

# MISSOURI

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 Missouri'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.

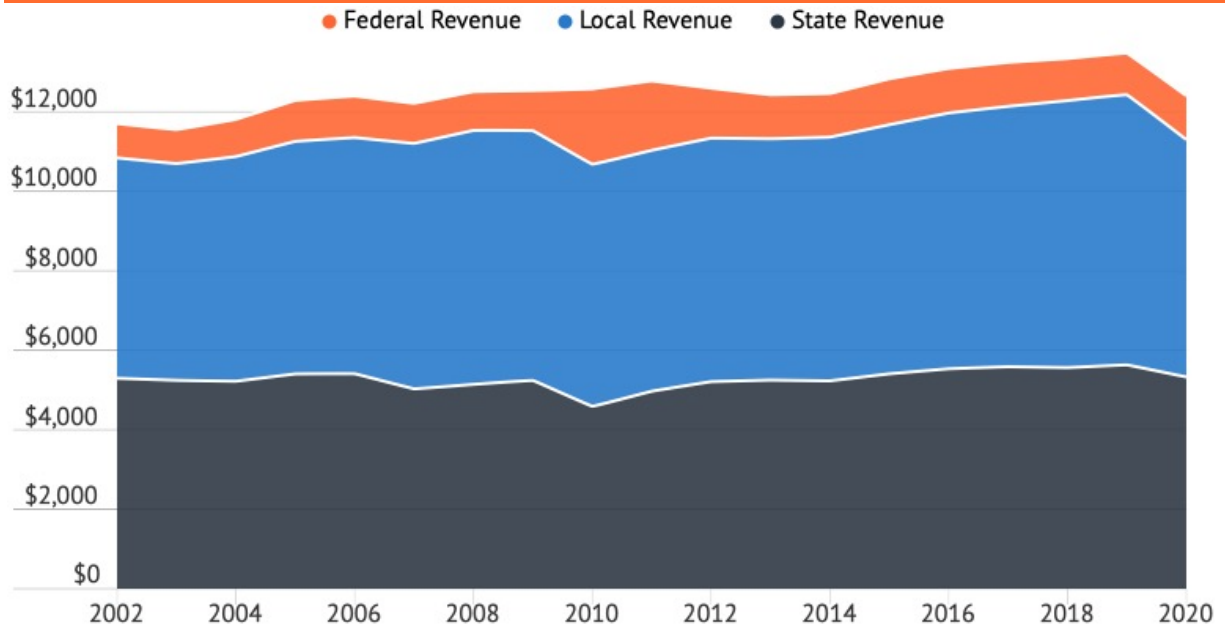
## SPENDING TRENDS

Missouri's inflation-adjusted education revenue grew from \$11,702 per student in 2002 to \$12,402 per student in 2020, a 6.0% growth rate that ranked 46<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. During this time, real spending on employee benefits grew by 53.9%—ranking 30<sup>th</sup> in the country—going from \$1,473 per student to \$2,267 per student. In 2020, Missouri had \$7,442,543,000 in total education debt, up \$2,621 per student in real terms since 2002.

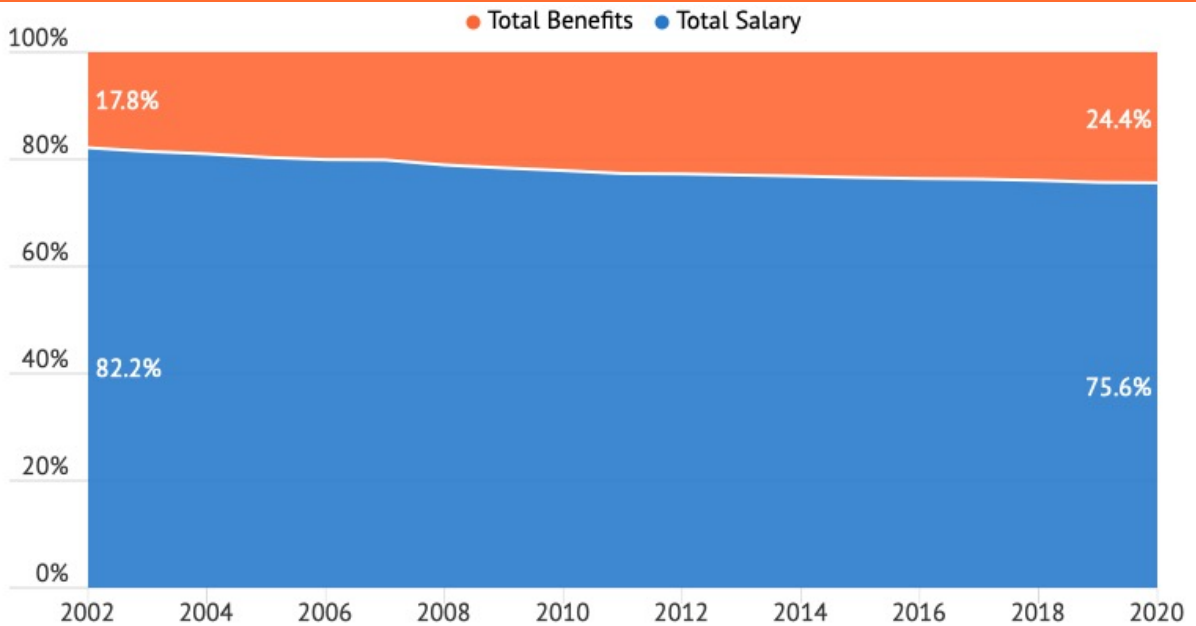
**TABLE 1: SPENDING TRENDS (2002-2020)**

Category (Per Student)	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Revenue	\$11,702	\$12,402	6.0%	46	39
Support Services	\$3,520	\$4,435	26.0%	29	28
Instruction	\$6,173	\$6,364	3.1%	47	35
Benefits	\$1,473	\$2,267	53.9%	30	39
Capital	\$1,311	\$1,416	8.0%	25	28
Total Debt	\$5,785	\$8,406	45.3%	24	24

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



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



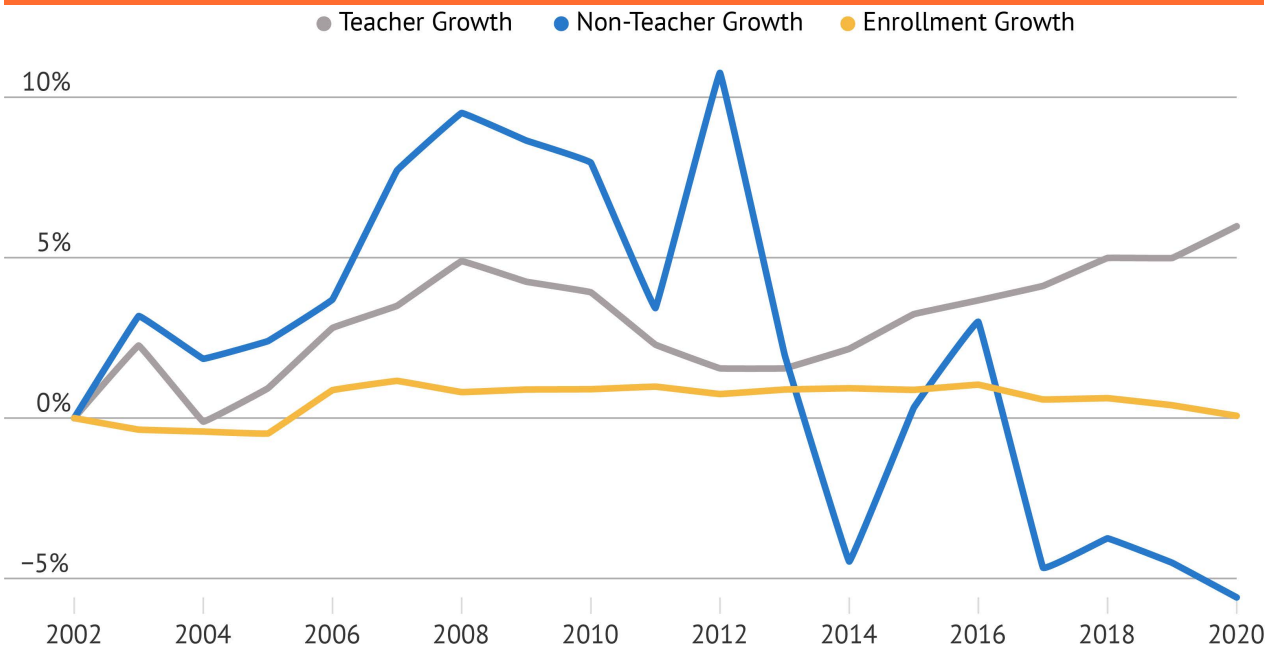
## ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS

Between 2002 and 2020, Missouri’s student population grew by 0.1%. At the same time, the number of total public education staff grew by 0.5%, with teachers increasing by 6.0% and non-teachers decreasing by 5.6%. The average inflation-adjusted teacher salary in the state went from \$54,866 in 2002 to \$50,817 in 2020, a -7.4% growth rate that ranked 43<sup>rd</sup> in the U.S.

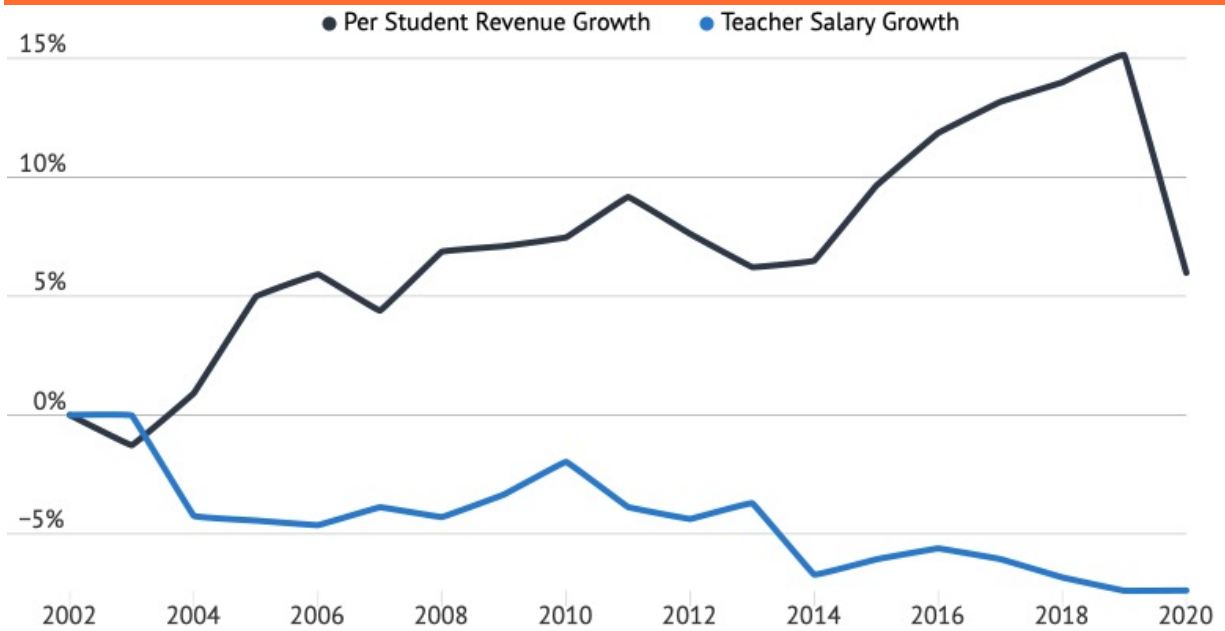
**TABLE 2: ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS (2002-2020)**

Category	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Enrollment	909,792	910,466	0.1%	31	19
Total Staff	124,755	125,333	0.5%	43	16
Teachers	65,240	69,145	6.0%	24	14
Non-Teachers	59,515	56,188	-5.6%	45	21
Average Teacher Salary	\$54,866	\$50,817	-7.4%	43	44

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



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



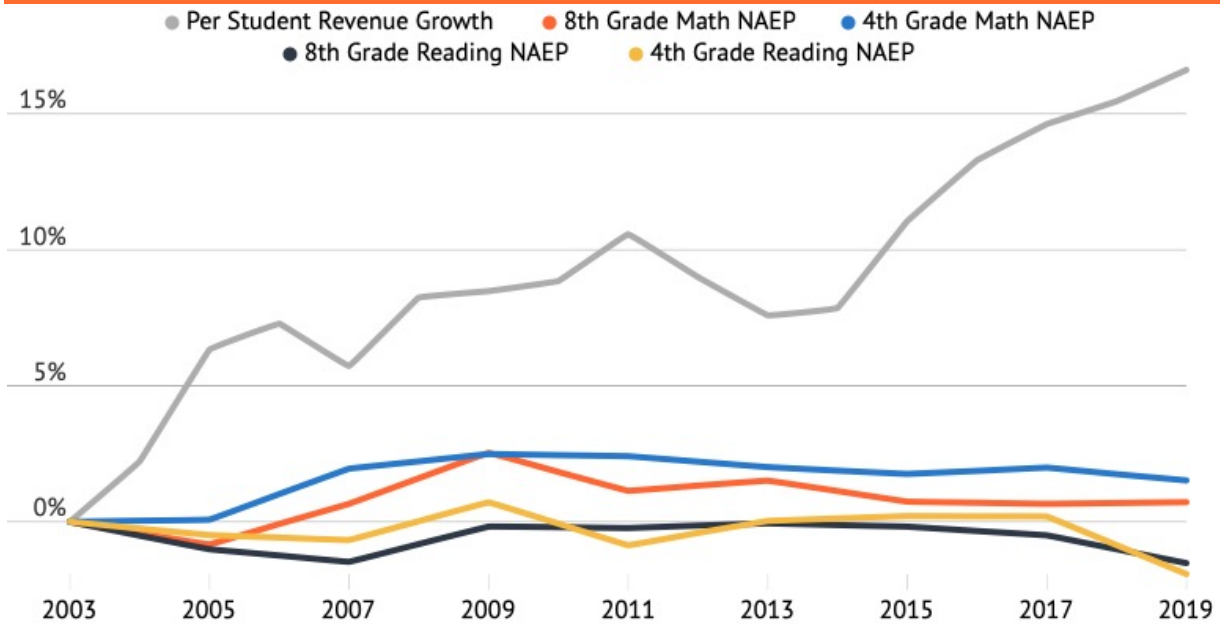
## NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Missouri’s 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP reading scores decreased by four points (-1.9%), ranking 46<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 4<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by four points (+1.5%), ranking 34<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the state’s 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores decreased by four points (-1.5%), ranking 44<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 8<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by two points (+0.7%), ranking 35<sup>th</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	-4	46	34	-4	44	23
Math	4	34	34	2	35	26

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



## LOW-INCOME NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Missouri’s low-income 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP reading scores decreased by one point (-0.4%), ranking 39<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 4<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by five points (+2.4%), ranking 27<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the state’s 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores decreased by three points (-1.2%), ranking 40<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 8<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by four points (+1.6%), ranking 28<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	39	25	-3	40	15
Math	5	27	21	4	28	23

<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>**

