

# NEVADA

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 Nevada'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.

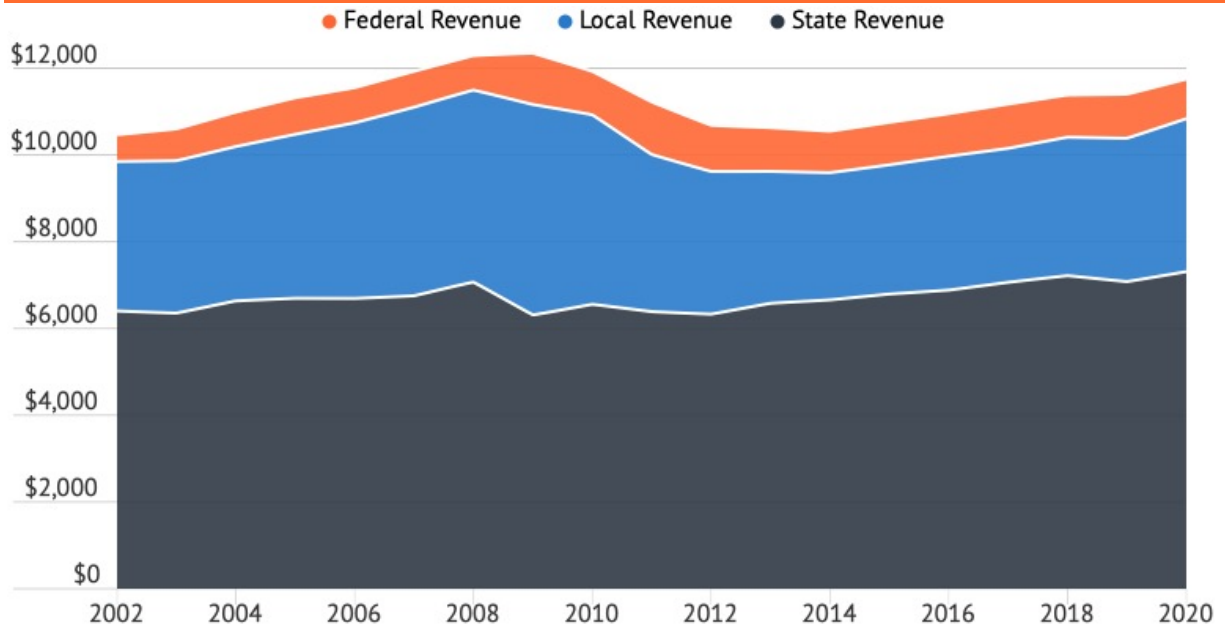
## SPENDING TRENDS

Nevada's inflation-adjusted education revenue grew from \$10,472 per student in 2002 to \$11,755 per student in 2020, a 12.3% growth rate that ranked 40<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. During this time, real spending on employee benefits grew by 53.3%—ranking 32<sup>nd</sup> in the country—going from \$1,623 per student to \$2,487 per student. In 2020, Nevada had \$4,493,469,000 in total education debt, down \$3,106 per student in real terms since 2002.

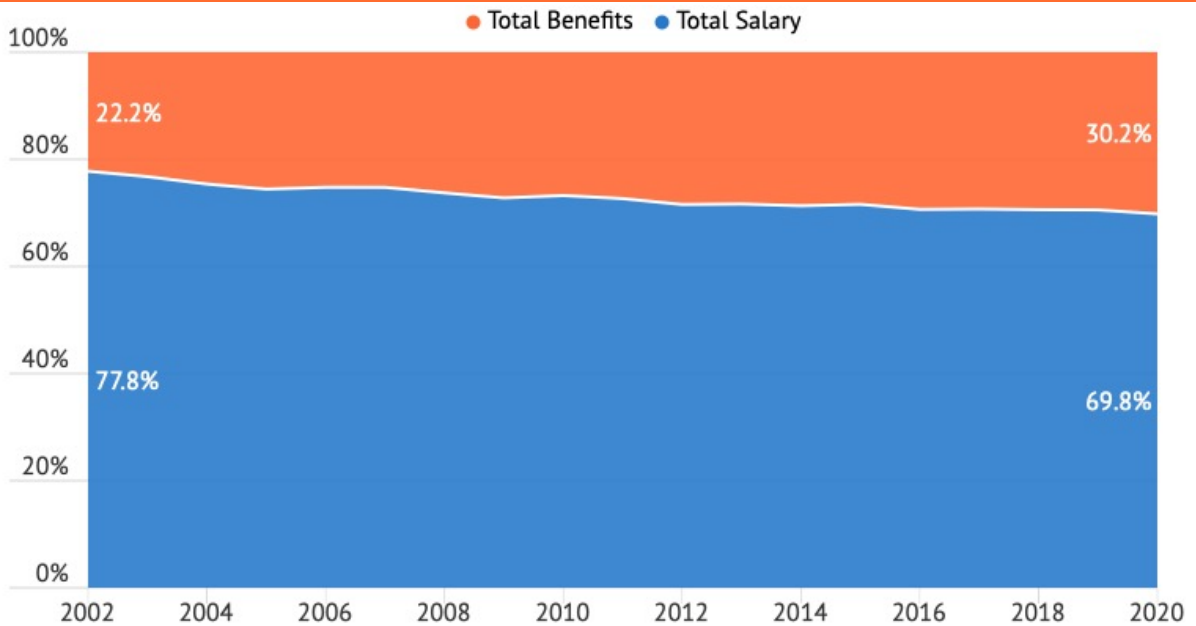
**TABLE 1: SPENDING TRENDS (2002-2020)**

Category (Per Student)	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Revenue	\$10,472	\$11,755	12.3%	40	41
Support Services	\$2,990	\$3,691	23.5%	31	41
Instruction	\$5,438	\$5,748	5.7%	41	45
Benefits	\$1,623	\$2,487	53.3%	32	35
Capital	\$2,448	\$1,672	-31.7%	45	22
Total Debt	\$13,152	\$10,046	-23.6%	48	17

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



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



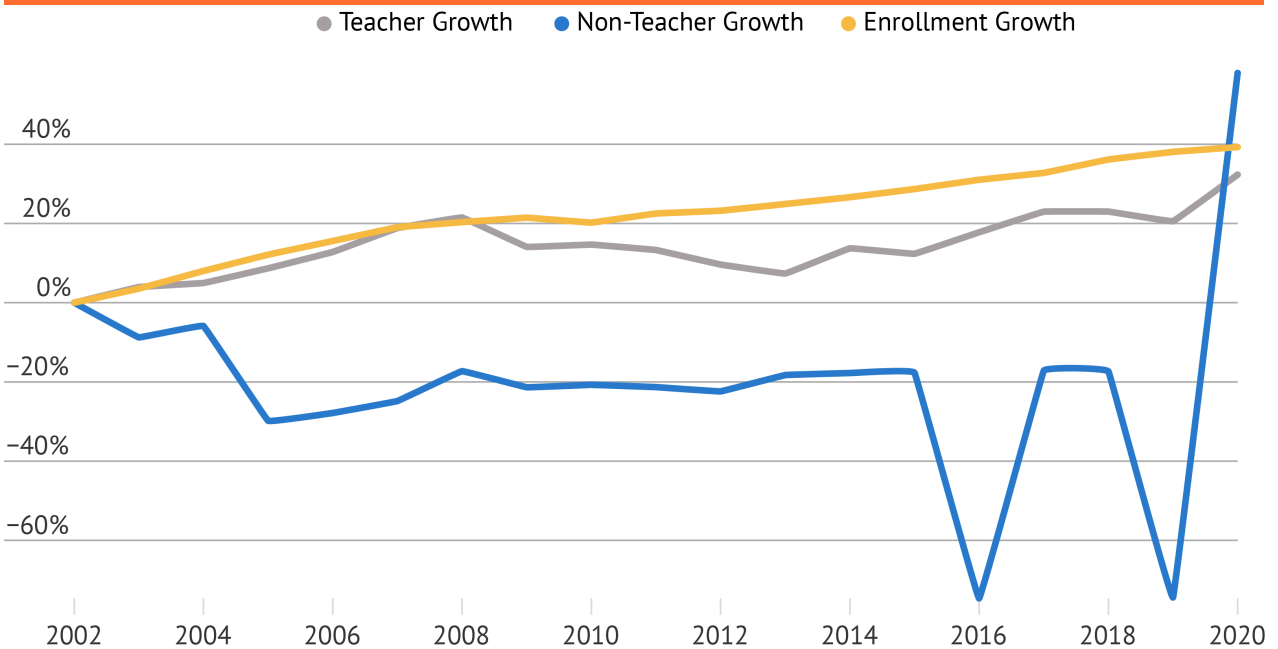
## ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS

Between 2002 and 2020, Nevada’s student population grew by 39.3%. At the same time, the number of total public education staff grew by 43.4%, with teachers increasing by 32.3% and non-teachers increasing by 58.0%. The average inflation-adjusted teacher salary in the state went from \$58,863 in 2002 to \$56,672 in 2020, a -3.7% growth rate that ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> in the U.S.

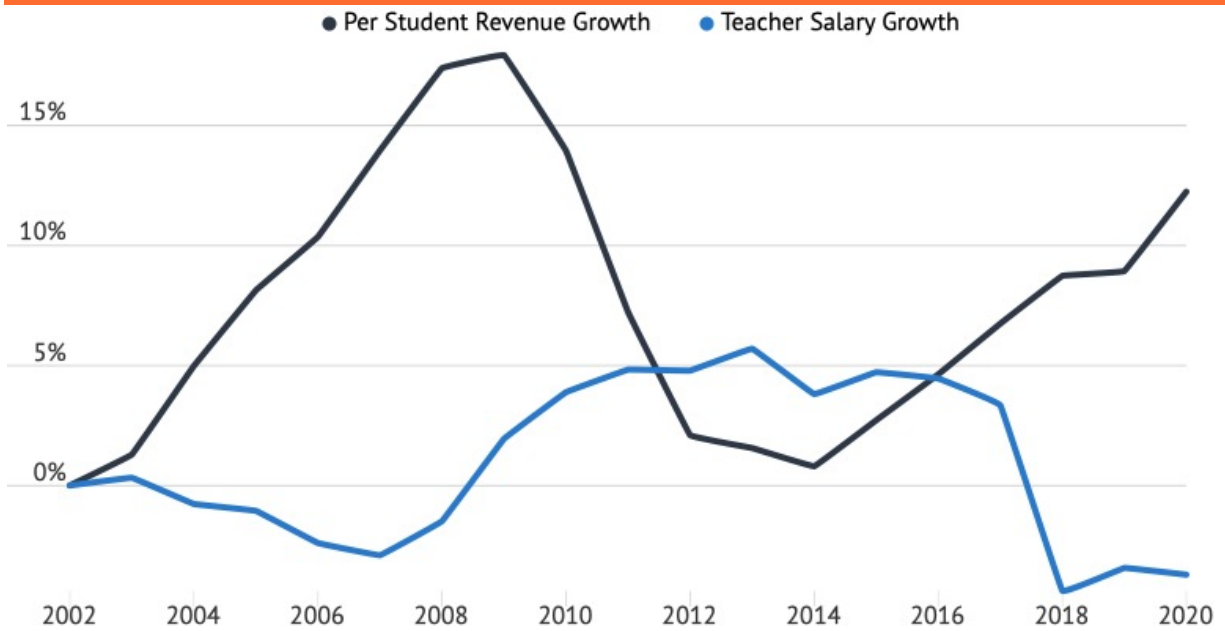
**TABLE 2: ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS (2002-2020)**

Category	2002	2020	Growth Rate	Growth Rank	2020 Rank
Enrollment	356,814	496,934	39.3%	2	33
Total Staff	33,967	48,718	43.4%	3	35
Teachers	19,276	25,509	32.3%	2	35
Non-Teachers	14,691	23,210	58.0%	4	36
Average Teacher Salary	\$58,863	\$56,672	-3.7%	33	27

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



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



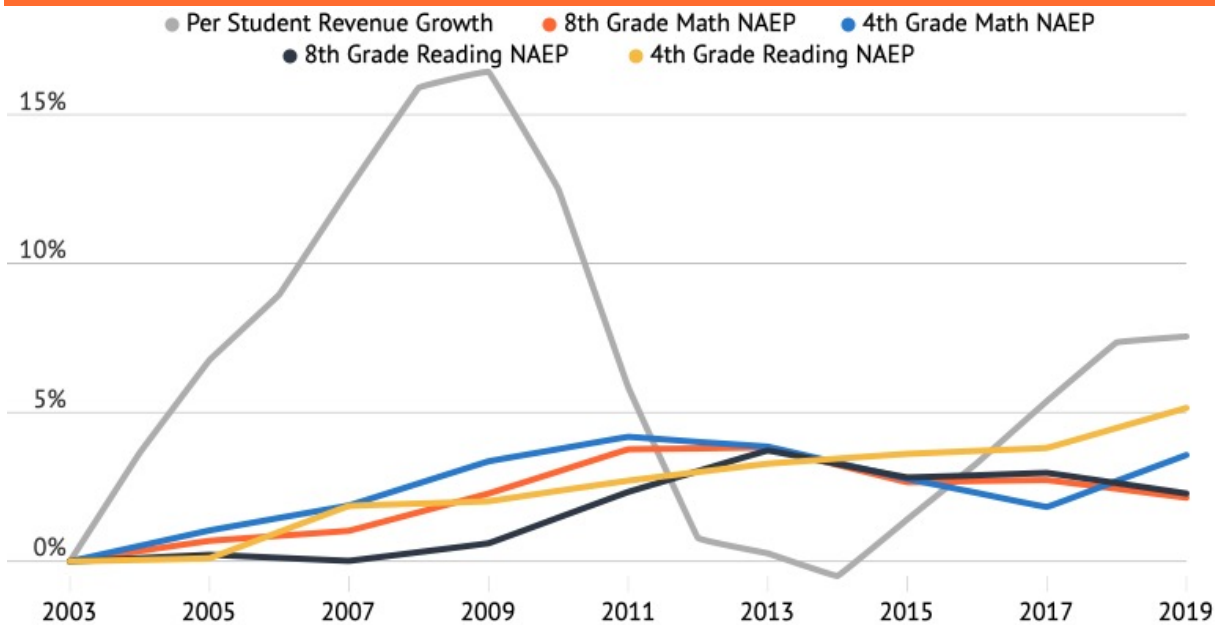
## NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Nevada's 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP reading scores increased by 11 points (+5.1%), ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> in the U.S., while its 4<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by eight points (+3.6%), ranking 10<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the state's 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores increased by six points (+2.3%), ranking 4<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 8<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by six points (+2.1%), ranking 14<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	11	3	38	6	4	43
Math	8	10	43	6	14	45

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



## LOW-INCOME NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Nevada's low-income 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP reading scores increased by 19 points (+9.7%), ranking 1<sup>st</sup> in the U.S., while its 4<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by 13 points (+6.2%), ranking 3<sup>rd</sup>. During this time, the state's 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores increased by eight points (+3.1%), ranking 6<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 8<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by nine points (+3.7%), ranking 12<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	19	1	7	8	6	33
Math	13	3	23	9	12	36

<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>**

