

# OKLAHOMA

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 Oklahoma'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.

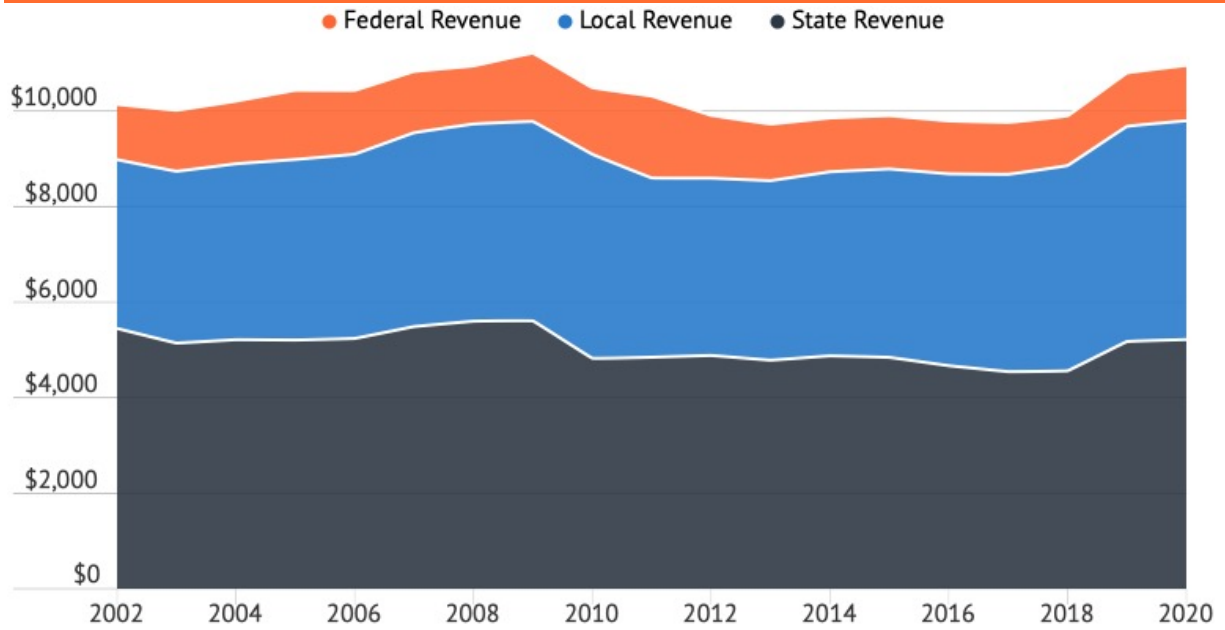
## SPENDING TRENDS

Oklahoma's inflation-adjusted education revenue grew from \$10,141 per student in 2002 to \$10,956 per student in 2020, an 8.0% growth rate that ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> in the U.S. During this time, real spending on employee benefits grew by 49.3%—ranking 34<sup>th</sup> in the country—going from \$1,249 per student to \$1,864 per student. In 2020, Oklahoma had \$2,507,839,000 in total education debt, up \$1,385 per student in real terms since 2002.

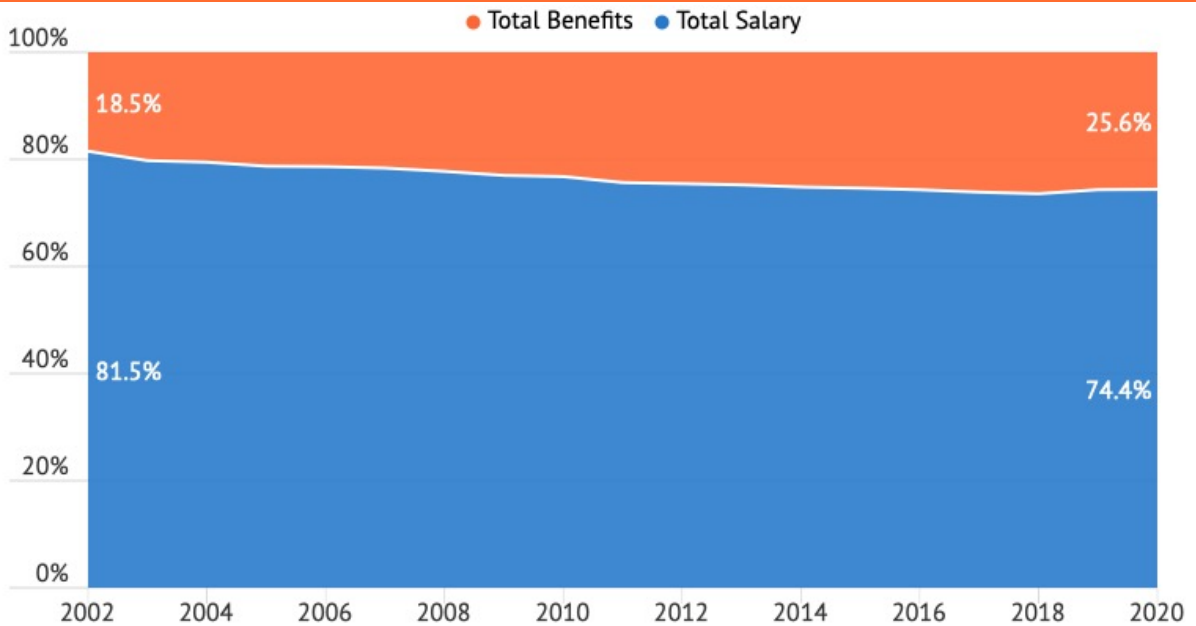
**TABLE 1: SPENDING TRENDS (2002-2020)**

Category (Per Student)	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Revenue	\$10,141	\$10,956	8.0%	42	45
Support Services	\$3,344	\$3,481	4.1%	48	45
Instruction	\$5,096	\$5,424	6.4%	40	47
Benefits	\$1,249	\$1,864	49.3%	34	44
Capital	\$794	\$1,159	46.0%	12	39
Total Debt	\$2,429	\$3,814	57%	20	45

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



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



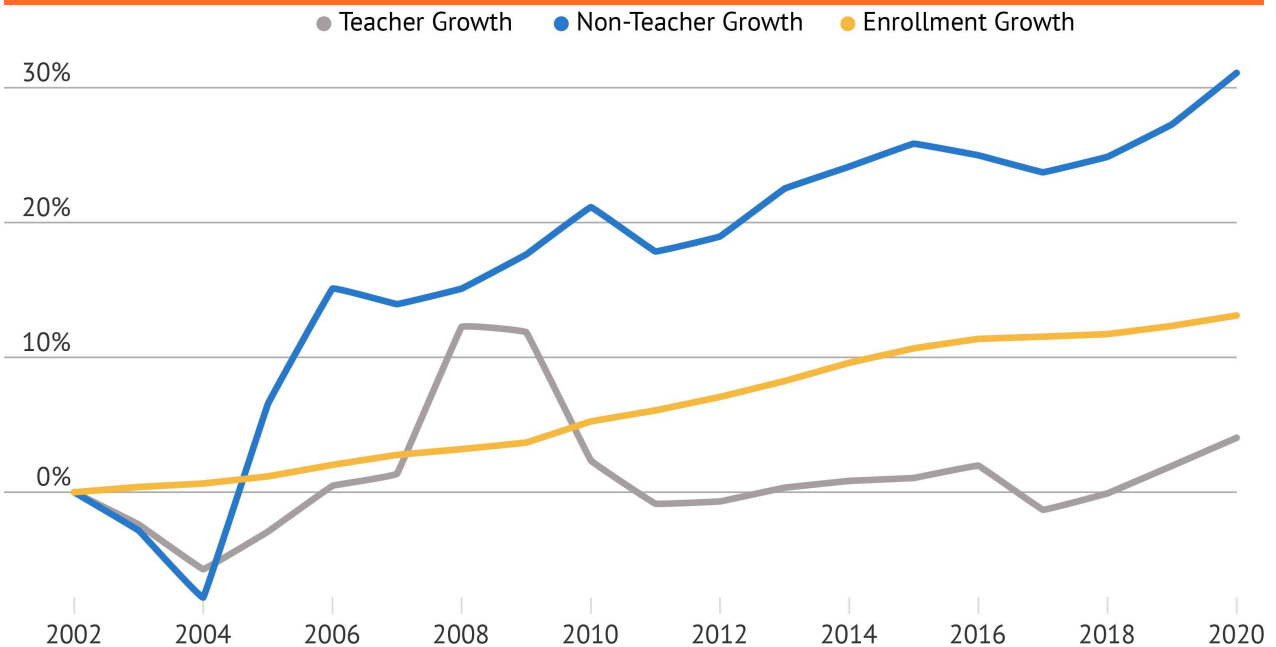
## ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS

Between 2002 and 2020, Oklahoma’s student population grew by 13.1%. At the same time, the number of total public education staff grew by 16.4%, with teachers increasing by 4.0% and non-teachers increasing by 31.1%. The average inflation-adjusted teacher salary in the state went from \$50,170 in 2002 to \$54,096 in 2020, a 7.8% growth rate that ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the U.S.

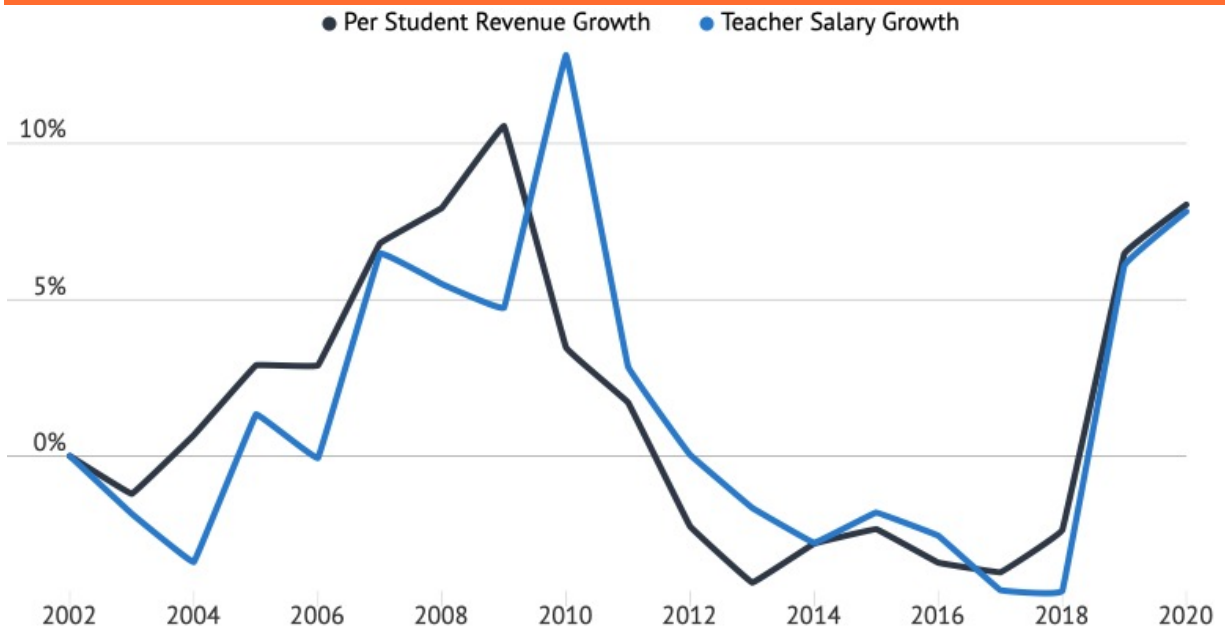
**TABLE 2: ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS (2002-2020)**

Category	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Enrollment	622,139	703,719	13.1%	14	26
Total Staff	76,405	88,901	16.4%	21	26
Teachers	41,632	43,315	4.0%	29	24
Non-Teachers	34,773	45,586	31.1%	14	24
Average Teacher Salary	\$50,170	\$54,096	7.8%	8	33

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



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



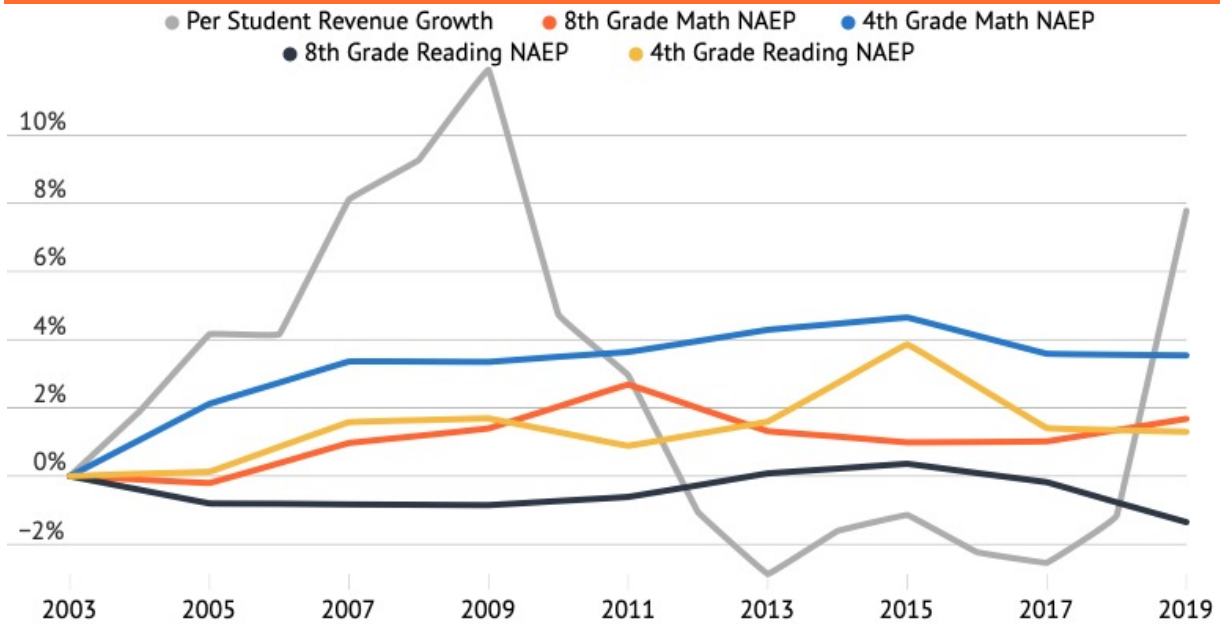
## NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Oklahoma’s 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP reading scores increased by three points (+1.3%), ranking 18<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 4<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by eight points (+3.5%), ranking 11<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the state’s 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores decreased by four points (-1.3%), ranking 39<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 8<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by five points (+1.7%), ranking 21<sup>st</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	3	18	41	-4	39	41
Math	8	11	38	5	21	38

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



## LOW-INCOME NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Oklahoma's low-income 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP reading scores increased by five points (+2.3%), ranking 17<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 4<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by seven points (+3.3%), ranking 17<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the state's 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores decreased by one point (-0.4%), ranking 36<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 8<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by seven points (+2.8%), ranking 18<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	5	17	15	-1	36	24
Math	7	17	18	7	18	22

<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>**

