

# MINNESOTA

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 Minnesota'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.

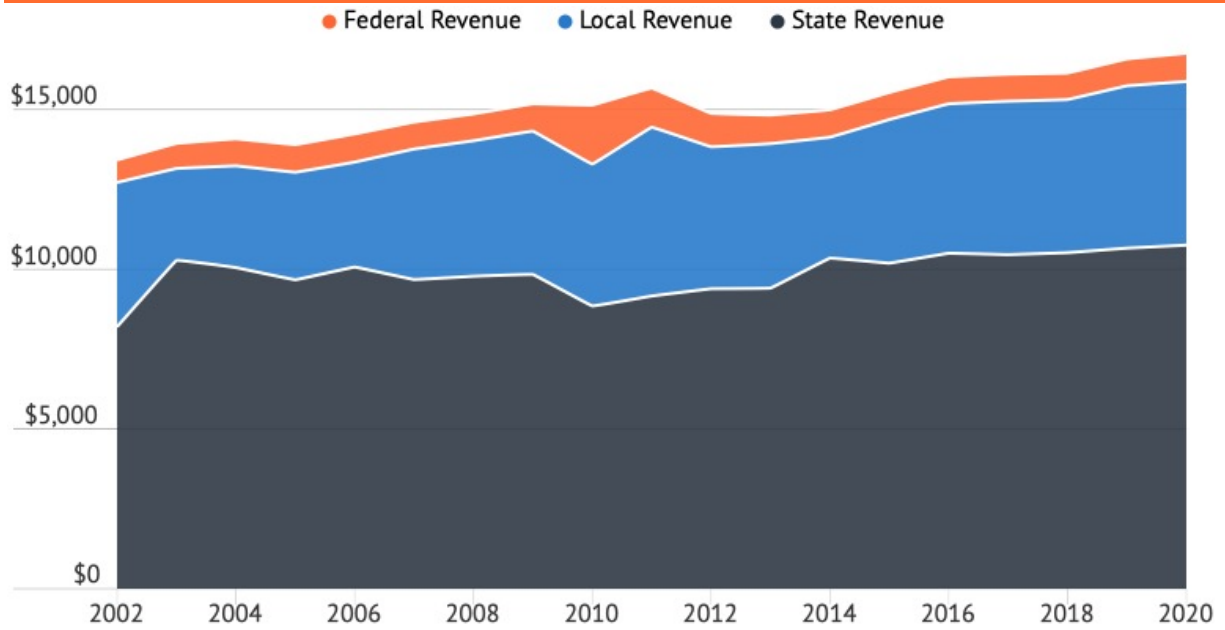
## SPENDING TRENDS

Minnesota's inflation-adjusted education revenue grew from \$13,421 per student in 2002 to \$16,762 per student in 2020, a 24.9% growth rate that ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> highest in the U.S. During this time, real spending on employee benefits grew by 55.2%—ranking 28<sup>th</sup> in the country—going from \$1,920 per student to \$2,981 per student. In 2020, Minnesota had \$14,628,305,000 in total education debt, up \$4,892 per student in real terms since 2002.

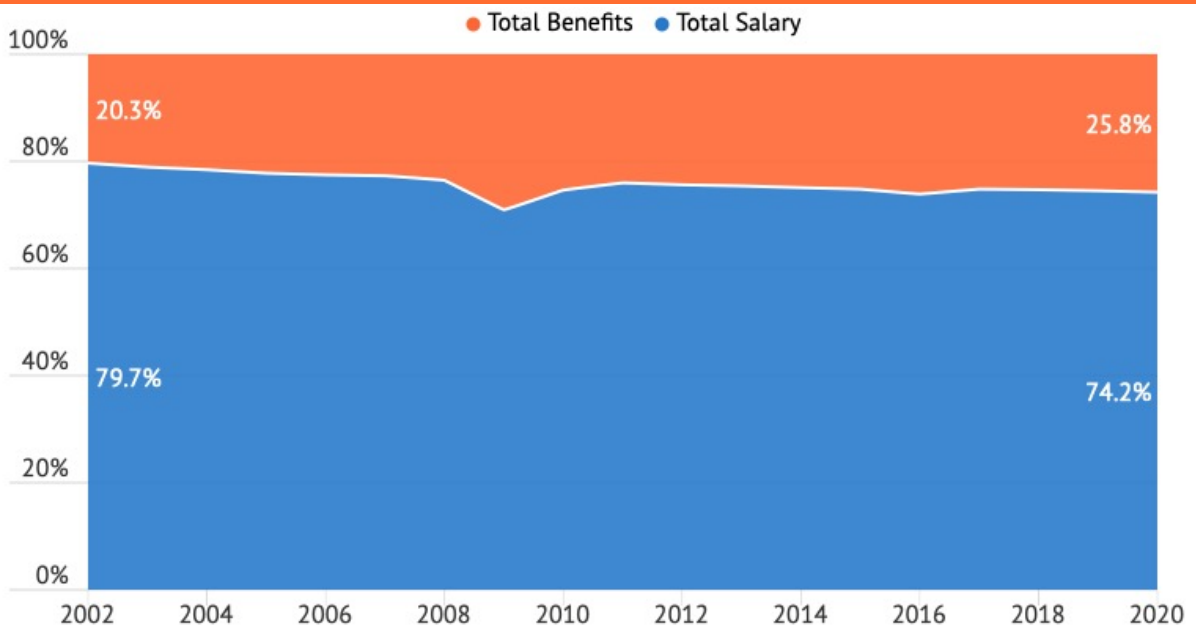
**TABLE 1: SPENDING TRENDS (2002-2020)**

Category (Per Student)	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Revenue	\$13,421	\$16,762	24.9%	23	18
Support Services	\$3,560	\$4,142	16.4%	38	35
Instruction	\$7,068	\$8,885	25.7%	15	15
Benefits	\$1,920	\$2,981	55.2%	28	28
Capital	\$2,205	\$3,036	37.7%	14	3
Total Debt	\$12,868	\$17,759	38%	25	2

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



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



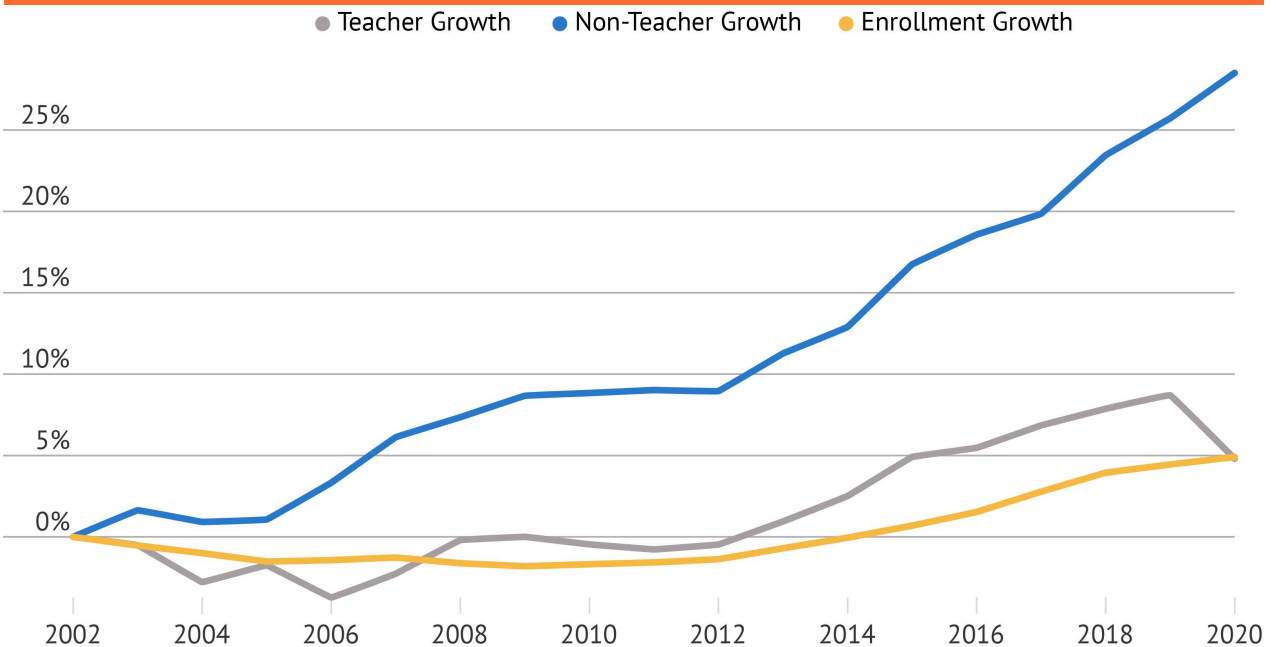
## ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS

Between 2002 and 2020, Minnesota’s student population grew by 4.9%. At the same time, the number of total public education staff grew by 16.5%, with teachers increasing by 4.8% and non-teachers increasing by 28.5%. The average inflation-adjusted teacher salary in the state went from \$60,928 in 2002 to \$58,663 in 2020, a –3.7% growth rate that ranked 32<sup>nd</sup> in the U.S.

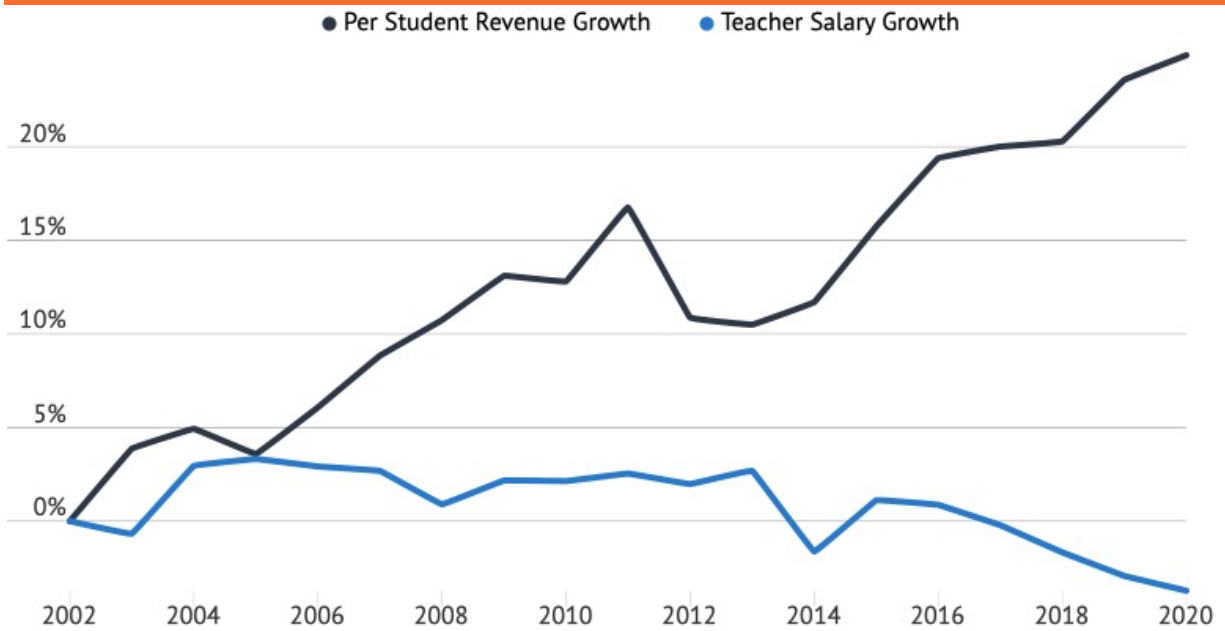
**TABLE 2: ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS (2002-2020)**

Category	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Enrollment	851,384	893,203	4.9%	28	21
Total Staff	104,741	122,018	16.5%	20	17
Teachers	53,081	55,630	4.8%	27	20
Non-Teachers	51,660	66,388	28.5%	16	15
Average Teacher Salary	\$60,928	\$58,663	-3.7%	32	22

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



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



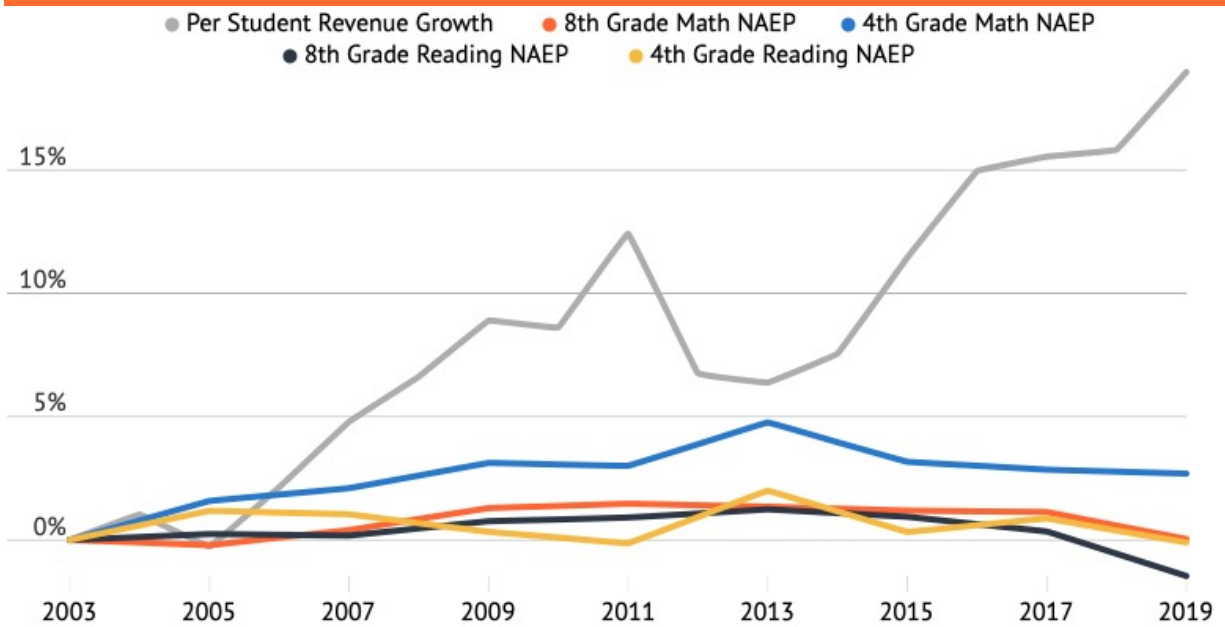
## NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Minnesota's 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP reading scores decreased by zero points (-0.1%), ranking 33<sup>rd</sup> in the U.S., while its 4<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by six points (+2.7%), ranking 21<sup>st</sup>. During this time, the state's 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores decreased by four points (-1.5%), ranking 41<sup>st</sup> in the U.S., while its 8<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by zero points (+0.0%), ranking 42<sup>nd</sup>.

**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	33	12	-4	41	20
Math	6	21	1	0	42	3

**FIGURE 5: NAEP SCORE GROWTH VS REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH<sup>1</sup>**



## LOW-INCOME NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Minnesota's low-income 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP reading scores increased by one point (+0.6%), ranking 33<sup>rd</sup> in the U.S., while its 4<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by five points (+2.3%), ranking 28<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the state's 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores decreased by one point (-0.3%), ranking 35<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 8<sup>th</sup> grade math scores fell by one point (-0.5%), ranking 46<sup>th</sup>.

**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	33	40	-1	35	41
Math	5	28	12	-1	46	10

<sup>1</sup> 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)<sup>1</sup>**

