

IDAHO EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

2025 EDITION





FOREWORD

Idaho’s education system is shaped every day by the decisions of policymakers, school leaders, and families who want what’s best for their children. Those decisions are strongest when grounded in facts. Idaho by the Numbers brings together the most relevant, current data on our state’s public education system—how many students we serve, who they are, how they are doing, and how we invest in their success.

At Bluum, we believe that data should do more than describe; it should inform and inspire. Reliable information helps state leaders identify what’s working in our schools and where improvement is needed. It helps district and charter leaders allocate scarce resources wisely. It helps principals and teachers make decisions that support students and families. And it gives parents and taxpayers a clearer view of how Idaho’s public education system is performing.

This report, compiled by our partners at Redfish Metrics, reflects the best available data from the Idaho State Board of Education, the Idaho Department of Education, and national sources. It is intended as a public resource—accessible, transparent, and useful to anyone who cares about how Idaho educates its next generation.

Idaho continues to face challenges, but the story told in these numbers is also one of growth, innovation, and resilience. **Idaho educators provide real return on investment for our state’s taxpayers.** That is one of the key takeaways here. Another important story from the data is that Idaho is increasingly defined by expanded public school choice—both through the growth of its public charter school sector and the rising number of districts offering open enrollment to students outside their boundaries.

Our hope is that Idaho by the Numbers will serve as a tool for reflection and action—a foundation for thoughtful conversation and smarter decisions for Idaho’s students. We extend our gratitude to Redfish Analytics for their insights, as well as to the Idaho State Board of Education and the Idaho Department of Education for their support in this work. Thanks also to the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation for their ongoing commitment to Bluum’s initiatives, and to the U.S. Department of Education for supporting this report through the federal charter school program grant. Finally, we are grateful to Bluum’s Sarah Meskin for her exceptional work shepherding this report from conception to completion.

TERRY RYAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, BLUUM
OCTOBER 2025

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ABBREVIATIONS

CTE	Career and Technical Education
ELA	English Language Arts
FRL	Free and Reduced Lunch Status
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
IDE	Idaho Department of Education
ISAT	Idaho Standards Achievement Test
NAEP	National Assessment of Educational Progress
NCES	National Center for Educational Statistics
PRR	Public Records Request
SBOE	State Board of Education

Note: For access to live data links, visit the online version at bluum.org

STUDENT ENROLLMENT



IDAHO PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

Idaho has over 300,000 K-12 public school students of varying backgrounds and characteristics.

	STATEWIDE	
	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
TOTAL STUDENTS	306,960	100%

RACE OR ETHNICITY		
White	221,649	72.2%
Hispanic or Latino	62,919	20.5%
Multiracial	10,818	3.5%
Black/African American	3,831	1.2%
Asian	3,574	1.2%
Native American or Alaskan Native	3,100	1.0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1,069	0.3%

GENDER		
Female	156,857	51.1%
Male	150,103	48.9%

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS		
Economically Disadvantaged	129,934	42.3%
Students with Disabilities	38,753	12.6%
English Language Learners	20,536	6.7%
Talented and Gifted	14,790	4.8%
Homeless	7,197	2.3%
Students from Migrant Families	5,477	1.8%

Source: IDE PRR for all student spring enrollment counts (except gender percentage estimates, which are from [Idaho Report Card](#), (Idaho Report Card)
Note: Public school enrollment statistics include traditional district and public charter school students, but do not include students attending non-public schools or home-schooled students. Enrollment statistics reported elsewhere may vary based on time of year for the enrollment snapshot. Number of students by gender calculated from reported percentages. Percentages in the “other characteristics” do not add to 100% because some students do not fall in any of these categories.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BY GRADE LEVEL

Idaho has roughly 20,000 to 26,000 public school students per grade level.

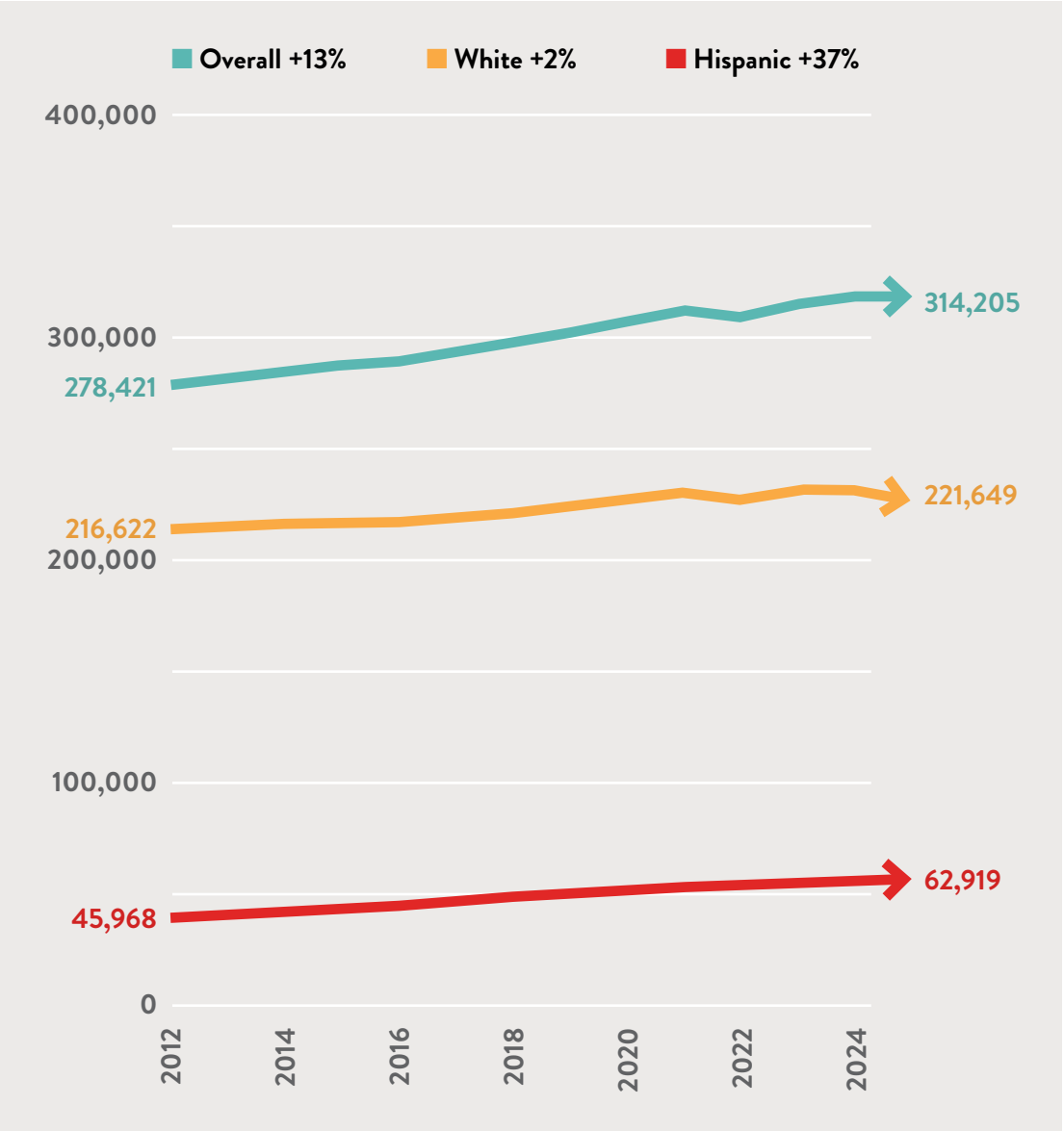
GRADE LEVEL	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
Kindergarten	20,787	6.5%
First Grade	21,398	7.1%
Second Grade	23,176	7.4%
Third Grade	24,043	7.5%
Fourth Grade	24,170	7.5%
Fifth Grade	24,395	7.6%
TOTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	137,969	43.6%
Sixth Grade	24,597	7.6%
Seventh Grade	24,612	7.8%
Eighth Grade	24,988	7.9%
TOTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL	74,197	23.3%
Ninth Grade	25,544	8.1%
Tenth Grade	25,767	8.2%
Eleventh Grade	25,825	8.0%
Twelfth Grade	24,903	7.5%
TOTAL HIGH SCHOOL	102,039	31.8%
Preschool	3,862	1.3%

Source: IDE file [Historical Enrollment by District or Charter Summary](#).
Note: Some districts split elementary, middle, and high schools along different grade levels. Any discrepancies in total enrollment across pages are due to differences in data sources, including timing of enrollment snapshots (e.g. fall vs spring enrollment counts). This data reflects fall enrollments.



PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT TRENDS

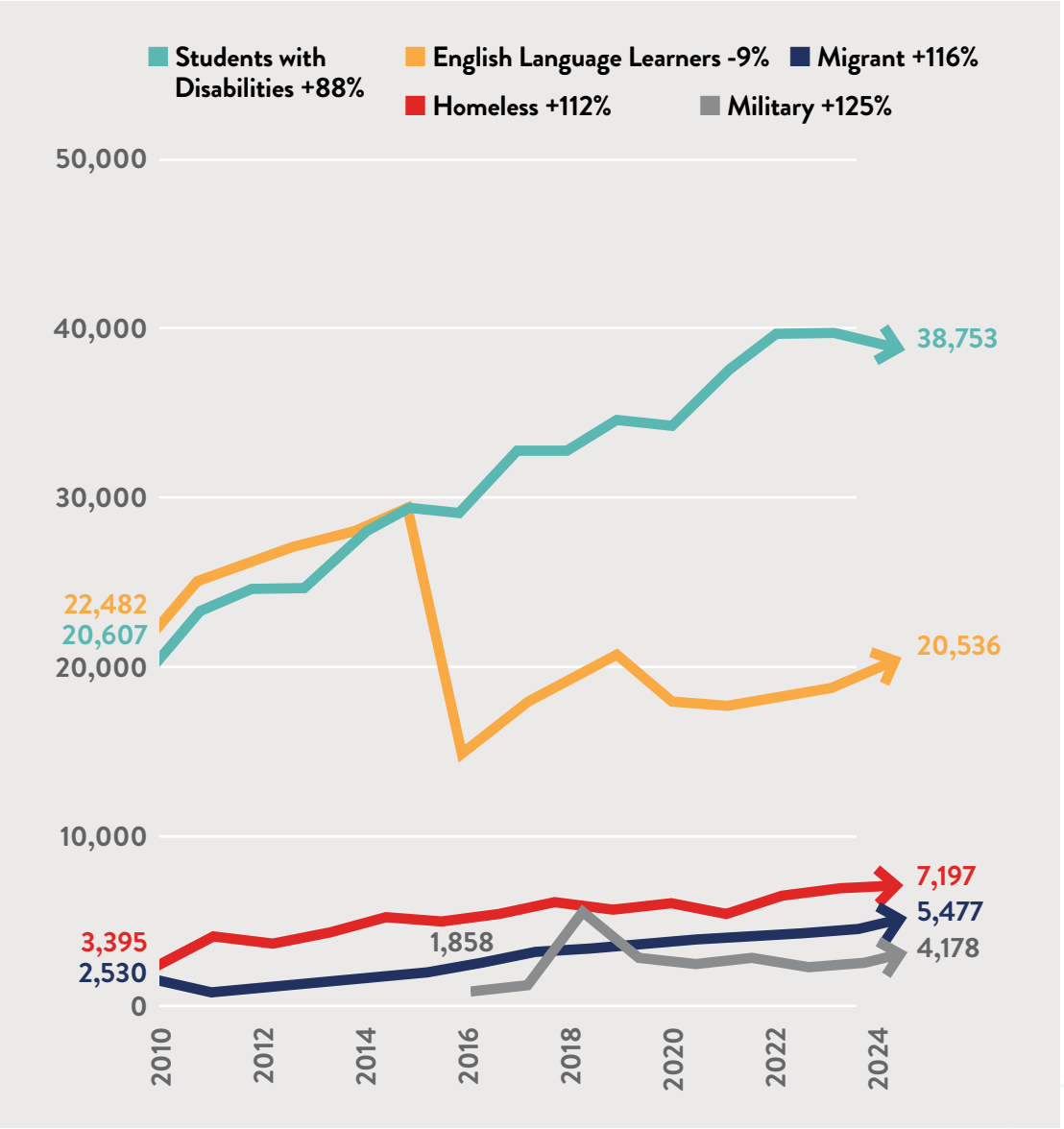
Since 2010-2011, overall public school K-12 enrollment in Idaho has increased by 13 percent. Enrollment for Idaho’s largest race/ethnic groups (White and Hispanic students) have also increased, with Hispanic enrollment increasing at nearly six times the rate of White enrollment.



Source: IDE PRR; fall total enrollment from IDE file Historical Enrollment by District or Charter Summary (2024).
Notes: Data includes fall or spring enrollment statistics based on data availability. Any discrepancies in enrollment across pages are due to differences in data sources, including timing of enrollment snapshots (e.g. fall vs spring enrollment counts).

PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT TRENDS BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Since 2010-2011, the number of students in Idaho with disabilities has increased by almost 90%.

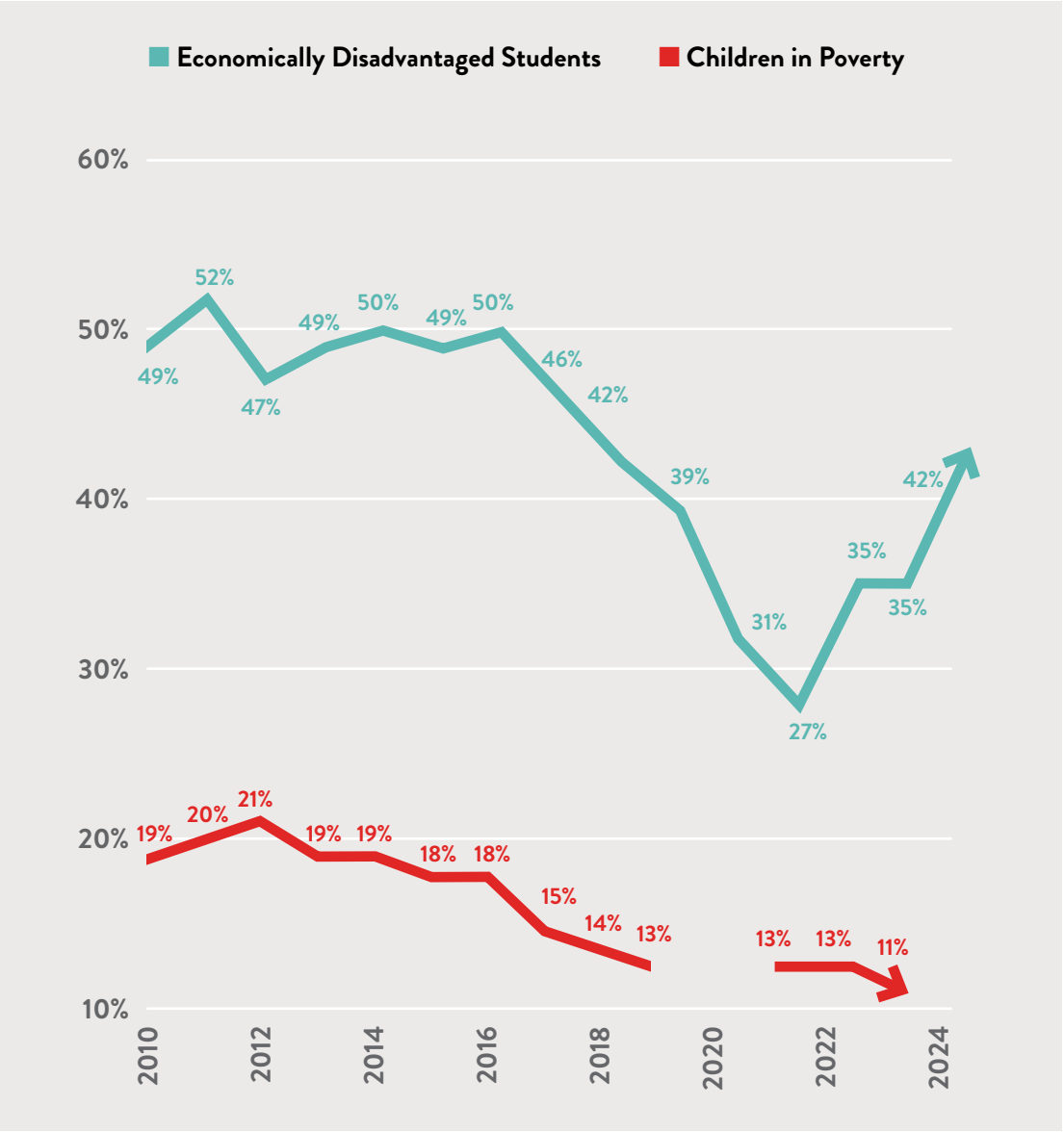


Source: IDE PRR for Total, Race/Ethnicity, and Other Characteristics; IDE file Historical Enrollment by District or Charter Summary.
Note: In the mid-2010s (1) Idaho changed its proficiency assessments for ELL classification, and (2) new federal guidance was issued for treatment of ELL students. Data may include fall or spring enrollment statistics based on data availability.



LOW INCOME STUDENTS

The percentage of students identified as economically disadvantaged has decreased since 2010-2011, largely due to changes in the method used for identification. At the same time, the percentage of Idaho children living in poverty has decreased by seven points.



Source: IDE PRR for Total, Race/Ethnicity, and Other Characteristics for enrollment data; Kids Count Data Center data based on US Census poverty estimates for poverty data; IDE file Historical Enrollment by District or Charter Summary.
Note: Poverty data were not reported for 2020 and were not yet available for 2024.

PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS BY TYPOLOGY

Fifty-four percent of Idaho students enroll in suburban school districts and forty percent in rural school districts; around a fifth are in districts with high poverty rates, and another fifth in districts with low poverty rates. The growing online school category includes around 5% of students.

TYPOLOGY	NUMBER OF DISTRICTS	NUMBER OF CHARTER SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF TOTAL STUDENTS
URBAN				
High Poverty	0	2	365	0.1%
Average Poverty	0	1	41	0.0%
Low Poverty	0	3	2,036	0.7%
SUBURBAN				
High Poverty	1	3	14,536	4.7%
Average Poverty	11	15	99,801	32.4%
Low Poverty	3	18	53,333	17.3%
RURAL				
High Poverty	45	5	53,110	17.2%
Average Poverty	46	10	59,974	19.5%
Low Poverty	10	6	10,018	3.2%
Online Charter Schools	0	9	15,033	4.9%
TOTAL	116	72*	308,247	100%

Source: IDE PRR for enrollment statistics.
Note: Urban/Suburban/Rural status is based on school district zip code tabulation area population density, classified primarily according to a dataset assembled by Jed Kolko (Datasets | Jed Kolko). Poverty information is based on 2024-2025 district Economically Disadvantaged information when available, and on zip code tabulation area census-based under-18 poverty rates when unavailable. Poverty cutoffs are based on the 25th and 75th FRL quantiles, with under 20% of students participating in FRL listed as Low Poverty, 20-50% of students participating listed as Average Poverty, and above 50% of students participating listed as High Poverty. Idaho Bureau of Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind are not categorized.
*A small number of charter schools were not included in state enrollment data and are not reflected here.



SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS BY TYPOLOGY

While some data is unavailable, around 13% of Idaho students have disabilities, and they live in a variety of districts across the state.

TYPOLOGY	NUMBER OF SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF TOTAL
URBAN			
High Poverty	53	365	14.5%
Average Poverty	7	41	17.1%
Low Poverty	*	*	*
SUBURBAN			
High Poverty	1,993	14,536	13.7%
Average Poverty	13,475	99,801	13.5%
Low Poverty	5,943	53,333	11.1%
RURAL			
High Poverty	7,053	53,110	13.3%
Average Poverty	*	*	*
Low Poverty	*	*	*
Online Charter Schools	1,637	14,442	11.3%
TOTAL	30,161	235,628*	12.8%

Source: IDE PRR for enrollment statistics.
Note: Some districts have a low enough number of Special Education students that state enrollment data are redacted for those students. See additional notes for “Public School Students by Typology.”

*Total number of students are shown only for those districts with reported numbers of Special Education students.

IDAHO’S 25 LARGEST DISTRICTS BY ENROLLMENT

SCHOOL DISTRICT	COUNTY	2020-21 ENROLLMENT	2024-25 ENROLLMENT	ENROLLMENT CHANGE VS. 2021
1. West Ada	Ada	37,729	38,457	1.9%
2. Boise	Ada	23,854	22,230	-6.8%
3. Bonneville	Bonneville	13,224	13,604	2.9%
4. Nampa	Canyon	13,230	12,729	-3.8%
5. Pocatello	Bannock	11,948	11,553	-3.3%
6. Vallivue	Canyon	8,913	10,364	16.3%
7. Idaho Falls	Bonneville	10,005	9,935	-0.7%
8. Coeur d’Alene	Kootenai	10,061	9,667	-3.9%
9. Twin Falls	Twin Falls	9,180	9,024	-1.7%
10. IHLAC*	(Virtual)		7,876	N/A
11. Jefferson County	Jefferson	6,339	6,643	4.8%
12. Post Falls	Kootenai	5,842	5,823	-0.3%
13. Kuna	Ada	5,415	5,807	7.2%
14. Madison	Madison	5,377	5,773	7.4%
15. Cassia County	Cassia	5,434	5,527	1.7%
16. Caldwell	Canyon	5,595	5,142	-8.1%
17. Lakeland	Kootenai	4,320	4,647	7.6%
18. Lewiston	Nez Perce	4,630	4,531	-2.1%
19. Middleton	Canyon	3,912	4,323	10.5%
20. Minidoka County	Minidoka	4,264	4,293	0.7%
21. Jerome	Jerome	4,076	4,006	-1.7%
22. Blackfoot	Bingham	3,935	3,805	-3.3%
23. Lake Pend Oreille	Bonner	3,481	3,782	8.6%
24. Snake River	Bingham	2,277	3,733	63.9%
25. Mountain Home	Elmore	3,617	3,651	0.9%

Source: IDE file Historical Enrollment by District or Charter Summary.
Note: Non-weighted Fall enrollments. Non-weighted means students are counted more than once when concurrently enrolled in multiple districts. Numbers were updated in July 2025.

*Idaho Home Learning Academy Charter



STUDENT RETENTION: REPEATING A GRADE

Less than 1% of Idaho students repeat grades, with slightly different percentages by demographic group.

	REPEATING A GRADE		
	NUMBER REPEATING A GRADE	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	PERCENT OF STUDENTS

RACE OR ETHNICITY			
White	1,462	231,126	0.6%
Hispanic	576	58,713	1.0%
Multiracial	103	9,630	1.1%
Asian or Pacific Islander	30	4,660	0.6%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	41	3,107	1.3%
Black/African American	29	3,417	0.8%

GENDER			
Female	936	151,909	0.6%
Male	1,305	158,744	0.8%

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, Idaho Report Card; Historical Enrollments by District and Charter Summary.
Note: Data are from 2020-2021, the most recent data from the Office for Civil Rights.



MOSAICS PUBLIC SCHOOL,
Caldwell

SCHOOL OPTIONS



ENROLLMENT BY EDUCATIONAL MODEL

Idaho lists 784 public school buildings within the state, which can be grouped in the following categories with their enrollments. Some of the categories overlap in these designations (for instance, alternative schools that are charter schools).

SCHOOL OPTION	SCHOOLS	ENROLLMENT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS			
Traditional Public Schools (Non-magnet/non-alternative)	630	261,185	Public schools operated by a tax funded district that has the ability to levy taxes.
Magnet Schools	19	8,790	Public “schools of choice” operated by tax funded districts and which have a specific instructional theme, curriculum or method.
Alternative Schools	63	8,809	Nontraditional high schools with curriculum and schedules clearly designed for at-risk students.
OTHER SCHOOLS			
Public Charter Schools	84	42,562	Public schools operated by independent boards with permission from an approved authorizer but unable to levy taxes.
Private Schools	155	16,843	Nonprofit or for-profit educational organizations that are operated independently of the public education system.
Home Schools	N/A	30,301	Education directed by the parent/guardian.

Source: [IDE reports](#) for Traditional, Charter, and Magnet School data. [SBOE](#) for Private school data (2024).
Note: Homeschool enrollment is calculated based on a 2023-2024 percentage estimate (8.66%) from research conducted at Johns Hopkins University and from an estimate of the total population of school-aged children (349,901) from the US Census Bureau 2023 American Community Survey. Charter and magnet school status determined on Idaho Report Card; together with name designations and other data.

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

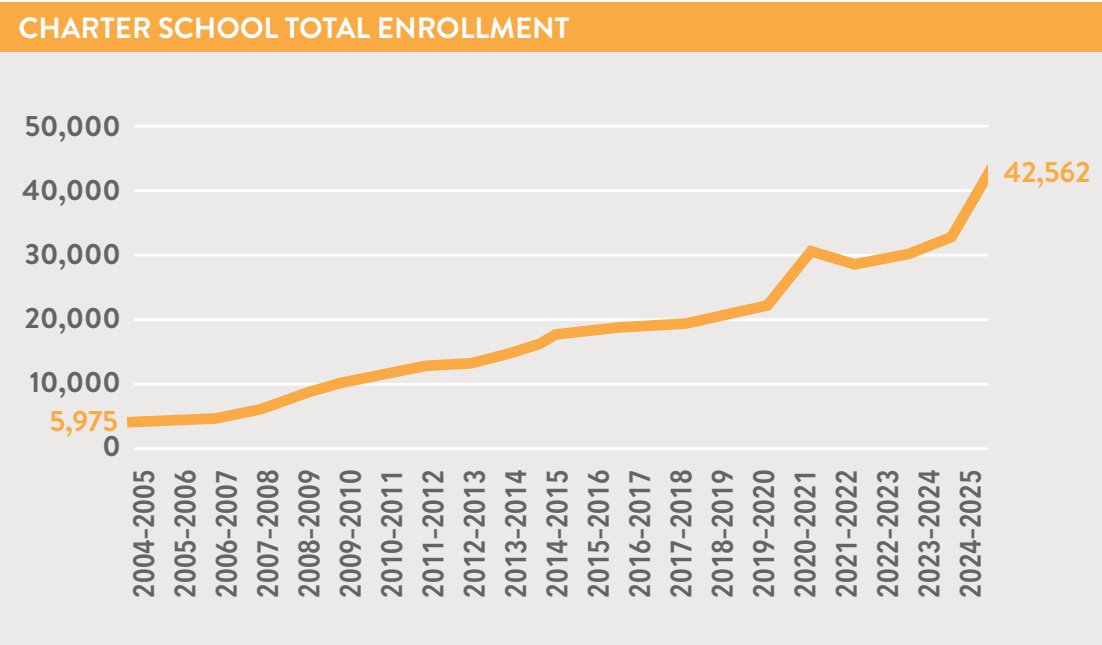
Idaho has 76 public charter schools serving more than 42,000 students.

2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF CHARTER STUDENTS
BRICK-AND-MORTAR SCHOOLS			
K-12	23	13,818	32.5%
Elementary Only (K-5)	2	600	1.4%
High School Only	6	911	2.1%
Other Grade Combos without HS	26	8,109	19.1%
Other Grade Combos with HS	10	4,179	9.8%
ONLINE			
K-12	5	12,436	29.2%
High School Only	2	514	1.2%
Middle School + High School	2	1,995	4.7%
TOTALS	76	42,562	100%

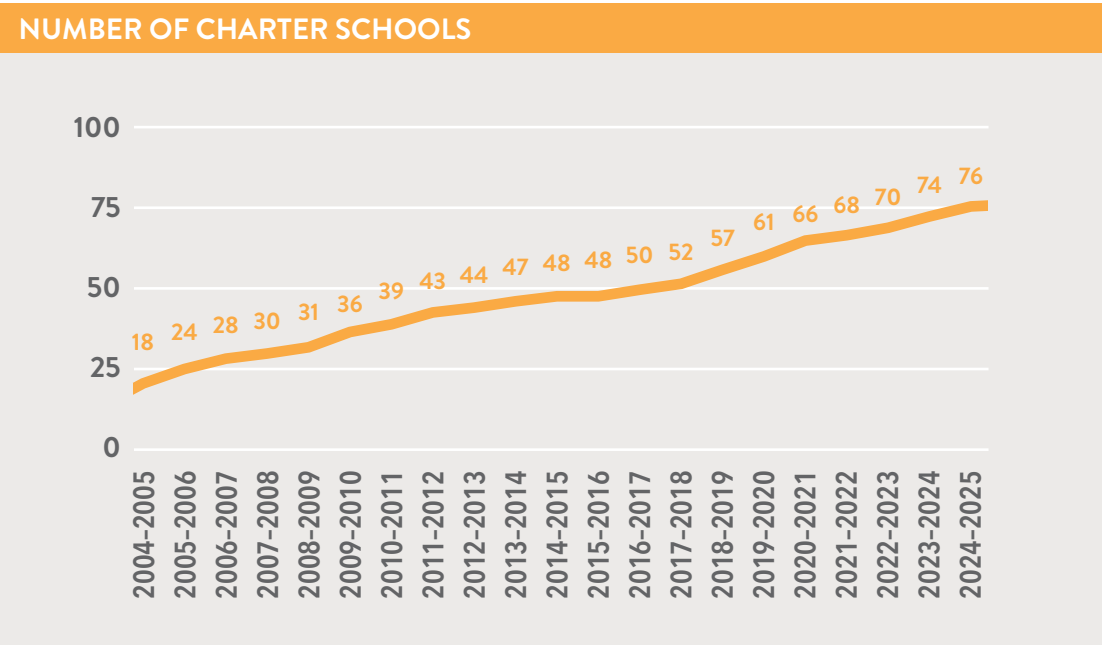
Source: IDE, Historical Enrollments by Charter School by Grade.
Note: 2024-2025 charter enrollment data did not include a handful of charter schools that the state, and enrollment numbers differ slightly from others in this report based on data sources. These numbers, counting charter school entities, also differ from the prior table counting school buildings. Total online enrollment in this table (14,945) differs from other tables because grade-level charter information is derived from fall enrollments and, in other places, spring data with demographics available are used with a slightly higher online enrollment (15,033).



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS



Source: [IDE Public School Finance Data](#).
Note: Total numbers include pre-K students in two years.



Source: [IDE Public School Finance Data](#).

CHARACTERISTICS OF CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS

Three-quarters of Idaho charter school students are White, and over half attend brick-and-mortar schools in suburban areas.

	PUBLIC CHARTER	
	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
RACE OR ETHNICITY		
White	30,706	76.9%
Hispanic	6,871	17.2%
Multiracial	1,402	3.5%
Asian or Pacific Islander	539	1.3%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	207	0.5%
Black/African American	228	0.6%

GENDER		
Female	20,416	51.1%
Male	19,537	48.9%

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS		
Economically Disadvantaged	14,614	36.6%
Students with Disabilities	4,336	10.9%
English Language Learner	887	2.2%
Military	536	1.3%
Homeless	402	1.0%
Migrant	11	0.0%

TYPOLOGY		
Urban: Brick-and-Mortar	2,442	6.1%
Suburban: Brick-and-Mortar	16,649	41.7%
Rural: Brick-and-Mortar	6,176	15.5%
Online	15,033	37.6%

Source: IDE PRR for Total, Race/Ethnicity, and Other Characteristics. Gender statistics based on percentages at Idaho Report Card. Data does not include Elevate Academy schools and any data redacted for small sample sizes at the charter level.
Note: See note on “Public School Students by Typology” for description of methodology used to determine district typologies. Discrepancies in total enrollment across pages is due to differences in data sources from IDE.



INTERDISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT

In the 2024-2025 school year, Idaho school districts accepted 89.2 percent of applications for transfer.

SCHOOL YEAR	TOTAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	PERCENT OF APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED	TOTAL NUMBER OF DISTRICTS REPORTING
2019-2020	18,064	88.2%	91
2020-2021	21,523	86.1%	91
2021-2022	11,070	82.9%	76
2022-2023	2,560	80.4%	26
2023-2024	27,026	87.5%	126
2024-2025	31,975	89.2%	118

Source: All years prior to 2023-2024, IDE 2022-2023 [Open Enrollment Report](#). 2023-2024 [SBOE Report on School District Capacity and Transfer Data](#). 2025 [District Level General Education transfer Data](#).
Note: Until the 2023-2024 school year, Idaho Code 33-1402 required IDE to conduct an annual survey of districts offering in-district and out of district enrollment options (Open Enrollment), with voluntary reporting by the districts. Senate Bill 1125, which became law on July 1, 2023, now requires all school districts to report transfer data to the Idaho State Board of Education four times per school year.

HOMESCHOOLING

Between 8 and 10 percent of Idaho students are homeschooled, although precise data are not gathered in Idaho reporting.

SCHOOL YEAR	PERCENT HOMESCHOOL	ESTIMATED NUMBER HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS
2019-2020	8%	26,143
2020-2021	10.3%	34,017
2022-2023	7.7%	26,418
2023-2024	8.7%	30,301

Source: Estimates of homeschooling from [John Hopkins study](#), some years based on households and others based per student. Population estimates based on the American Community Survey total population ages 5-17.



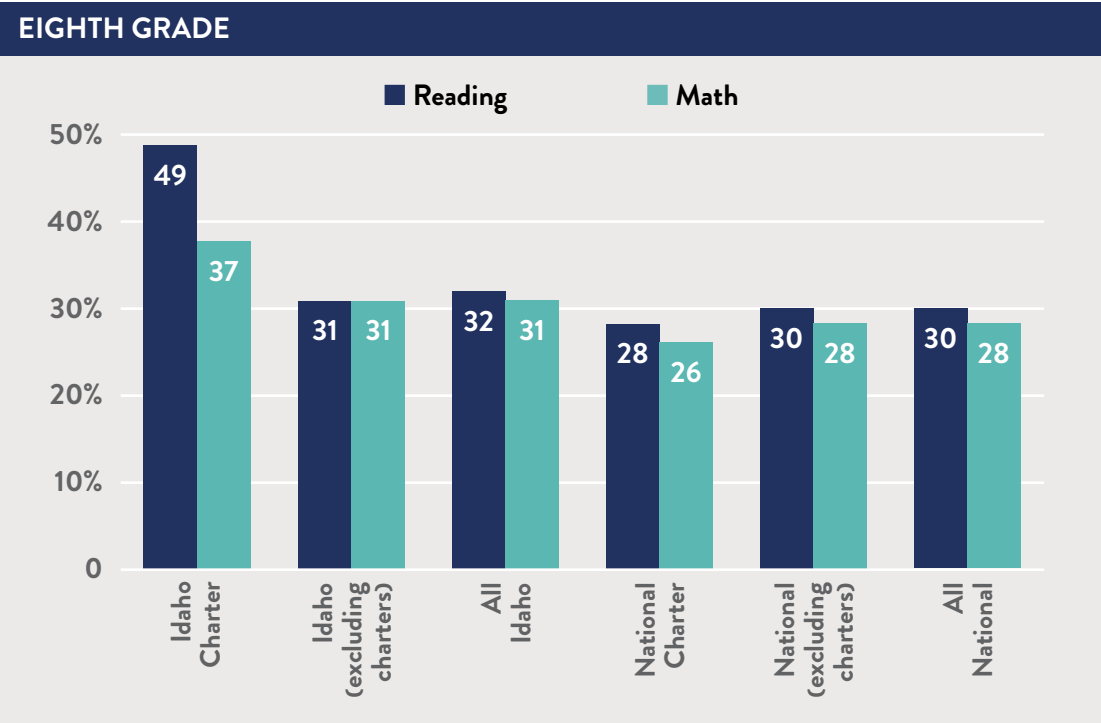
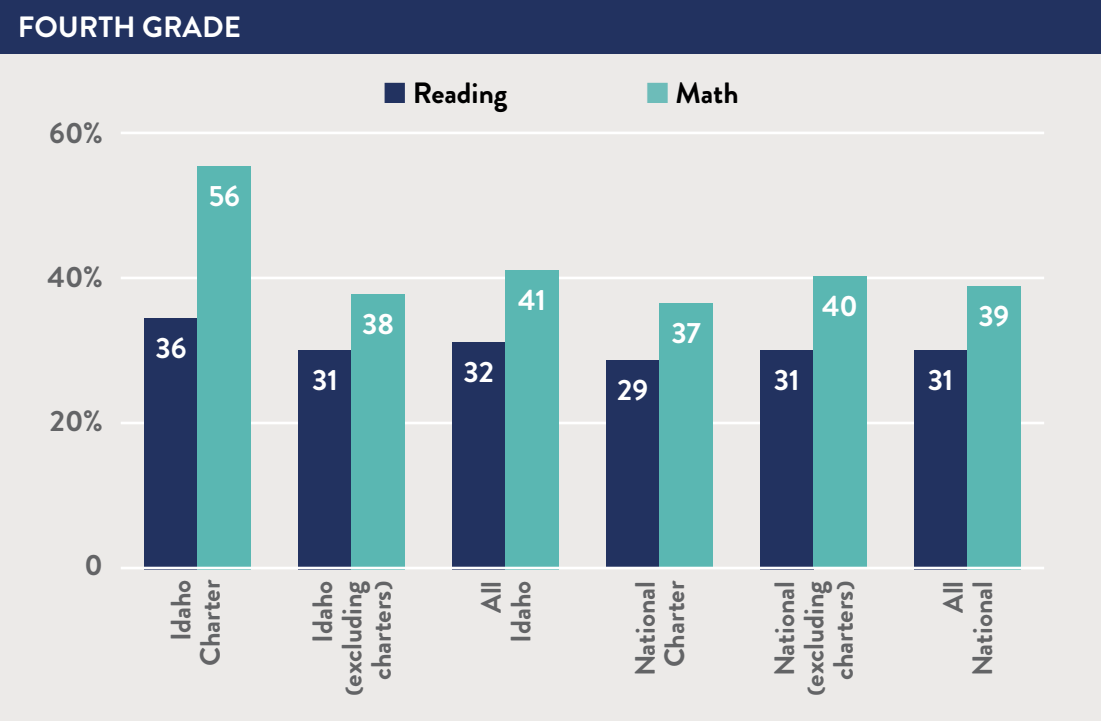
TREASURE VALLEY CLASSICAL ACADEMY,
Fruitland

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: NATIONAL EXAMS



NATIONAL EXAMS: NAEP 2024

Approximately a third of Idaho students reach the national standard for proficiency in reading and math, slightly above the national average. Idaho charter school students perform well above the national average in both subjects.



Source: NAEP Data Explorer (2024).

NATIONAL EXAMS: IDAHO COMPARED TO OTHER STATES

Nationally, Idaho ranks between 10th and 22nd in fourth and eighth grade math and reading.

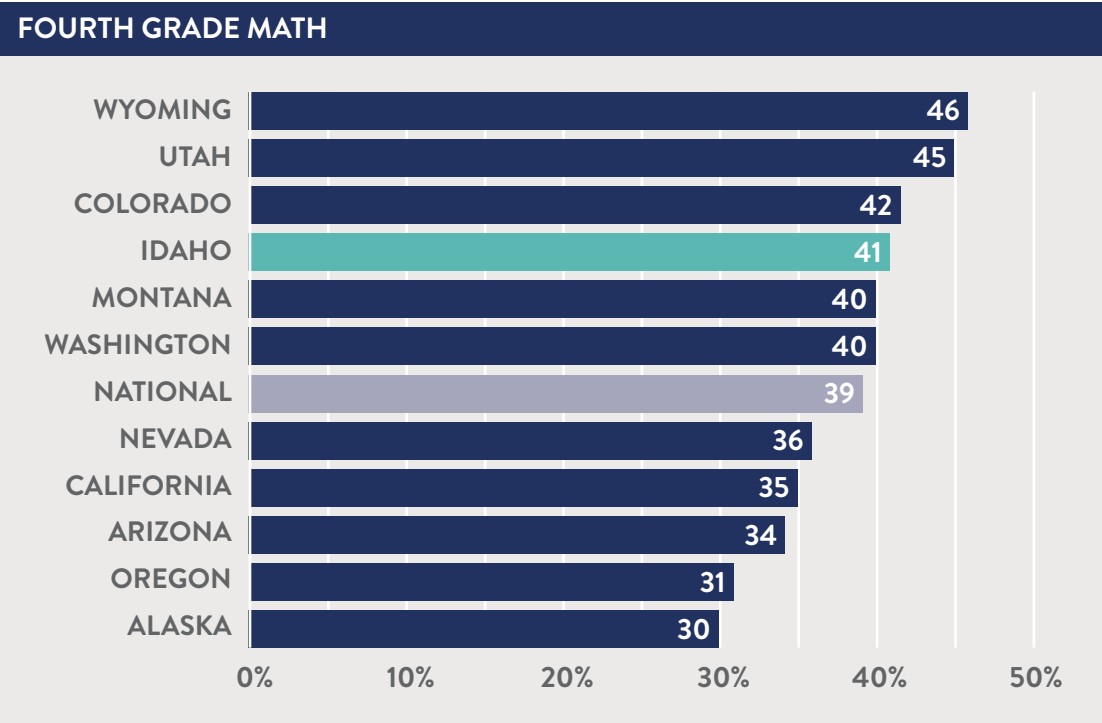
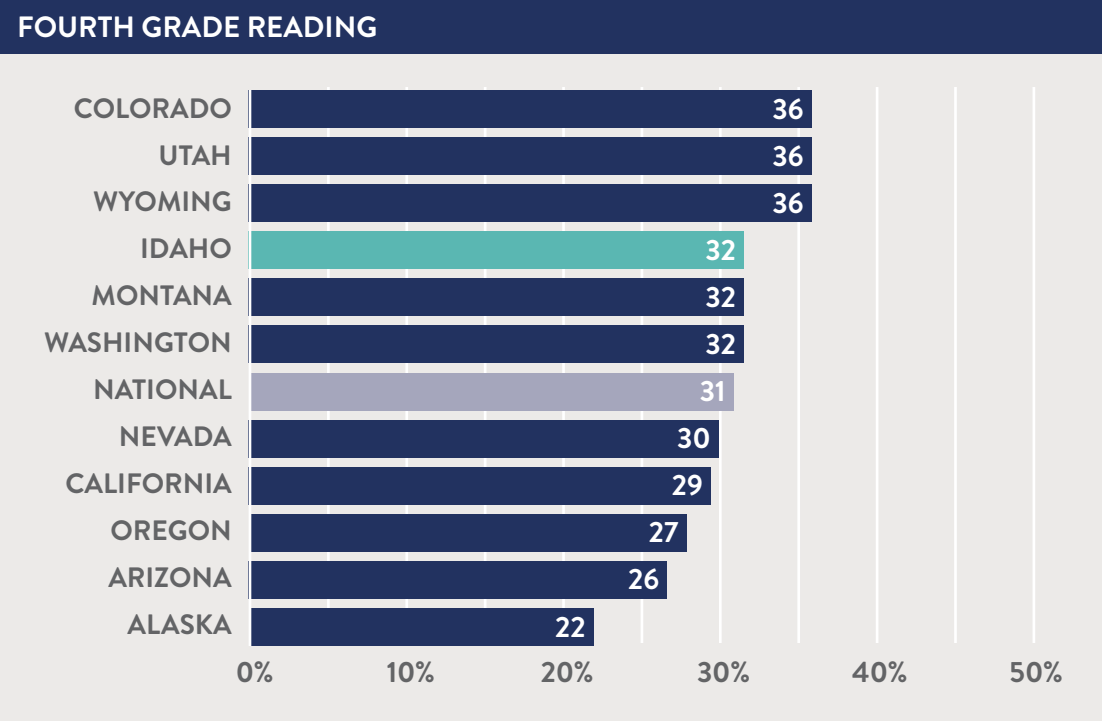
NATIONAL RANK											
	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022	2024
4th Grade Reading	32	20	23	29	26	33	33	23	12	31	20
4th Grade Math	30	13	25	22	30	32	32	26	16	24	22
8th Grade Reading	27	24	23	29	17	14	14	10	11	7	10
8th Grade Math	25	25	26	16	21	22	24	22	12	4	16

Source: NAEP Data Explorer (2024).
Notes: Rankings shown based on average scaled scores. Rankings include Department of Defense schools, which are included in NAEP data as their own "state."



NATIONAL EXAMS: IDAHO COMPARED TO NEARBY STATES

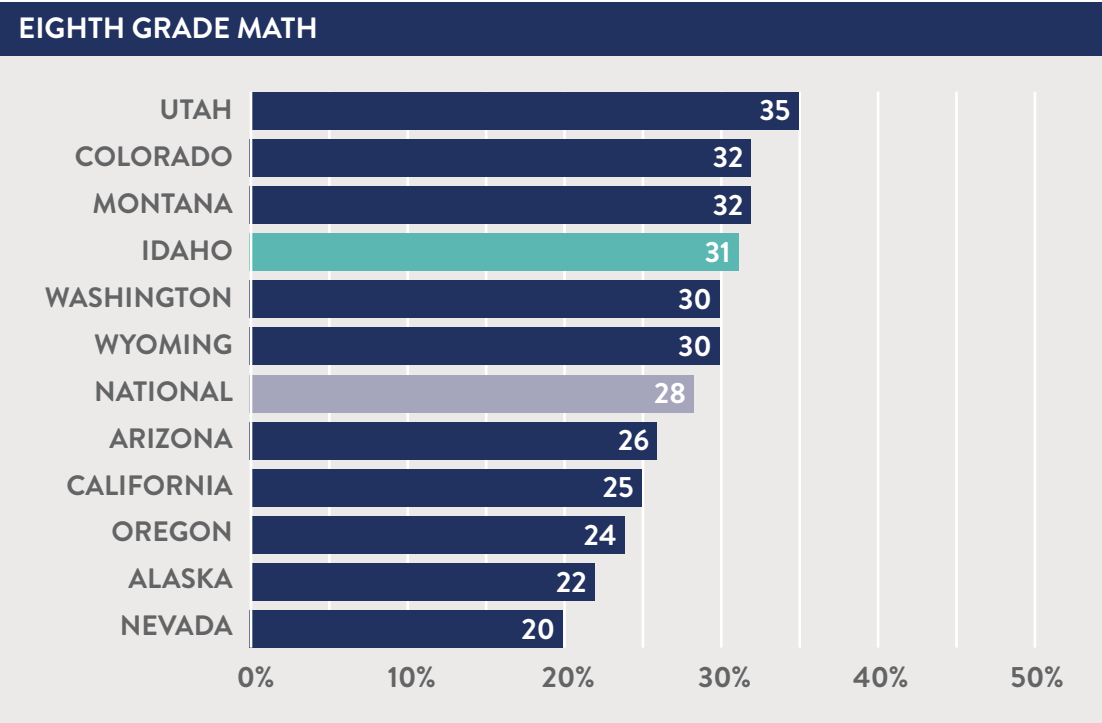
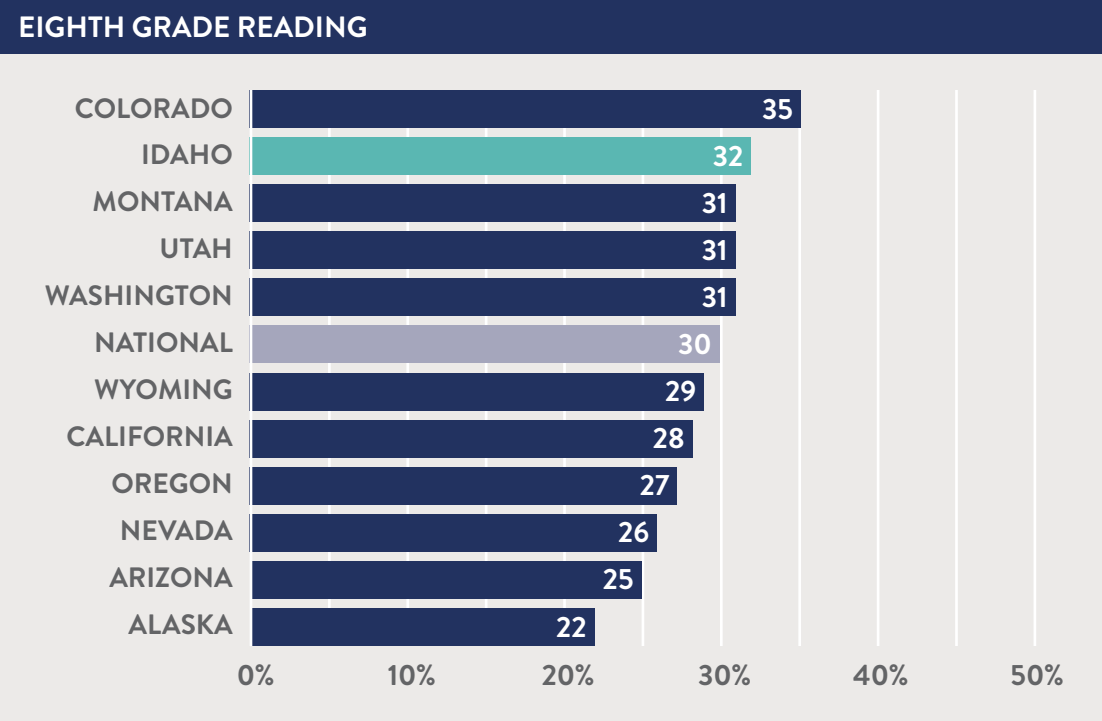
When compared to ten nearby states, Idaho is tied for 4th in fourth grade reading and 4th in fourth grade math proficiency.



Source: NAEP Data Explorer (2024).

NATIONAL EXAMS: IDAHO COMPARED TO NEARBY STATES

When compared to ten nearby states, Idaho is tied for 2nd in eighth grade reading and ranks 4th in eighth grade math proficiency.

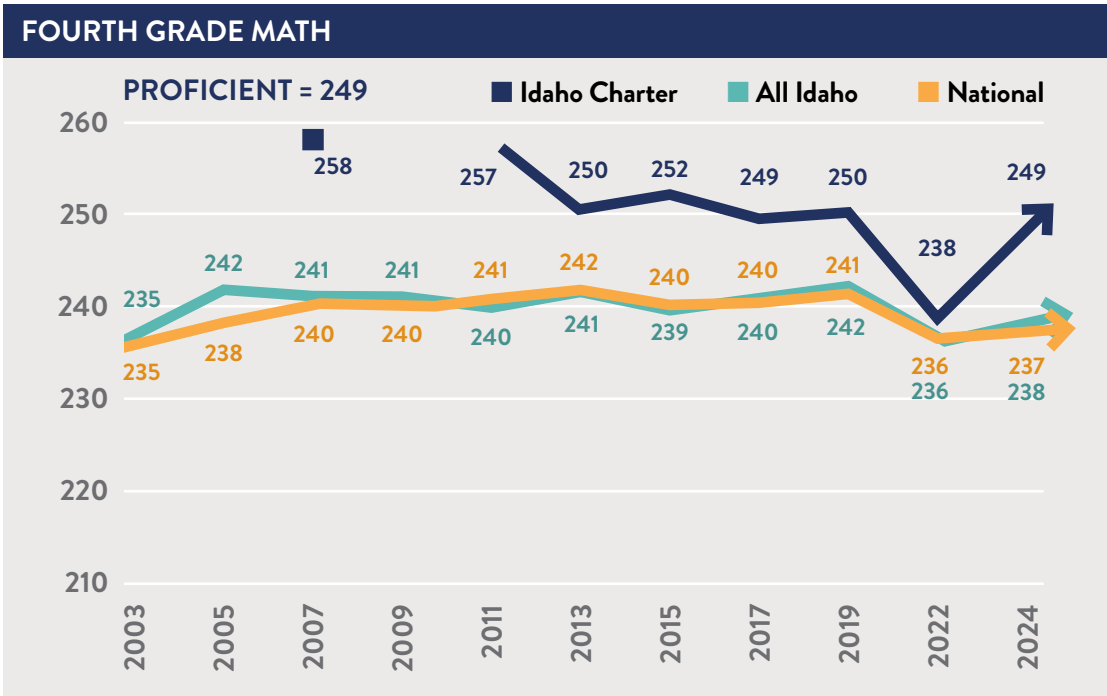
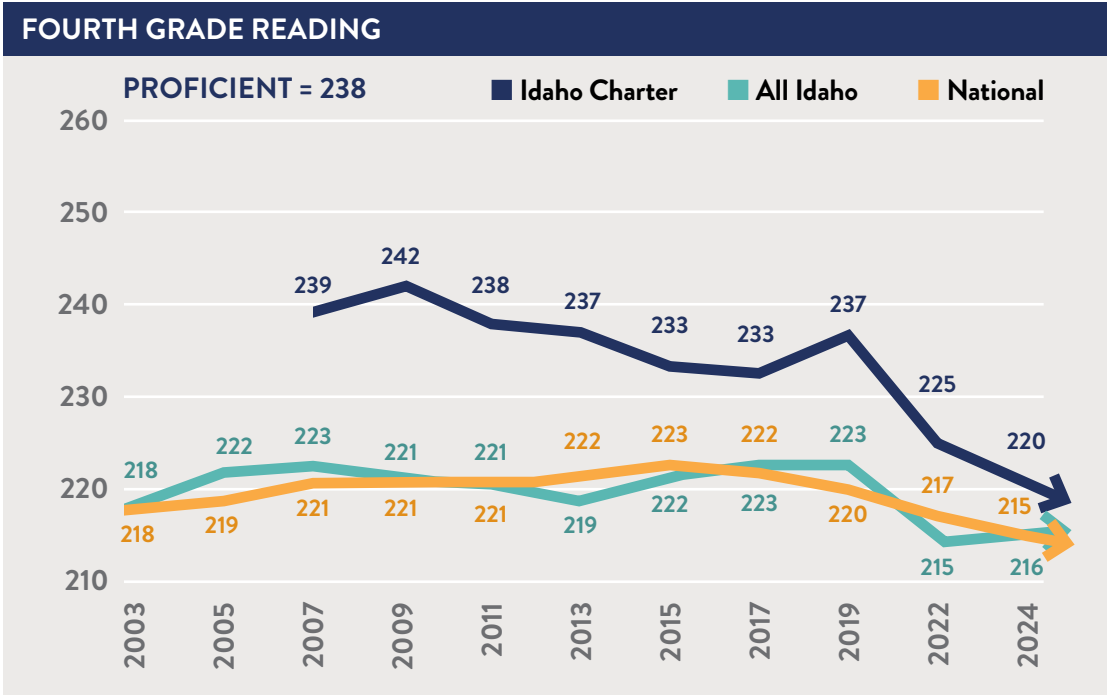


Source: NAEP Data Explorer (2024).



NATIONAL EXAMS: IDAHO SCORES OVER TIME

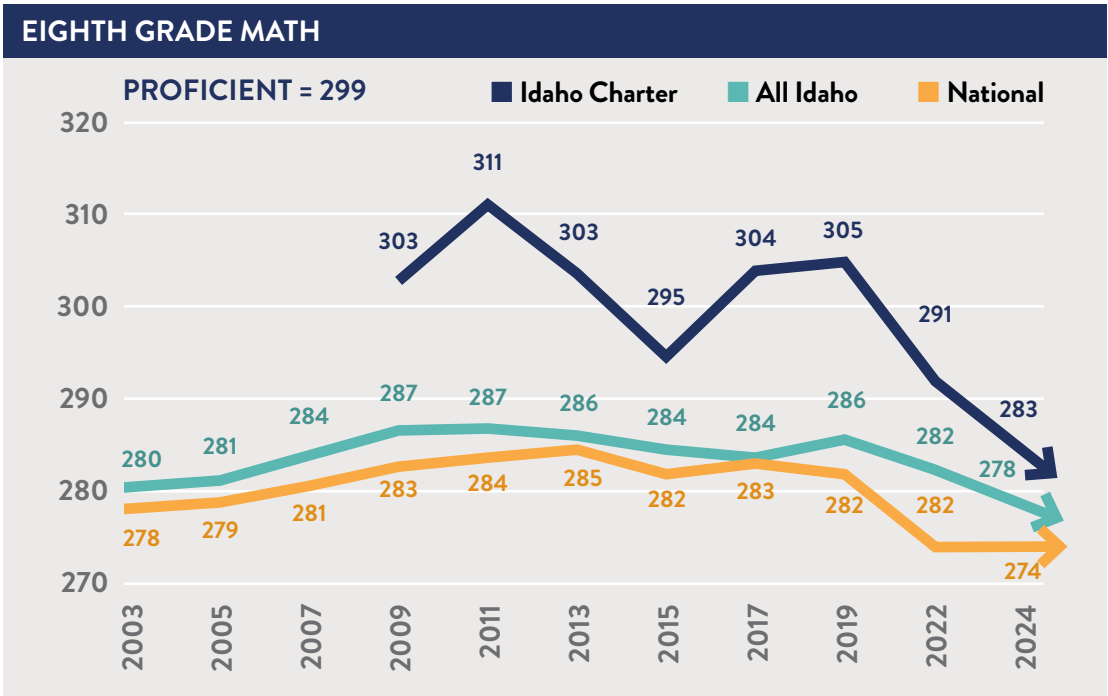
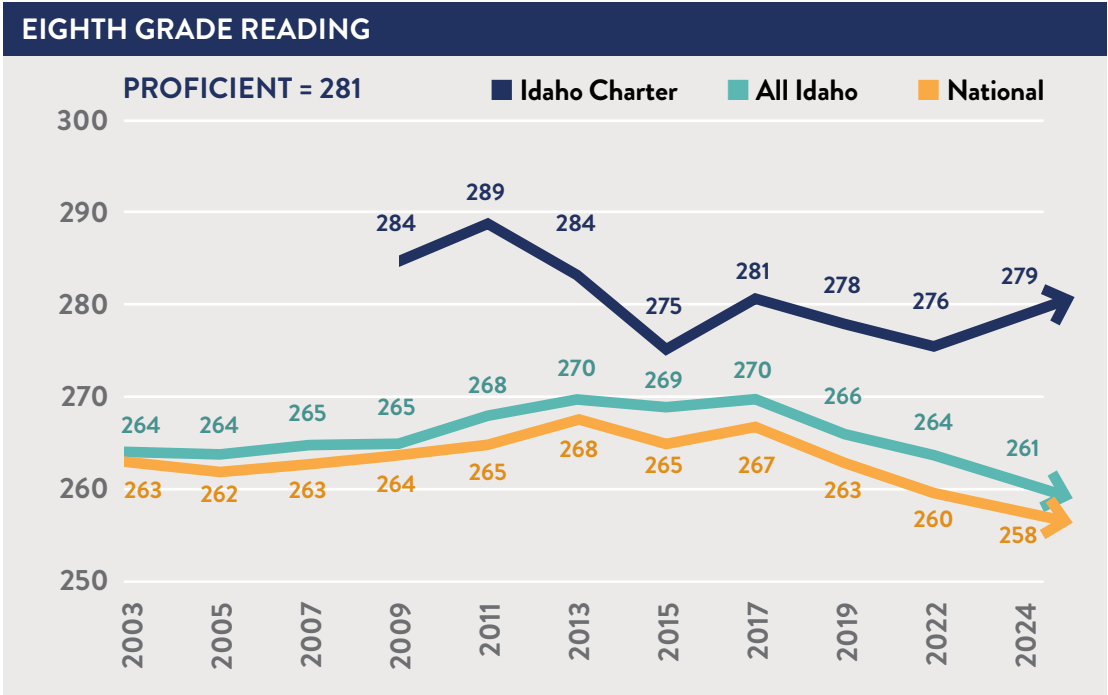
Idaho's fourth grade reading and math scores have been largely flat until recent declines that follow national trends. Idaho charter schools fourth grade scores have been consistently higher than the average of all Idaho schools.



Source: NAEP Data Explorer (2024).
Notes: NAEP does not separate data for online versus brick-and-mortar charter schools.

NATIONAL EXAMS: IDAHO SCORES OVER TIME

Idaho's eighth grade reading and math scores have been above the national average for the past 20 years. Idaho charter schools eighth grade scores have been consistently higher than the average scores of all Idaho schools.

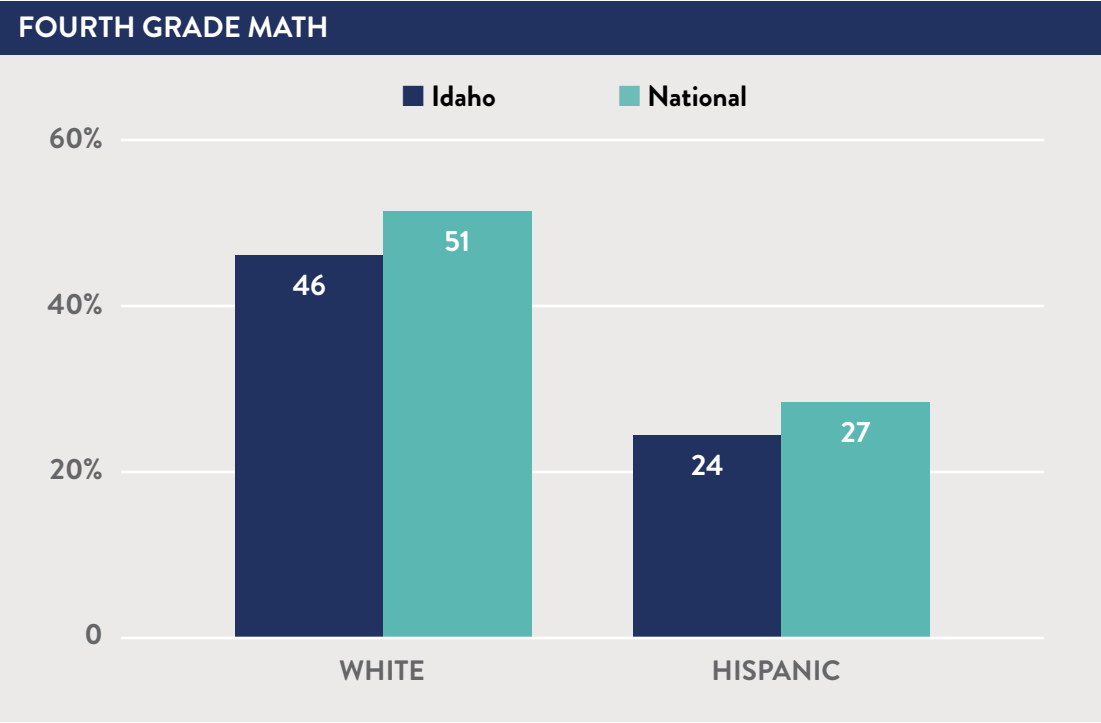
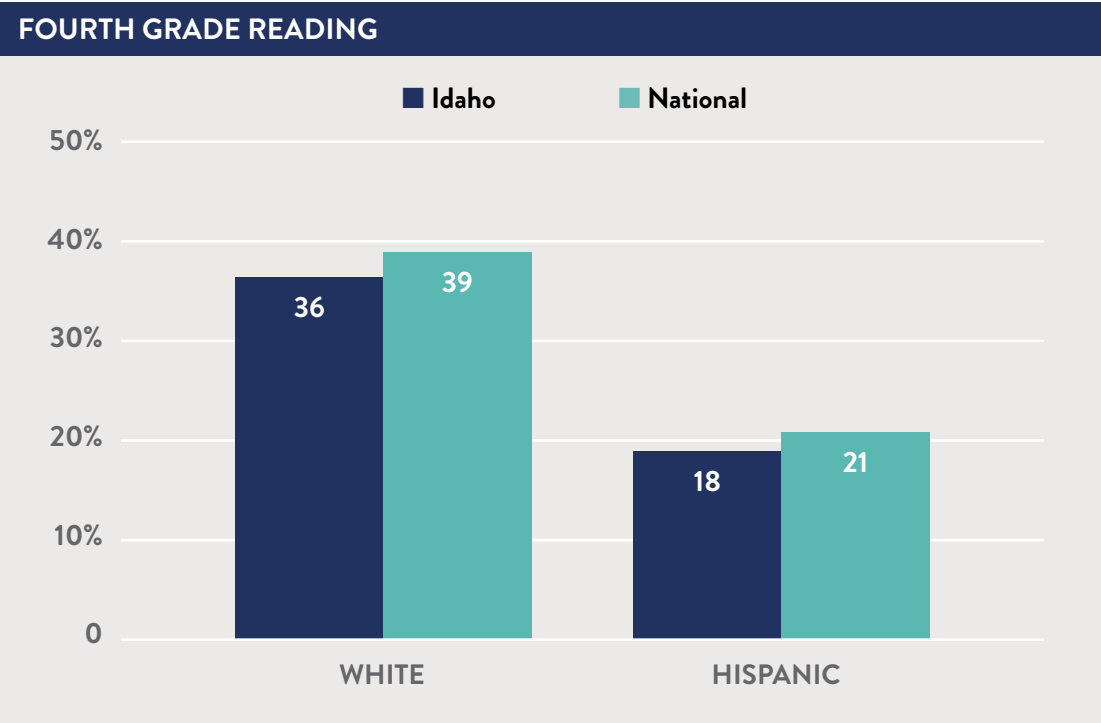


Source: NAEP Data Explorer (2024).



NATIONAL EXAMS: ACHIEVEMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY

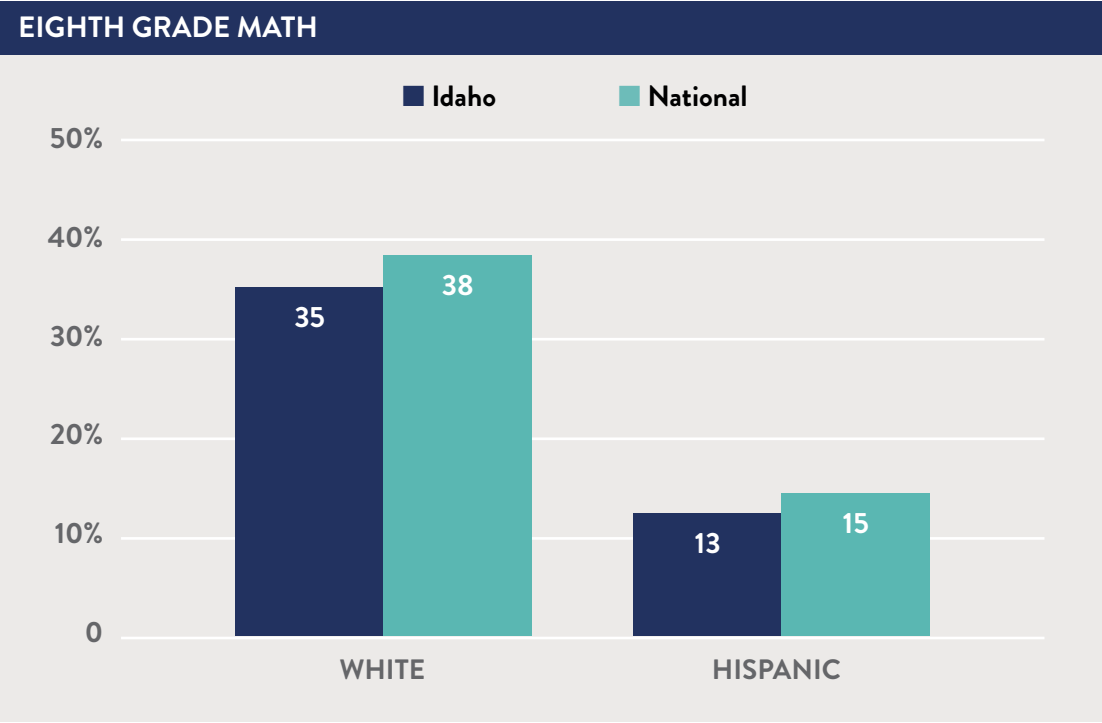
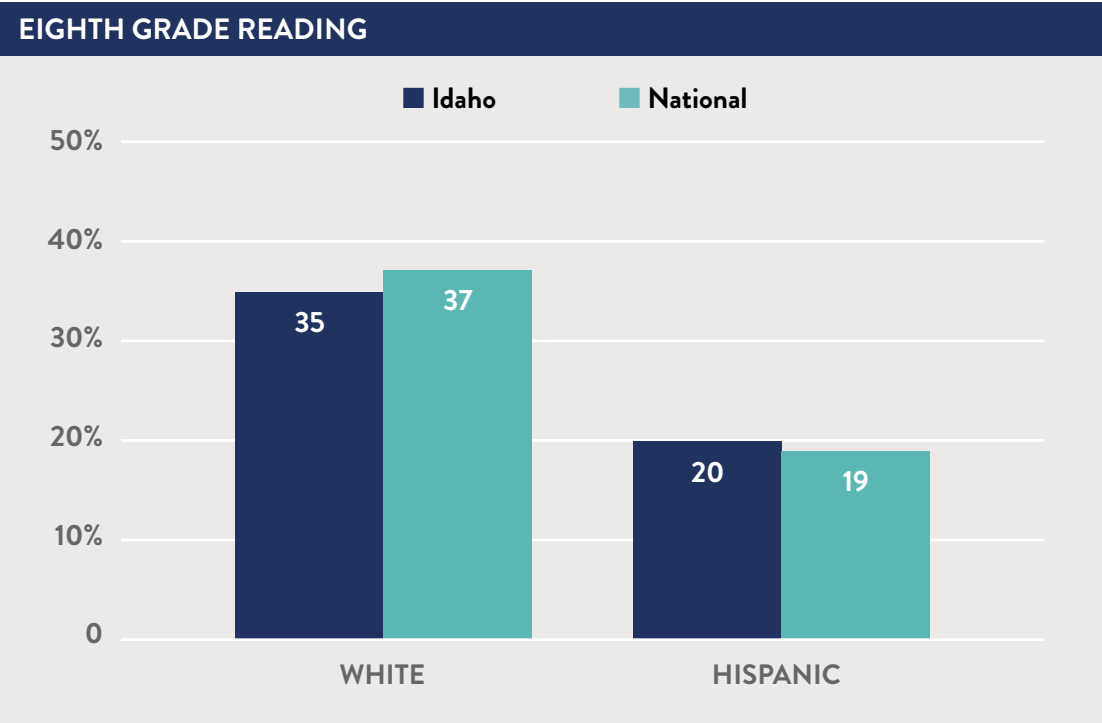
Around 40 percent of Idaho’s White fourth grade students achieve proficiency on NAEP, but only about 20 percent of Idaho’s Hispanic students do so.



Source: NAEP Data Explorer (2024).

NATIONAL EXAMS: ACHIEVEMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY

Thirty-five percent of Idaho’s White eighth grade students achieve proficiency on NAEP, but fewer than 20 percent of Hispanic students do so.



Source: NAEP Data Explorer (2024).

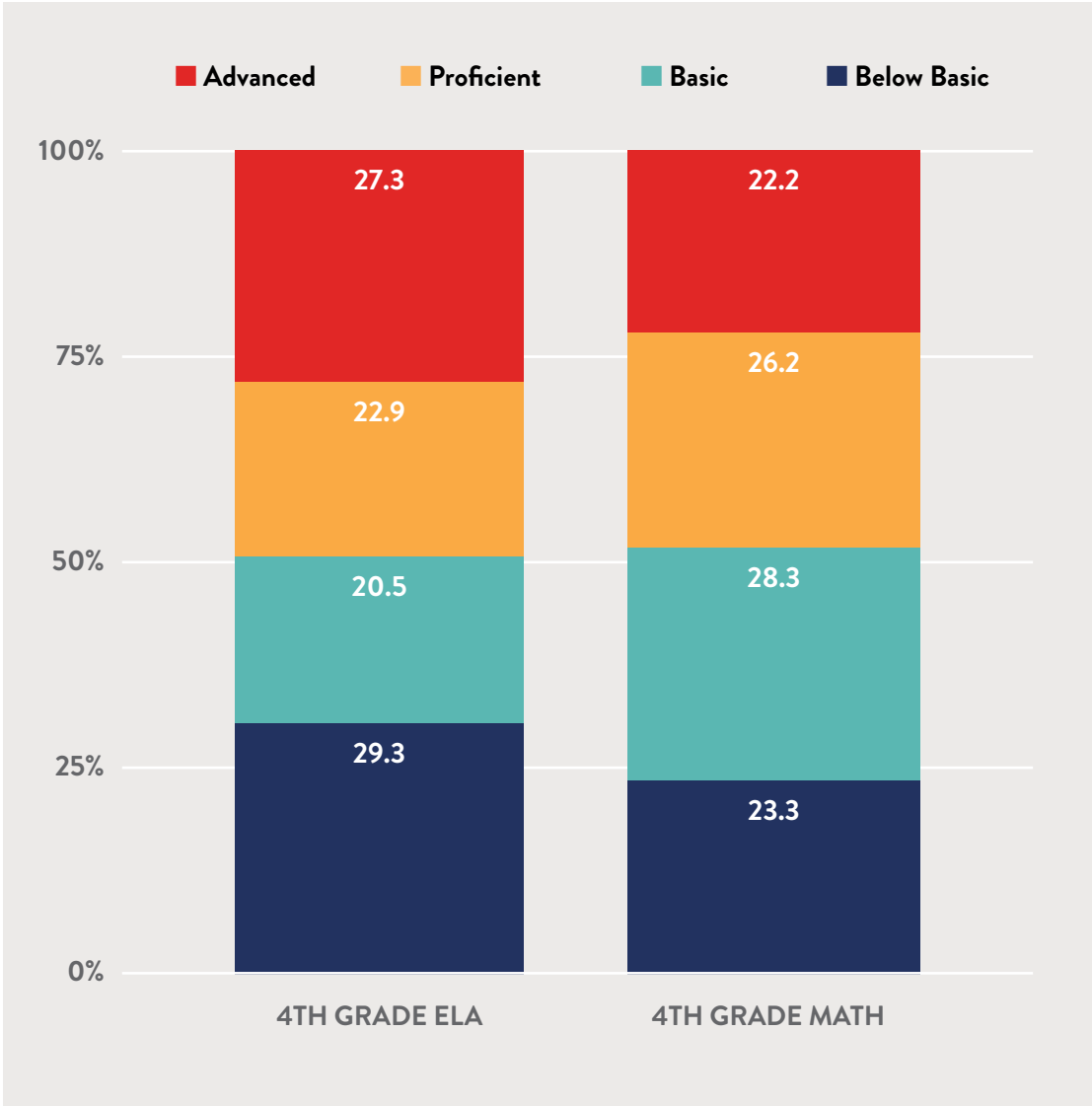


STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: STATE EXAMS



STATEWIDE ACHIEVEMENT IN SELECTED GRADES AND SUBJECTS

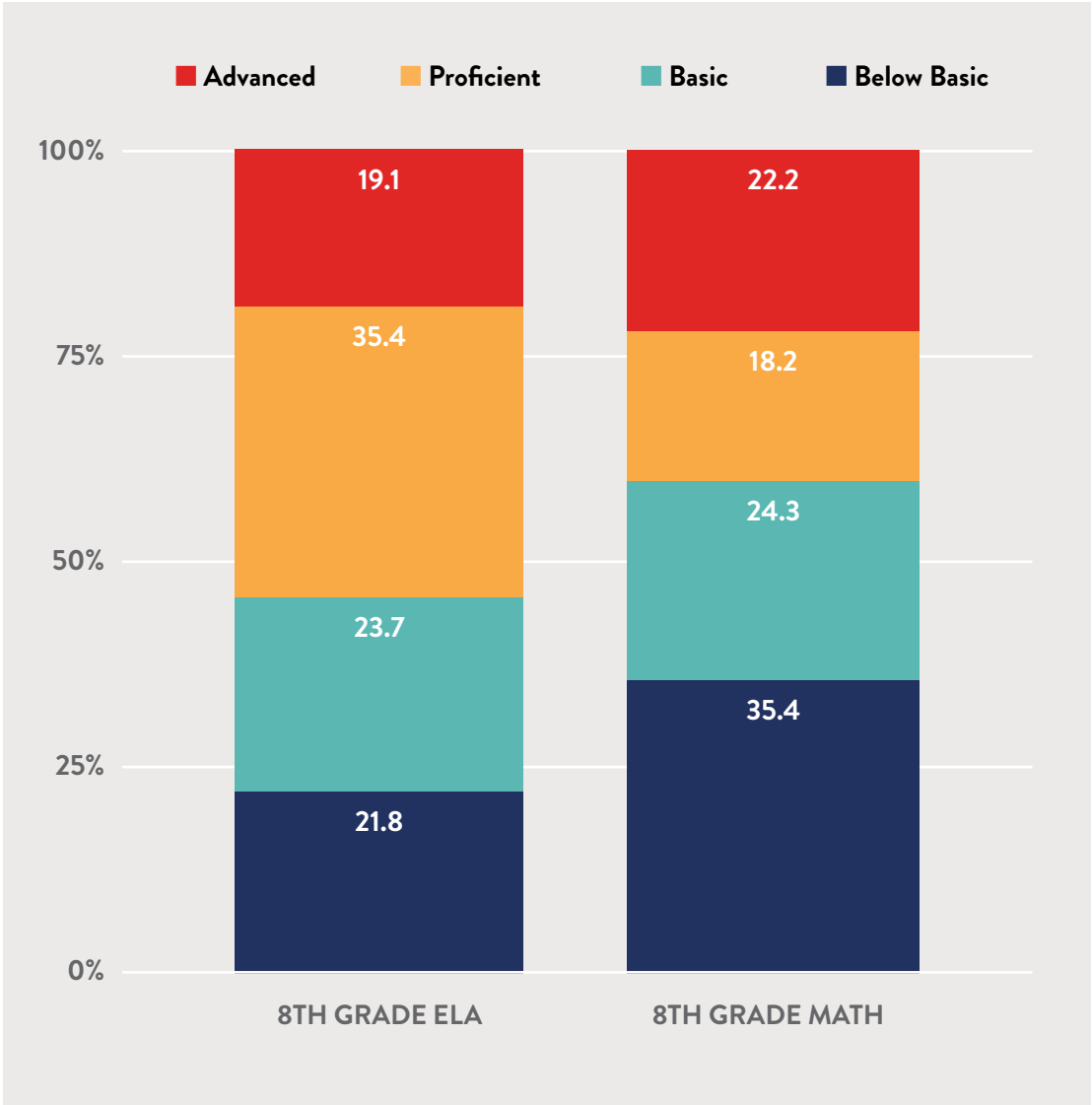
About 50 percent of Idaho fourth grade students reach proficient or above on state English language arts (ELA) and math exams.



Source: IDE 2025 ISAT Results.
Note: Results shown for all students.

STATEWIDE ACHIEVEMENT IN SELECTED GRADES AND SUBJECTS

About 55 and 40 percent of Idaho eighth grade students reach proficient or above on state English language arts (ELA) and math exams, respectively.

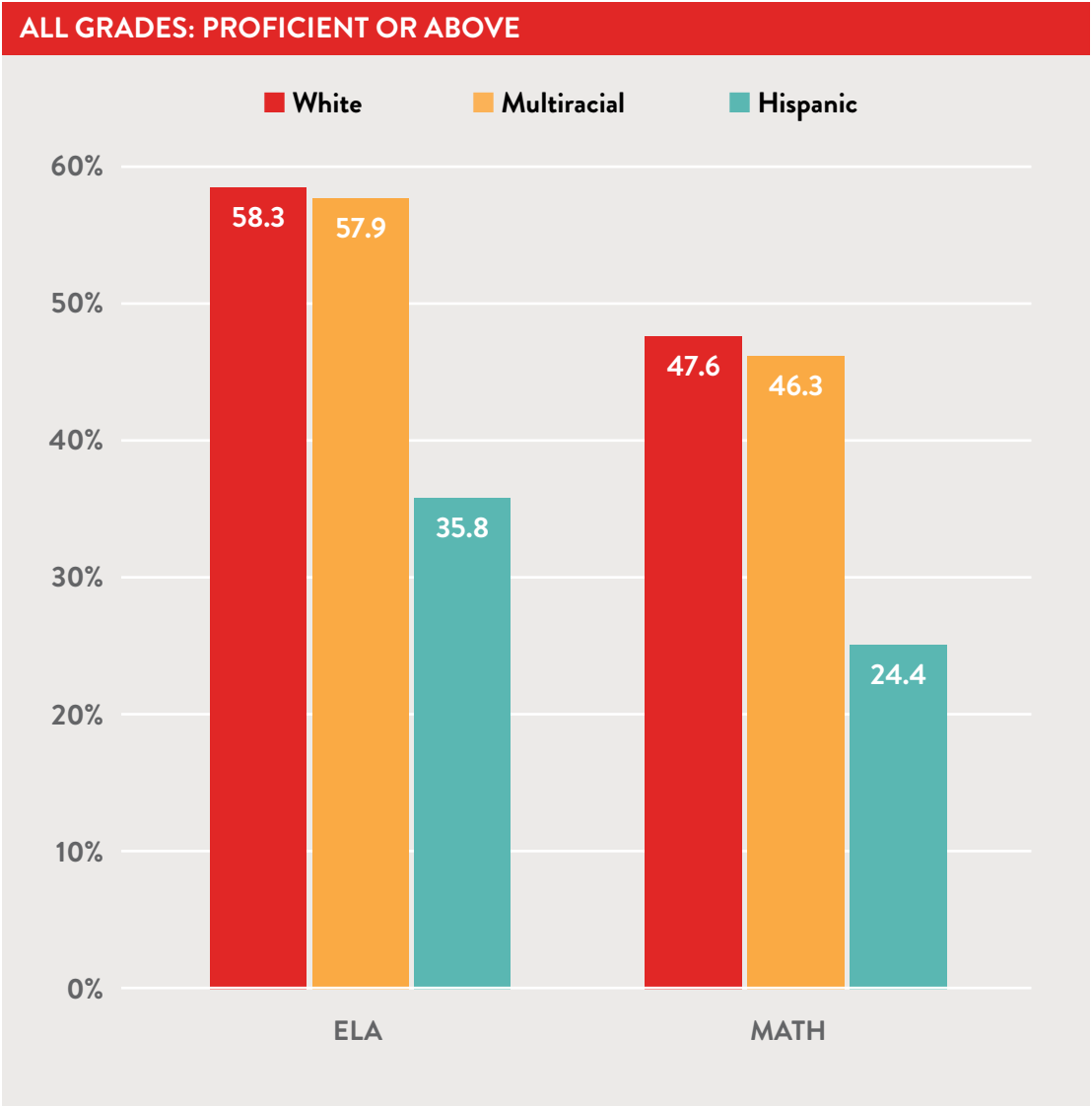


Source: IDE 2025 ISAT Results.
Note: Results shown for all students.



ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

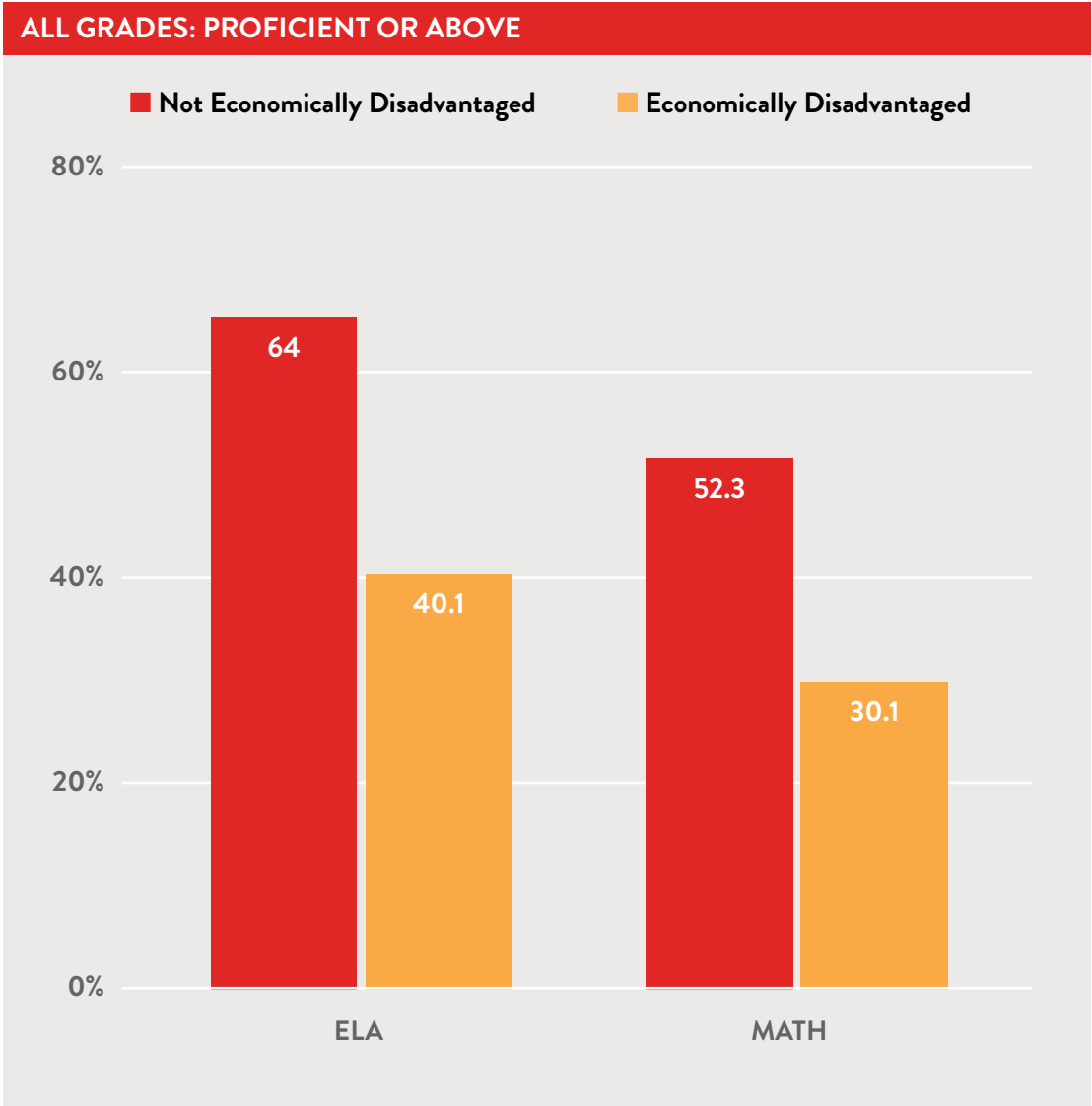
On average, Hispanic students achieve lower scores than White and Multiracial students on state exams.



Source: IDE 2025 ISAT Results.
Note: Results shown for all students.

ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

On average, economically disadvantaged students achieve lower scores than their peers on state exams.

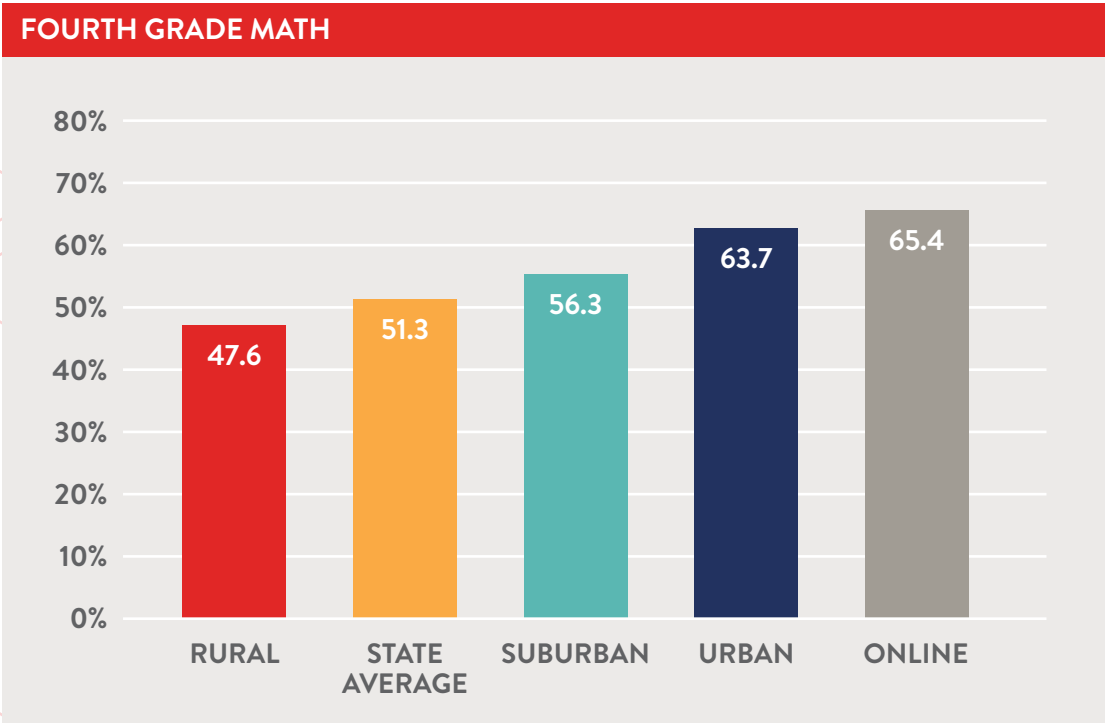
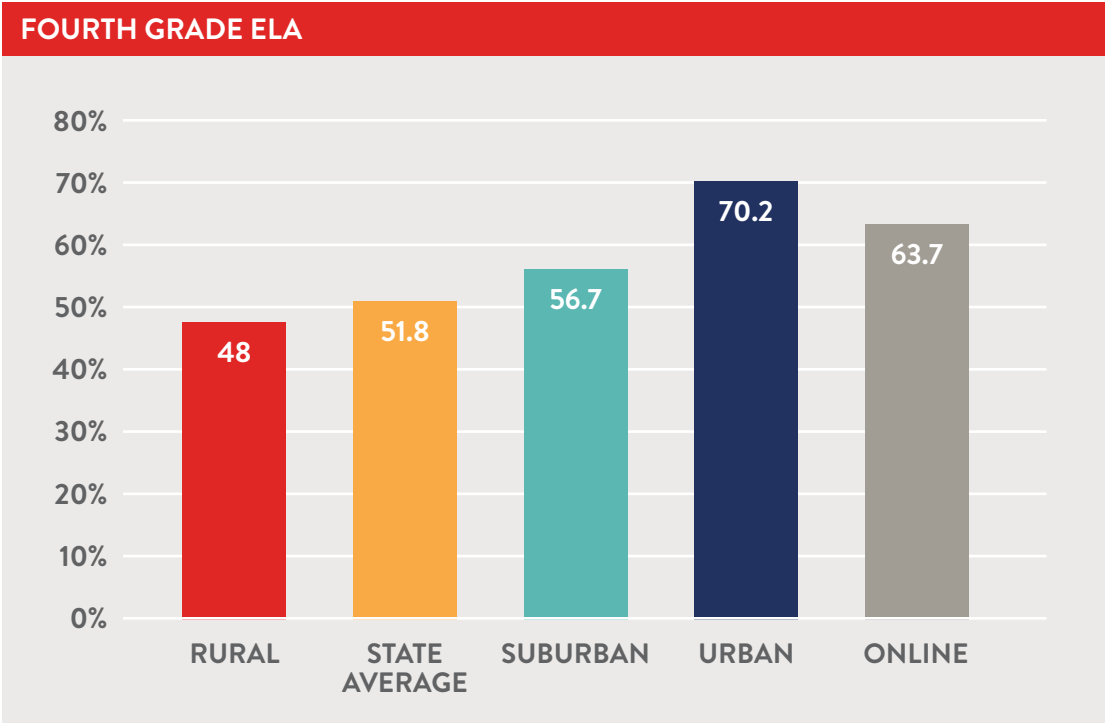


Source: IDE 2025 ISAT Results.
Note: Results shown for all students.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT BY DISTRICT TYPOLOGY

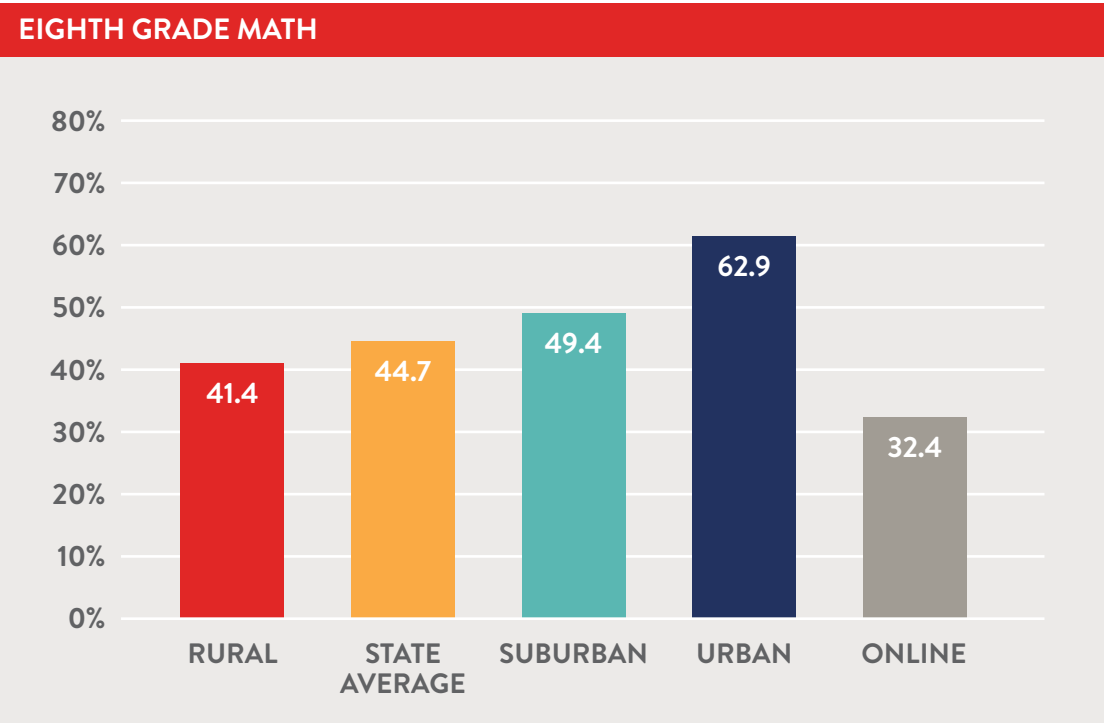
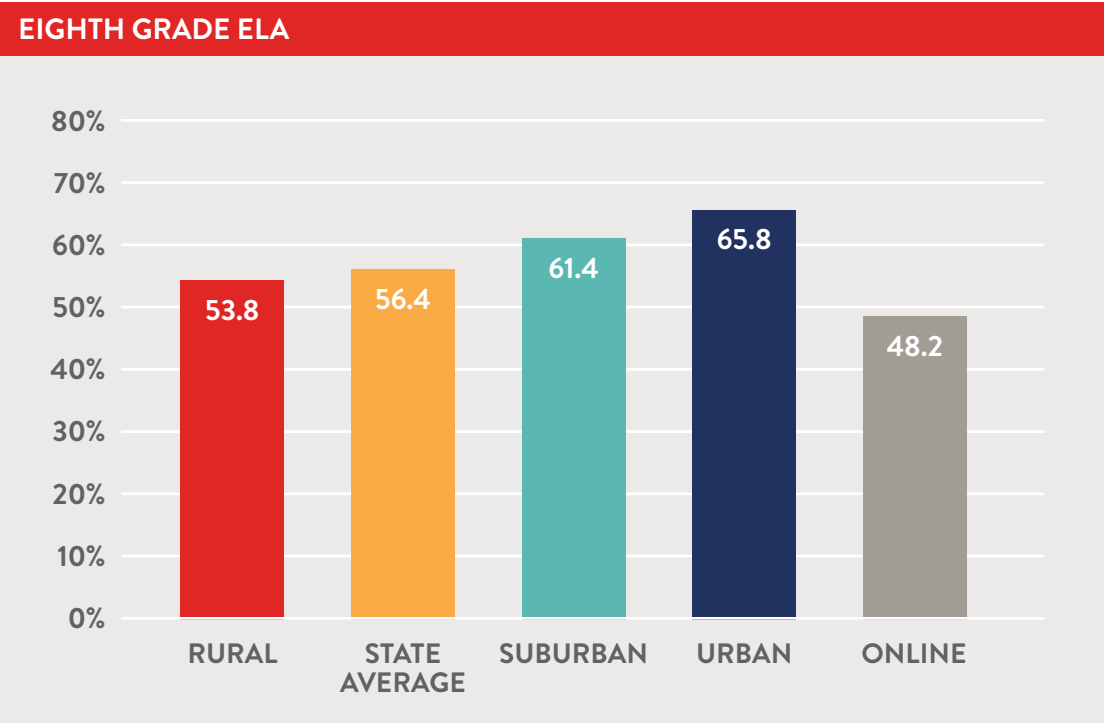
Fourth grade proficiency rates are lowest in Idaho’s rural schools and highest in urban schools. See notes below for online schools, which represent a very small number of schools with available data.



Source: IDE 2025 ISAT Results.
Note: See note on p.11 (Public School Students by Typology) for description of methodology used to determine district typologies. State averages shown here are using district data to match the other columns. District averages are not weighted by number of students. Online school ISAT data for fourth grade are only available for two schools in ELA due to sample size issues, and only one school for math.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT BY DISTRICT TYPOLOGY

Eighth grade proficiency rates are lowest in Idaho’s online and rural schools and highest in urban schools.

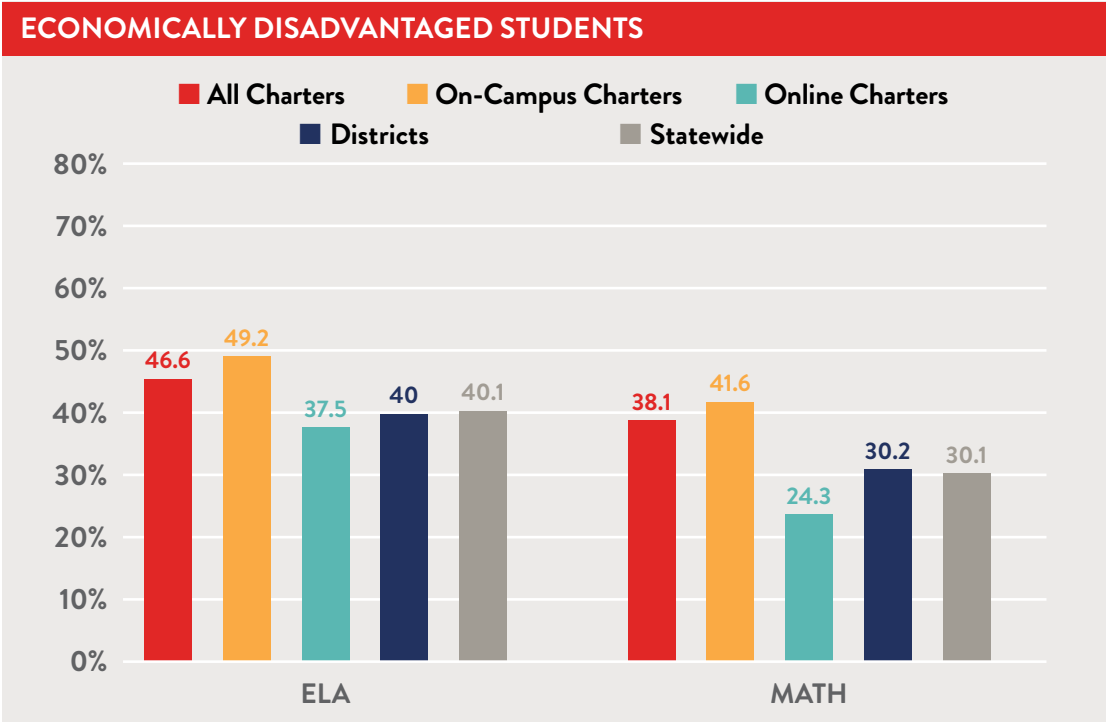
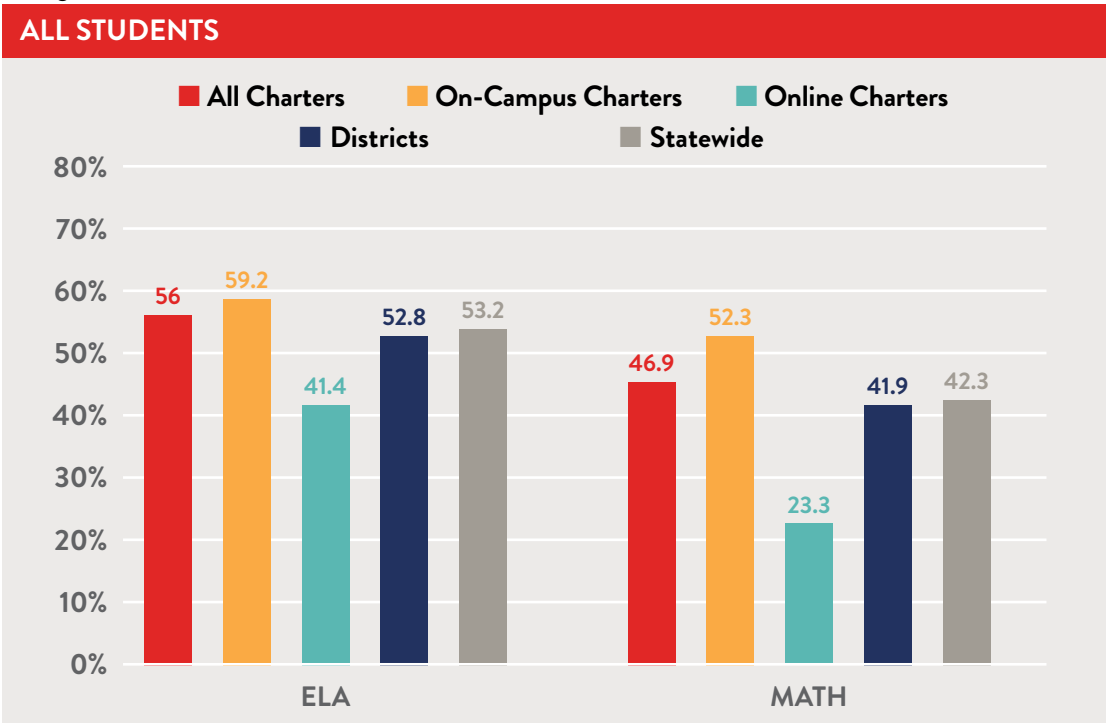


Source: IDE 2025 ISAT Results.
Note: See note on p.11 (Public School Students by Typology) for description of methodology used to determine district typologies. State averages shown here are using district data, to match the other columns. District averages are not weighted by number of students. Online school ISAT data for fourth grades are only available for two schools in ELA due to sample size issues, and only one school for math.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT BY CHARTER TYPE

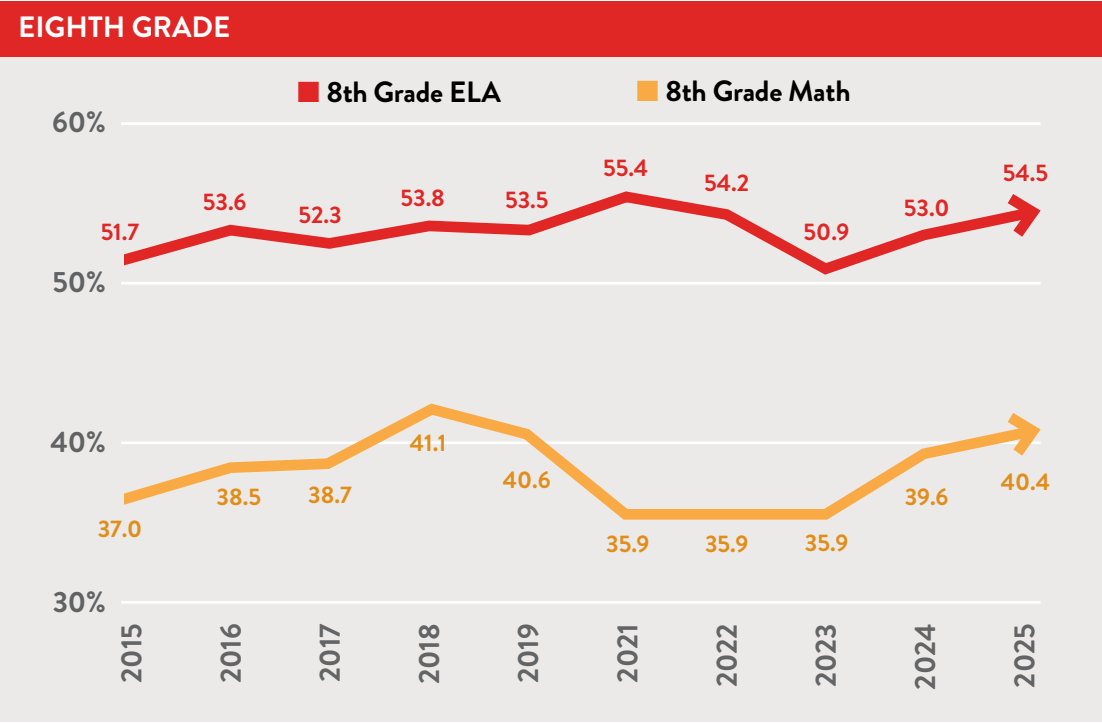
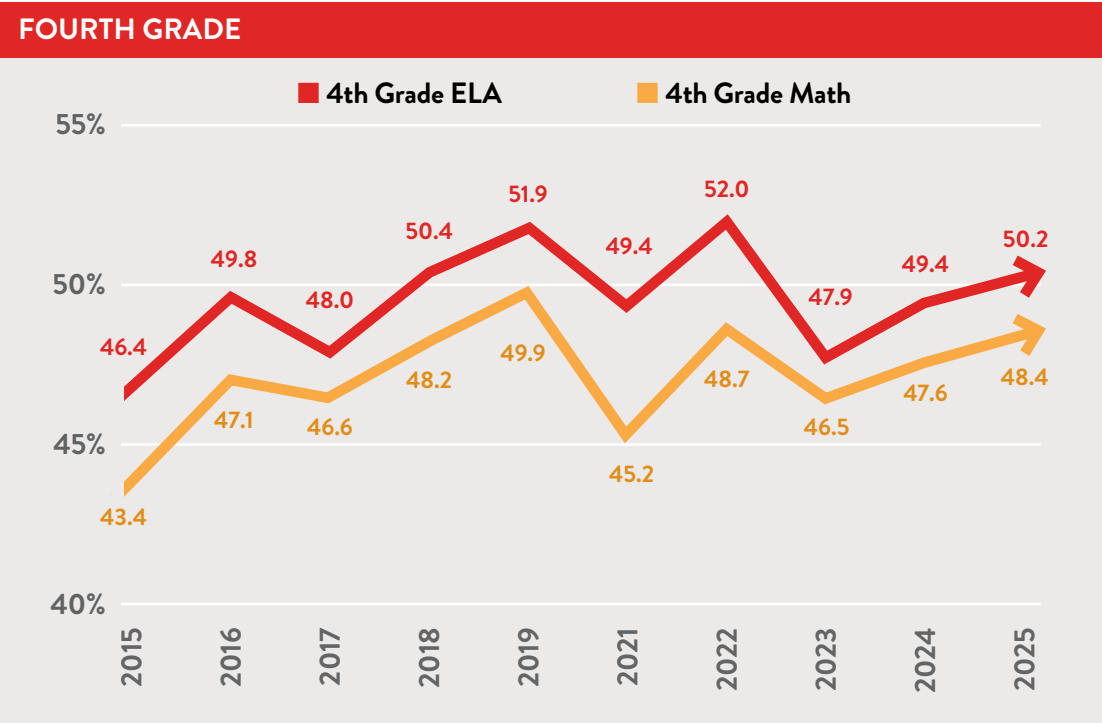
Online charter schools show lower proficiency scores than on-campus charters and districts. This holds true for both the overall student population and economically disadvantaged students taking the ISAT.



Source: IDE 2025 ISAT Results.
Note: Charter results are weighted average of charter schools with reported data, and do not include data censored for small sample sizes. Charters housed in traditional districts are included in traditional district results. Weightings between schools depend on reported sample size data, which may be redacted for some groups in some schools.

PROFICIENCY TRENDS IN FOURTH AND EIGHTH GRADE

Proficiency rates on state exams dipped in 2020-2021, possibly reflecting COVID-related disruptions, but both ELA and math scores are approaching or have rebounded to pre-pandemic levels.



Source: IDE 2015-2025 ISAT Results Results for all students.

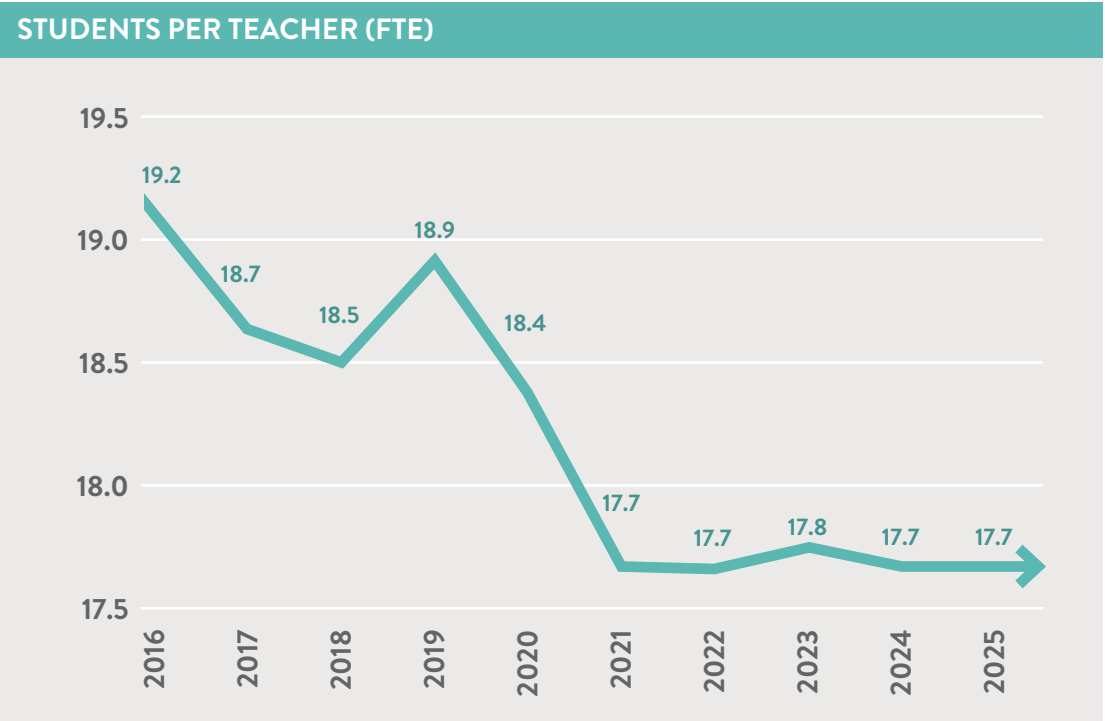
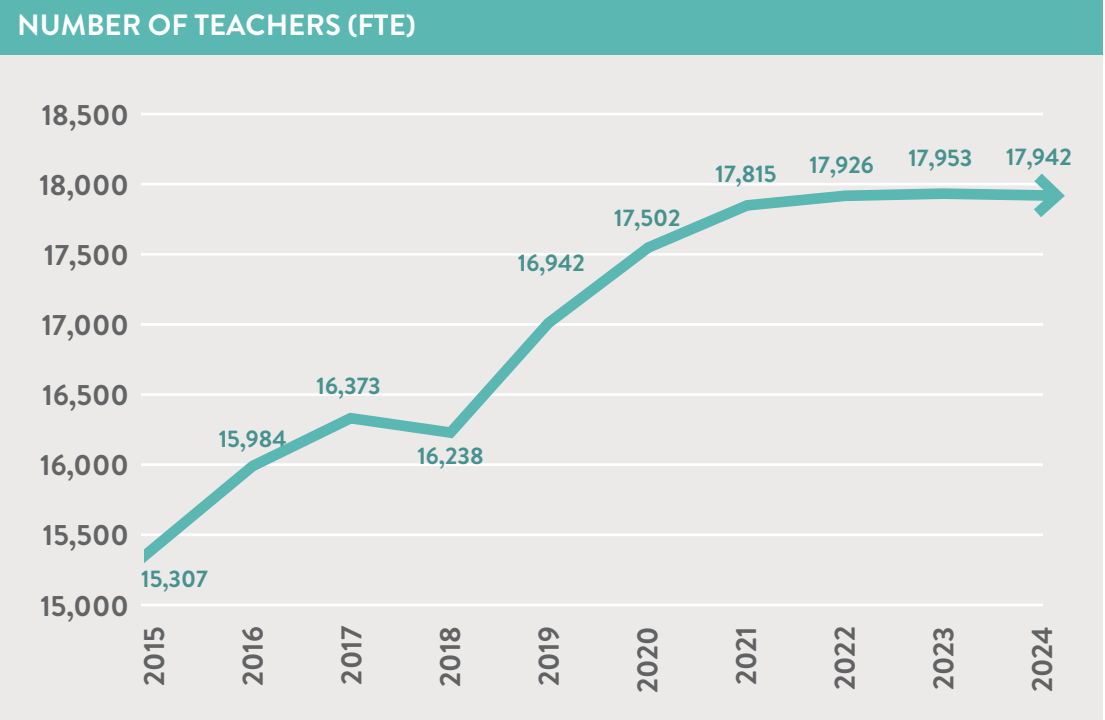


IDAHO'S EDUCATORS



PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

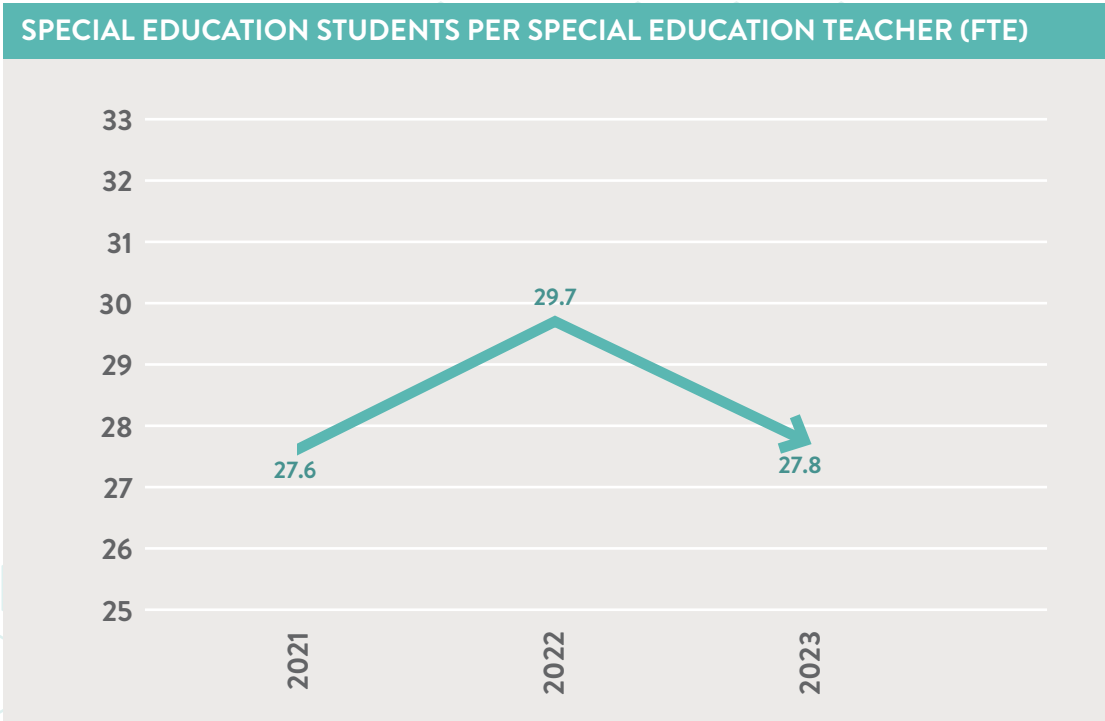
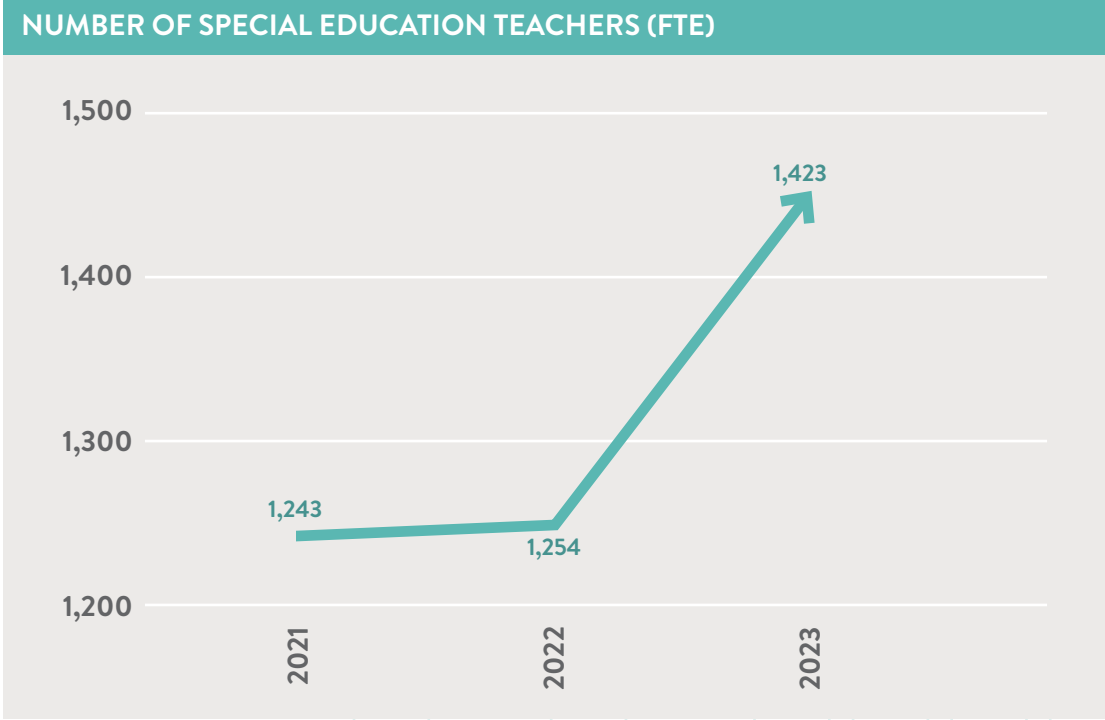
Idaho public schools employ roughly 19,000 teachers, with about 18,000 full-time equivalent teachers, or about 17 students per teacher.



Source: IDE Public School Finance Staffing, Staff Salary Summaries ([Public School Finance](#)); IDE Historical Enrollment by District or Charter (including pre-school).
Note: Numbers represent Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions rather than unique total teachers. Numbers include those designated as “Teacher” and “Head Teacher.”

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

Idaho has increased its number of Special Education teachers for students ages 6-21, but students per teacher has still declined slightly.



Source: See notes to Public School Enrollment Trends by Selected Characteristics for Special Education enrollment; Special Education instructors ages 6-21 from [Public Reporting - Idaho Department of Education](#).
Note: Numbers represent Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions rather than unique total teachers. Teachers include those instructing to age 21, enrollments are for K-12.

CHARACTERISTICS OF IDAHO TEACHERS

More than three in four Idaho teachers are female, and over 90 percent are White. Almost all Idaho teachers hold a bachelor’s degree or higher.

	STATEWIDE	
	NUMBER OF TEACHERS	PERCENT OF TEACHERS
TOTAL TEACHERS	18,648	100%

RACE OR ETHNICITY		
White	17,417	93.4%
Hispanic or Latino	765	4.1%
Multiracial	261	1.4%
Other	205	1.1%

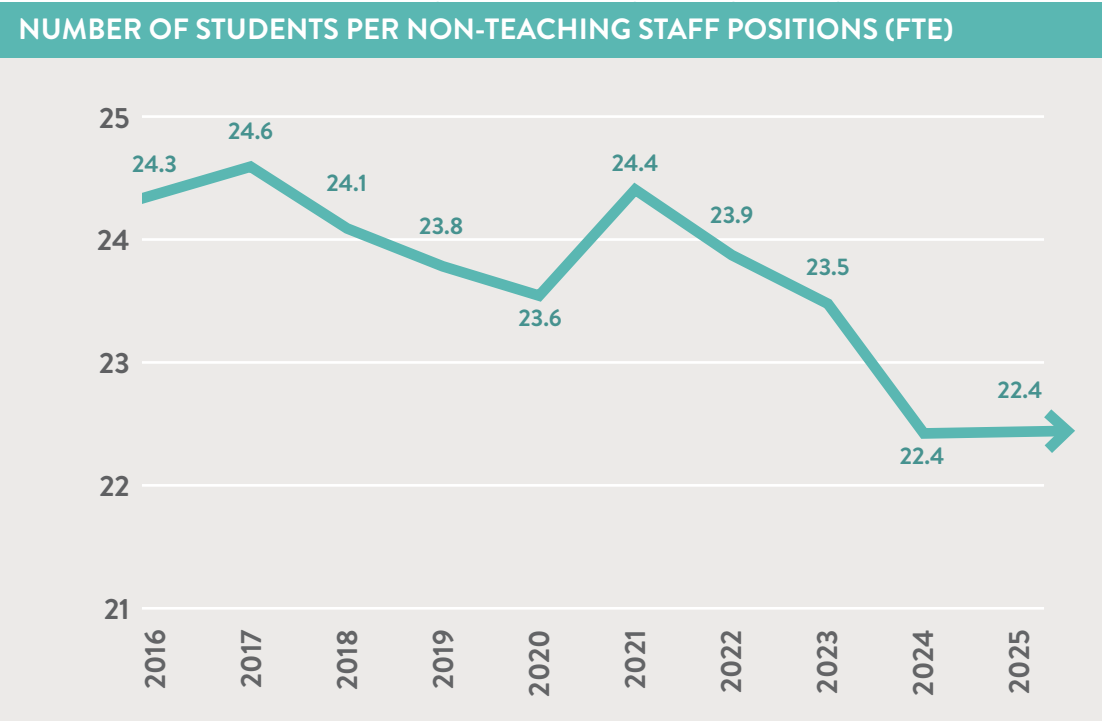
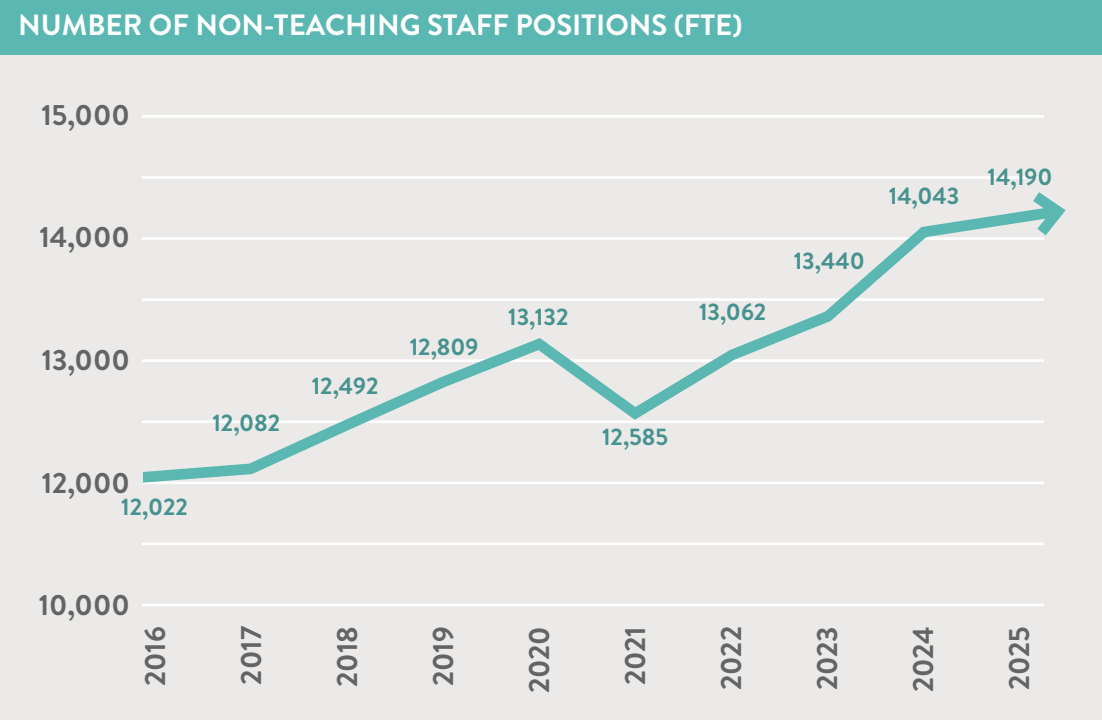
GENDER		
Female	13,827	76.5%
Male	4,247	23.5%

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
Doctorate	1,012	5.6%
Master’s	6,651	36.8%
Bachelor’s	9,670	53.5%
Other Degree or Certificate	741	4.1%

Source: Characteristics: NCES Report: Teachers’ race/ethnicity: [Percentage distribution of public K–12 school teachers, by race/ethnicity and state: 2020–21](#) (Percentage distribution of public K–12 school teachers, by race/ethnicity and state: 2020–21); NCES Report: [Average and median age of public school teachers and percentage distribution of teachers by age category, sex, and state: 2017–18](#) (Average and median age of public school teachers and percentage distribution of teachers by age category, sex, and state: 2017–18); and NCES Report: [Percentage distribution of public school teachers, by highest degree earned and state: 2017–18](#) (Percentage distribution of public school teachers, by highest degree earned and state: 2017–18).
Note: These data sources have not been updated since 2024. Race/Ethnicity as of 2020, Gender and Educational Attainment data as of 2017, reflecting the most up-to-date data from NCES. The number of total teachers is shown for 2020.

NON-TEACHING STAFF POSITIONS

Idaho public schools have approximately 14,000 FTE non-teaching staff positions, or about 22 students per FTE non-teaching position.



Source: IDE Public School Finance Staffing, Staff Salary Summaries ([Public School Finance](#)).
Note: Numbers represent Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions rather than unique total staff members. Students include pre-school.

STAFF POSITIONS IN IDAHO SCHOOLS

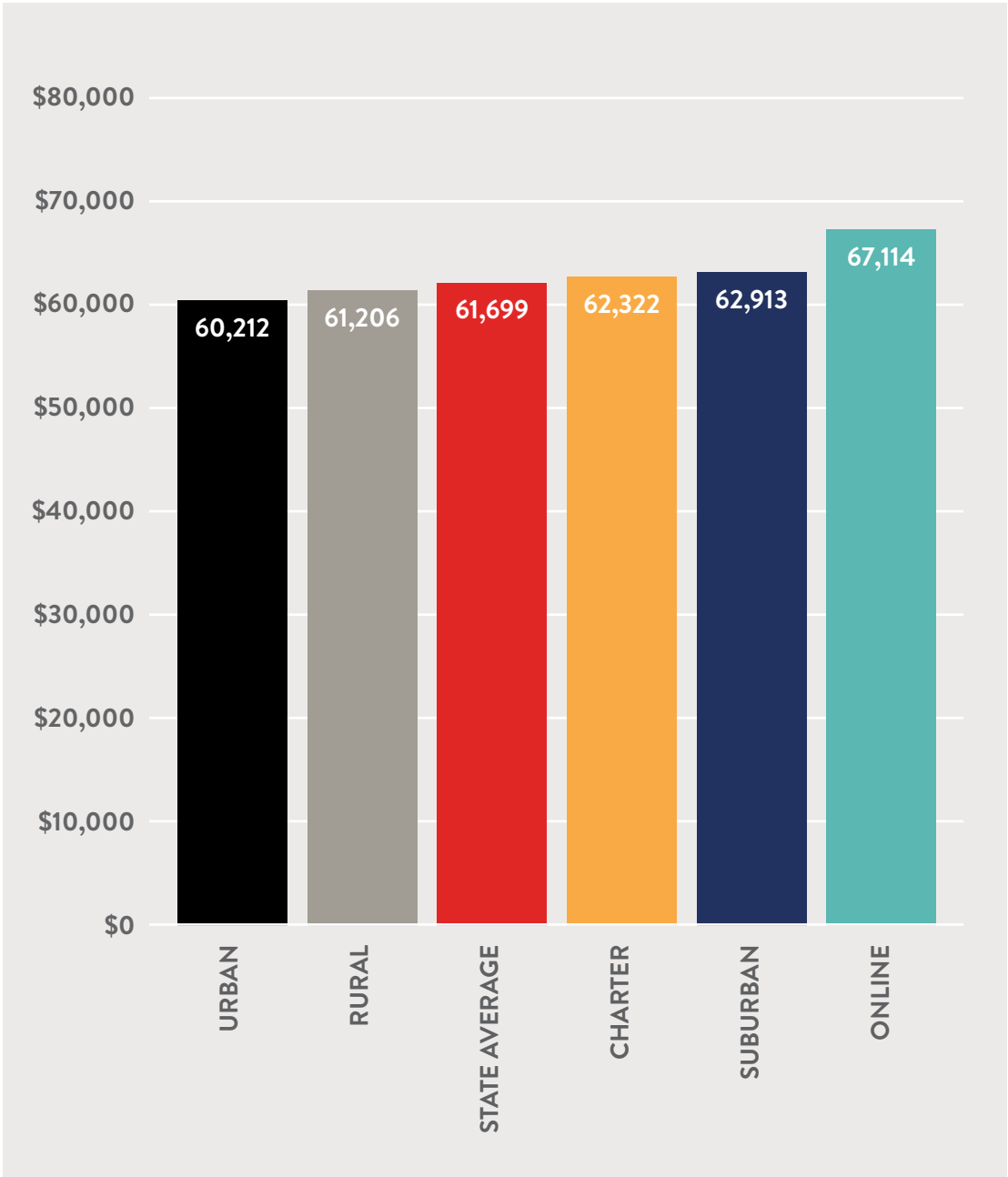
Classroom teachers represent about one half of the total staff positions in Idaho’s public schools. Other common staffing positions include those that support students and teachers in the classroom (like paraprofessionals), pupil services staff (like nurses, social workers, and advisors), and custodial staff.

POSITION DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF STAFF POSITIONS	PERCENT OF ALL STAFF POSITIONS
District Administrators	452	1.1%
School Administrators	1,092	2.6%
Teachers	19,401	46.4%
School Counselors	834	2.0%
Other Pupil Services	1,172	2.8%
Paraprofessionals	6,783	16.2%
Food Service Professionals	2,007	4.8%
Clerical Staff	2,507	6.0%
Transportation Staff	1,570	3.8%
Safe Environment Staff (Crossing guards, Security, etc)	1,402	3.4%
Athletic Staff	722	1.7%
Custodial Staff	1,739	4.2%
Library Professionals	455	1.1%
Classroom Assistants	194	<1.0%
Information Technology Professionals	492	1.2%
Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Professionals	615	1.5%
All Other Positions	361	<1.0%
TOTAL	41,798	100%

Source: IDE Public School Finance Staffing, Staff Salary Summaries ([Public School Finance](#)).
Note: “Instructional Staff” includes those designated as “Teacher” and “Head Teacher.” Numbers are actual employee counts, not FTE. Some categories combine classified and non-classified staff, such as including non-classified drivers’ education personnel with classified instructors as “Instructional Staff.”

TEACHER SALARIES BY DISTRICT TYPOLOGY

In Idaho, teachers in suburban districts and online charter schools typically have higher salaries than their peers at other types of schools.

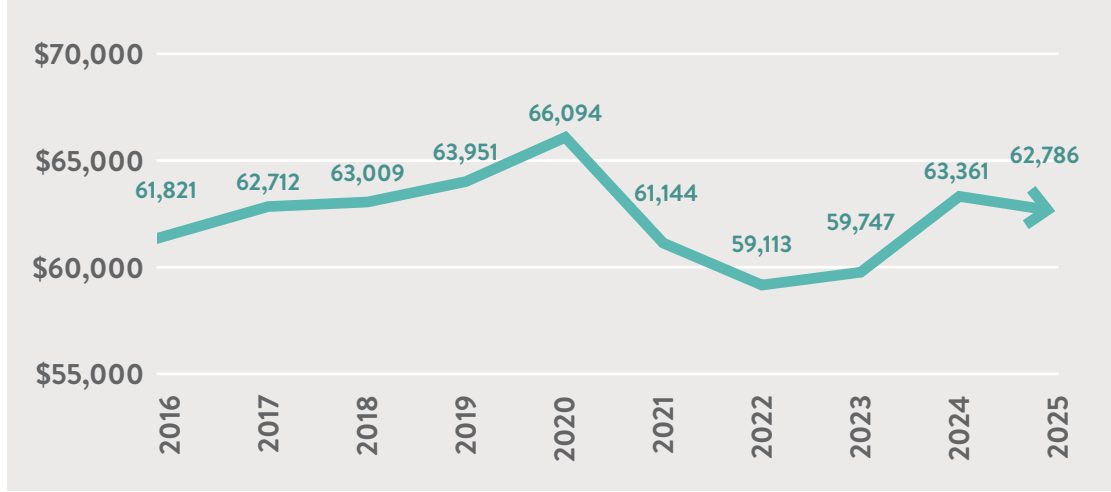


Source: IDE, All Staff Salary Summary by District Charter, 2024-2025, [Public School Finance](#)
Note: Statistics do not include Head Teachers. Salaries include extra pay and FTE, not raw employee numbers. See note on p.11 (Public School Students by Typology) for description of methodology used to determine district typologies. Graph shows averages across districts, not averages across all districts weighted by the number of their teachers.



TRENDS IN TEACHER SALARIES

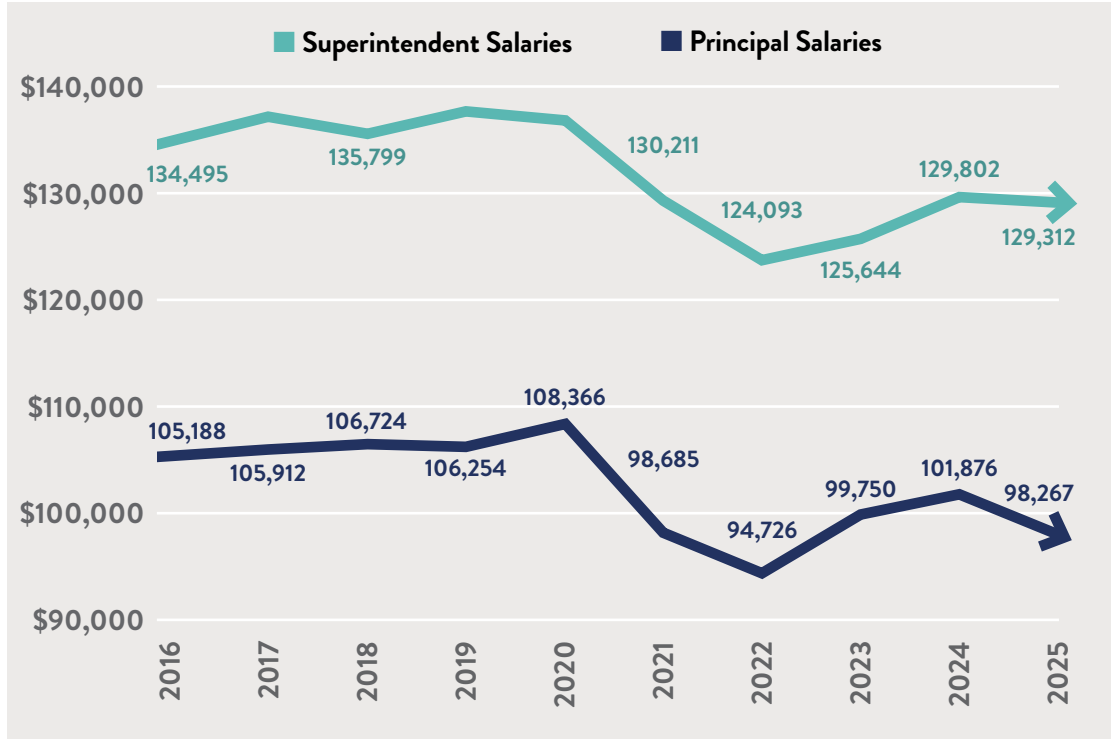
Adjusted for inflation, average teacher salaries in Idaho have ranged between approximately \$60,000 and \$66,000 per year since 2016.



Source: IDE Public School Finance Staffing, Staff Salary Summaries (Public School Finance). For 2016-2018 statistics are a weighted average of elementary and secondary school teacher salaries.
Note: The FY16 to FY24 salary data were adjusted to 2025 price levels using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index - [CPI Inflation Calculator](#). Numbers do not include those designated as Head Teachers but do include teacher "extra pay."

TRENDS IN SUPERINTENDENT AND PRINCIPAL SALARIES

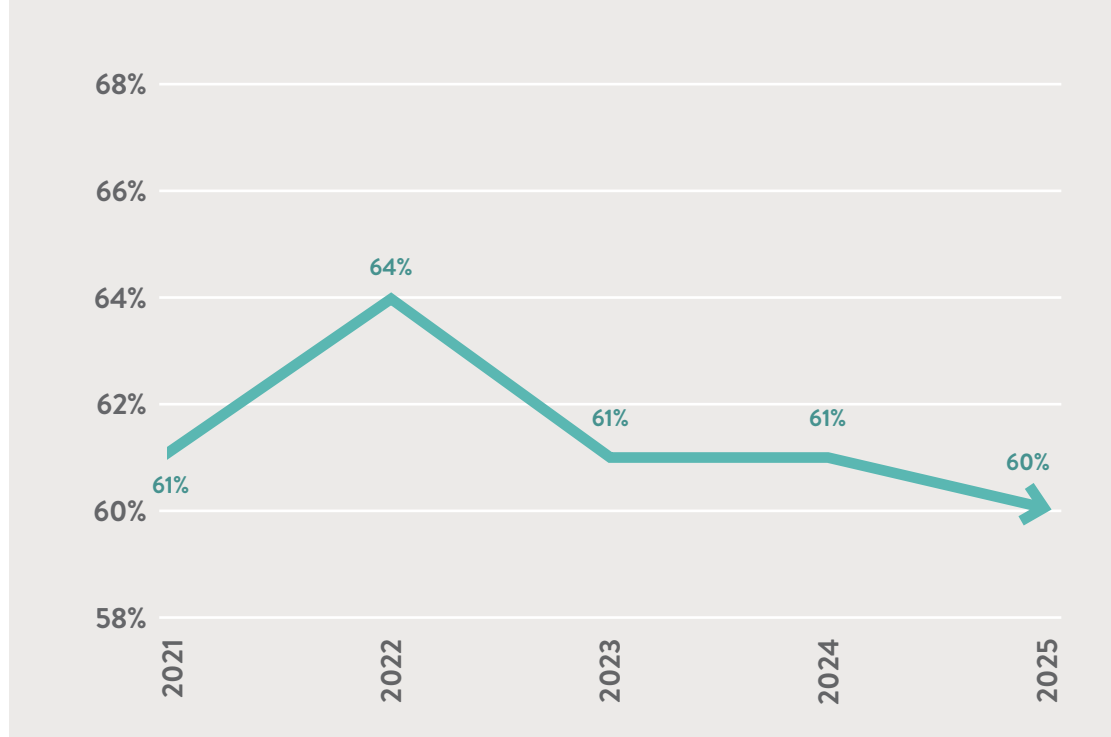
Adjusted for inflation, average superintendent salaries have remained near \$130,000 per year since 2016, while principal salaries have remained near \$100,000 per year.



Source: IDE Public School Finance Staffing, Staff Salary Summaries (Public School Finance).
Note: The FY16 to FY24 salary data were adjusted to 2025 price levels using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index - [CPI Inflation Calculator](#).

TEACHER RETENTION RATES: FIVE YEAR RETENTION RATES

Idaho retains between 60 and 66% of its new teachers after five years.

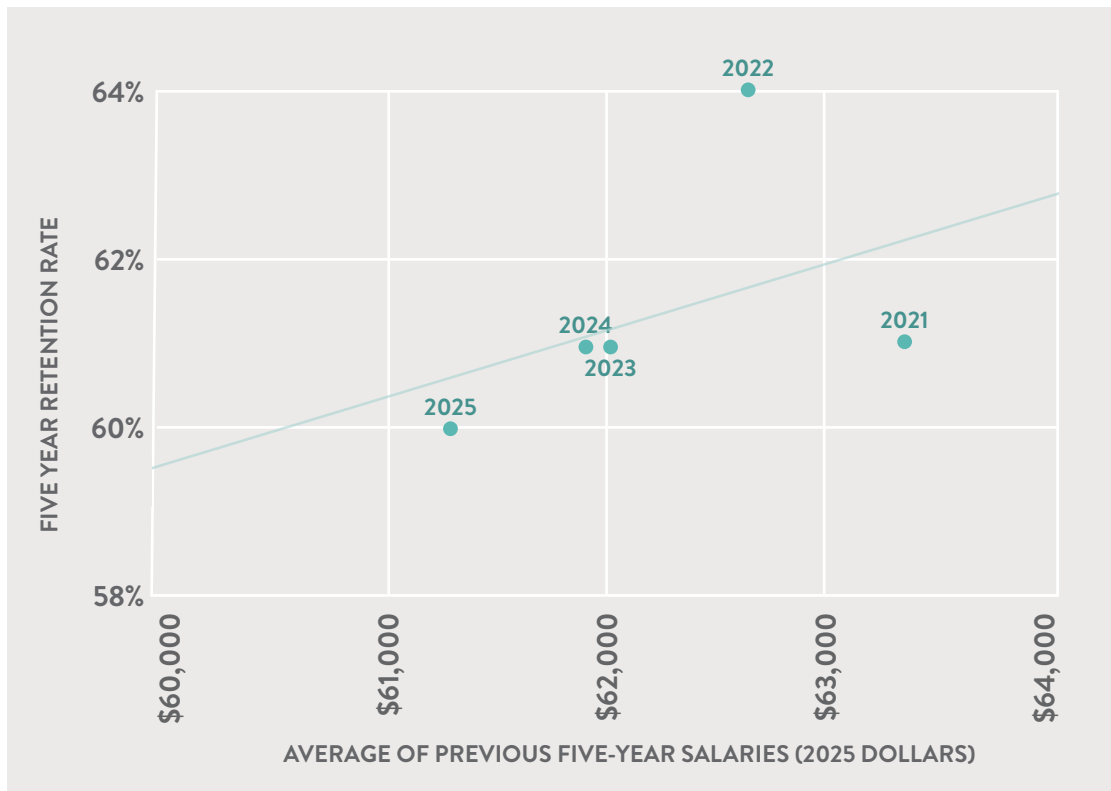


Source: Idaho State Board of Education, Idaho Educator Pipeline Report (2024) [Idaho Educator Pipeline Report \(2024\)](#)



TEACHER RETENTION RATES VERSUS AVERAGE SALARY

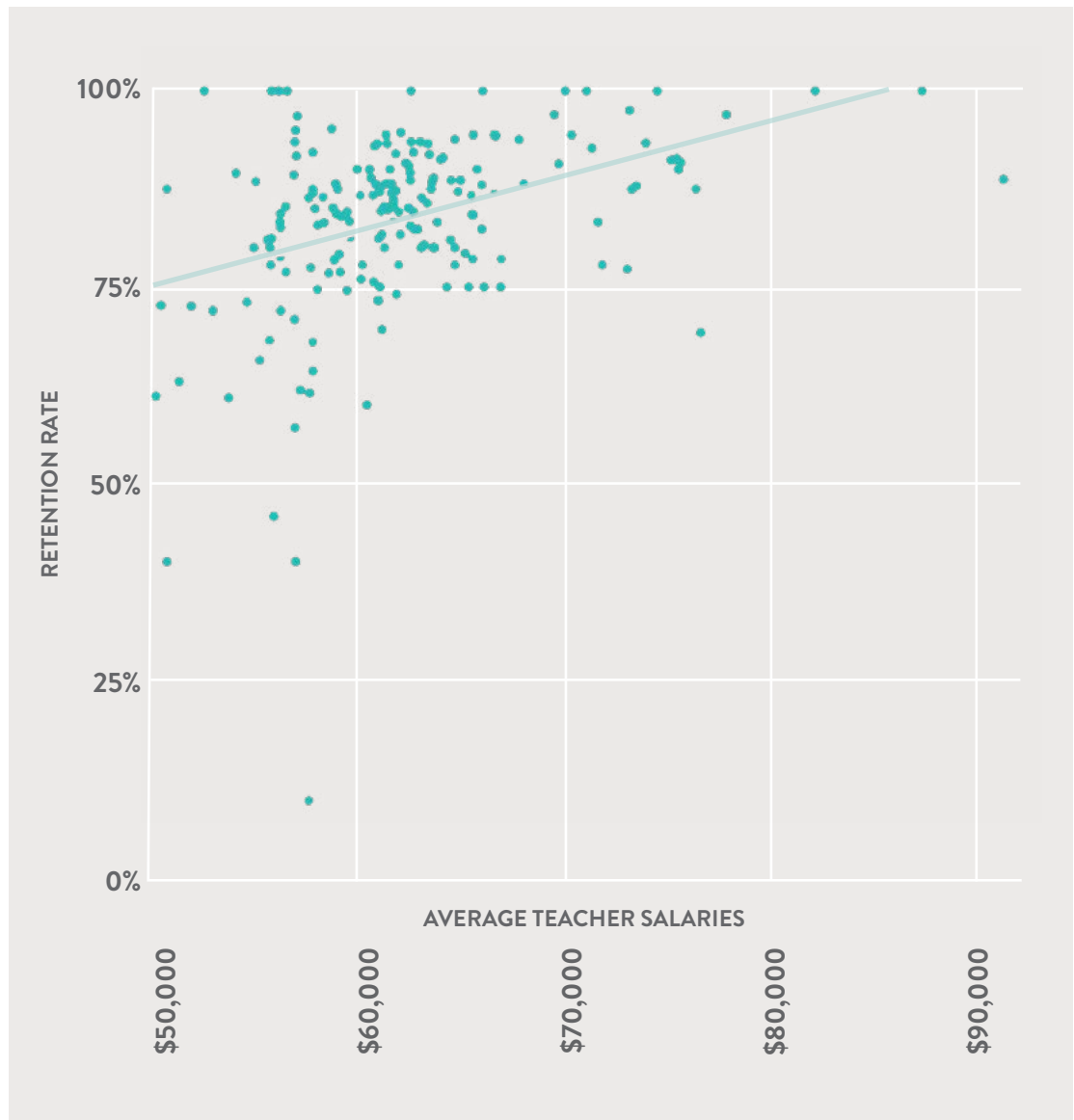
While there are limited data available, there appears to be a somewhat positive relationship between teacher salaries and retention rates.



Source: See notes to “Teacher Retention Rates: Five-Year Retention Rates” and “Trends in Teacher Salaries” above.
Note: Horizontal axis shows the average of that year’s and the prior four years’ salaries in the state, in 2025 dollars.

TEACHER RETENTION RATES VERSUS AVERAGE SALARY BY DISTRICT

Teacher salaries and retention rates both vary widely across the state in the 2024-2025 school year, and while there is a slight positive relationship between them, the relationship is noisy.



Source: Retention rates by district from IDE PRR (2024-2025). Salaries from [Public School Finance](#) (2024-2025 All Staff Summary by District Charter).
Note: One charter listed an average salary of less than \$2,000 per teacher. These data were omitted.

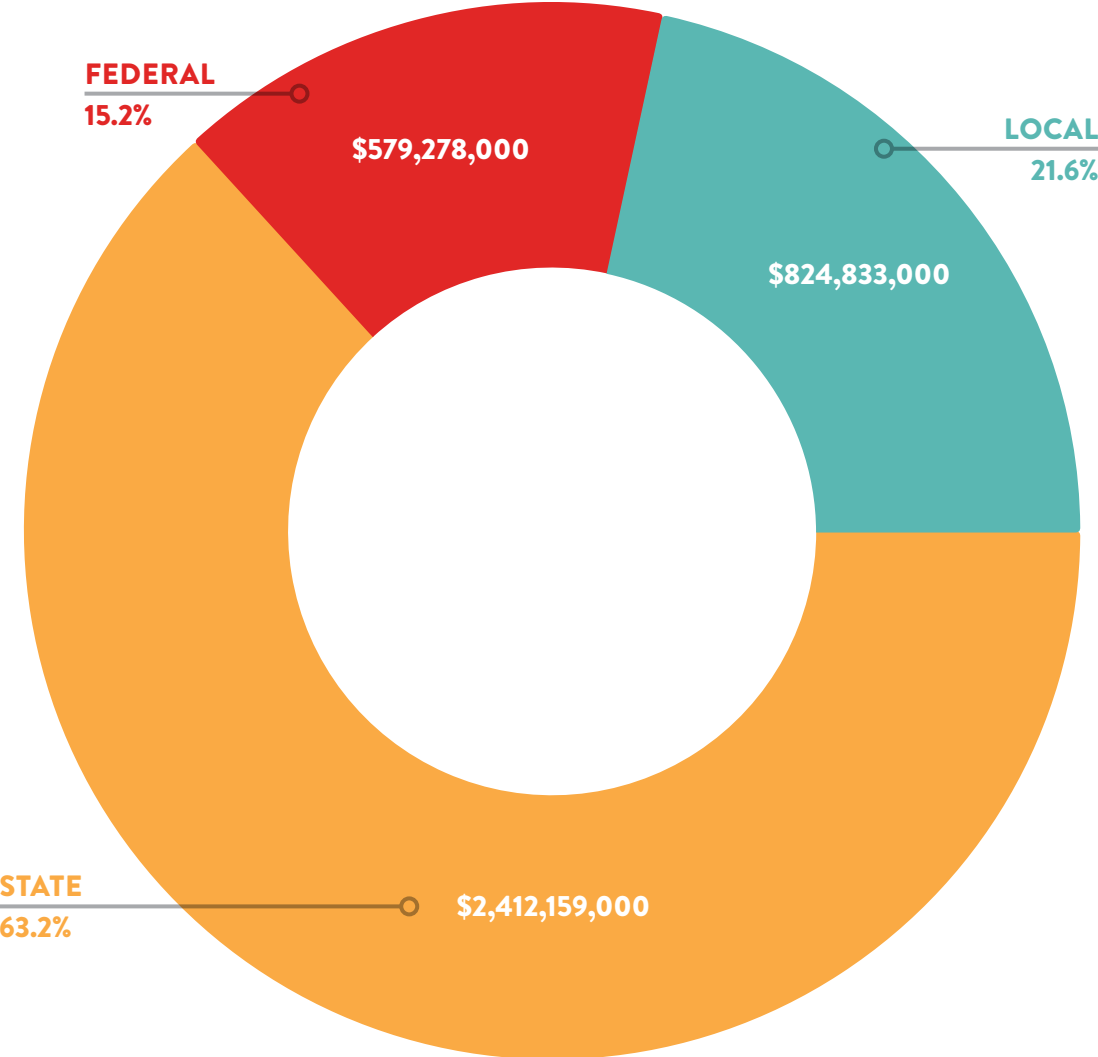


SCHOOL FUNDING



HOW IDAHO FUNDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

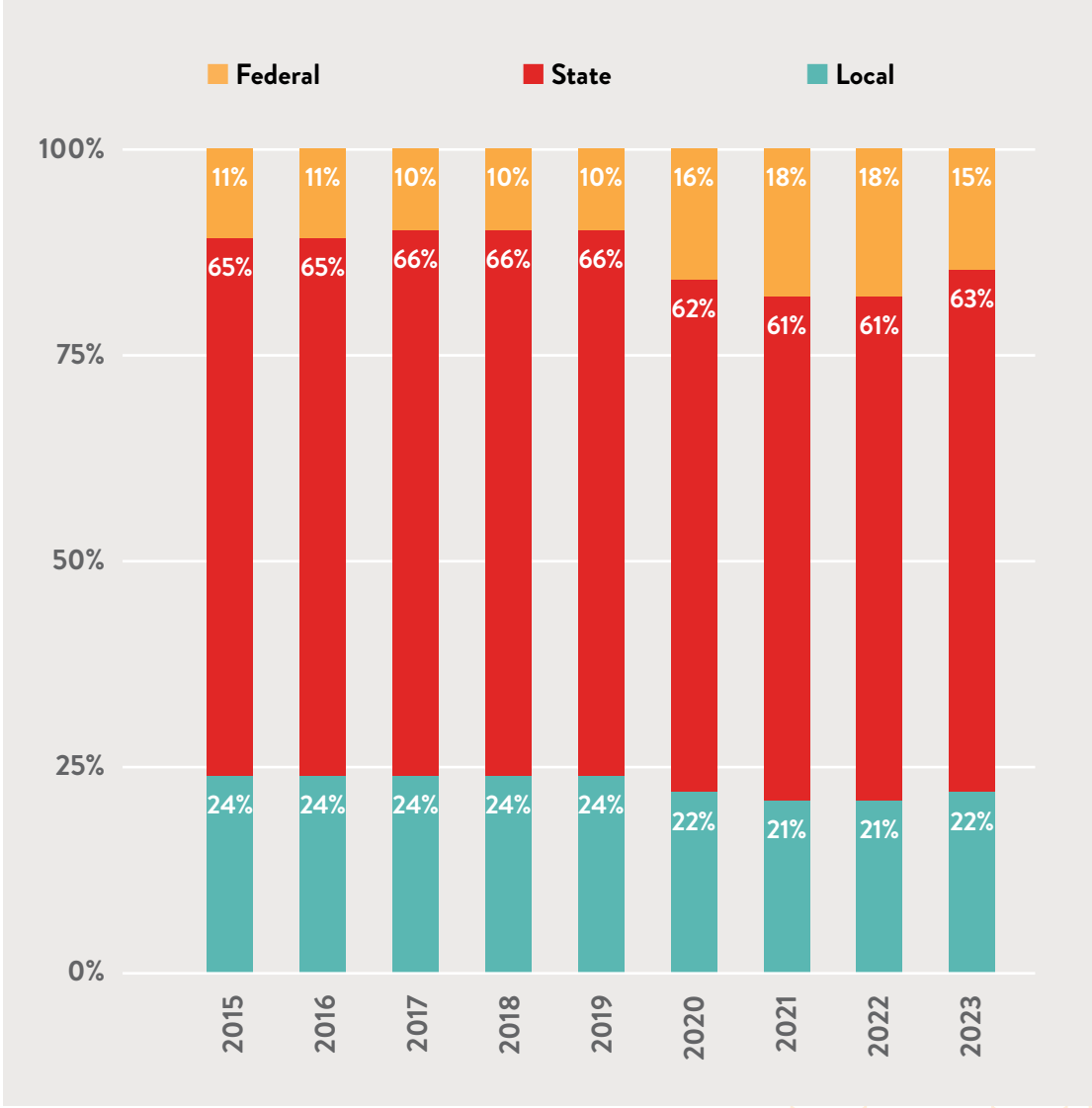
Idaho public schools receive about \$4 billion per year via local, state, and federal tax revenues. In the 2022-2023 school year, state funds provided, on average, 63 percent of total revenues for school districts, while local taxes contributed 22 percent. Federal sources provided the rest.



Source: National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year 2022-23

HOW IDAHO FUNDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS: TRENDS OVER TIME

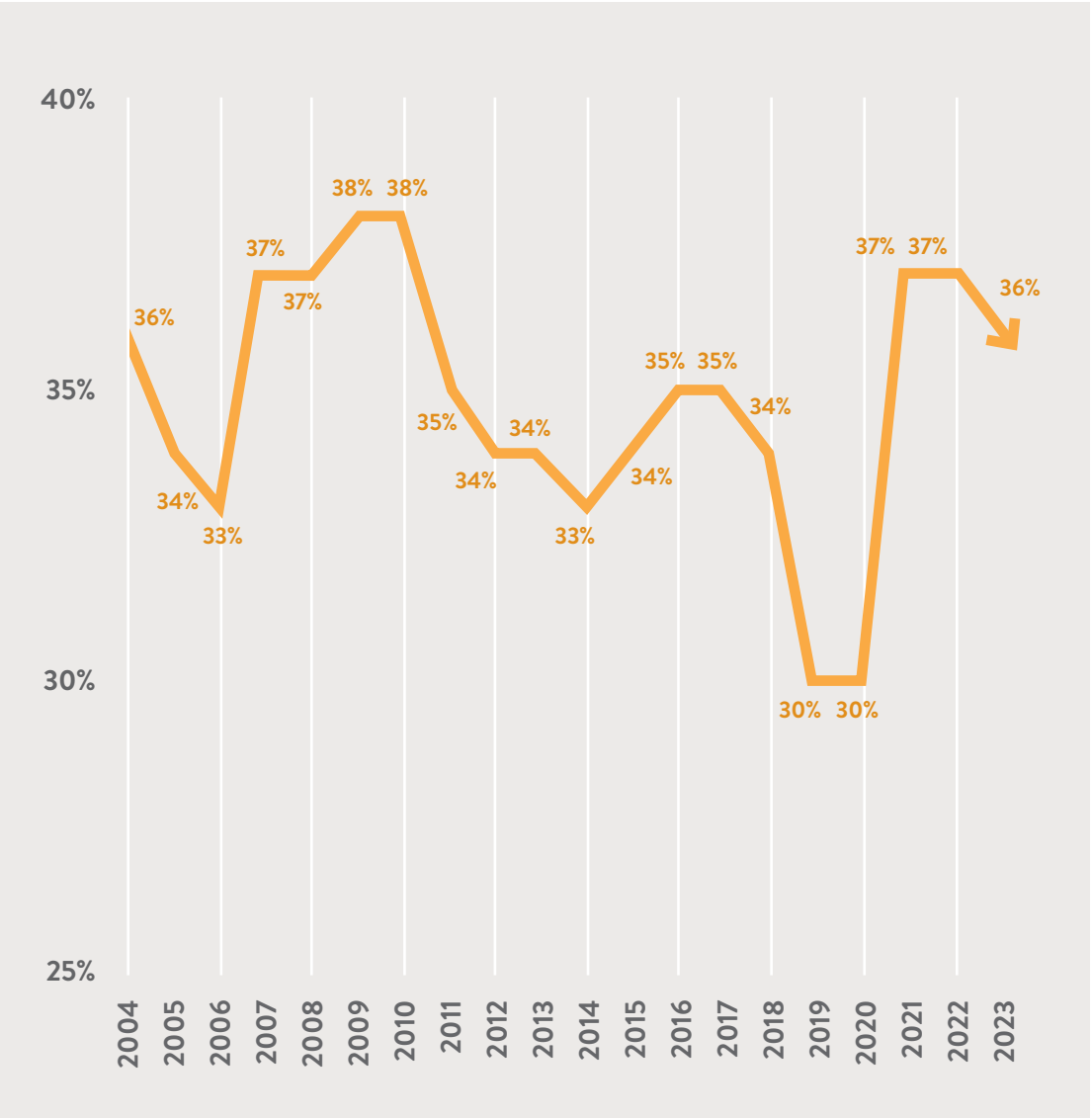
State and local taxpayer dollars provide the bulk of funding for K-12 public education in Idaho. Federal revenues provide a smaller share of funding, though pandemic-relief aid increased federal support in 2021 and 2022.



Source: NCES Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Years 2014-15 through 2022-23.

EDUCATION IN THE STATE BUDGET

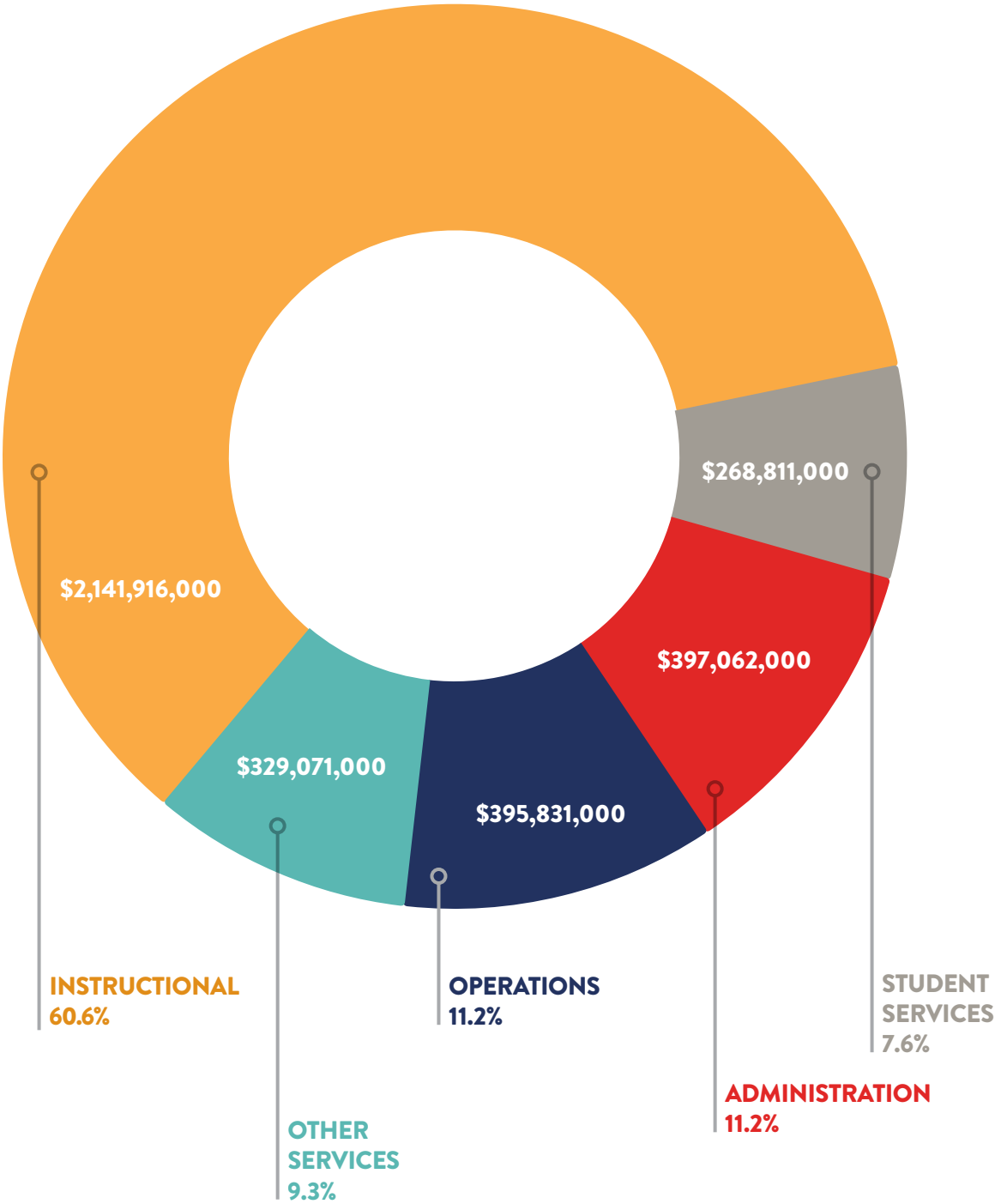
Between 30 and 40 percent of Idaho’s total state budget is spent on K-12 education each year.



Source: [National Association of State Budget Officers 1991-2023 State Expenditure Report Data; 2024 State Expenditure Report.](#)

HOW FUNDS ARE SPENT

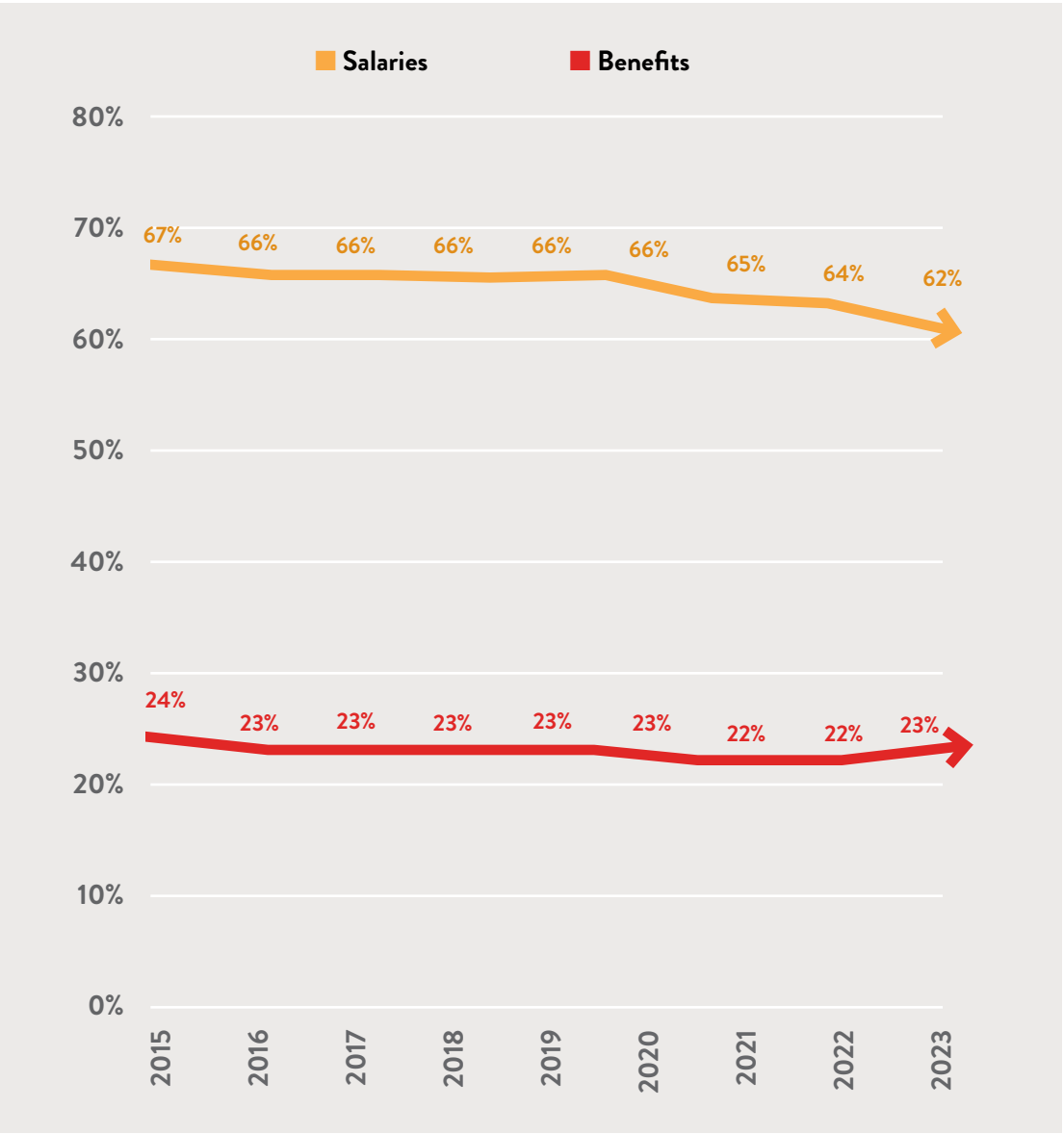
Around 60 percent of education funding in Idaho is spent on classroom instruction. The remainder supports administration, operations, and support activities.



Source: NCES ([Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year 2022–23](#) (Fiscal Year 2023)).

HOW FUNDS ARE SPENT: SALARIES AND BENEFITS

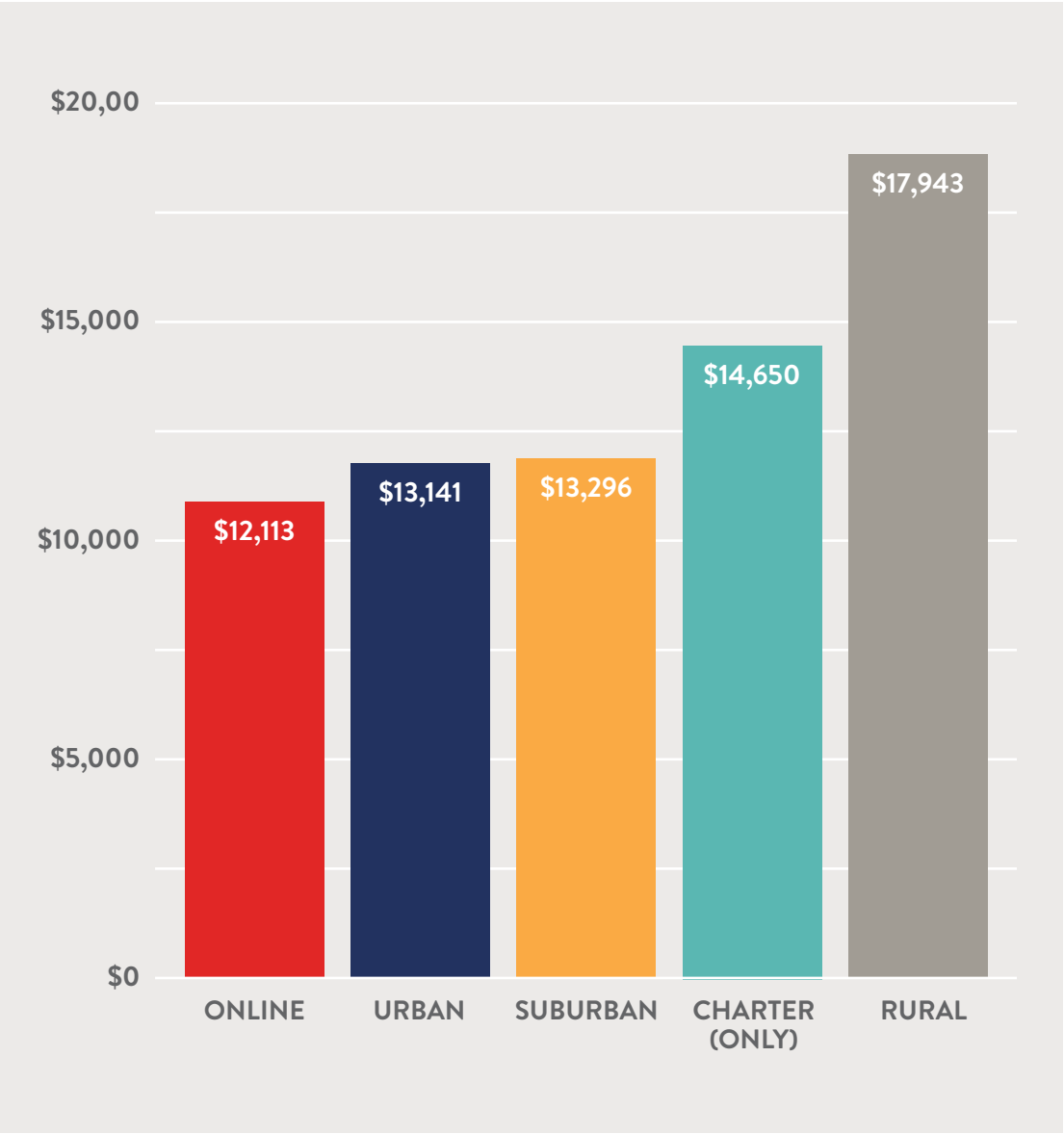
About 62 percent of public schools’ instructional expenditures are spent on salaries and about 23 percent on benefits. The share spent on instructional salaries has been gradually declining since 2015.



Source: NCES Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Years 2014-15 through 2022-23.

EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL

On average, Idaho school districts spent about \$13K per pupil in total operational expenses in FY24. Rural districts had the highest per pupil expenditures, while online districts spent the least.

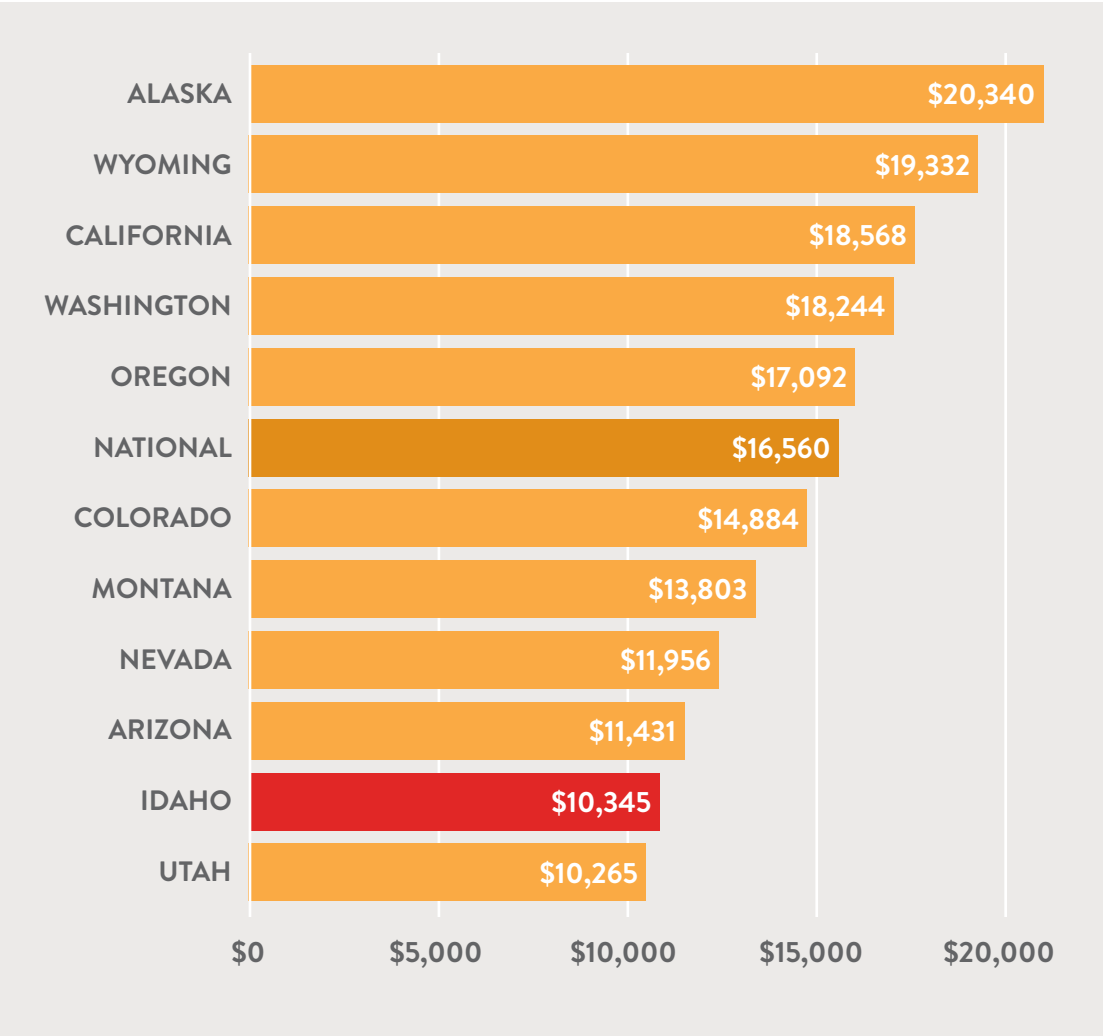


Source: IDE 2023-2024 Financial Summaries of Idaho Schools; 2024 enrollments from IDE District Comparison.
Note: For methodology of district classification, see notes to “Public School Students by Typology”.



EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL COMPARED TO NEARBY STATES

Idaho spends much less than the national average and most other Western states per pupil each year.



Source: Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year 2022–23 (Fiscal Year 2023).
Note: To allow for comparisons with other states, this chart relies on federally-reported operational expenditures (excluding capital expenses such as construction and interest on debt).

PUBLIC SCHOOL EXPENDITURES OVER TIME

Adjusted for inflation, expenditures per pupil have steadily increased in Idaho between 2015 and 2023.

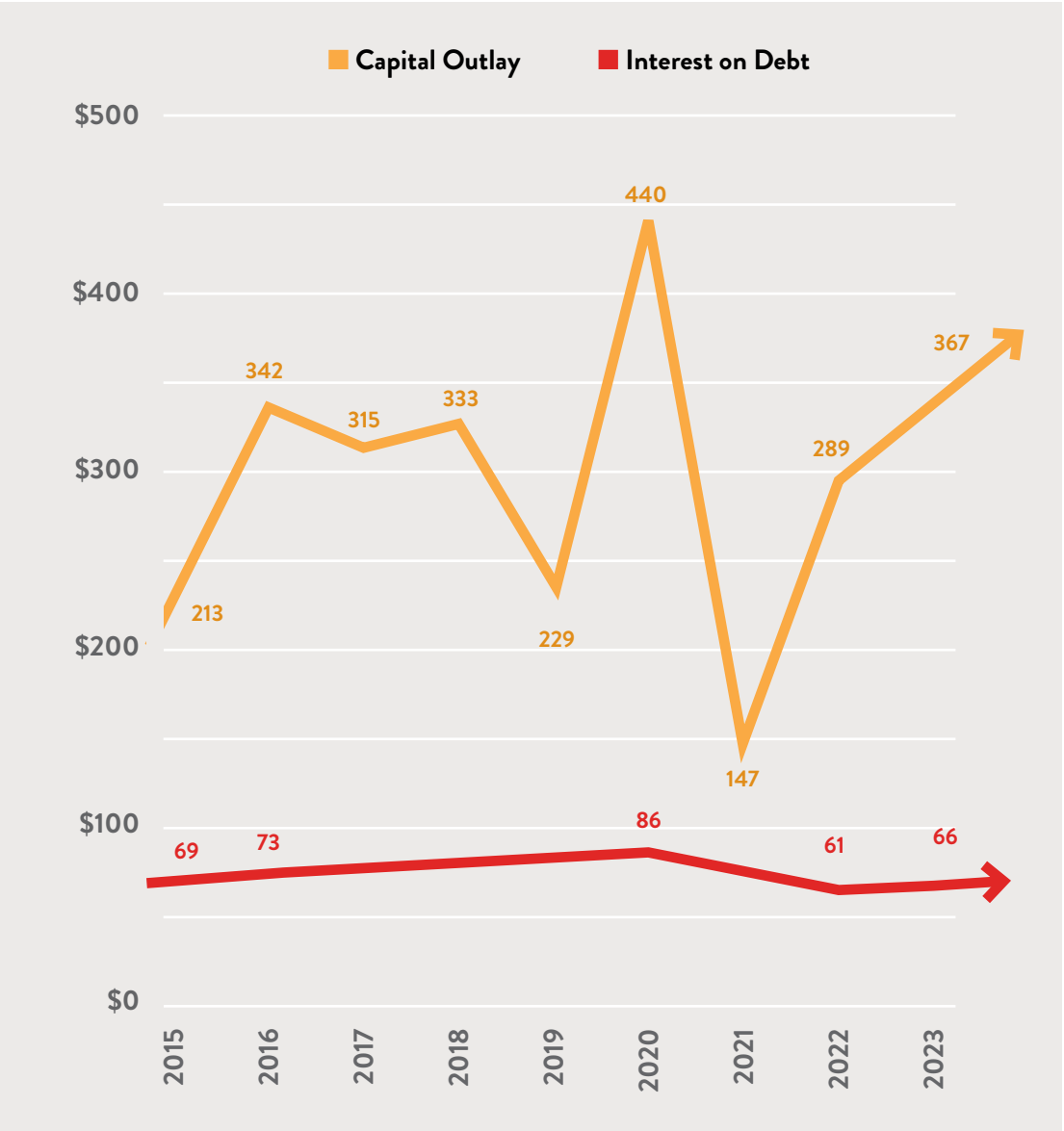


Source: NCES Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Years 2014-15 through 2022-2023.
Note: Expenditure data were adjusted to 2023 levels using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index.



CAPITAL OUTLAY AND DEBT SERVICE

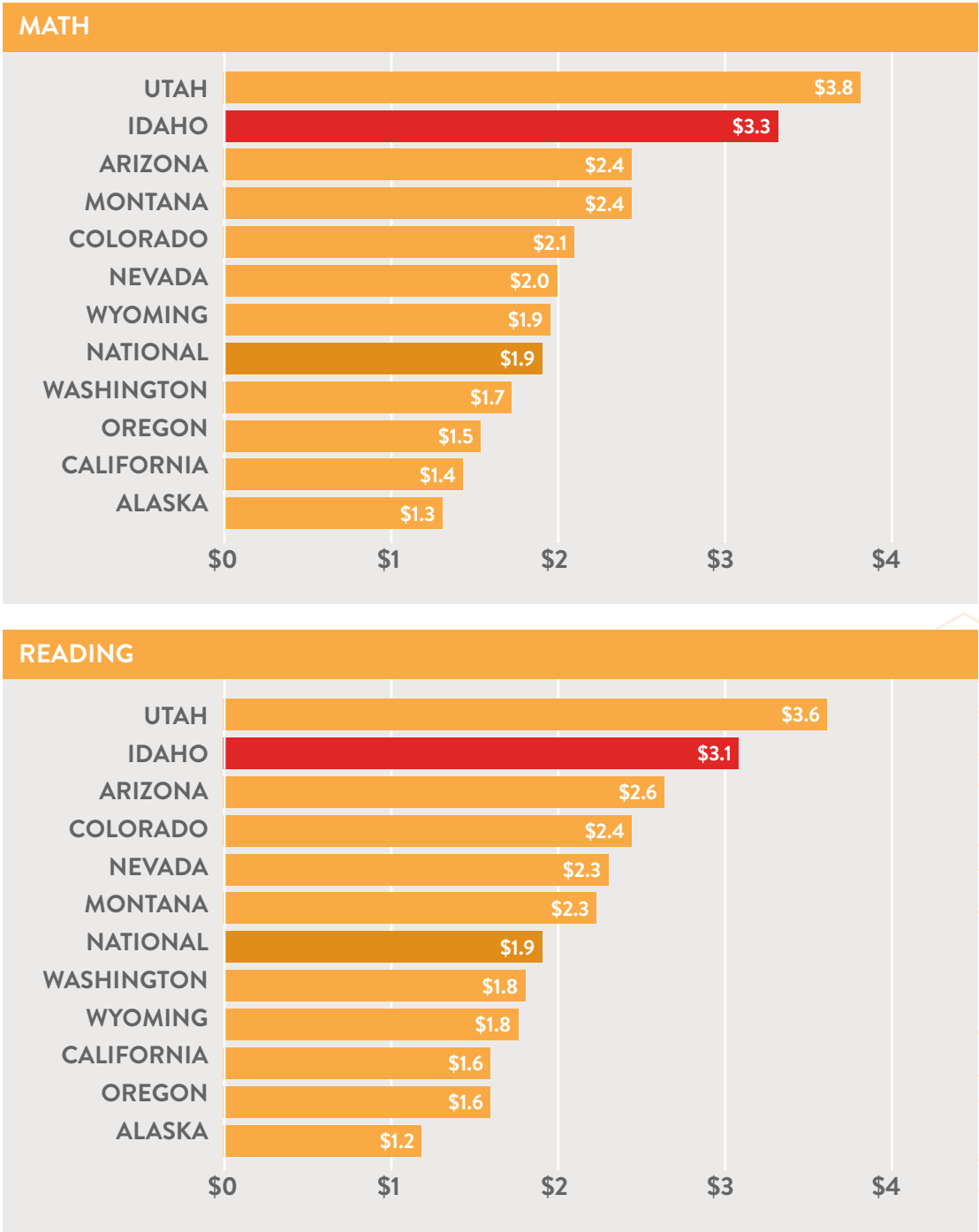
Over the past decade, Idaho public schools have spent between \$150M and \$440M per year on capital outlay—expenditures on construction, land, and equipment, with around \$70M on interest on debt.



Source: NCES Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Years 2014-15 through 2022-23.
Note: Numbers are in millions of dollars adjusted to 2023 dollars.

ROI: MATH AND READING SCORES / PER-PUPIL EXPENSES

Idaho has the second-highest Return on Investment in K-12 spending among 11 western states.



Source: State expenses per pupil are from Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year 2022-22 (Fiscal Year 2022). See notes to state expenditure data from above. Test score data are from NAEP's Data Explorer for 2022. Calculations shown are the average of 4th and 8th grade percent proficient divided by per-pupil expenditures, multiplied by 1,000 for readability.
Note: These graphs show NAEP math and reading percent-proficient divided by the per-pupil expenditures within the state. Although somewhat abstract, a higher number represents a better "return" on the state's investment in education. E.g., a higher number represents a state's students scoring higher per dollar invested in their education relative to neighboring states. Idaho places behind only Utah in a calculation of return on educational spending in both math and reading, indicating a strong return on Idaho's investment in education. Figures do not account for, e.g., cost of living, differing demographics, in different locations and other factors that would relate to a return on educational investment. NAEP did not report 12th grade statistics broken out by state.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

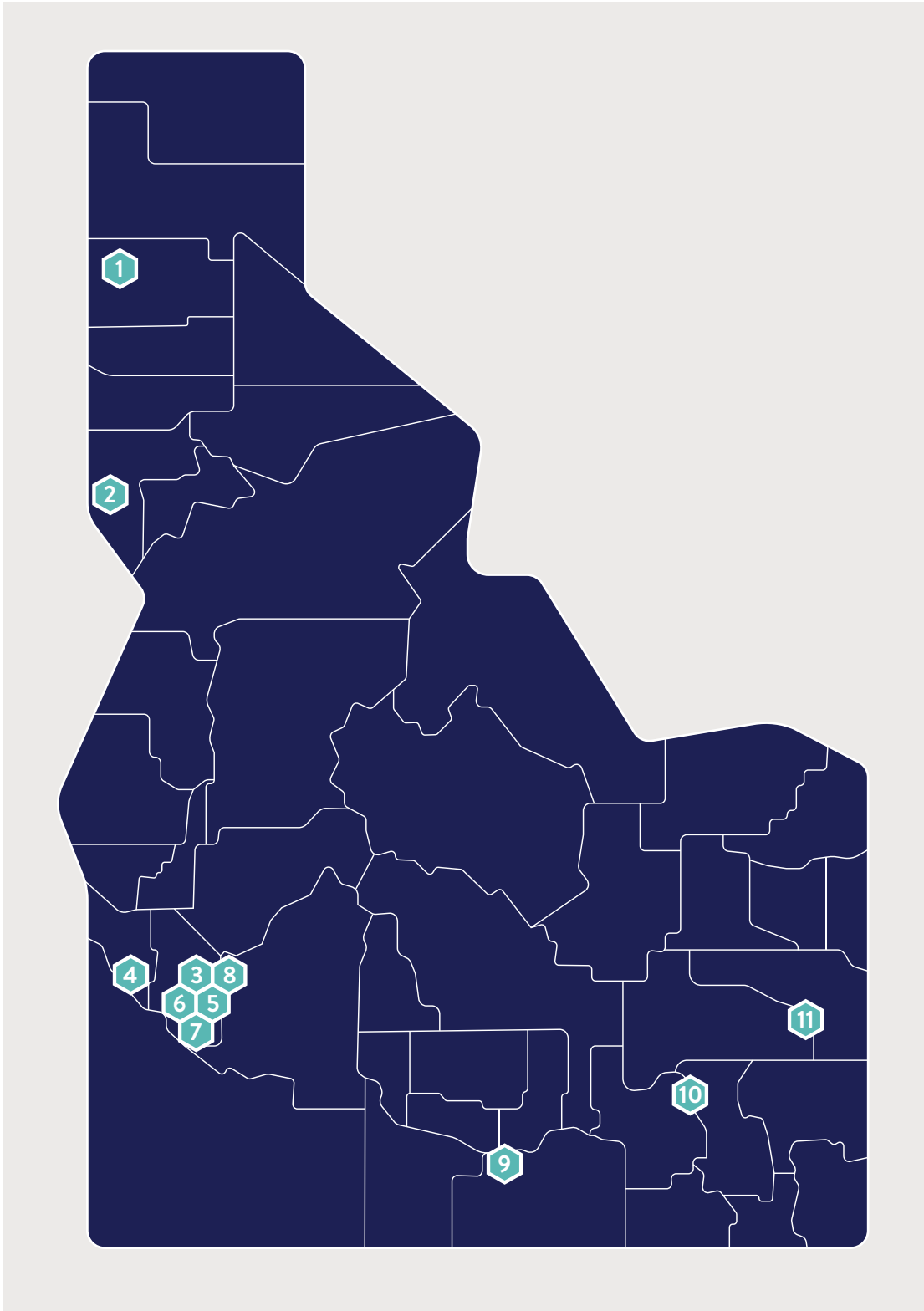


MAP OF TECHNICAL SKILLS CENTERS

Idaho has technical skill centers located throughout the state.

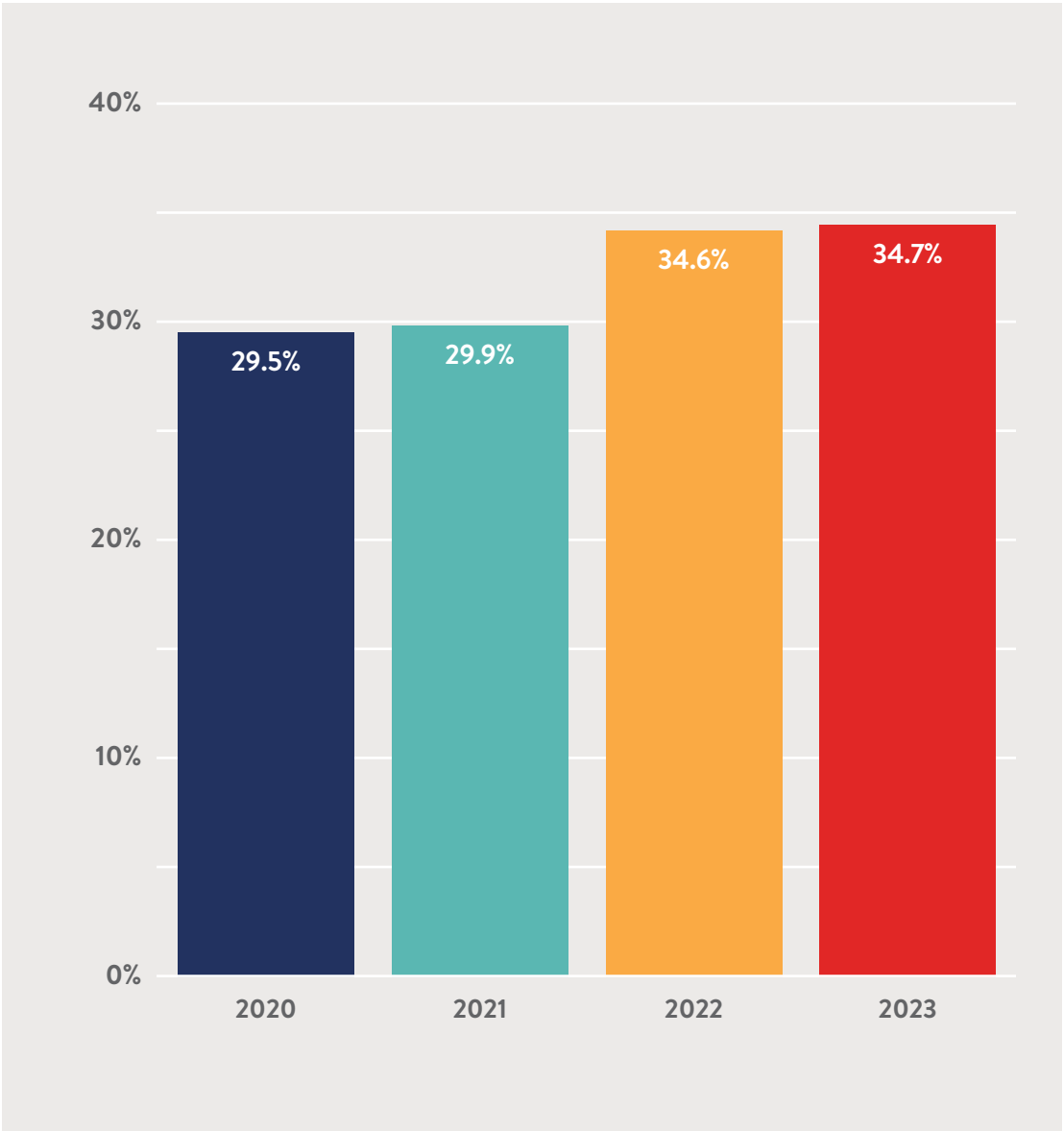
TECHNICAL SKILLS CENTERS	LOCATION	REGION
1. Kootenai Technical Education Campus (KTEC)	Rathdrum	1
2. A. Neil DeAtley Career Education Center	Lewiston	2
3. ADA Career-Technical Center	Meridian	3
3. Meridian Medical Arts Charter High School	Meridian	3
3. Meridian Technical Charter High School	Meridian	3
4. COSSA Regional Technology and Education Center	Wilder	3
5. Dehryl A. Dennis Education Center (DTEC)	Boise	3
6. Idaho Center of Advanced Technology (ICAT)	Nampa	3
7. Kuna School District CTC	Kuna	3
8. Payette River Regional Technical Academy	Emmett	3
9. Cassia Regional Technical Center	Burley	4
10. Portneuf Valley Technical Education Center (PVTEC)	Chubbuck	5
11. Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC)	Idaho Falls	6
11. Technical Careers High School	Idaho Falls	6

Source: [Idaho Division of Career Technical Education, Career Technical Centers in Idaho.](#)



CTE ENROLLMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL IDAHO ENROLLMENT

Around 35% of Idaho grade 7-12 students participated in at least one career and technical education course. In 2023, this meant that 52,298 students across the state participated.



Source: [Idaho State Enrollment Data](#), [United States Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education](#).



ALTURAS PREPARATORY ACADEMY,
Idaho Falls



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NOTE FROM RESEARCHERS:

Enrollment data sometimes differ between tables throughout the report. This is because some state data were reported based on spring enrollment and others on fall enrollment, and some enrollment data included pre-school children. For instance, demographic data are based on spring enrollments, while grade-based data are based on higher fall enrollments. Some data based on districts, when totalled in a table, may differ from overall state totals reflected elsewhere due to missing data at the district level. For example, four charter schools do not have state reported data for some enrollment and ISAT results, which reduces the number of charter schools listed in some tables.

100% (\$13,200.00) of this project was funded by Federal CSP Grant dollars; 0% (\$0.00) of this report/event is funded by non-governmental sources; total cost \$13,200.00.

REDFISH METRICS

