

NEW MEXICO

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 New Mexico'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

New Mexico's inflation-adjusted education revenue grew from \$11,437 per student in 2002 to \$14,394 per student in 2020, a 25.9% growth rate that ranked 22nd highest in the U.S. During this time, real spending on employee benefits grew by 46.9%—ranking 36th in the country—going from \$1,579 per student to \$2,319 per student. In 2020, New Mexico had \$2,313,525,000 in total education debt, up \$3,301 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	\$11,437	\$14,394	25.9%	22	27
Support Services	\$3,671	\$4,215	14.8%	40	34
Instruction	\$5,390	\$6,580	22.1%	17	33
Benefits	\$1,579	\$2,319	46.9%	36	37
Capital	\$1,683	\$1,786	6.1%	26	18
Total Debt	\$4,035	\$7,336	81.8%	15	26

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

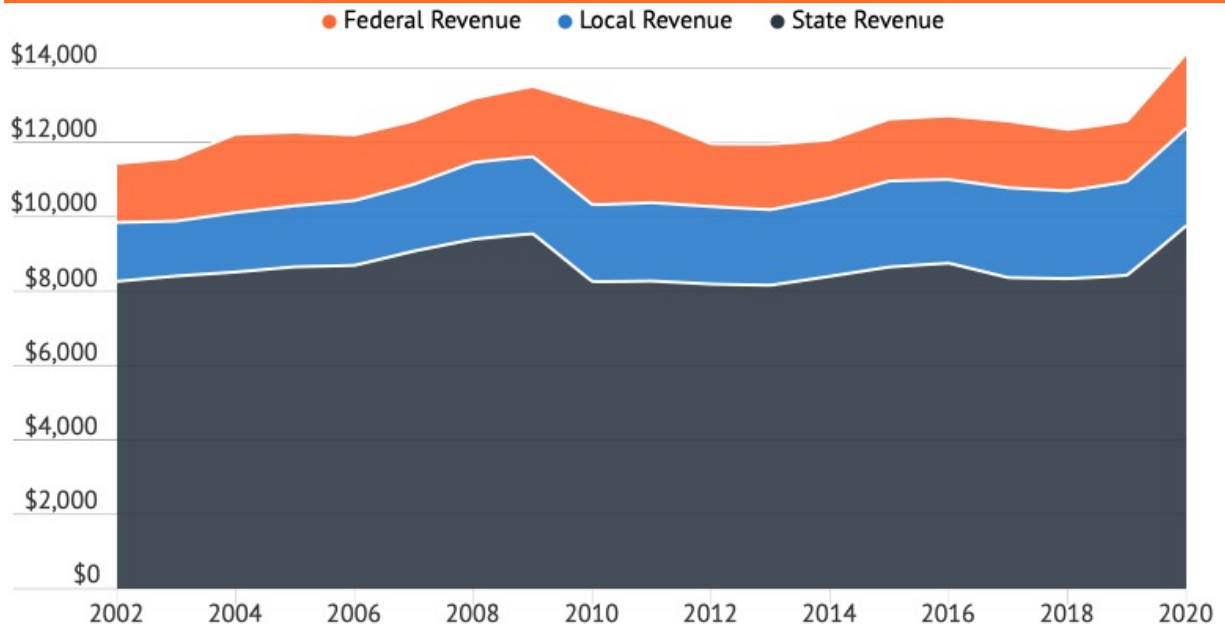
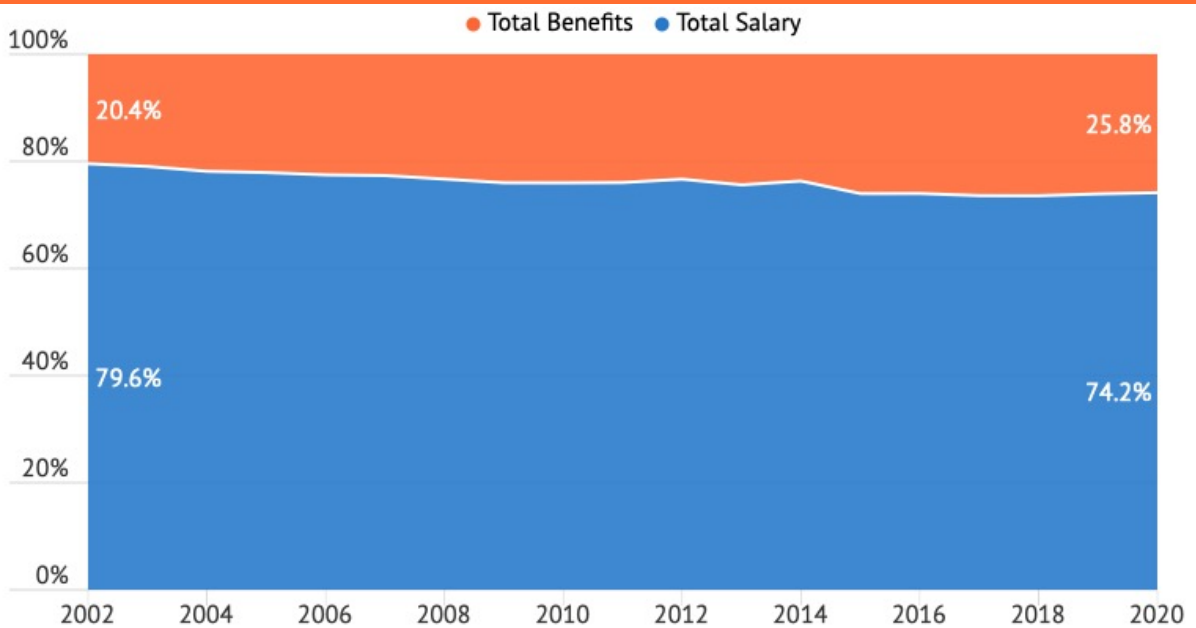


FIGURE 2: K-12 TOTAL SALARY & BENEFITS (2002-2020)



ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS

Between 2002 and 2020, New Mexico’s student population grew by 3.4%. At the same time, the number of total public education staff decreased by 15.0%, with teachers increasing by 0.1% and non-teachers decreasing by 29.2%. The average inflation-adjusted teacher salary in the state went from \$52,619 in 2002 to \$54,256 in 2020, a 3.1% growth rate that ranked 17th in the U.S.

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

Category	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Enrollment	320,260	331,206	3.4%	29	36
Total Staff	44,941	38,221	-15.0%	49	37
Teachers	21,823	21,850	0.1%	37	37
Non-Teachers	23,118	16,371	-29.2%	49	40
Average Teacher Salary	\$52,619	\$54,256	3.1%	17	31

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

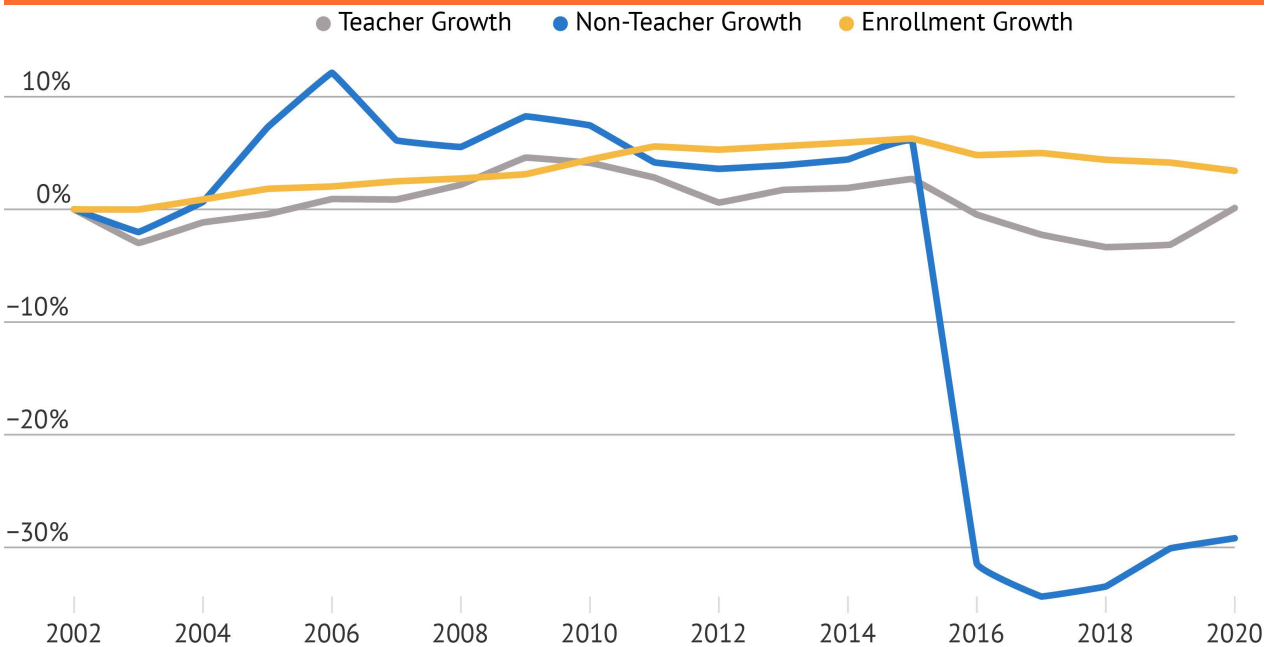
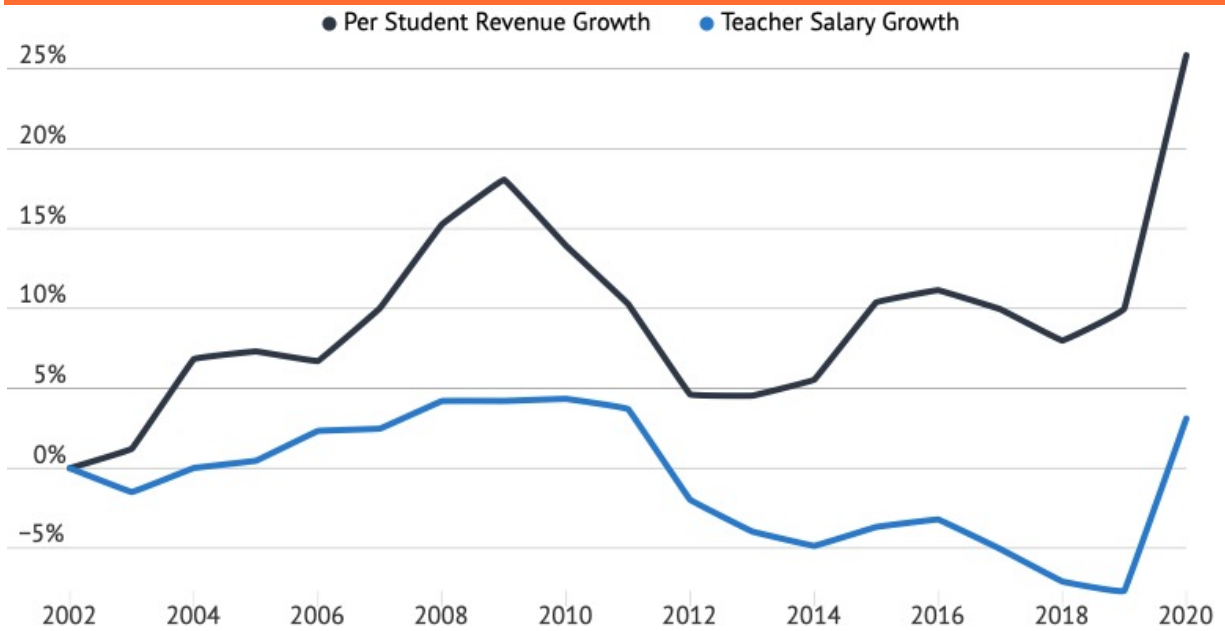


FIGURE 4: TEACHER SALARY GROWTH VS. REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH (2002-2020)



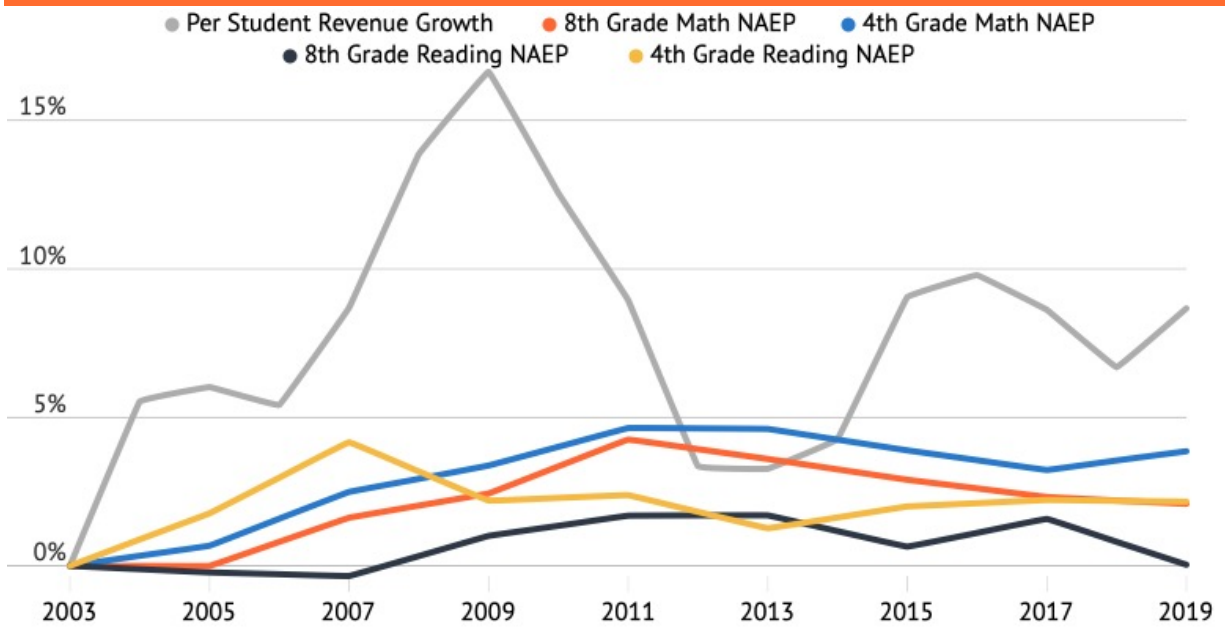
NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, New Mexico's 4th grade NAEP reading scores increased by four points (+2.2%), ranking 14th in the U.S., while its 4th grade math scores grew by nine points (+3.9%), ranking 9th. During this time, the state's 8th grade reading scores increased by zero points (+0.0%), ranking 25th in the U.S., while its 8th grade math scores grew by five points (+2.1%), ranking 15th.

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	14	49	0	25	50
Math	9	9	49	5	15	49

FIGURE 5: NAEP SCORE GROWTH VS REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH¹



LOW-INCOME NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, New Mexico’s low-income 4th grade NAEP reading scores increased by six points (+3.2%), ranking 12th in the U.S., while its 4th grade math scores grew by 10 points (+4.4%), ranking 12th. During this time, the state’s 8th grade reading scores increased by three points (+1.3%), ranking 17th in the U.S., while its 8th grade math scores grew by nine points (+3.8%), ranking 11th.

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	6	12	48	3	17	48
Math	10	12	35	9	11	45

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

