3	50	26	-1	45	14

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

