

# CONNECTICUT

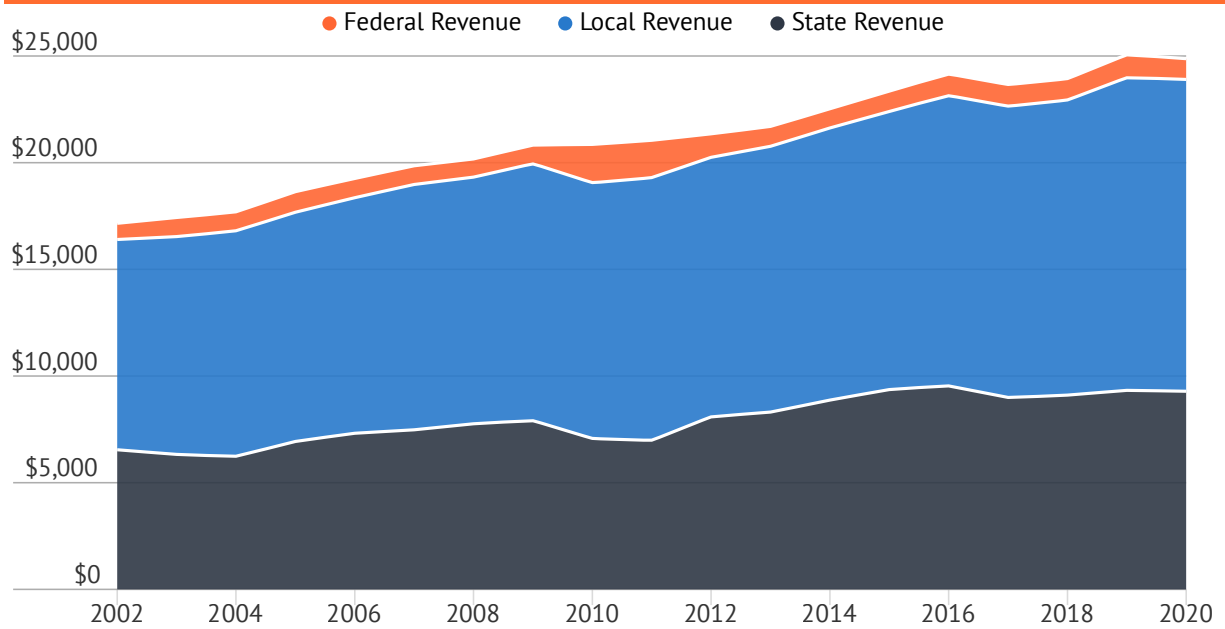
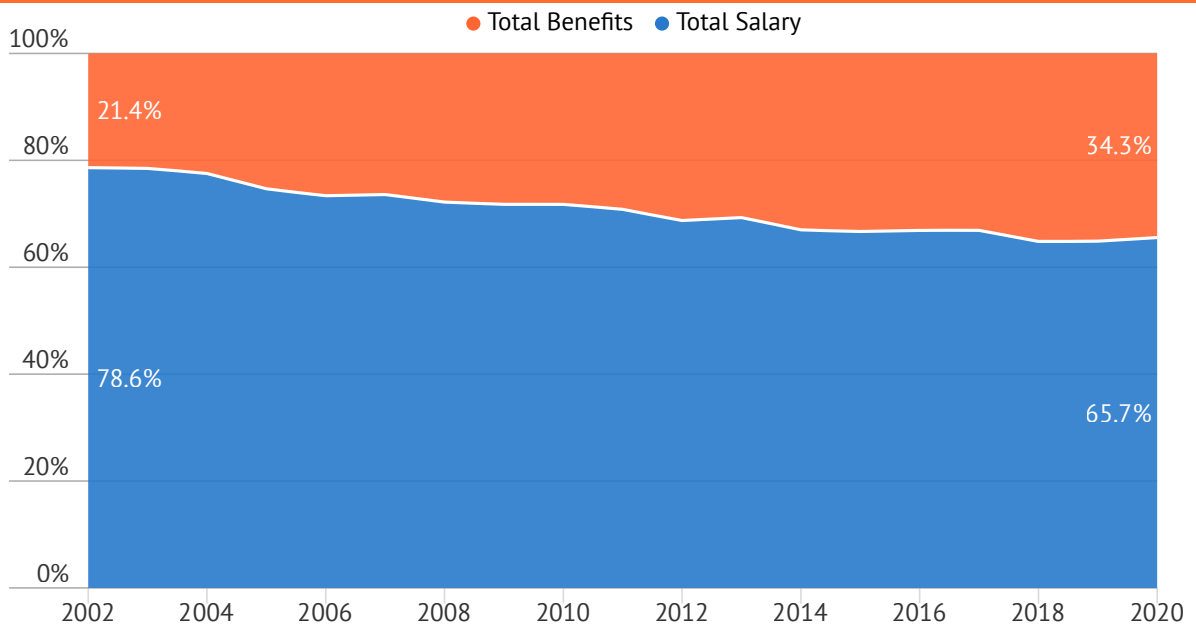
Faced with an unprecedented set of challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, public education is at a crossroads. To be sure, much has changed since 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic swept the nation, but pre-pandemic trends provide policymakers with a critical anchor for navigating post-pandemic decisions. This section provides a snapshot of Connecticut'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

Connecticut's inflation-adjusted education revenue grew from \$17,158 per student in 2002 to \$24,875 per student in 2020, a 45.0% growth rate that ranked 8<sup>th</sup> highest in the U.S. During this time, real spending on employee benefits grew by 139.4%—ranking 6<sup>th</sup> in the country—going from \$2,600 per student to \$6,224 per student. In 2020, Connecticut had \$3,184,024,000 in total education debt, down \$652 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                | \$17,158 | \$24,875 | 45.0%       | 8           | 2         |
| Support Services       | \$4,855  | \$7,827  | 61.2%       | 4           | 4         |
| Instruction            | \$9,044  | \$12,880 | 42.4%       | 8           | 2         |
| Benefits               | \$2,600  | \$6,197  | 138.4%      | 6           | 3         |
| Capital                | \$1,425  | \$1,607  | 12.8%       | 23          | 23        |
| Total Debt             | \$5,938  | \$6,590  | 11%         | 36          | 31        |

**FIGURE 1: REVENUE PER STUDENT BY FUNDING SOURCE (2002-2020)****FIGURE 2: K-12 TOTAL SALARY & BENEFITS (2002-2020)**

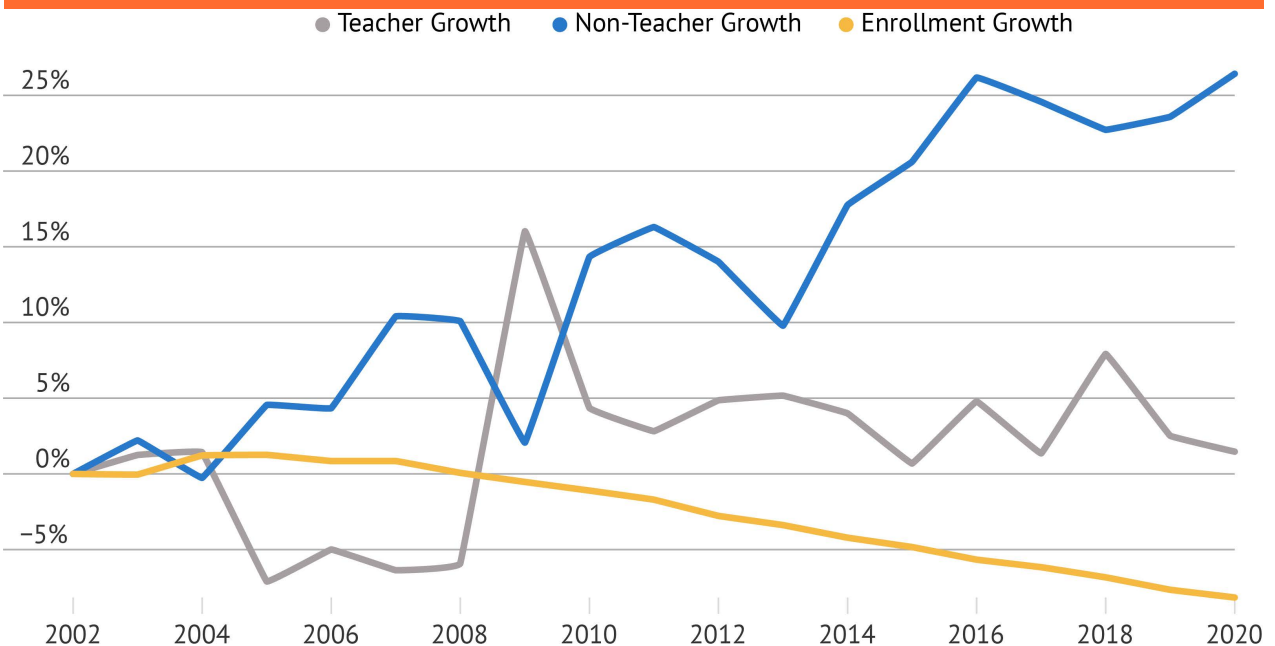
## ENROLLMENT AND STAFFING TRENDS

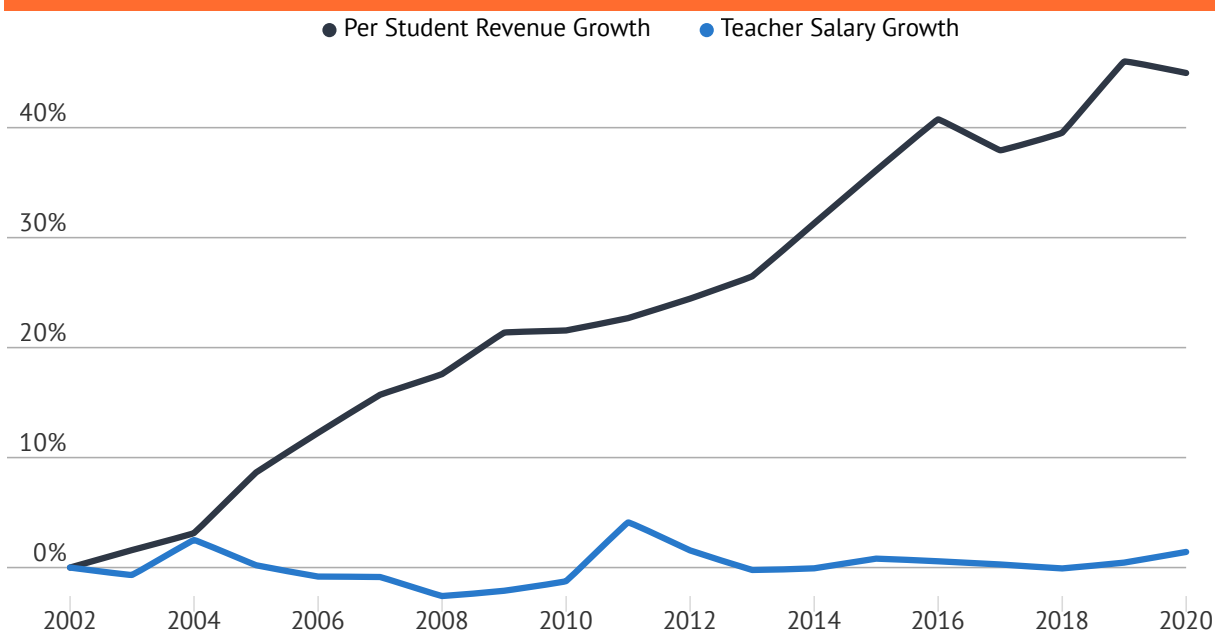
Between 2002 and 2020, Connecticut's student population declined by 8.2%. At the same time, the number of total public education staff grew by 14.1%, with teachers increasing by 1.5% and non-teachers increasing by 26.4%. The average inflation-adjusted teacher salary in the state went from \$77,328 in 2002 to \$78,427 in 2020, a 1.4% growth rate that ranked 20<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             | 570,228  | 523,690  | -8.2%       | 45          | 30        |
| Total Staff            | 84,884   | 96,886   | 14.1%       | 24          | 25        |
| Teachers               | 41,773   | 42,386   | 1.5%        | 35          | 25        |
| Non-Teachers           | 43,111   | 54,500   | 26.4%       | 17          | 23        |
| Average Teacher Salary | \$77,328 | \$78,427 | 1.4%        | 20          | 4         |

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



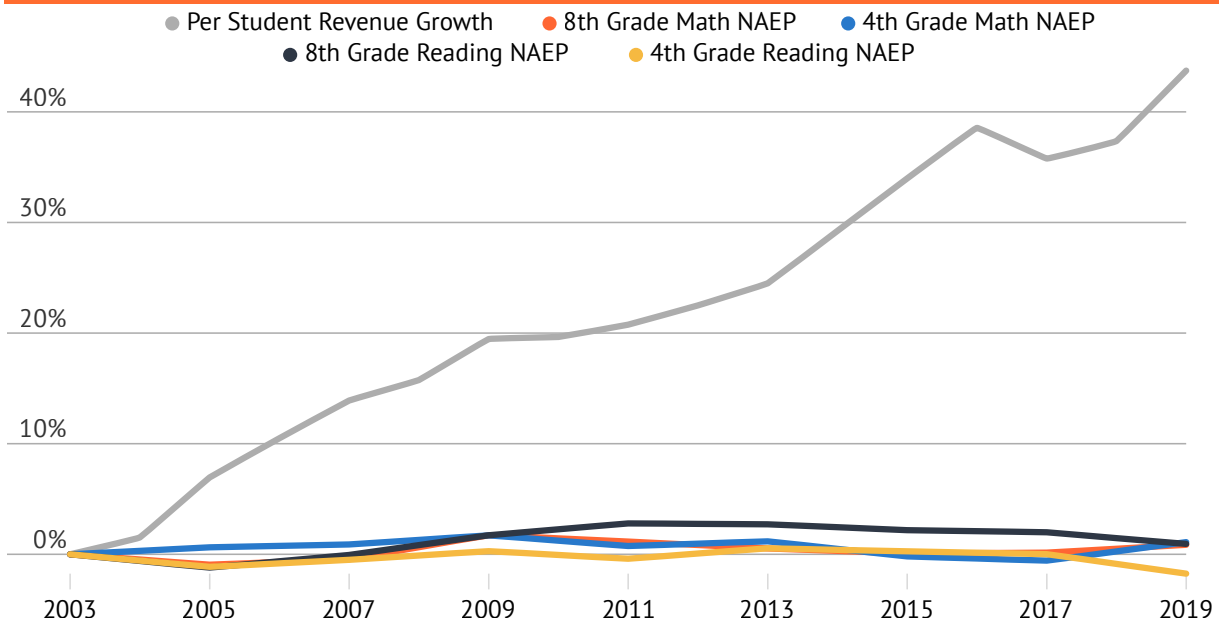
**FIGURE 4: TEACHER SALARY GROWTH VS. REVENUE PER STUDENT GROWTH (2002-2020)**


## NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Connecticut's 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP reading scores decreased by four points (−1.7%), ranking 45<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 4<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by three points (+1.1%), ranking 38<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the state's 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores increased by three points (+0.9%), ranking 12<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 8<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by two points (+0.9%), ranking 32<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 | −4           | 45          | 7         | 3            | 12          | 3         |
| Math    | 3            | 38          | 13        | 2            | 32          | 10        |

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

## LOW-INCOME NAEP TRENDS

Between 2003 and 2019, Connecticut's low-income 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP reading scores decreased by zero points (-0.0%), ranking 36<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., while its 4<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by seven points (+3.3%), ranking 18<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the state's 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading scores increased by nine points (+3.5%), ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> in the U.S., while its 8<sup>th</sup> grade math scores grew by three points (+1.2%), ranking 33<sup>rd</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 | 0            | 36          | 36        | 9         | 3           | 8         |
| Math    | 7            | 18          | 27        | 3         | 33          | 38        |

<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>**

