

IDAHO EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS

2026 EDITION





FOREWORD

At Bluum, we believe good decisions begin with good information. Data cannot tell us everything about the quality of a school or the experience of a student, but it can help us understand where Idaho’s education system is succeeding, where it is changing, and where we still have important work to do.

That is the purpose of Idaho Education by the Numbers. Compiled by our partners at Redfish Metrics, this report brings together data from the Idaho Department of Education, State Board of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, and other sources. Our goal is to make this information accessible and useful to parents, educators, policymakers, school leaders, and anyone interested in the future of education in Idaho.

The 2026 edition tells a story that is both encouraging and challenging.

Idaho now serves more than 300,000 students in its public schools, and the ways families choose to educate their children continue to diversify. Public charter schools serve more than 42,000 students, while an estimated 35,000 students are homeschooled and nearly 18,000 attend private schools. Idaho families are also making significant use of open enrollment: districts accepted nearly nine out of ten transfer applications during the 2025–26 school year.

Academically, Idaho students continue to perform relatively well on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), ranking between 10th and 22nd nationally across fourth- and eighth-grade reading and math. Idaho students who attend a brick-and-mortar charter school perform especially well, substantially exceeding national averages in both subjects. This student performance is particularly noteworthy given Idaho’s comparatively modest spending: the state spends considerably less per pupil than the national average and every neighboring Western state included in this report.

But the numbers also remind us that averages can conceal significant challenges. Large achievement gaps remain for economically disadvantaged and Hispanic students. Idaho retains only about 60 to 66 percent of new teachers after five years. And while Idaho educators continue to accomplish a great deal with limited resources, the state must continue asking whether its funding system provides schools and students with the resources, flexibility, and opportunities they need to succeed.

One particularly encouraging development is the growing role of career and technical education. In 2024, more than 61,000 Idaho students in grades 7–12, representing over 40 percent of students in those grades, participated in at least one CTE course. That growth reflects something important about Idaho: education need not follow a single path. Our students benefit when families have choices and when schools have the freedom to offer different models, programs, and pathways to adulthood.

We extend our gratitude to Redfish Metrics for compiling and analyzing this information and to the many state and national organizations whose data make this report possible.

TERRY RYAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, BLUUM
OCTOBER 2026

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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	304,266	100%

RACE OR ETHNICITY		
White	218,823	71.9%
Hispanic or Latino	63,245	20.8%
Multiracial	10,709	3.5%
Black/African American	3,767	1.2%
Asian	3,515	1.2%
Native American or Alaskan Native	3,095	1.0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1,112	0.4%

GENDER		
Female	148,786	48.9%
Male	155,480	51.1%

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS		
Economically Disadvantaged	120,895	39.7%
Students with Disabilities	39,102	12.9%
English Language Learners	19,897	6.5%
Talented and Gifted	14,773	4.9%
Homeless	5,922	1.9%
Students from Migrant Families	5,215	1.7%
Students from Military Families	4,166	1.4%

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.

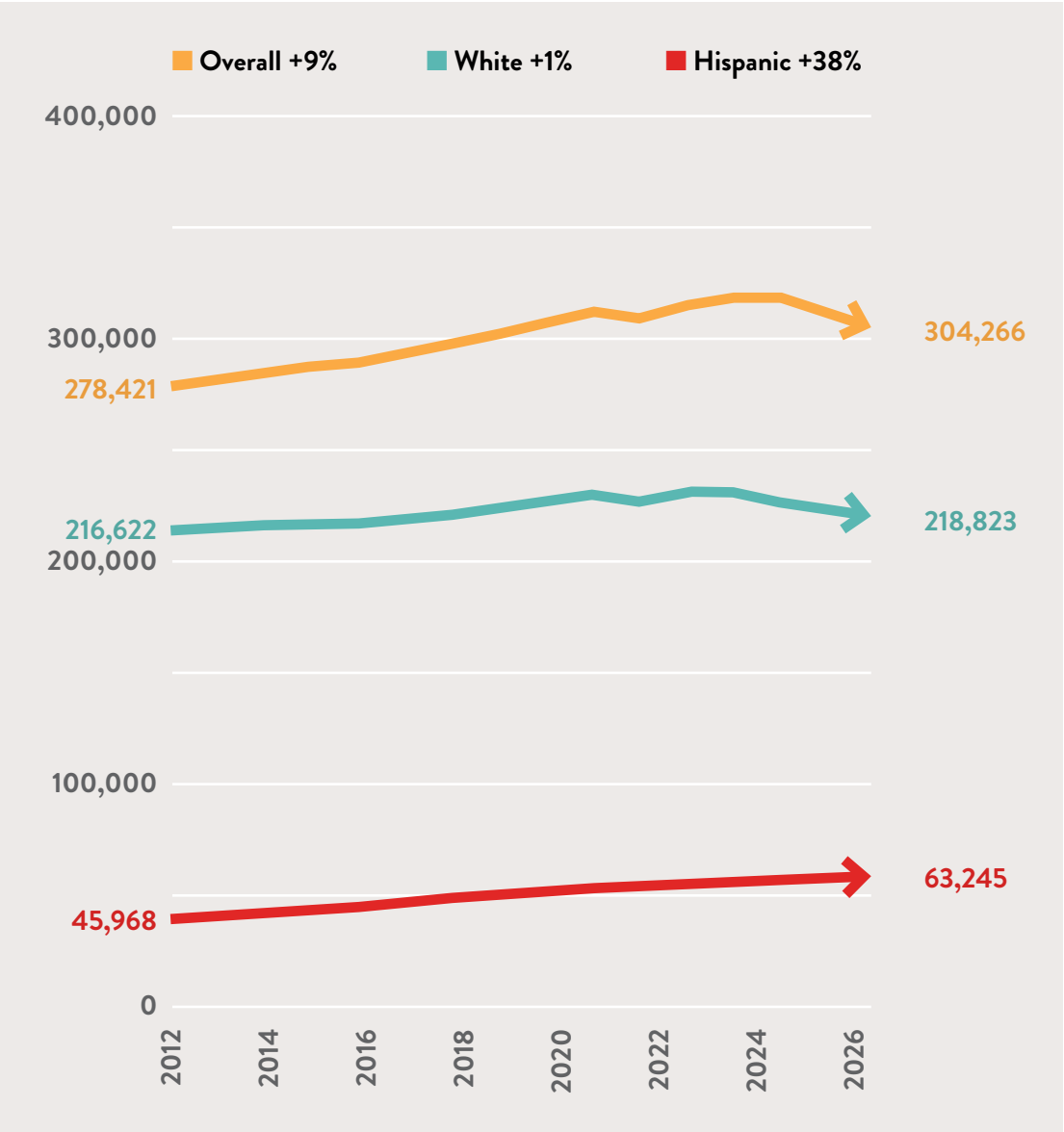
GRADE LEVEL	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
Kindergarten	20,173	6.4%
First Grade	21,272	6.8%
Second Grade	21,526	6.9%
Third Grade	23,349	7.4%
Fourth Grade	24,139	7.7%
Fifth Grade	24,282	7.7%
TOTAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	134,741	42.9%
Sixth Grade	24,537	7.8%
Seventh Grade	24,741	7.9%
Eighth Grade	24,767	7.9%
TOTAL MIDDLE SCHOOL	74,045	23.6%
Ninth Grade	25,420	8.1%
Tenth Grade	25,390	8.1%
Eleventh Grade	25,135	8.0%
Twelfth Grade	25,371	8.1%
TOTAL HIGH SCHOOL	101,316	32.3%
Preschool	3,961	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. Differences in enrollment numbers across pages may stem from differences in data sources, including timing of enrollment snapshots (e.g. fall vs spring enrollment counts). These data were updated July 2026. Students concurrently enrolled in multiple districts or charters are counted more than once.



PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT TRENDS

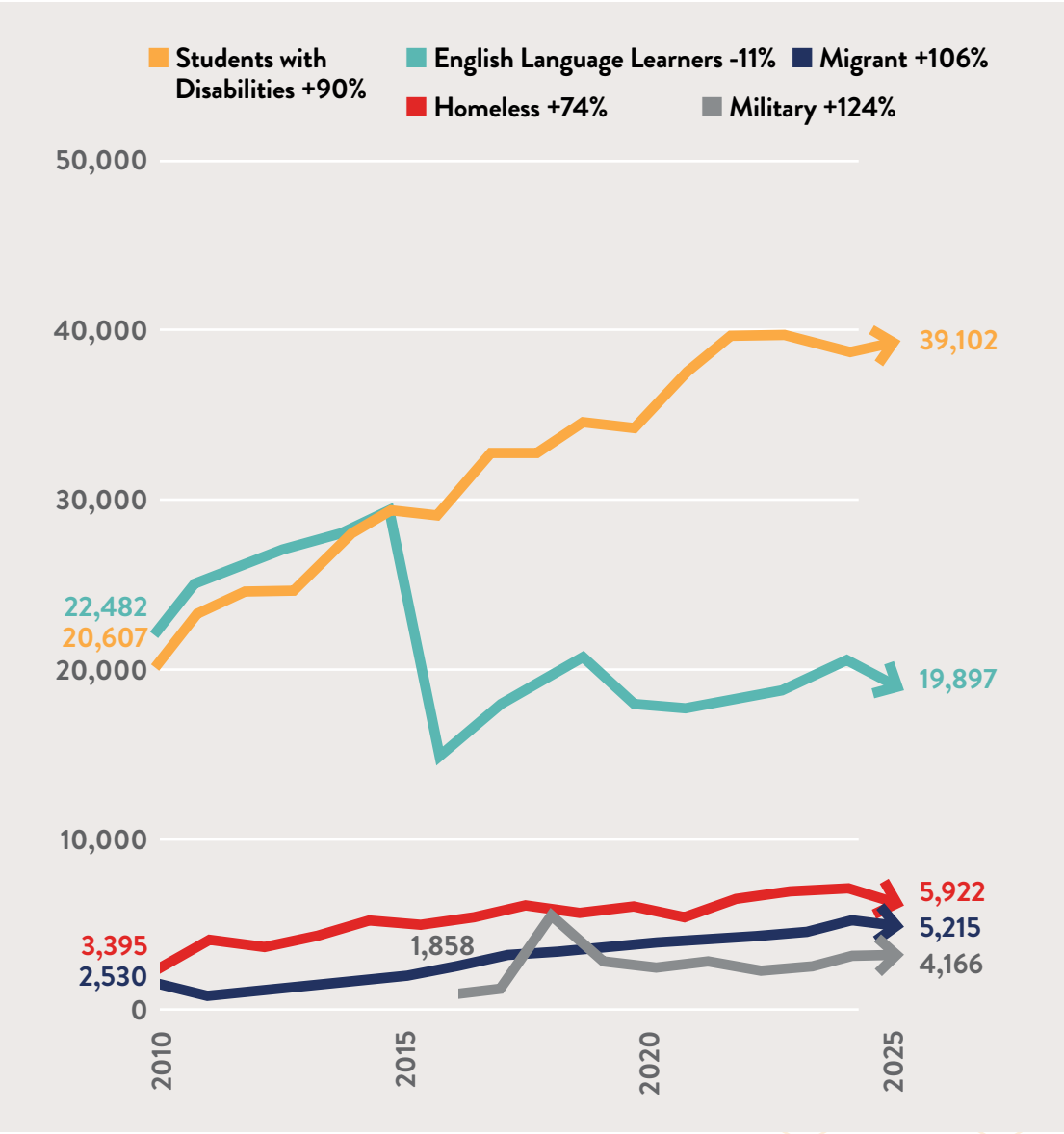
Since 2010-2011, overall public school K-12 enrollment in Idaho has increased by 9%. Enrollment for Idaho’s largest race/ethnic groups (White and Hispanic students) have also increased, with Hispanic enrollment increasing at a substantially higher rate than White enrollment.



Source: IDE PRR.
Note: 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 90%.

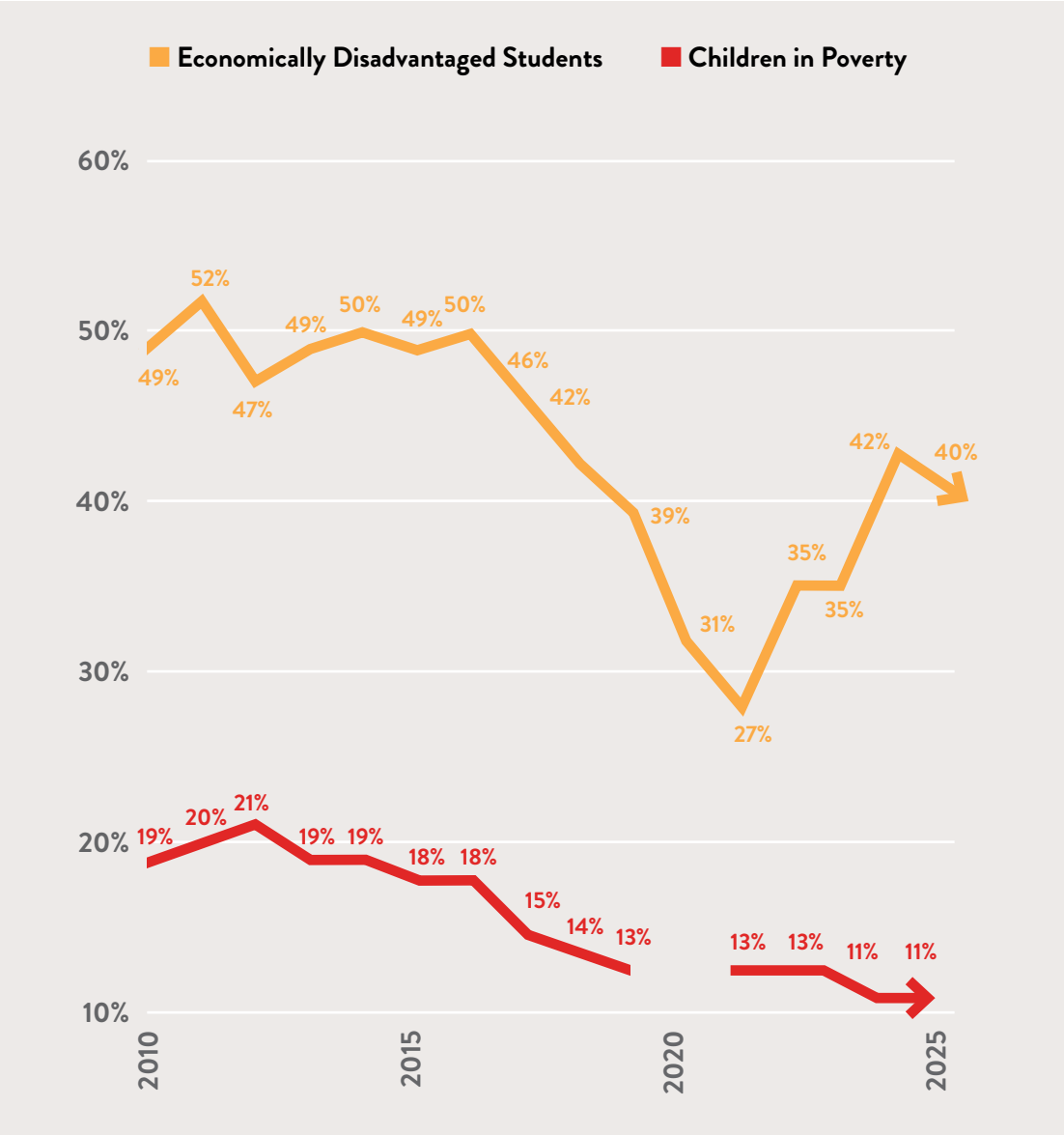


Source: IDE PRR.
Note: In the mid-2010s (1) Idaho changed its proficiency assessments for ELL classification, and (2) new federal guidance was issued for treatment of ELL students. Data may include fall or spring enrollment statistics based on data availability.



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 nine points.



Source: [IDE PRR for economic disadvantage and 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 2025.

PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS BY TYPOLOGY

54% of Idaho students enroll in suburban school districts and 40% in rural school districts; around a fifth are in districts with high poverty rates, and a fourth 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	3	502	0.2%
Average Poverty	0	0	--	--
Low Poverty	0	2	1,027	0.3%
SUBURBAN				
High Poverty	2	9	15,565	5.1%
Average Poverty	10	14	99,564	32.6%
Low Poverty	3	18	52,843	17.3%
RURAL				
High Poverty	36	6	40,510	13.3%
Average Poverty	50	8	51,950	17.0%
Low Poverty	15	7	28,455	9.3%
Online Charter Schools	0	9	15,148	5.0%
TOTAL	116	76	305,564	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 2025-2026 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 30% of students participating in FRL listed as Low Poverty, 30-50% 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 and Juvenile Corrections are not categorized. For comparison to 2024-2025, poverty typologies rest on district-reported counts of economically disadvantaged students, and several districts changed their reported counts sharply between years without comparable enrollment change. Figures are as reported and have not been adjusted. Enrollments reflect dual enrollments, and so the table total does not match other enrollment data in this report.



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	72	502	14.3%
Average Poverty	*	*	*
Low Poverty	*	*	*
SUBURBAN			
High Poverty	2,273	15,565	14.6%
Average Poverty	13,433	99,564	13.5%
Low Poverty	5,987	52,843	11.3%
RURAL			
High Poverty	*	*	*
Average Poverty	*	*	*
Low Poverty	*	*	*
Online Charter Schools	1,647	15,148	10.9%
TOTAL	23,412	183,622	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	2025-26 ENROLLMENT	ENROLLMENT CHANGE VS. 2021
1. West Ada	Ada	37,729	37,953	0.6%
2. Boise	Ada	23,854	21,722	-8.9%
3. Bonneville	Bonneville	13,224	13,489	2.0%
4. Nampa	Canyon	13,230	12,462	-5.8%
5. Pocatello	Bannock	11,948	11,486	-3.9%
6. Vallivue	Canyon	8,913	10,701	20.1%
7. Idaho Falls	Bonneville	10,005	9,739	-2.7%
8. Coeur d’Alene	Kootenai	10,061	9,677	-3.8%
9. Twin Falls	Twin Falls	9,180	8,774	-4.4%
10. IHLAC*	(Virtual)	N/A	7,508	N/A
11. Jefferson County	Jefferson	6,339	6,457	1.9%
12. Post Falls	Kootenai	5,842	5,833	-0.2%
13. Kuna	Ada	5,415	5,695	5.2%
14. Madison	Madison	5,377	5,673	5.5%
15. Cassia County	Cassia	5,434	5,468	0.6%
16. Caldwell	Canyon	5,595	4,933	-11.8%
17. Lakeland	Kootenai	4,320	4,648	7.6%
18. Lewiston	Nez Perce	4,630	4,516	-2.5%
19. Middleton	Canyon	3,912	4,400	12.5%
20. Minidoka County	Minidoka	4,264	4,110	-3.6%
21. Jerome	Jerome	4,076	3,866	-5.2%
22. Blackfoot	Bingham	3,935	3,801	-3.4%
23. Lake Pend Oreille	Bonner	3,481	3,791	8.9%
24. Mountain Home	Elmore	3,617	3,550	-1.9%
25. Snake River	Bingham	2,277	3,429	50.6%

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 2026.

*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.

	PUBLIC CHARTER		
	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	151,599	0.6%
Male	1,305	159,054	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.



SCHOOL OPTIONS



ENROLLMENT BY EDUCATIONAL MODEL

Idaho lists 785 public school buildings housing students 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)	621	258,257	Public schools operated by a tax funded district that has the ability to levy taxes.
Magnet Schools	19	8,012	Public “schools of choice” operated by tax funded districts and which have a specific instructional theme, curriculum or method.
Alternative Schools	59	7,964	Non-traditional high schools with curriculum and schedules clearly designed for at-risk students.
OTHER SCHOOLS			
Public Charter Schools	87	42,942	Public schools operated by independent boards with permission from an approved authorizer but unable to levy taxes.
Private Schools	112*	17,963*	Non-profit or for-profit educational organizations that are operated independently of the public education system.
Home Schools	N/A	35,009	Education directed by the parent/guardian.

Source: [IDE Reports Enrollment by Building](#) (updated Jan. 2026), [IDE reports Magnet Schools](#) (updated Jan. 2026), IDE “[Mapping School Choice in the Gem State](#).” (2026).
Note: Past By the Numbers reports relied on Johns Hopkins homeschool enrollment estimates. This report relies on a 2026 SBE report citing Household Pulse Survey data from the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, giving a rate of 9.8%, which was multiplied by estimates of 2025 school-age population from the U.S. Census. Totals do not include juvenile detention facility buildings, one purely administrative building, and a special services center. Magnet school enrollments rely on general enrollment file statistics. Alternative charter schools are counted as both alternative schools and charter schools.

*Private school counts and enrollment are notoriously difficult—these numbers are those calculated using the linked 2026 IDE report, which differ somewhat from past By the Numbers reports.

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

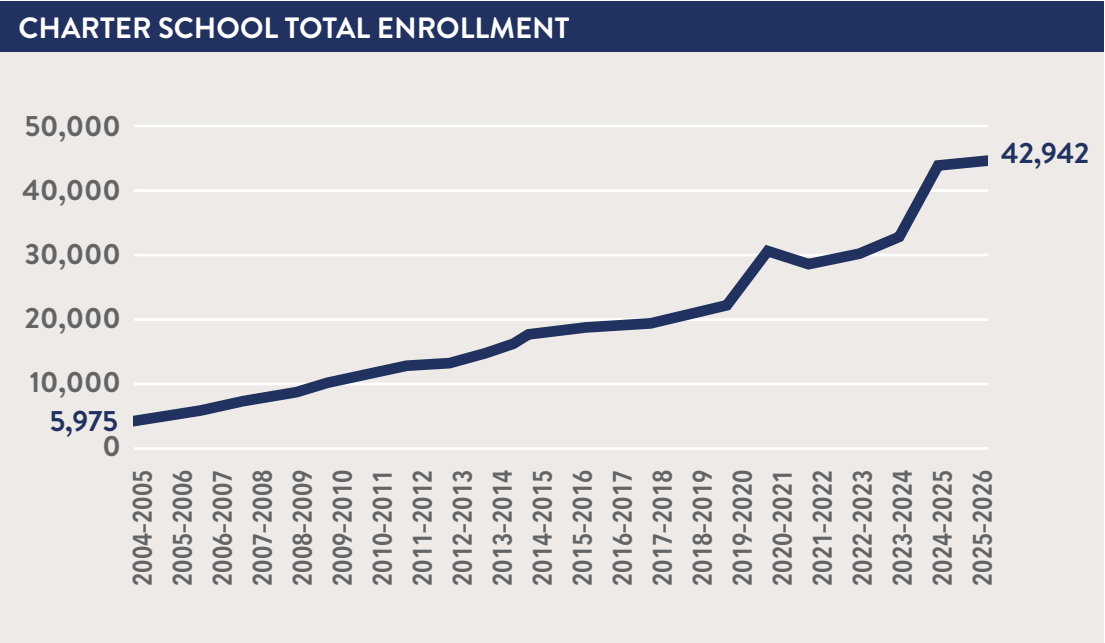
Idaho has 76 public charter schools serving more than 42,000 students.

2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF CHARTER STUDENTS
BRICK-AND-MORTAR SCHOOLS			
K-12	26	15,124	35.2%
Elementary Only (K-5)	1	568	1.3%
High School Only	5	956	2.2%
Other Grade Combos without HS	26	7,485	17.4%
Other Grade Combos with HS	9	3,900	9.1%
ONLINE			
K-12	5	12,300	28.6%
High School Only	2	548	1.3%
Middle School + High School	2	2,061	4.8%
TOTALS	76	42,942	100%

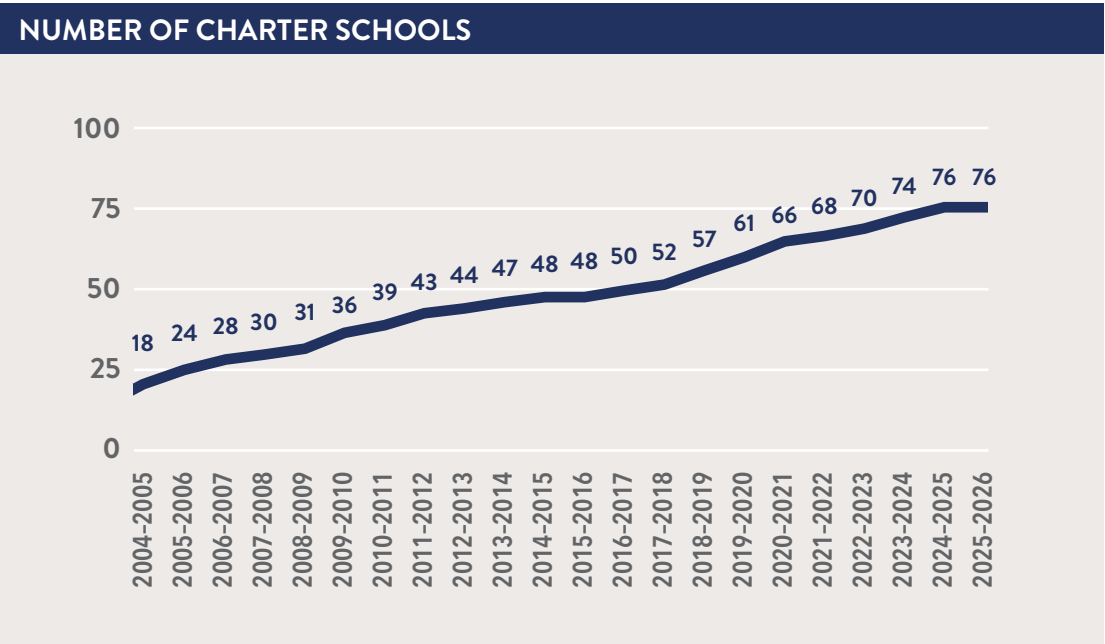
Source: IDE, Historical Enrollments by Charter School by Grade.



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 about half attend brick-and-mortar schools in suburban areas.

	PUBLIC CHARTER	
	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
RACE OR ETHNICITY		
White	31,758	75.6%
Hispanic	7,760	18.5%
Multiracial	1,509	3.6%
Asian or Pacific Islander	545	1.3%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	245	0.6%
Black/African American	215	0.5%

GENDER		
Female	20,554	48.9%
Male	21,478	51.1%

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS		
Economically Disadvantaged	16,129	38.4%
Students with Disabilities	4,741	11.3%
English Language Learner	1,062	2.5%
Military	617	1.5%
Homeless	446	1.1%
Migrant	18	0.0%

TYPOLOGY		
Urban: Brick-and-Mortar	1,529	3.6%
Suburban: Brick-and-Mortar	19,541	46.1%
Rural: Brick-and-Mortar	6,137	14.5%
Online	15,148	35.8%

Source: IDE PRR for Total, Race/Ethnicity, and Other Characteristics. Gender statistics based on percentages at Idaho Report Card. Data do not include any data redacted for small sample sizes at the charter level, such as for race and ethnicity categories for many schools.
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. Schools on the borderline between categories may switch between years.



INTERDISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT

In the 2025-2026 school year, Idaho school districts accepted 89.1% 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
2025-2026	31,329	89.1%	118

Source: [2026 District Level General Education transfer Data](#). Various sources for prior years.
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. Reported data for 2023-2024 is a cumulative total of applications received and accepted through April 1, 2024.

HOMESCHOOLING

Around 8% to 10% 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
2024-2025	9.8%	35,009

Source: Estimate for 2024-2025 based on a 2026 SBE report citing Household Pulse Survey data from the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, giving a rate of 9.8%, which was multiplied by estimates of 2025 school-age population from the U.S. Census. Estimates of homeschooling prior to 2024-2025 from [Johns Hopkins study](#), some years based on households and others based per student, using population estimates based on the American Community Survey total population ages 5-17.

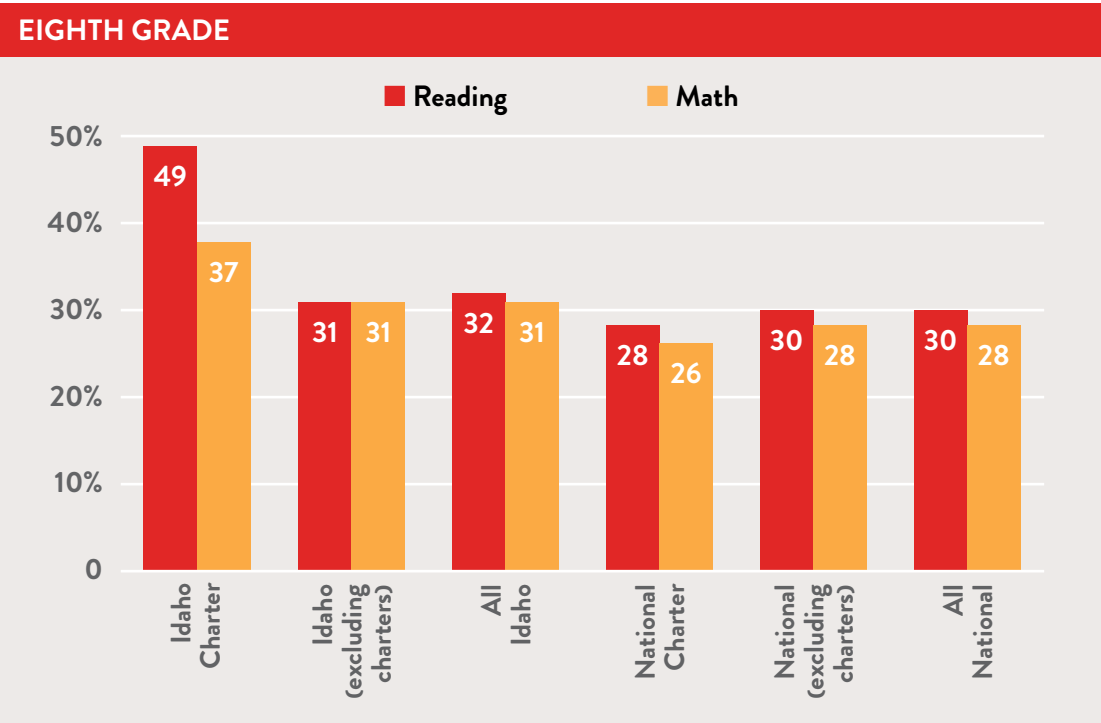
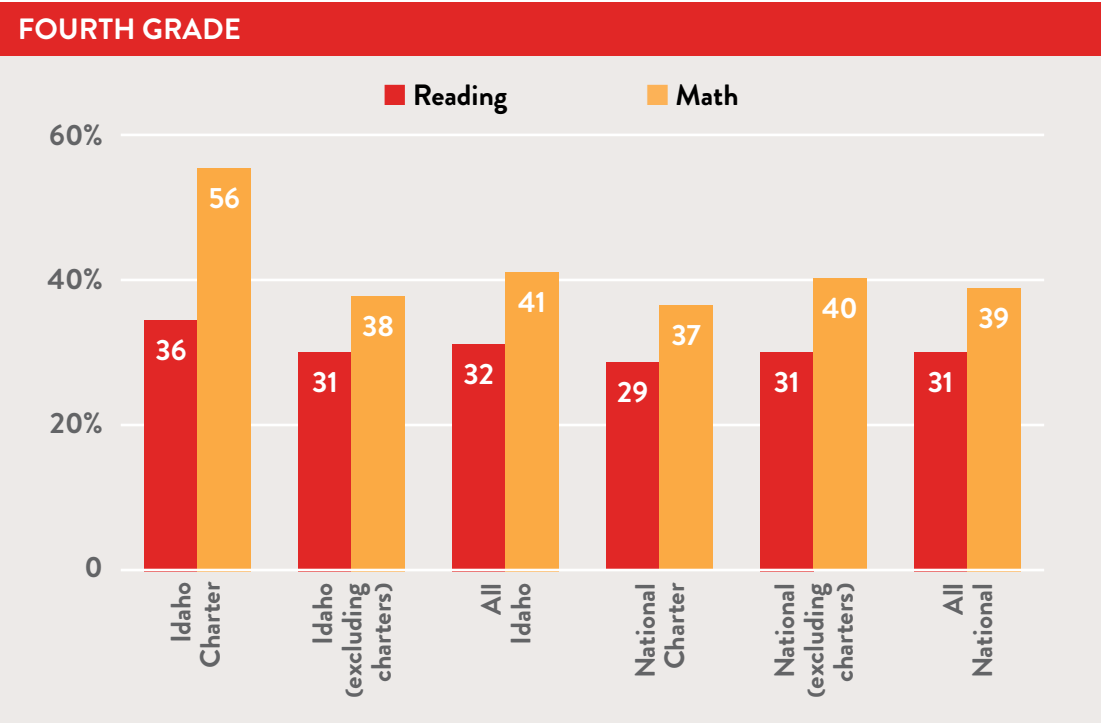


STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: NATIONAL EXAMS



NATIONAL EXAMS: NAEP 2024

According to the most recent data, approximately a third of Idaho students reach the national standard for proficiency in reading and math, slightly above the national average. Idaho public charter school students perform well above the national averages 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.

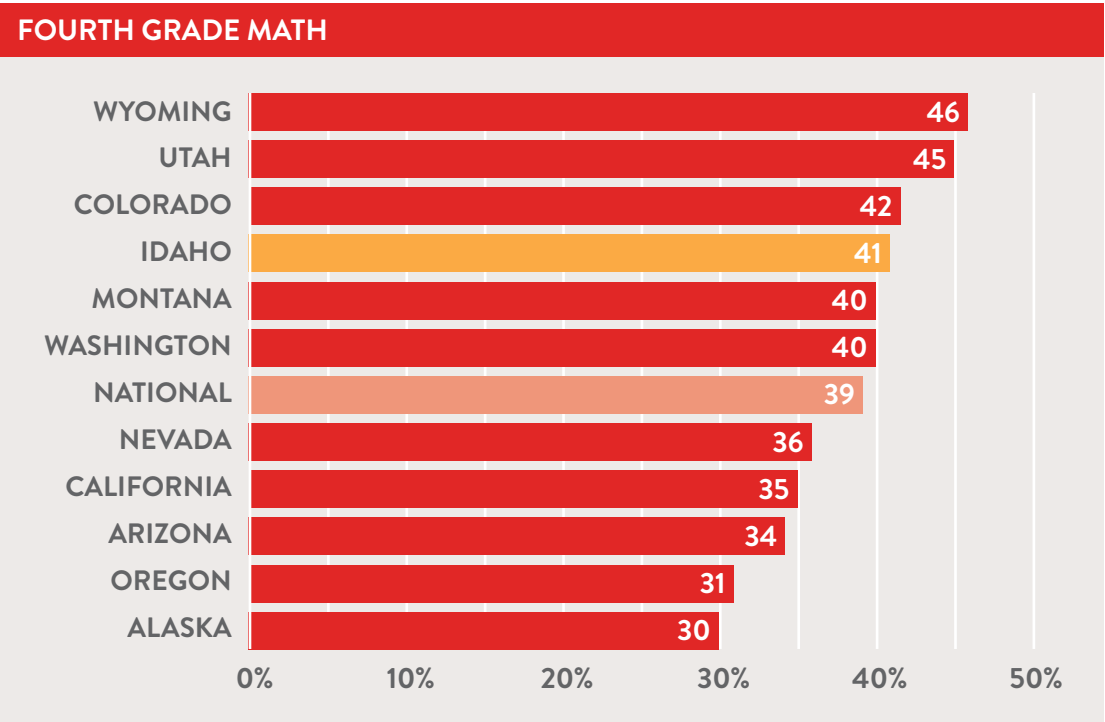
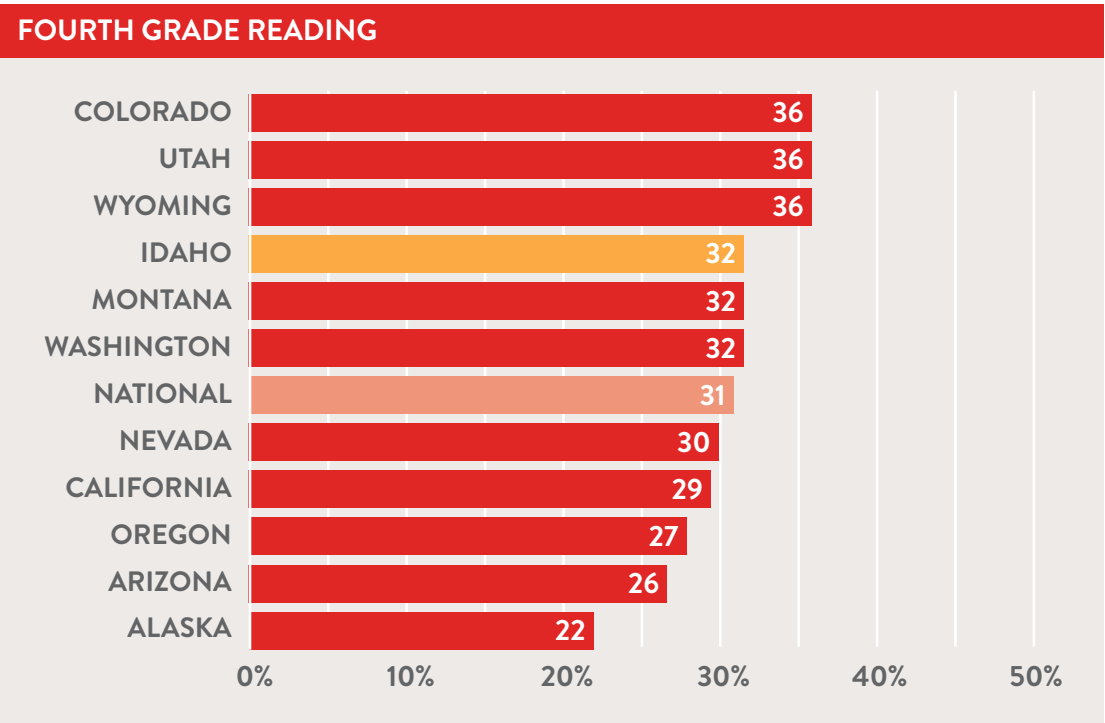
NATIONAL RANK											
	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022	2024
4th Grade Reading	32	20	23	29	26	33	33	23	12	31	20
4th Grade Math	30	13	25	22	30	32	32	26	16	24	22
8th Grade Reading	27	24	23	29	17	14	14	10	11	7	10
8th Grade Math	25	25	26	16	21	22	24	22	12	4	16

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



NATIONAL EXAMS: IDAHO COMPARED TO NEARBY STATES

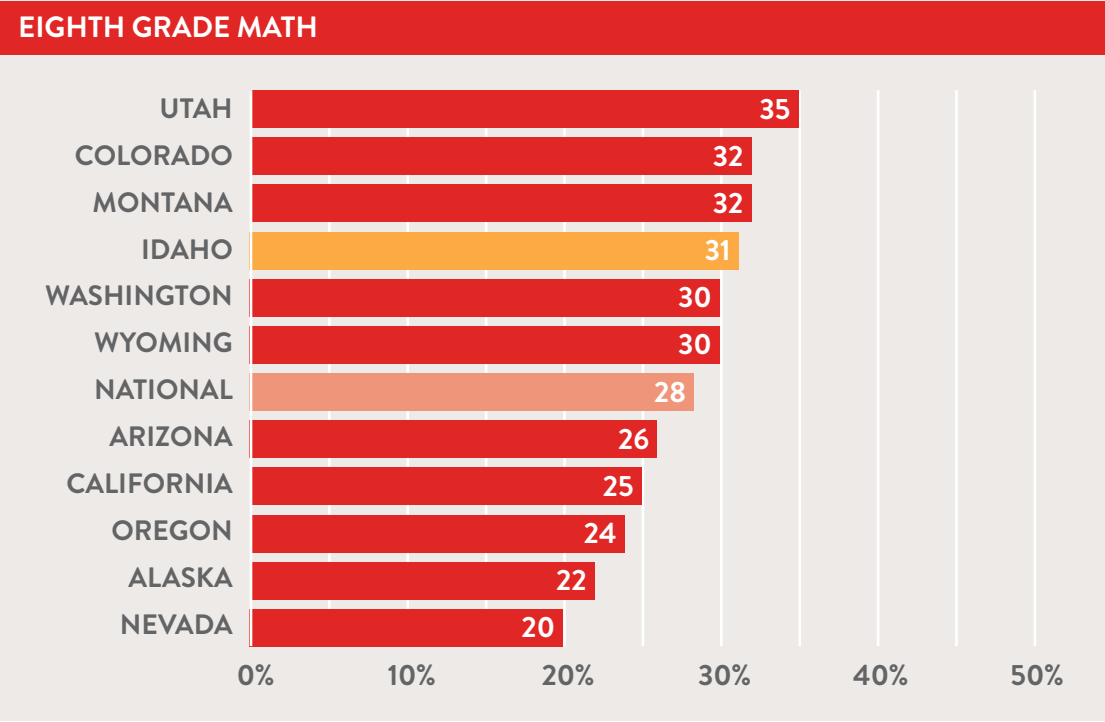
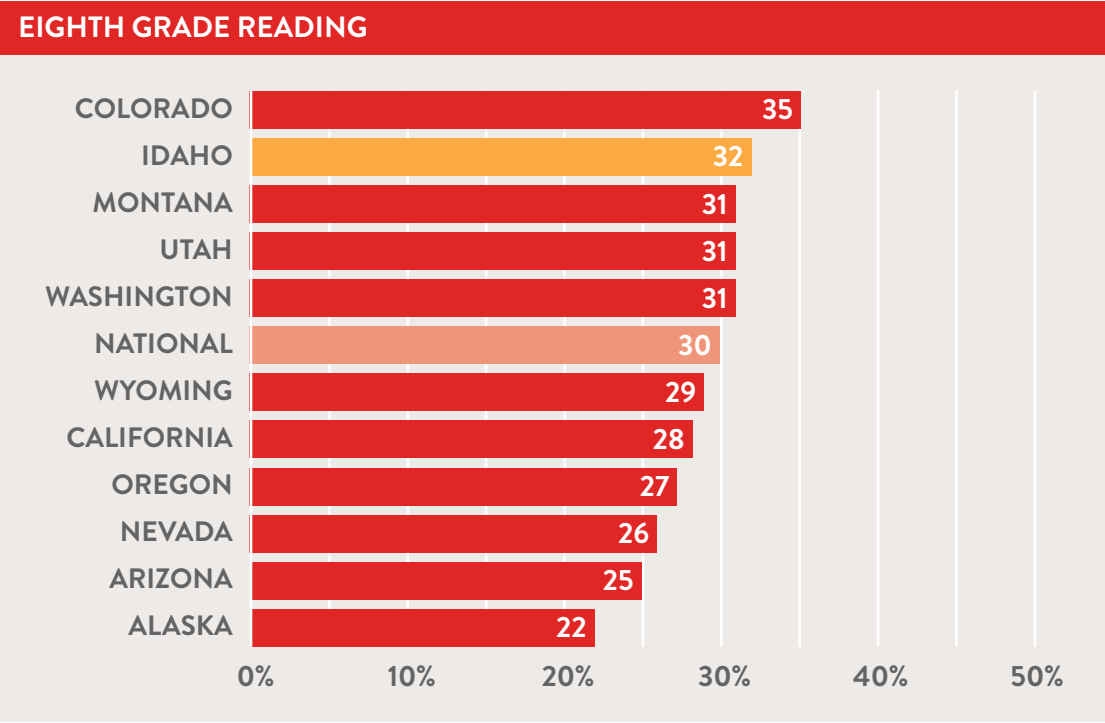
When compared to ten nearby states, Idaho is tied for 4th in fourth grade reading and 4th in fourth grade math proficiency.



Source: NAEP Data Explorer (2024).

NATIONAL EXAMS: IDAHO COMPARED TO NEARBY STATES

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

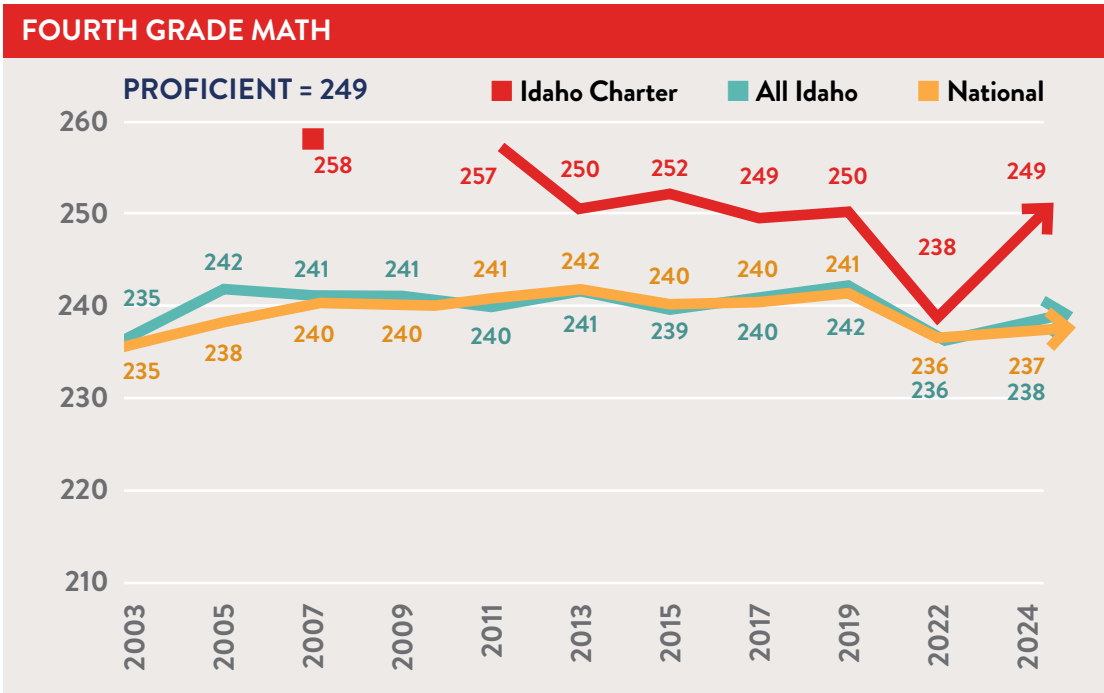
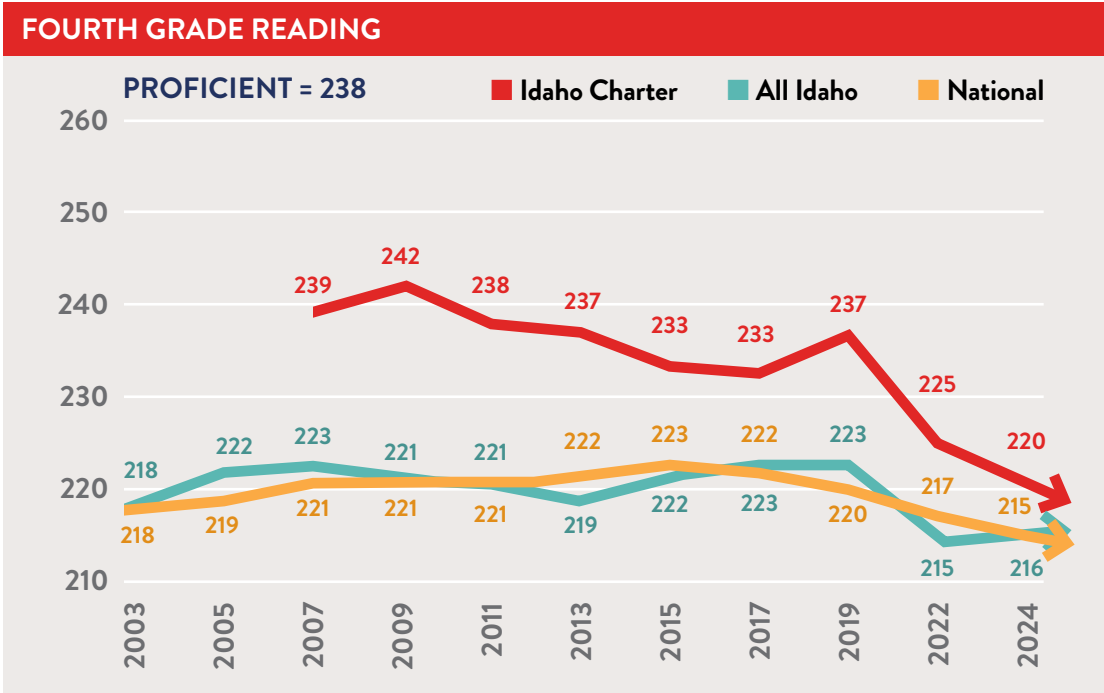


Source: NAEP Data Explorer (2024).



NATIONAL EXAMS: IDAHO SCORES OVER TIME

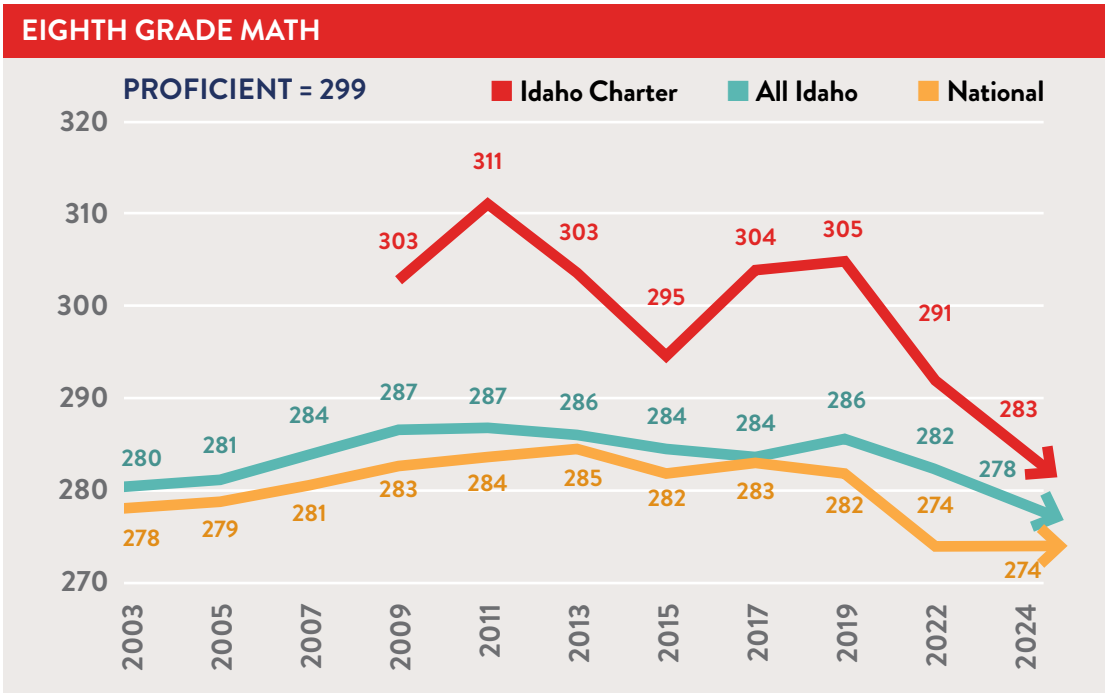
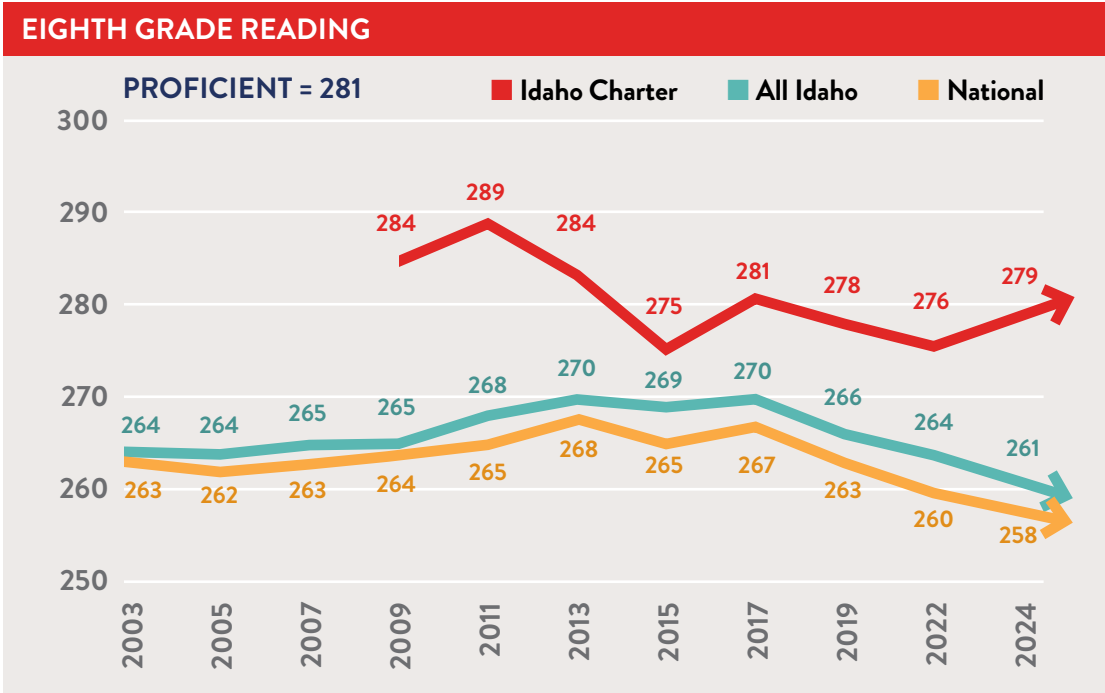
Idaho's fourth grade reading and math scores have been largely flat until recent declines that follow national trends. Idaho charter school fourth grade scores have been consistently higher than the average of all Idaho schools.



Source: NAEP Data Explorer (2024).
Note: NAEP does not separate data for online versus brick and mortar charter schools. 2024 is the most recent data.

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.

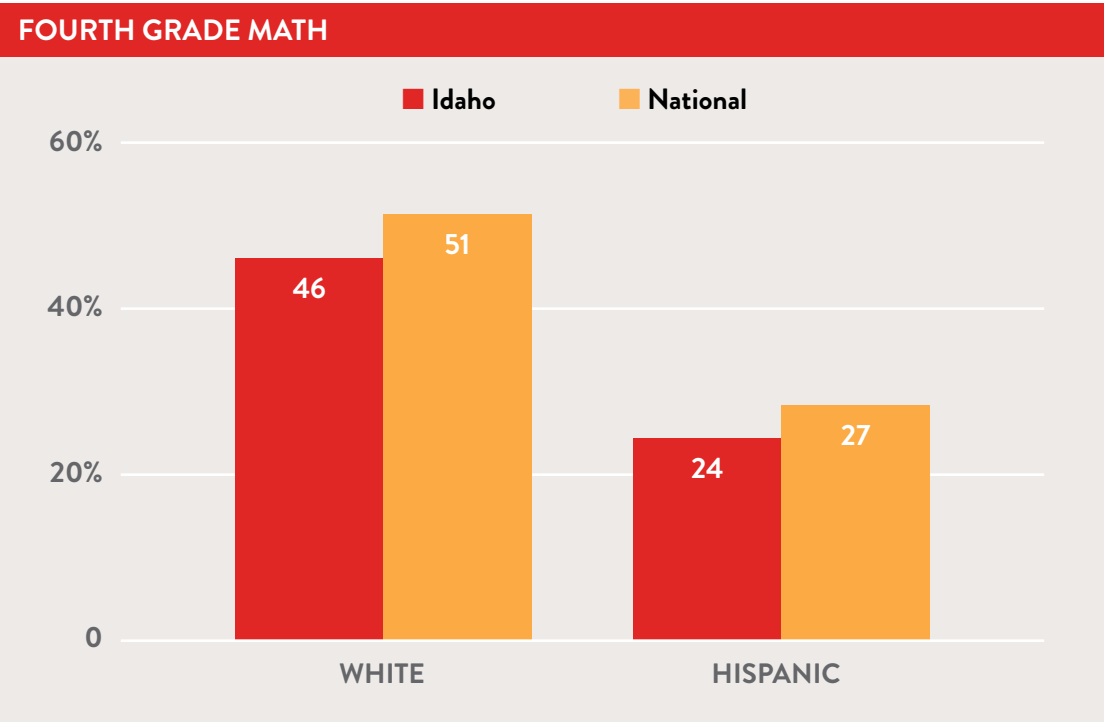
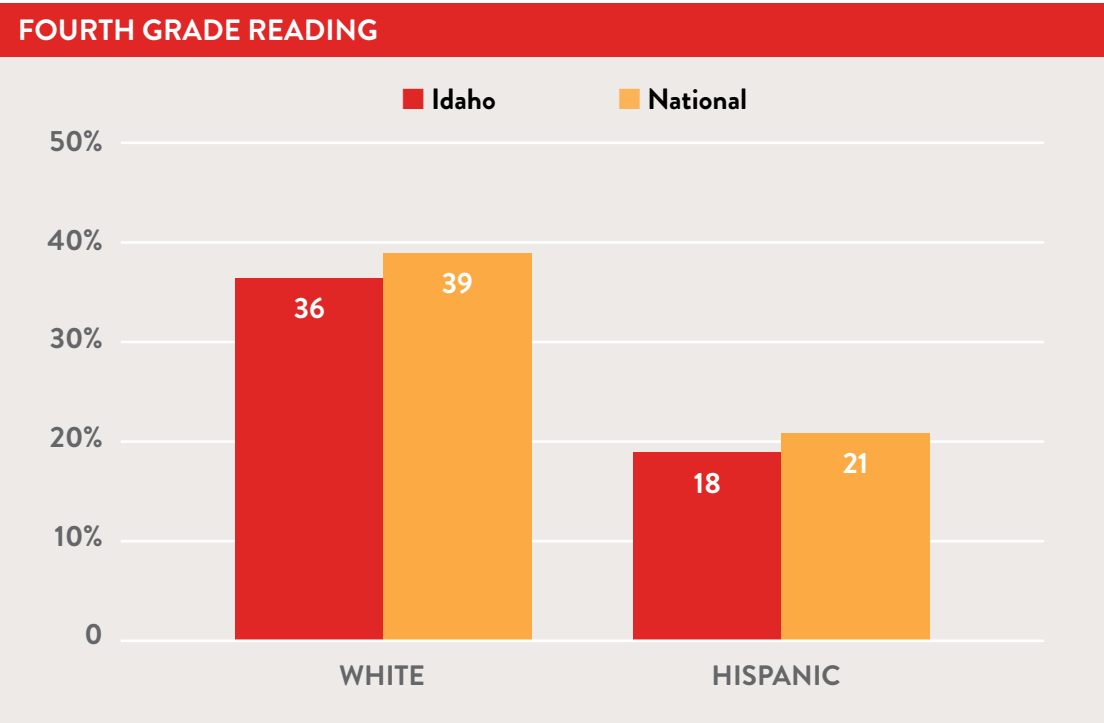


Source: NAEP Data Explorer (2024).



NATIONAL EXAMS: ACHIEVEMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY

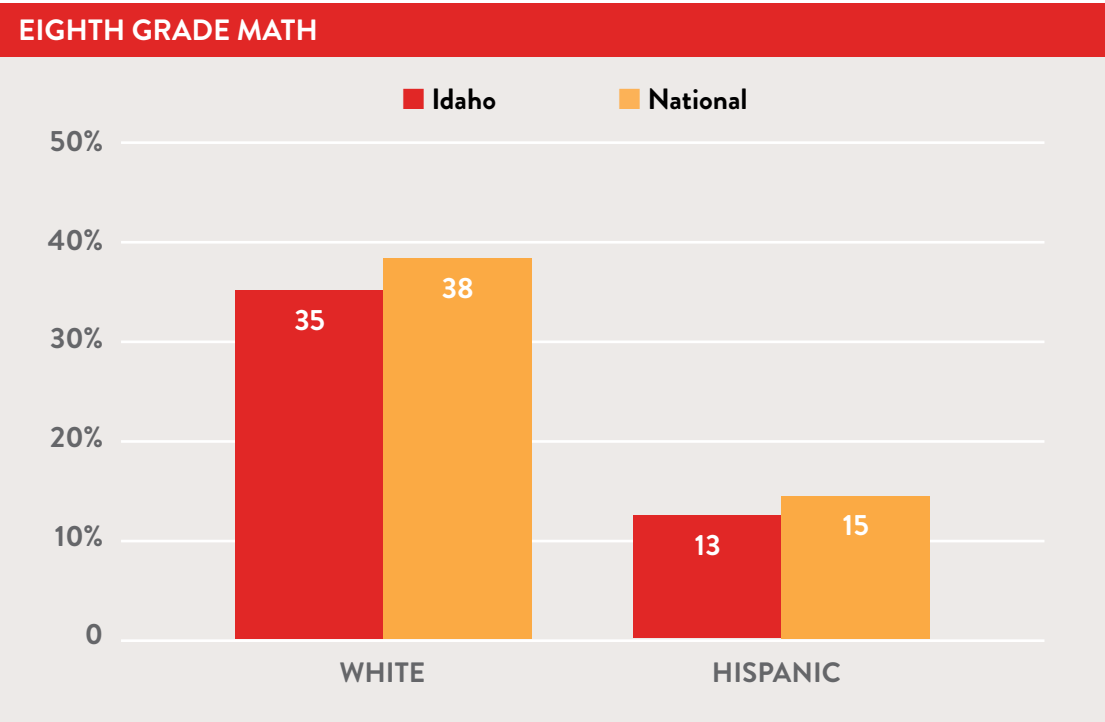
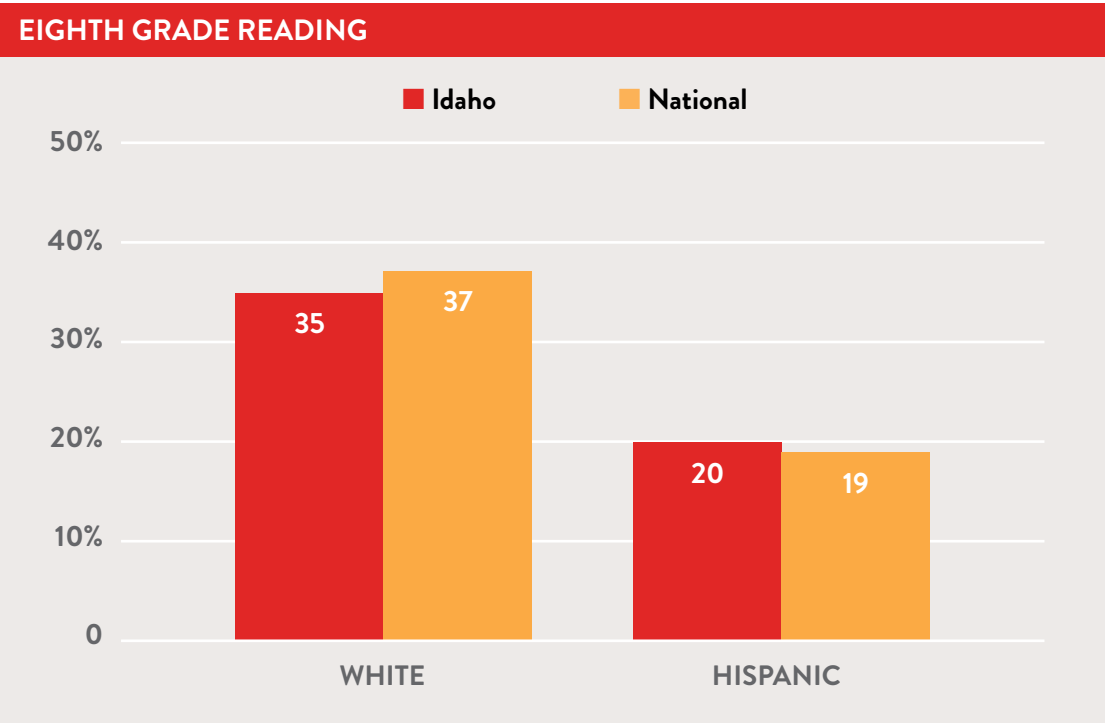
Around 40% of Idaho’s White fourth grade students achieve proficiency on NAEP, but only about 20% of Idaho’s Hispanic students do so.



Source: NAEP Data Explorer (2024).

NATIONAL EXAMS: ACHIEVEMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY

35% of Idaho’s White eighth grade students achieve proficiency on NAEP, but fewer than 20% of Hispanic students do so.



Source: NAEP Data Explorer (2024).

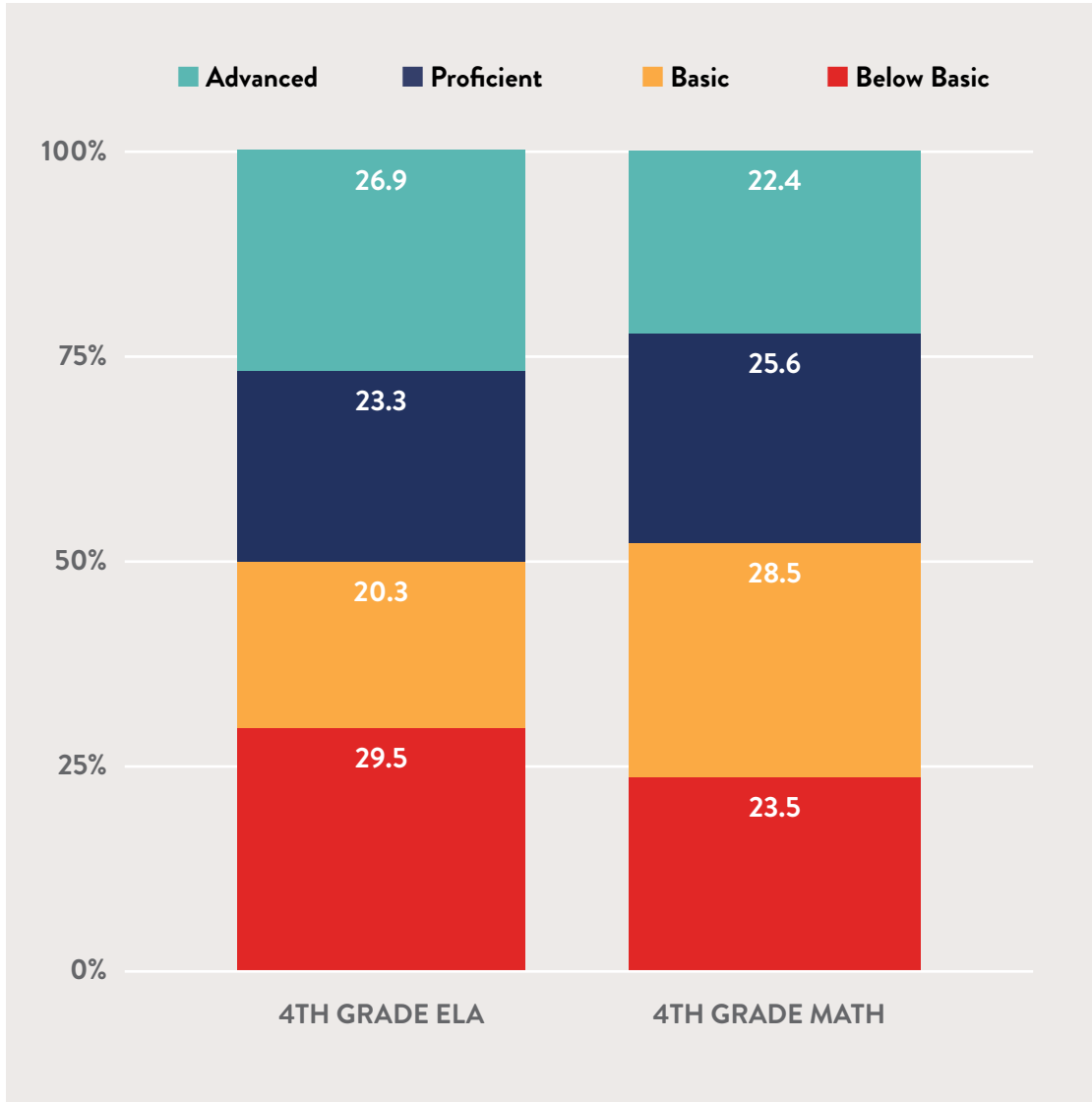


STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: STATE EXAMS



STATEWIDE ACHIEVEMENT IN SELECTED GRADES AND SUBJECTS

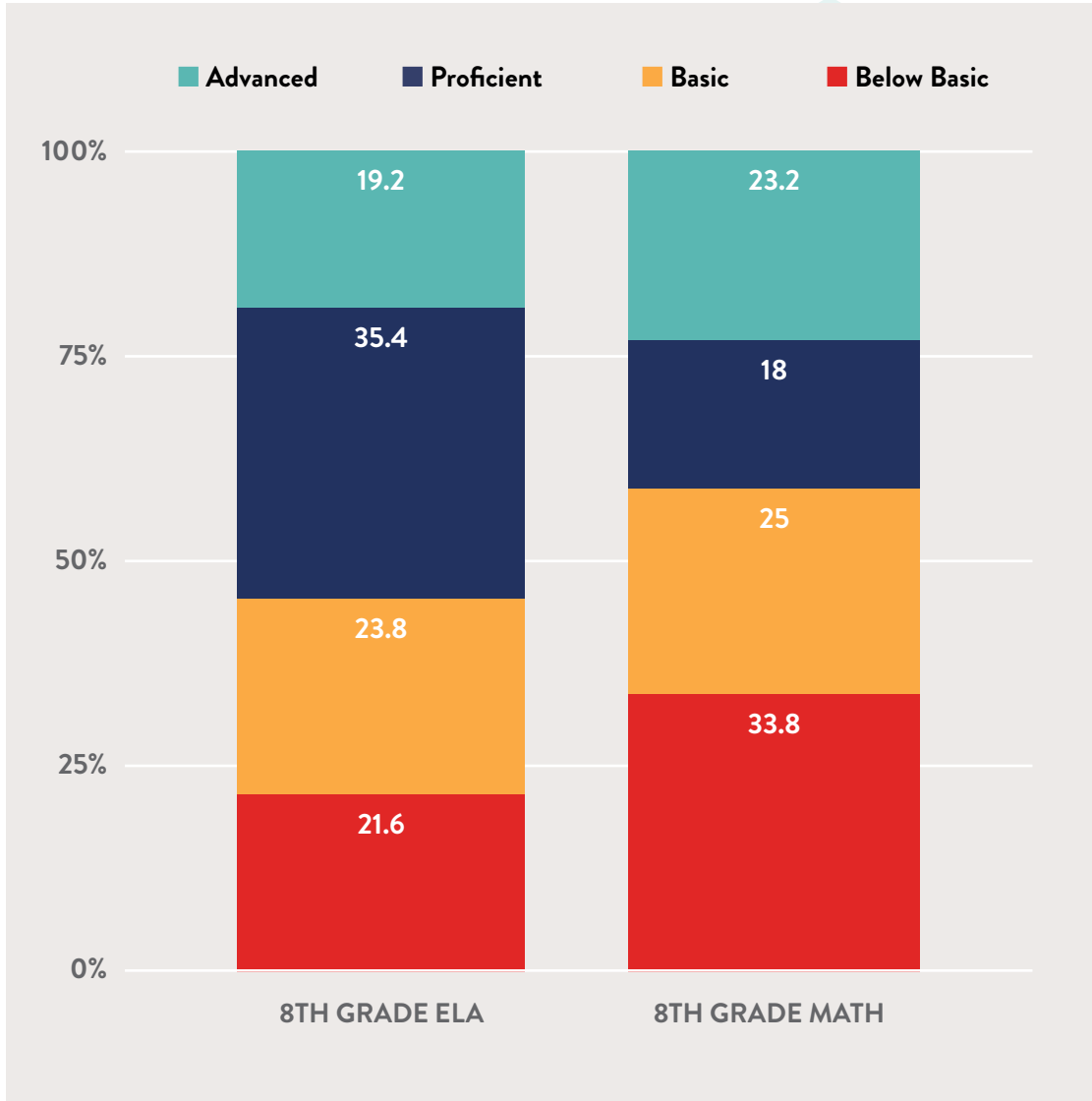
About 50% of Idaho fourth grade students reach proficient or above on state English language arts (ELA) and math exams.



Source: IDE 2026 ISAT Results.
Note: Results shown for all students.

STATEWIDE ACHIEVEMENT IN SELECTED GRADES AND SUBJECTS

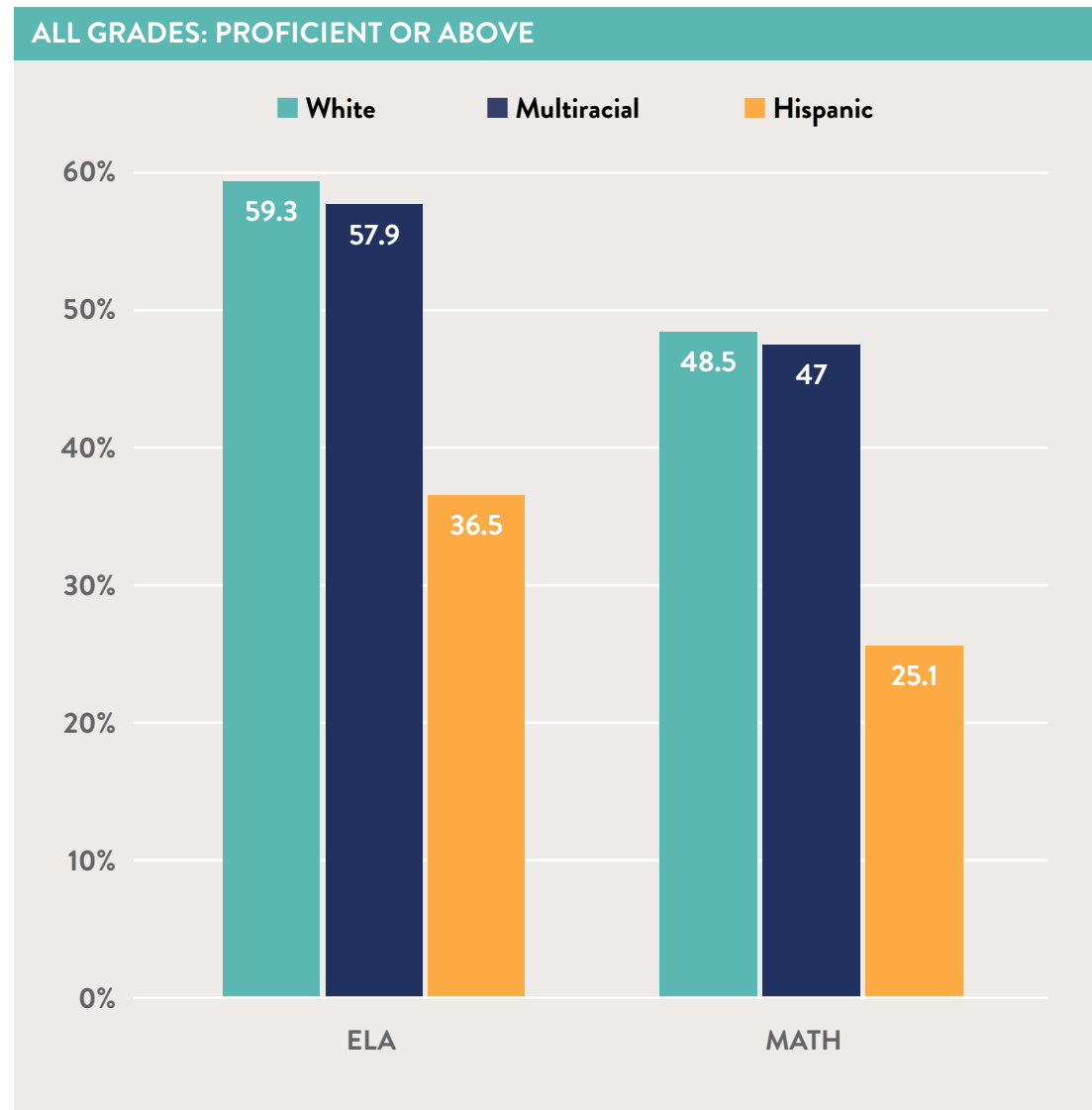
About 55% and 40% of Idaho eighth grade students reach proficient or above on state English language arts (ELA) and math exams, respectively.



Source: IDE 2026 ISAT Results.
Note: Results shown for all students.

ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

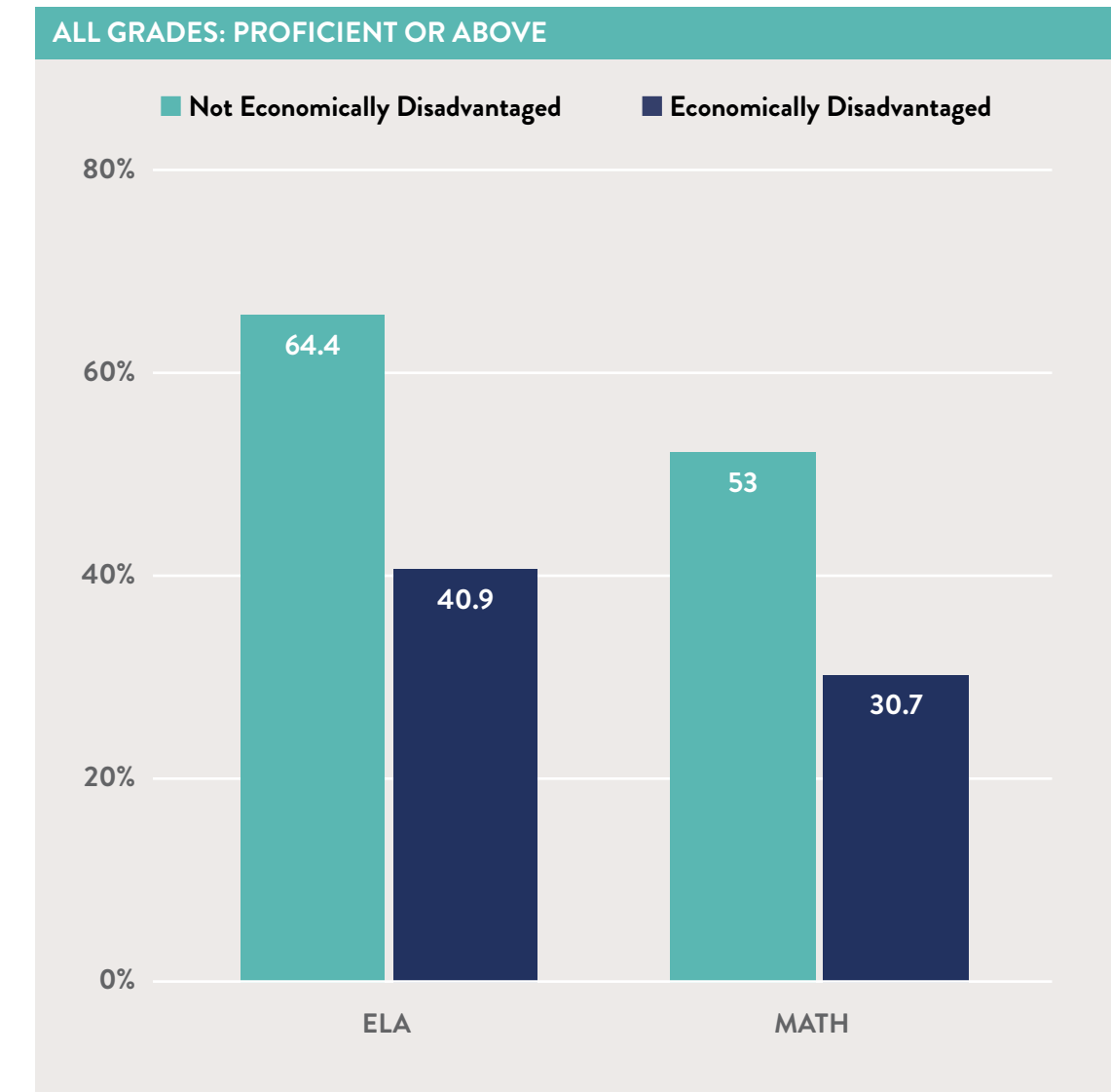
On average, Hispanic students achieve at lower levels than White and Multiracial students on state exams.



Source: IDE 2026 ISAT Results.
Note: Results shown for all students.

ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

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

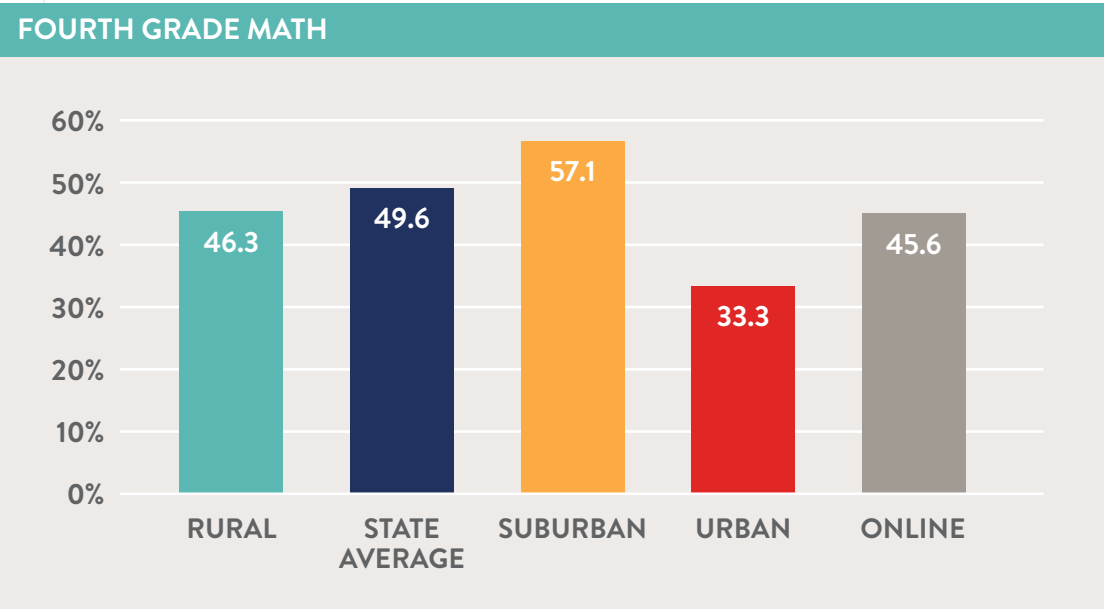
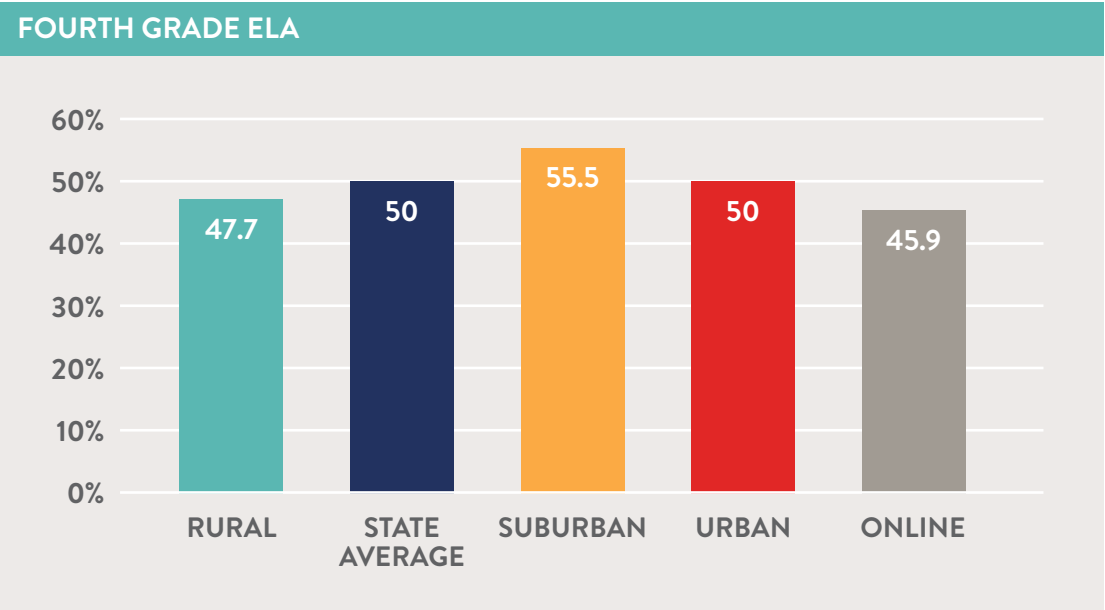


Source: IDE 2026 ISAT Results.
Note: Results shown for all students.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT BY DISTRICT TYPOLOGY

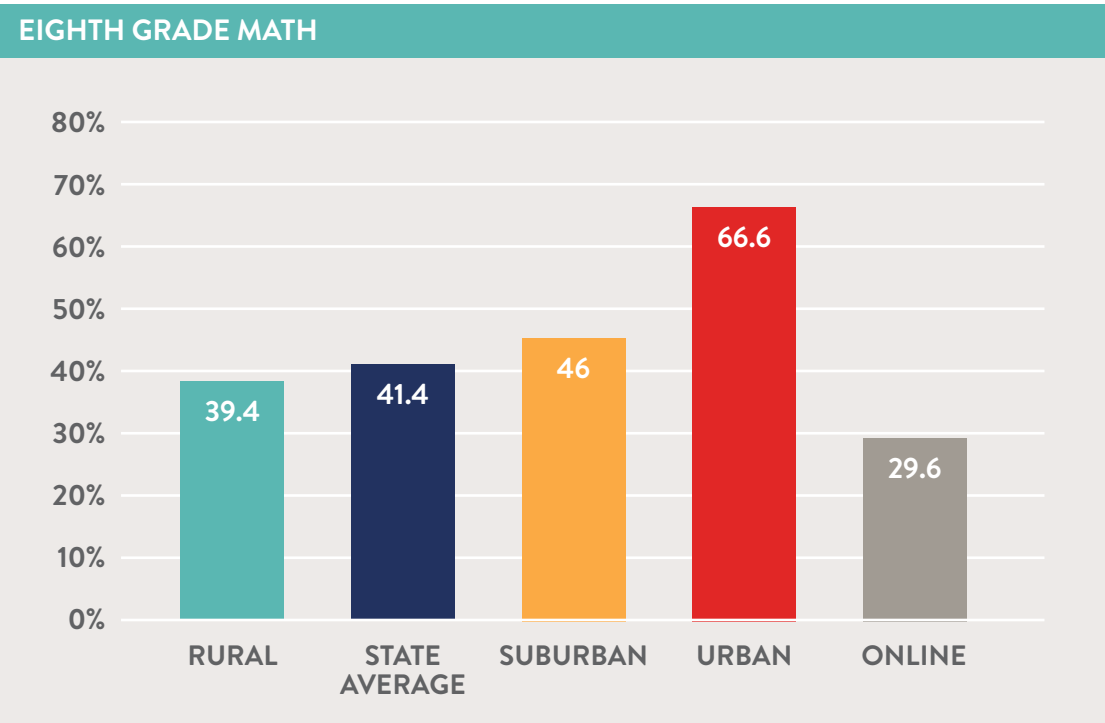
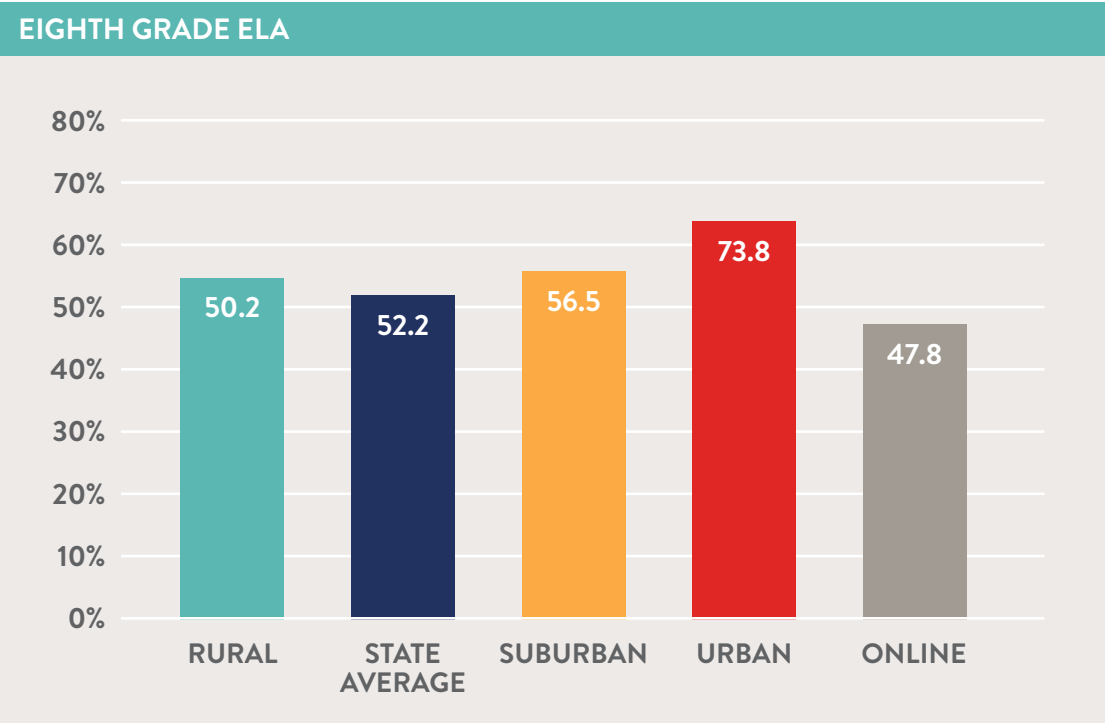
Fourth grade proficiency rates are lowest in Idaho’s rural schools and highest in urban schools. See notes below for online and suburban schools, which represent a very small number of schools with available data.



Source: IDE 2026 ISAT Results.
Note: See note above on "Public School Students by Typology" for the methodology used to determine district typologies. Results shown are the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced as published by the Idaho Report Card. State averages shown here are unweighted averages across districts, to match the other columns, and district averages are not weighted by the number of students in each district. The Idaho Report Card suppresses results for student groups too small to report and adjusts others to protect student privacy. The number of schools behind each column therefore varies considerably: suburban averages rest on 37 to 43 districts and rural averages on 80 to 91, but urban and online averages rest on far fewer. Idaho has no urban school districts under this classification; all five LEAs classified as urban are charter schools. After suppression, some averages rest on very few schools. Urban and online figures should therefore be read as the results of a handful of individual schools rather than as general characteristics of urban or online education in Idaho. The Idaho Bureau of Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind and the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections are not categorized and are excluded.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT BY DISTRICT TYPOLOGY

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

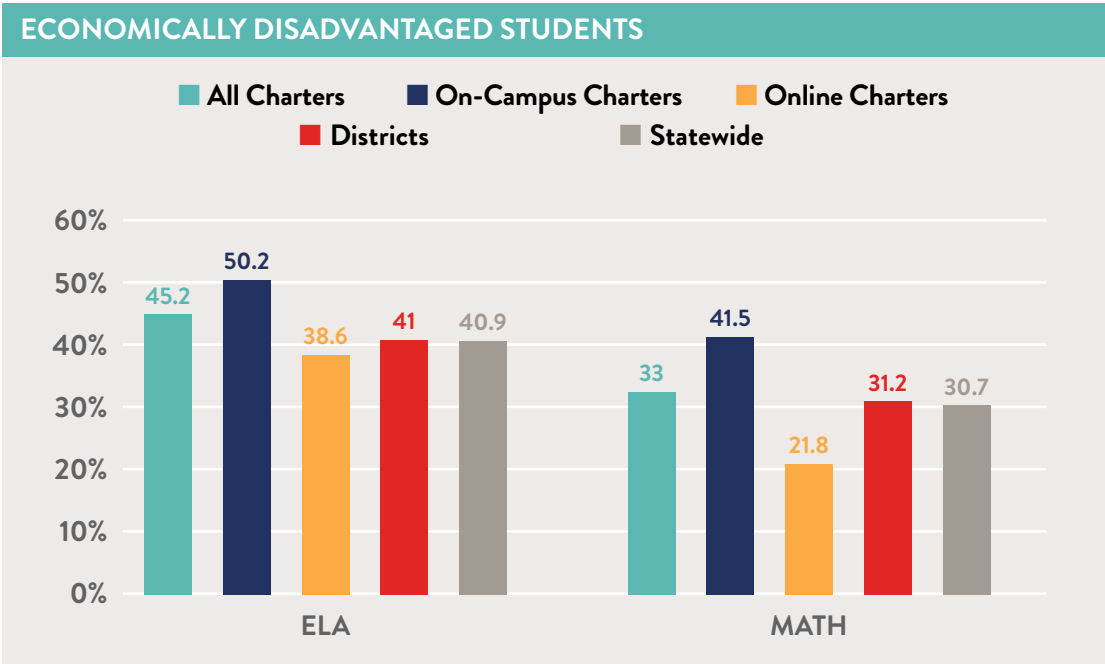
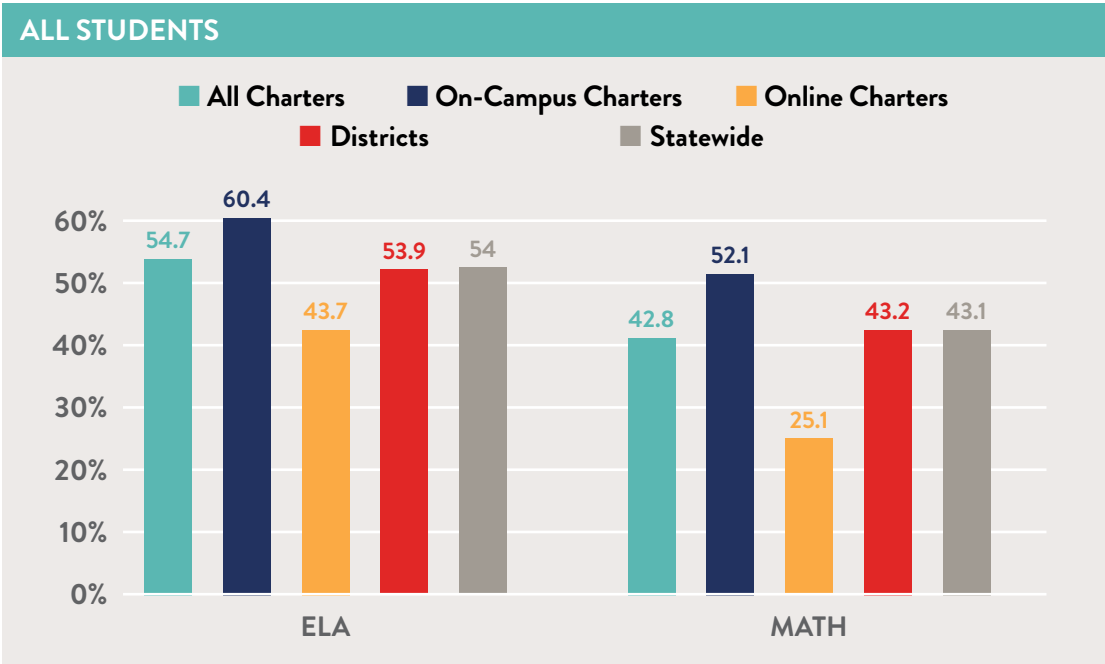


Source: IDE 2026 ISAT Results.
Note: See notes on fourth-grade results above, particularly on the limited number of schools in some categories. Urban figures for fourth and eighth grade reflect different schools and are not comparable to one another.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT BY CHARTER TYPE

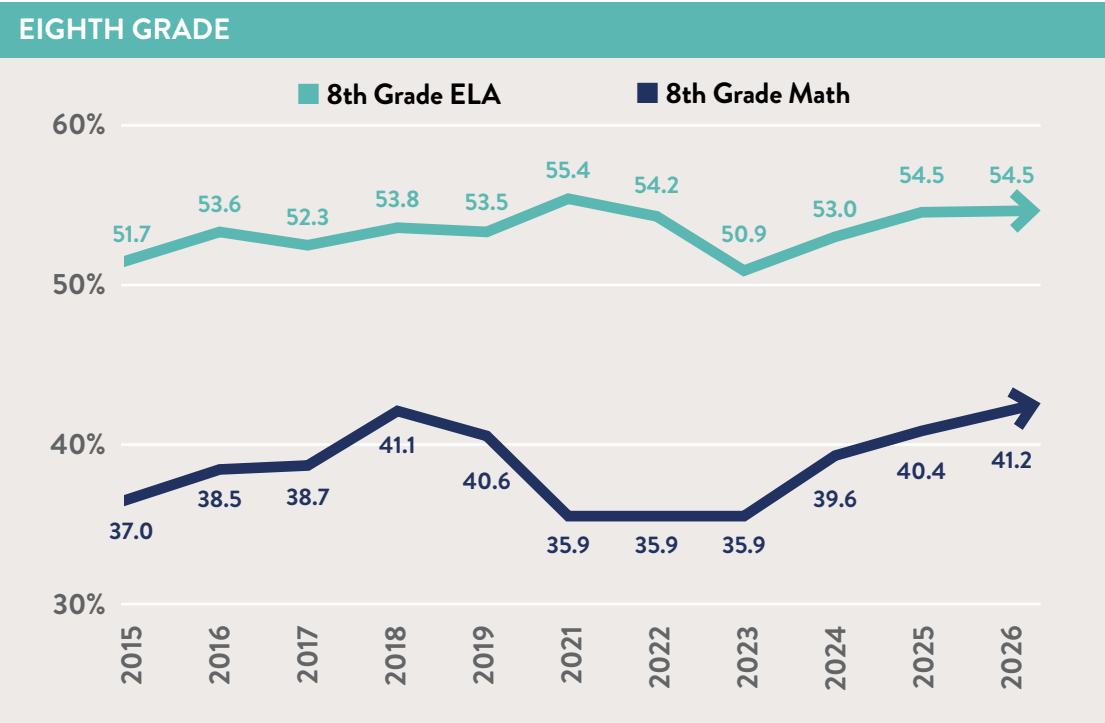
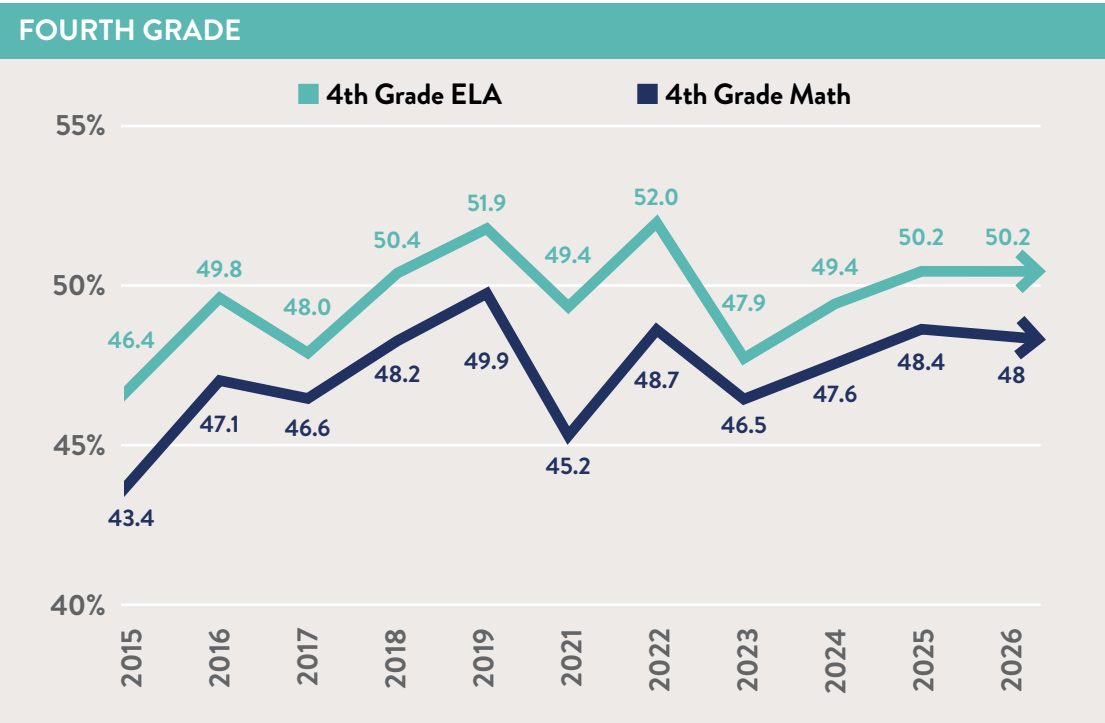
Online charter schools have lower proficiency scores than on-campus charter schools and districts, averaged across all grades taking the ISAT. This holds true for all students and economically disadvantaged students.



Source: IDE 2026 ISAT Results.
Note: Results show the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced across all tested grades, weighted by the number of students tested at each school so that larger schools count proportionally more. Some charter schools are reported by the state within a host district rather than separately. Where their results are separately reported they have been assigned to the charter category; one such school remains within its host district because its results are suppressed. The Idaho Report Card withholds results for student groups too small to report and adjusts others to protect student privacy; schools whose results are withheld are excluded from these averages rather than counted as zero. Nearly all tested students are represented in the all-student figures, and a somewhat smaller share in the economically disadvantaged figures, where more schools fall below the reporting threshold.

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 2015–2026 ISAT Results for all students.

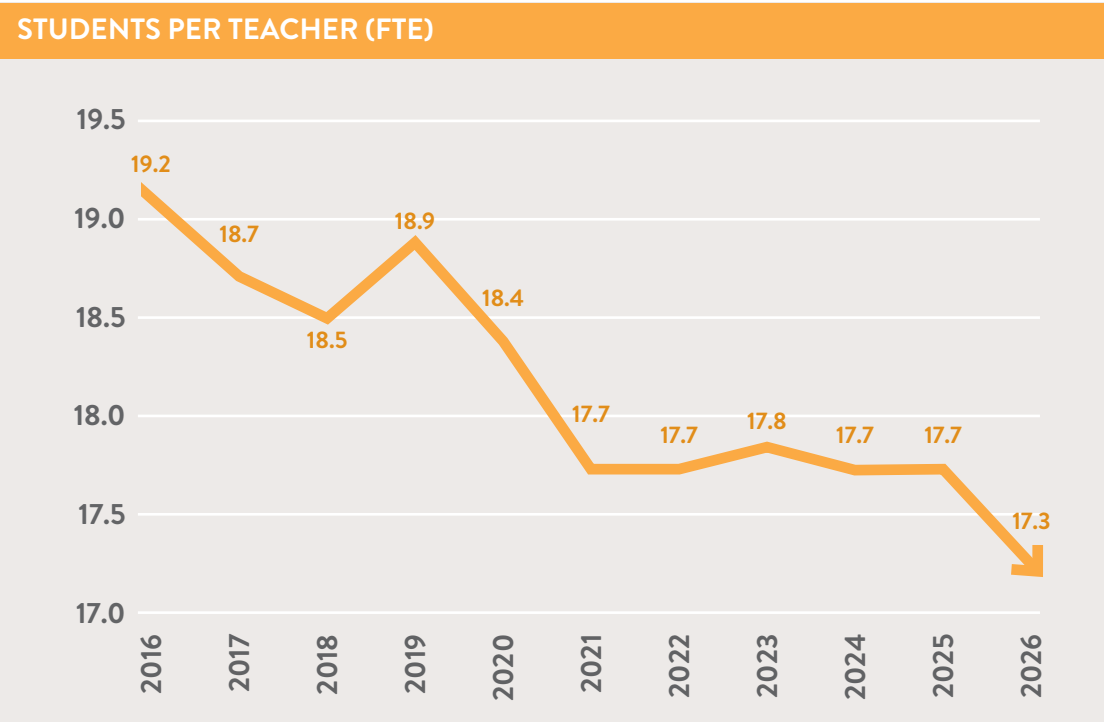
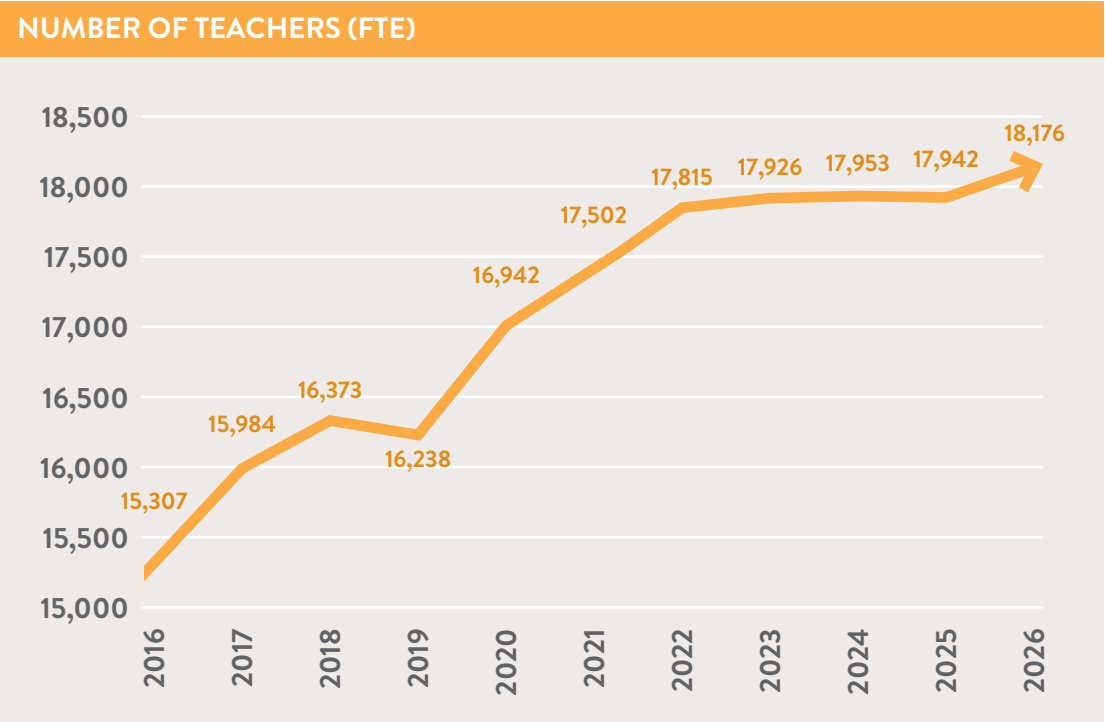


IDAHO'S EDUCATORS



PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

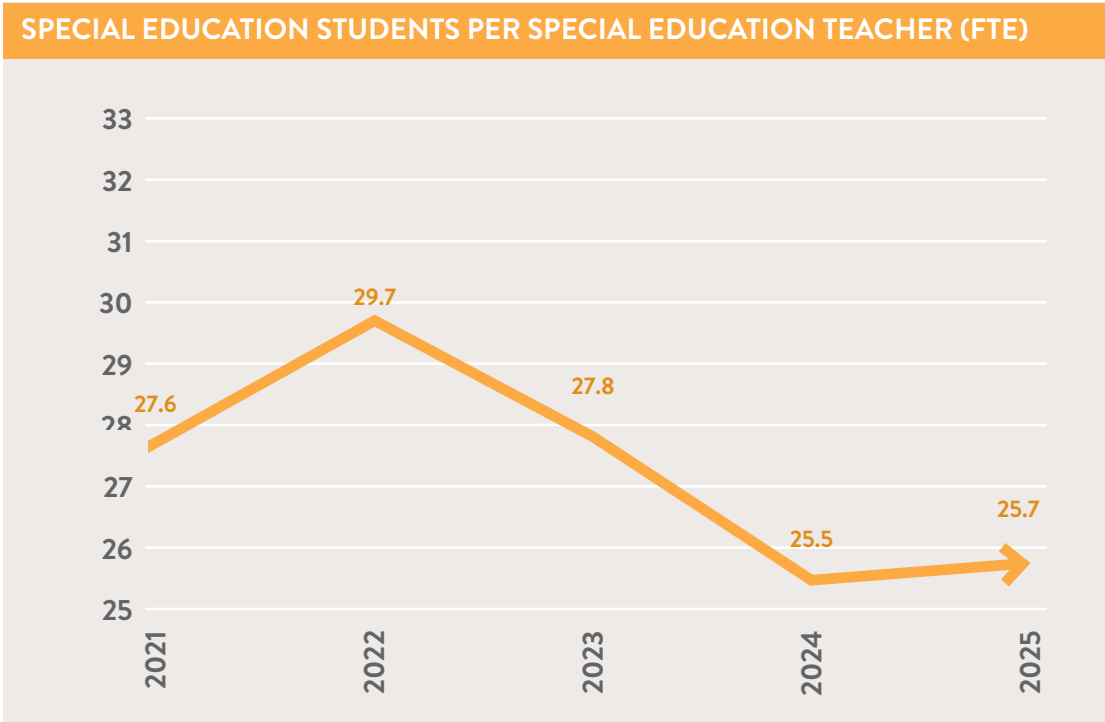
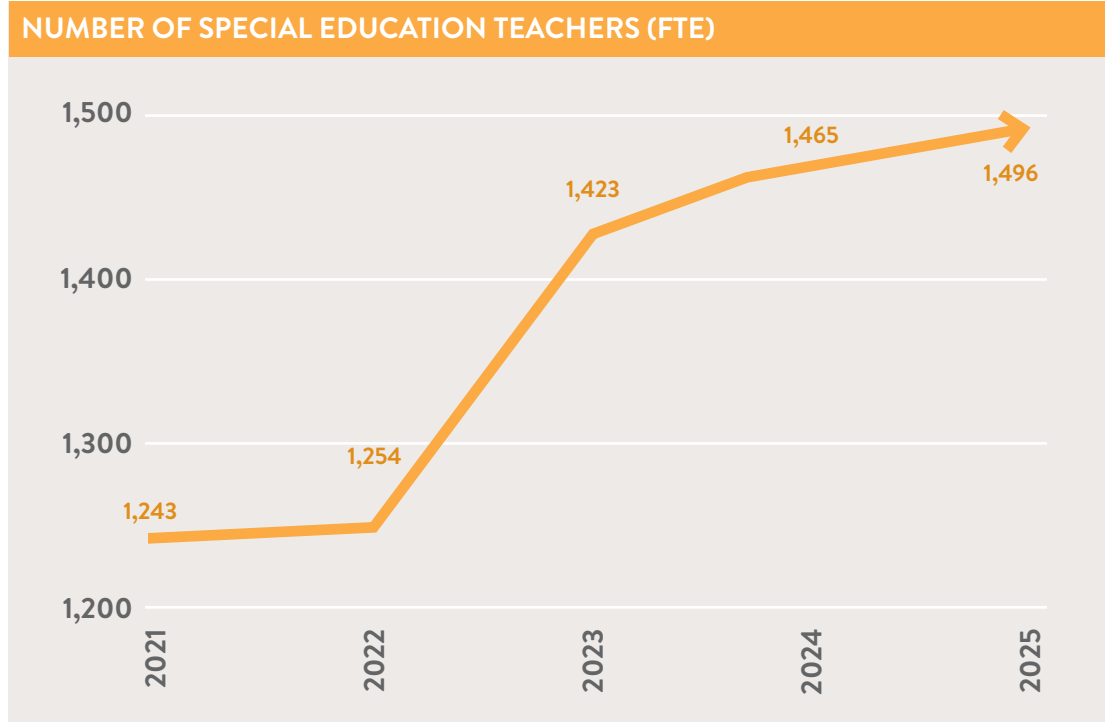
Idaho public schools employ roughly 19,000 teachers, with about 18,000 full-time equivalent teachers, or about 17 students per teacher.



Source: For 2026, IDE Public School Finance Staffing, Staff Salary Summaries ([Public School Finance](#)) (including preschool).
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 since 2022.



Source: Special Education instructors for school-age children and enrollment counts 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

As of 2020, more than three in four Idaho teachers are female, and over 90% are white. Almost all Idaho teachers hold a bachelor's degree or higher.

	STATEWIDE	
	NUMBER OF TEACHERS	PERCENT OF TEACHERS
TOTAL TEACHERS	18,643	100%

RACE OR ETHNICITY		
White	17,417	93.4%
Hispanic or Latino	764	4.1%
Multiracial	261	1.4%
Other	205	1.1%

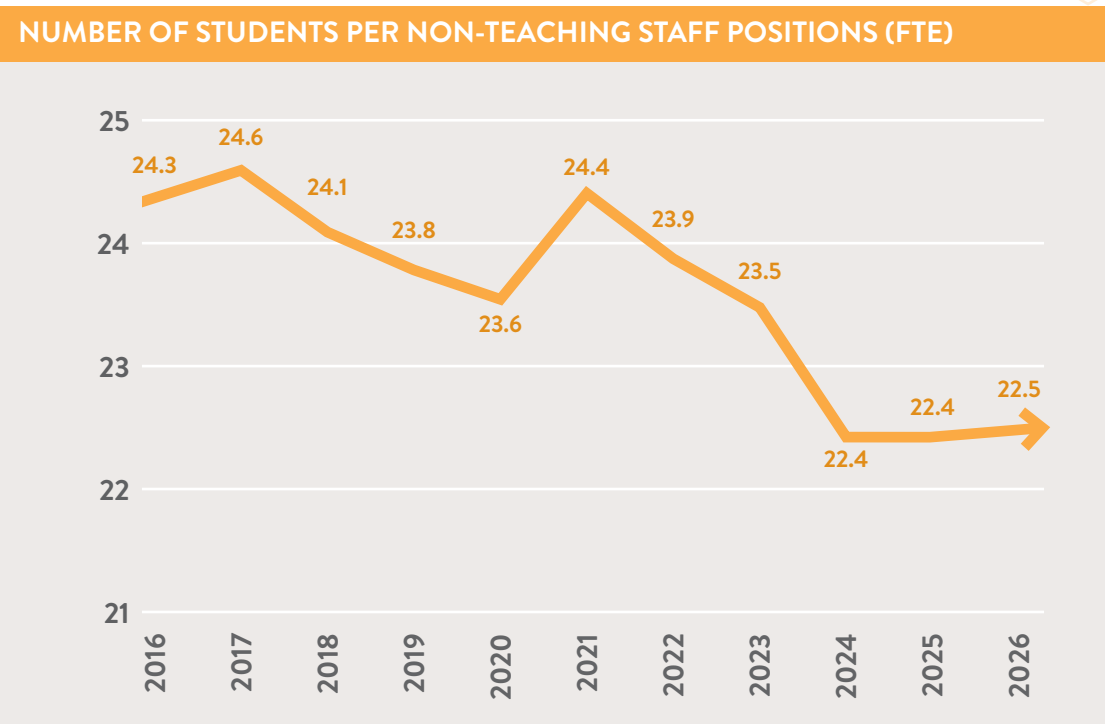
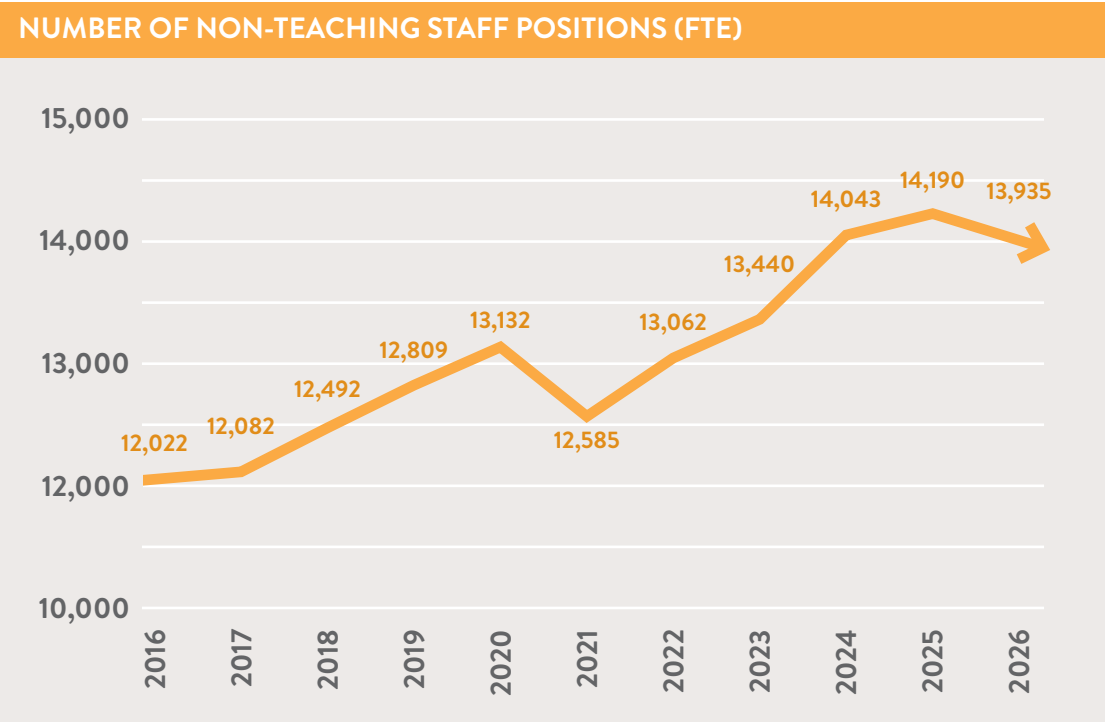
GENDER		
Female	14,150	75.9%
Male	4,493	24.1%

HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
Doctorate	1,193	6.4%
Master's	6,786	36.4%
Bachelor's	10,515	56.4%
Other Degree or Certificate	N/A	N/A

Source: [NCES Reports](#): Teachers' race/ethnicity: Percentage distribution of public K–12 school teachers, by race/ethnicity and state: 2020–21; Average and median age of public K–12 school teachers and percentage distribution of public school teachers, by age category, sex, and state: 2020–21; Teachers' highest degree earned.
Note: Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Educational Attainment data as of 2020, reflecting the most up-to-date data from NCES. The number of total teachers is shown for 2020. The average age of teachers in the state is 43.

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: Number represent Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions rather than unique total staff members. Students include pre-school.

STAFF POSITIONS IN IDAHO SCHOOLS

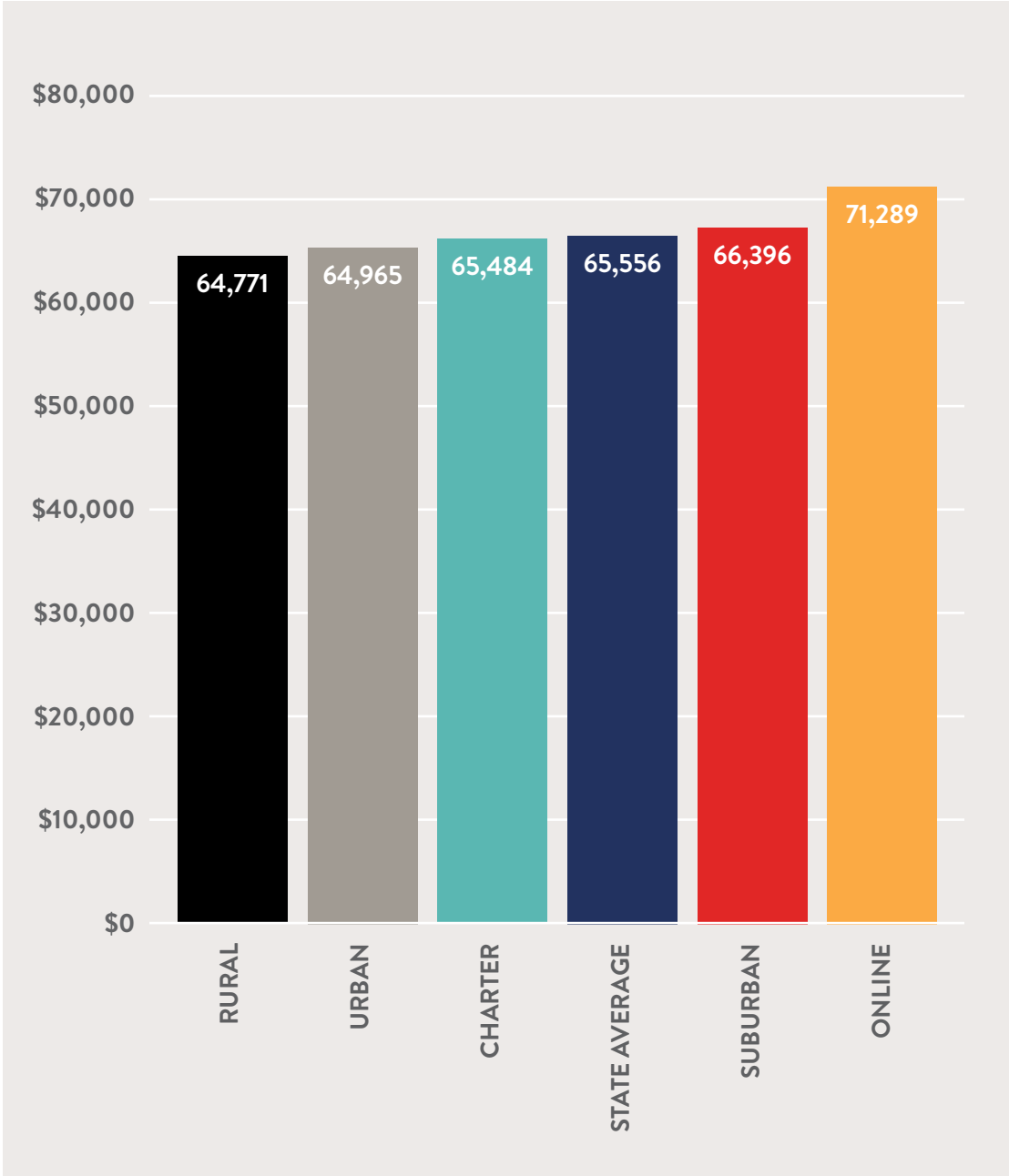
Classroom teachers represent about one half of the total staff positions in Idaho's public schools. Other common staffing positions include those that support students and teachers in the classroom (like paraprofessionals), pupil services staff (like nurses, social workers, and advisors), and custodial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

POSITION DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF STAFF POSITIONS	PERCENT OF ALL STAFF POSITIONS
District Administrators	256	<1.0%
School Administrators	1,293	3.1%
Instructional	19,327	46.8%
School Counselors	826	2.0%
Other Pupil Services	1,129	2.7%
Paraprofessionals	6,975	16.9%
Food Service Professionals	1,876	4.6%
Clerical Staff	2,542	6.2%
Transportation Staff	1,573	3.8%
Safe Environment Staff (Crossing guards, Security, etc)	729	1.8%
Athletic Staff	947	2.3%
Custodial Staff	1,649	4.0%
Library Professionals	437	1.1%
Classroom Assistants	218	<1.0%
Information Technology Professionals	492	1.2%
Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Professionals	617	1.5%
All Other Positions	400	1.0%
TOTAL	41,289	100%

Source: IDE Public School All Staff Salary Summary ([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.

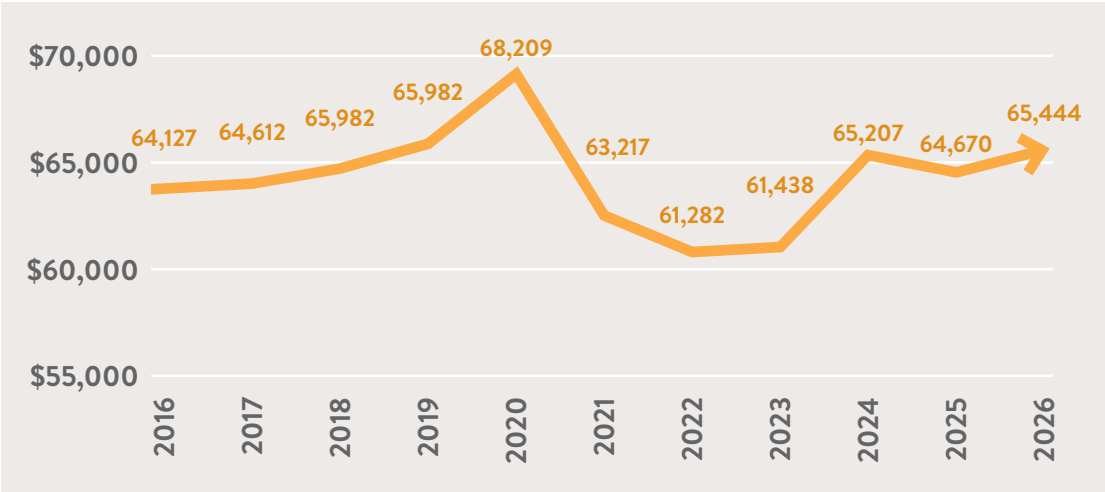


Source: IDE, All Staff Salary Summary by District Charter, 2025-2026, [Public School Finance](#).
Note: Statistics do not include Head Teachers. Salaries include extra pay and FTE, not raw employee numbers. See note above on Public School Students by Typology for description of methodology used to determine district typologies. Graph shows averages across districts, not averages across all districts weighted by the number of their teachers. One statewide provider reported total teacher salaries that work out to under \$2,000 per full-time-equivalent teacher. This reflects how that provider reports staffing rather than actual compensation, and its data have been excluded. Also excluded are a small number of entities that are neither school districts nor charter schools and so carry no typology.



TRENDS IN TEACHER SALARIES

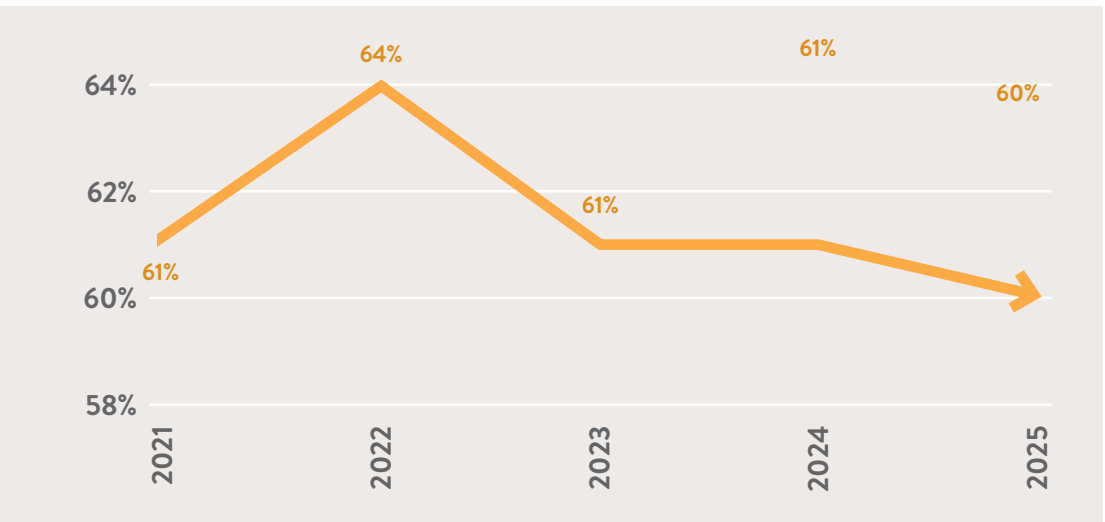
Adjusted for inflation, average teacher salaries in Idaho have ranged between approximately \$60,000 and \$66,000 per year since 2016.



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 FY25 salary data were adjusted to 2026 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."

TEACHER RETENTION RATES: FIVE YEAR RETENTION RATES

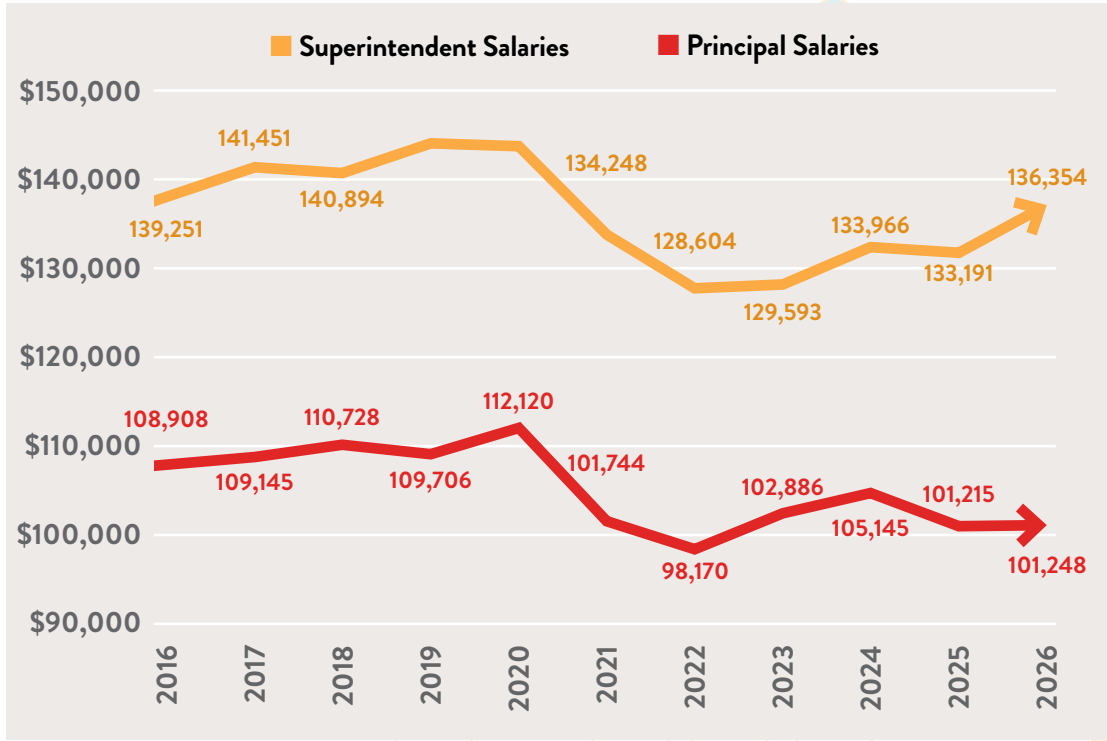
Idaho retains between 60% and 66% of its new teachers after five years.



Source: Idaho State Board of Education, Idaho Educator Pipeline Reports. Idaho has not published a 2026 Pipeline report.

TRENDS IN SUPERINTENDENT AND PRINCIPAL SALARIES

Adjusted for inflation, average superintendent salaries have remained near \$135,000 per year since 2016, while principal salaries have remained near \$105,000 per year.

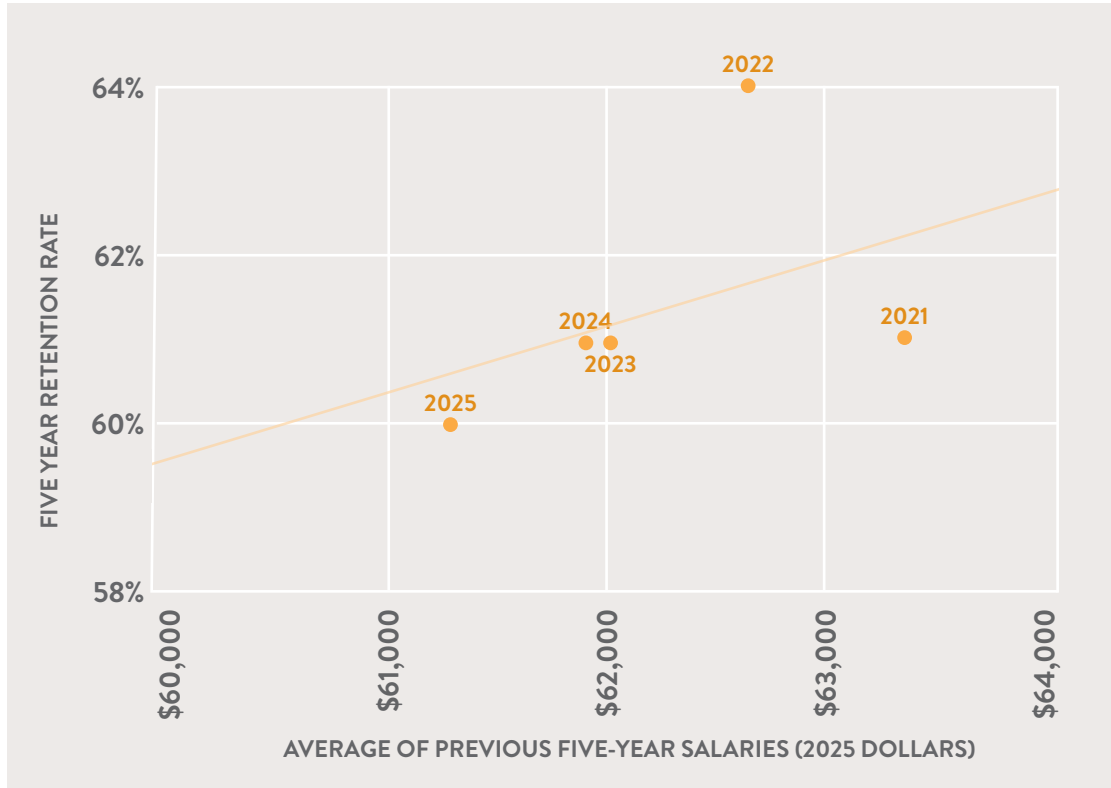


Source: IDE Public School Finance Staffing, Staff Salary Summaries ([Public School Finance](#)).
Note: The FY16 to FY25 salary data were adjusted to 2026 price levels using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index - [CPI Inflation Calculator](#).



TEACHER RETENTION RATES VERSUS AVERAGE SALARY

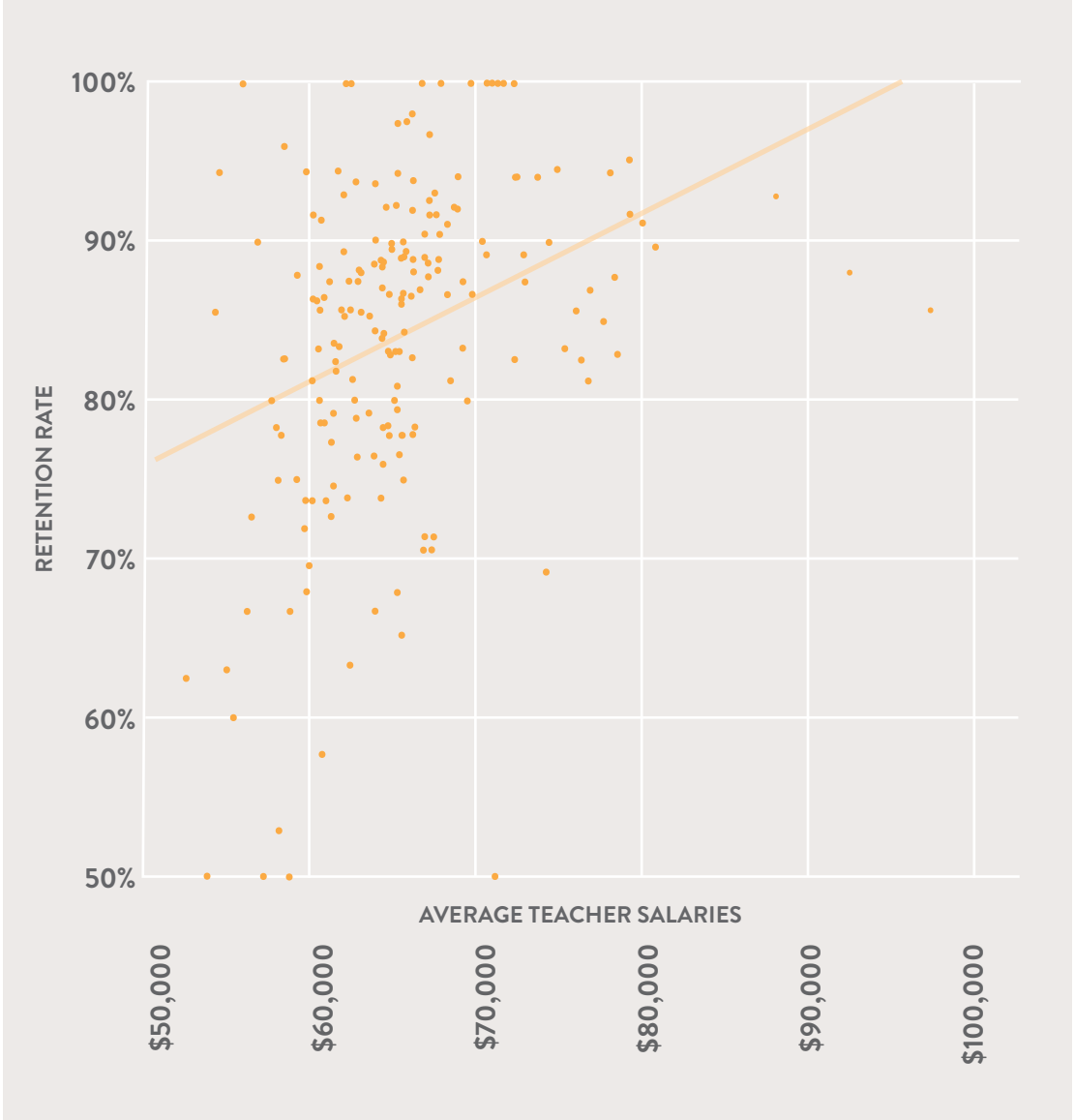
While there are limited data available, there appears to be a somewhat positive relationship between teacher salaries and retention rates.



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. Idaho has not published a 2026 Pipeline report.

TEACHER RETENTION RATES VERSUS AVERAGE SALARY BY DISTRICT

Teacher salaries and instructional staff retention rates both vary widely across the state in the 2025-2026 school year, and while there is a positive relationship between them, the relationship is noisy.



Source: Retention rates by district from IDE PRR (2025-2026). Salaries from [Public School Finance](#) (2025-2026 All Staff Summary by District Charter).
Note: One provider listed an average salary of less than \$2,000 per teacher. These data were omitted.

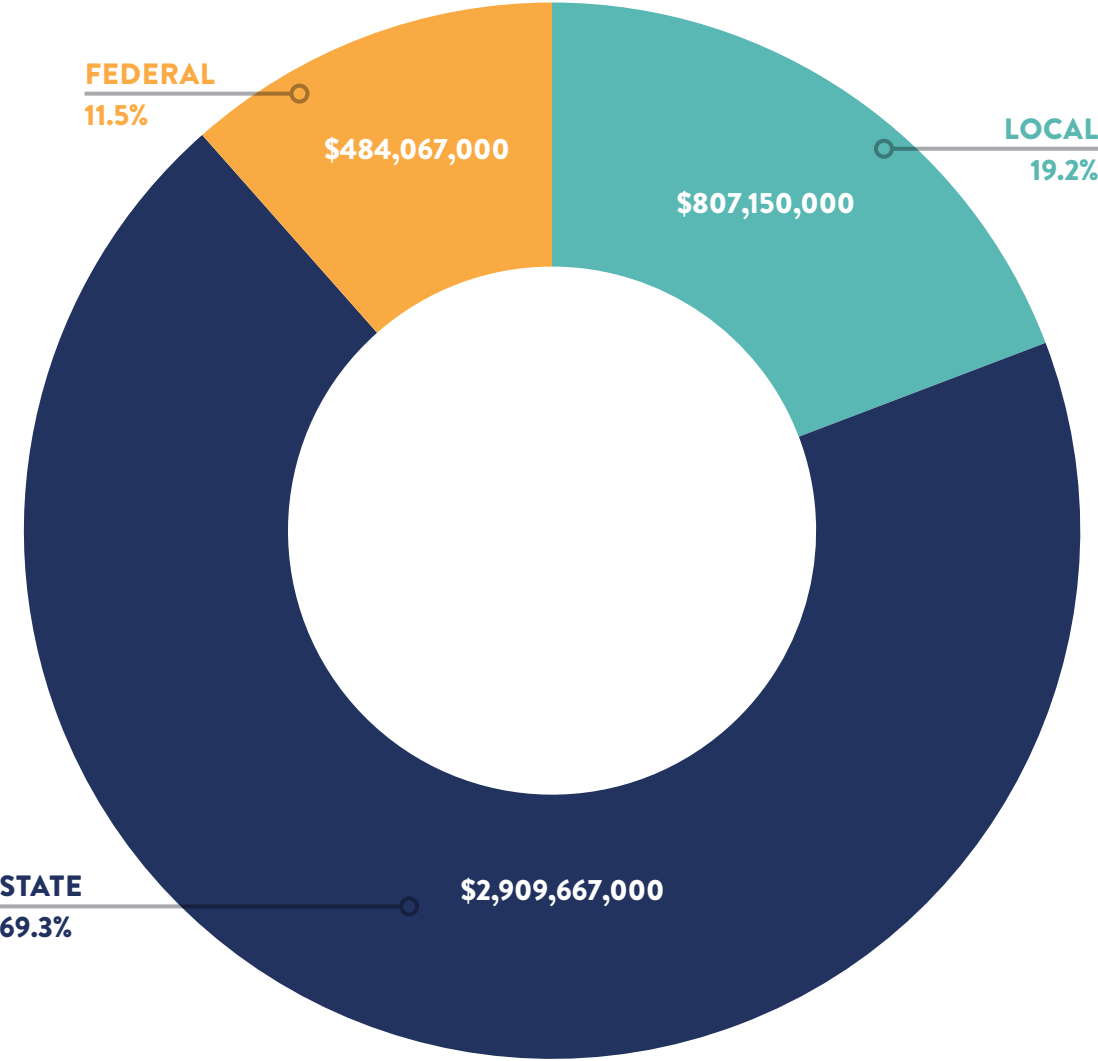


SCHOOL FUNDING



HOW IDAHO FUNDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

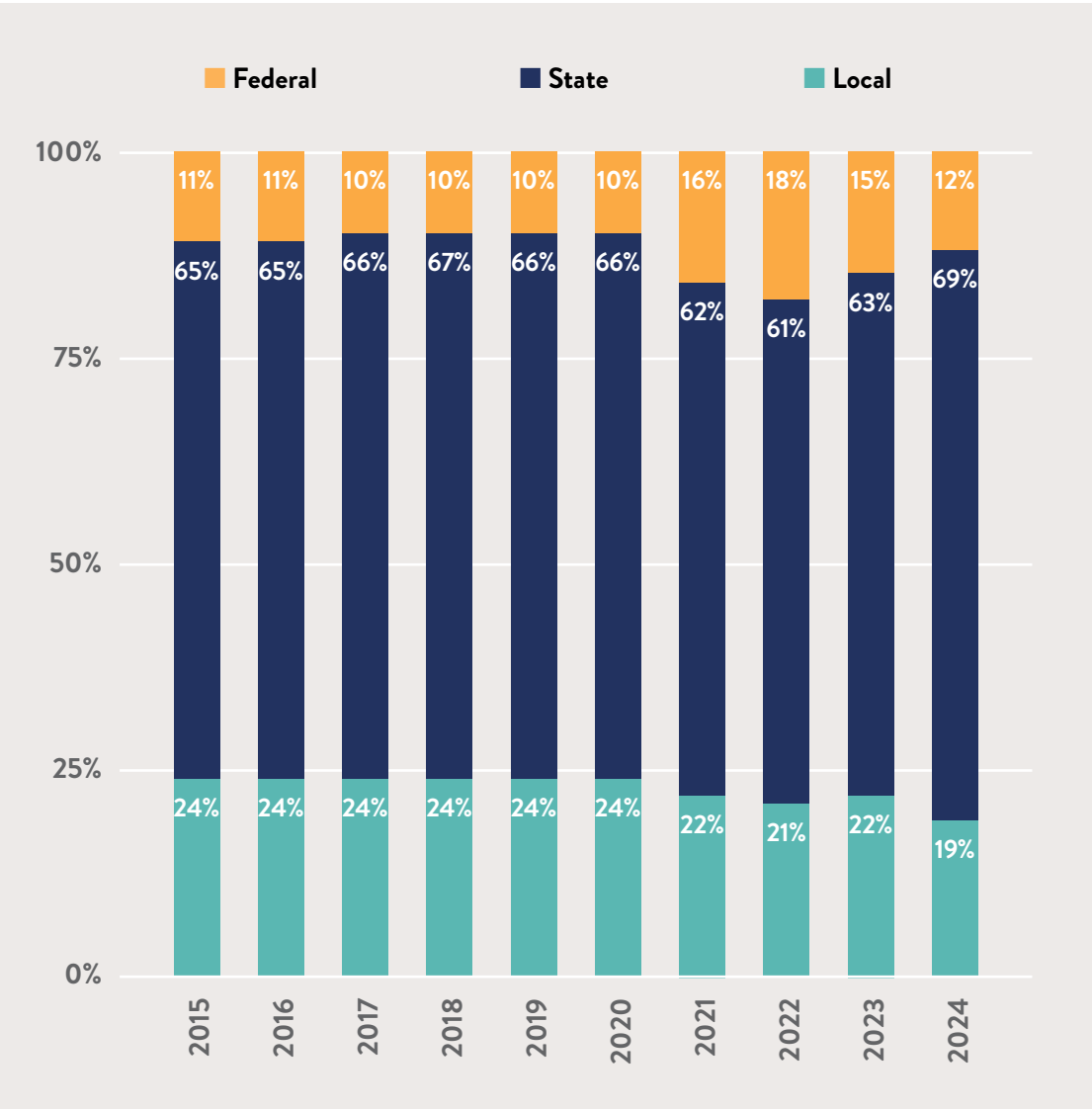
Idaho public schools receive about \$4 billion per year via local, state, and federal tax revenues. In the 2023-2024 school year, state funds provided, on average, 69% of total revenues for school districts, while local taxes contributed 19%. Federal sources provided the rest.



Source: [National Center for Educational Statistics \(NCES\) Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Years 2023-2024](#). These are the most recently available data.

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.

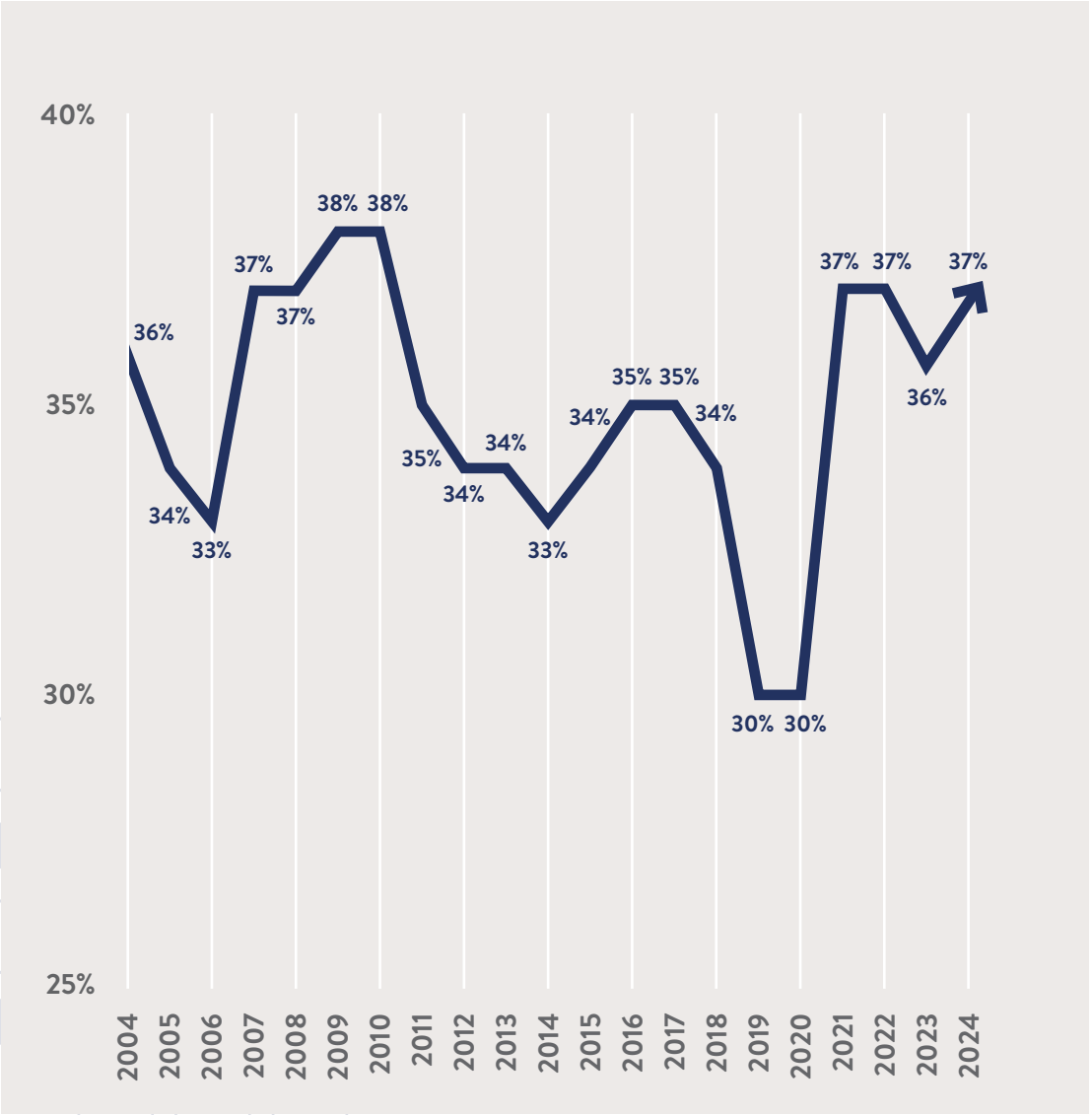


Source: NCES Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Years 2014-15 through 2023-24.



EDUCATION IN THE STATE BUDGET

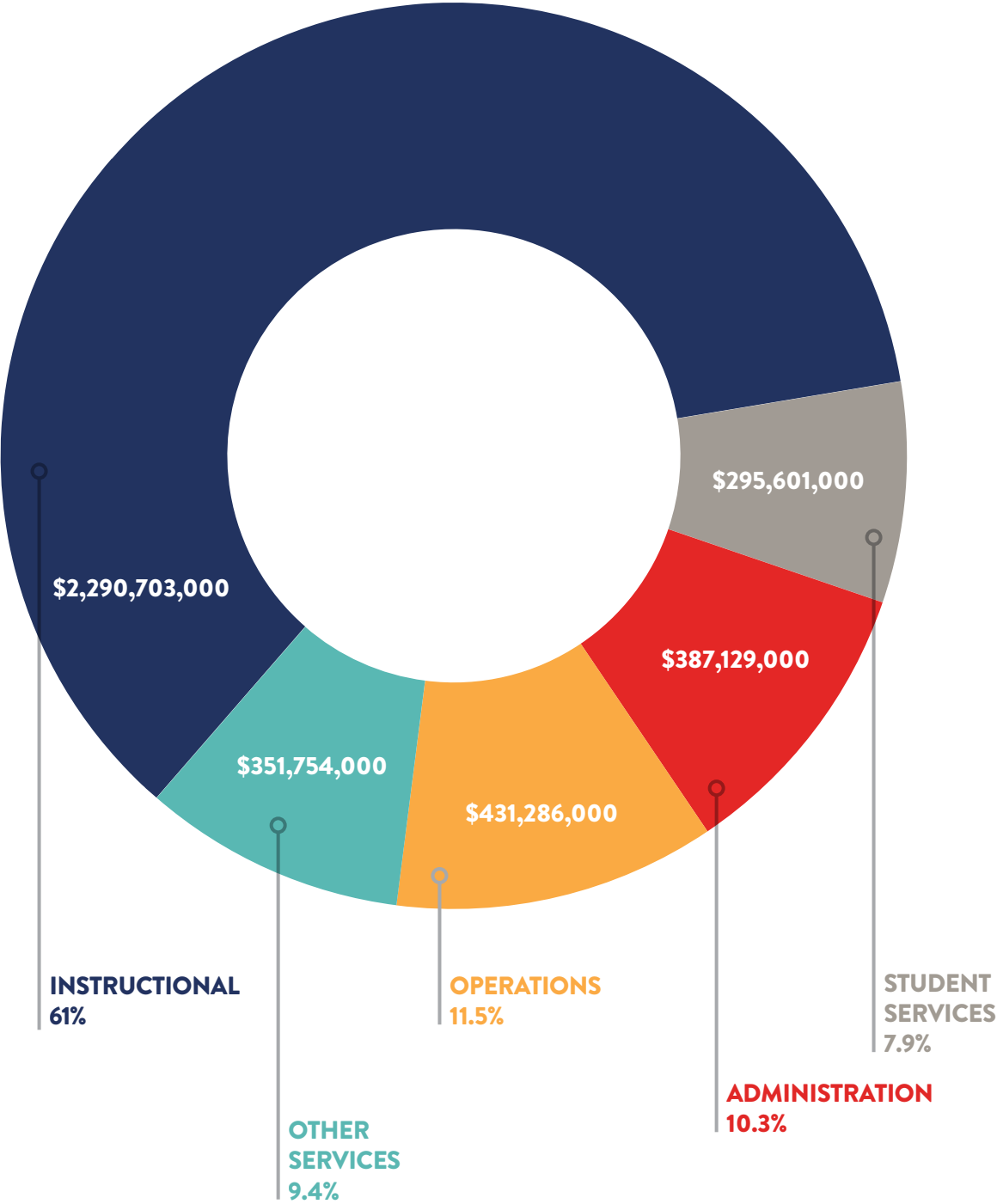
Between 30% and 40% of Idaho’s total state budget is spent on K-12 education each year.



Source: [National Association of State Budget Officers 1987-2024 State Expenditure Report Data](#); [2025 State Expenditure Report](#).

HOW FUNDS ARE SPENT

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

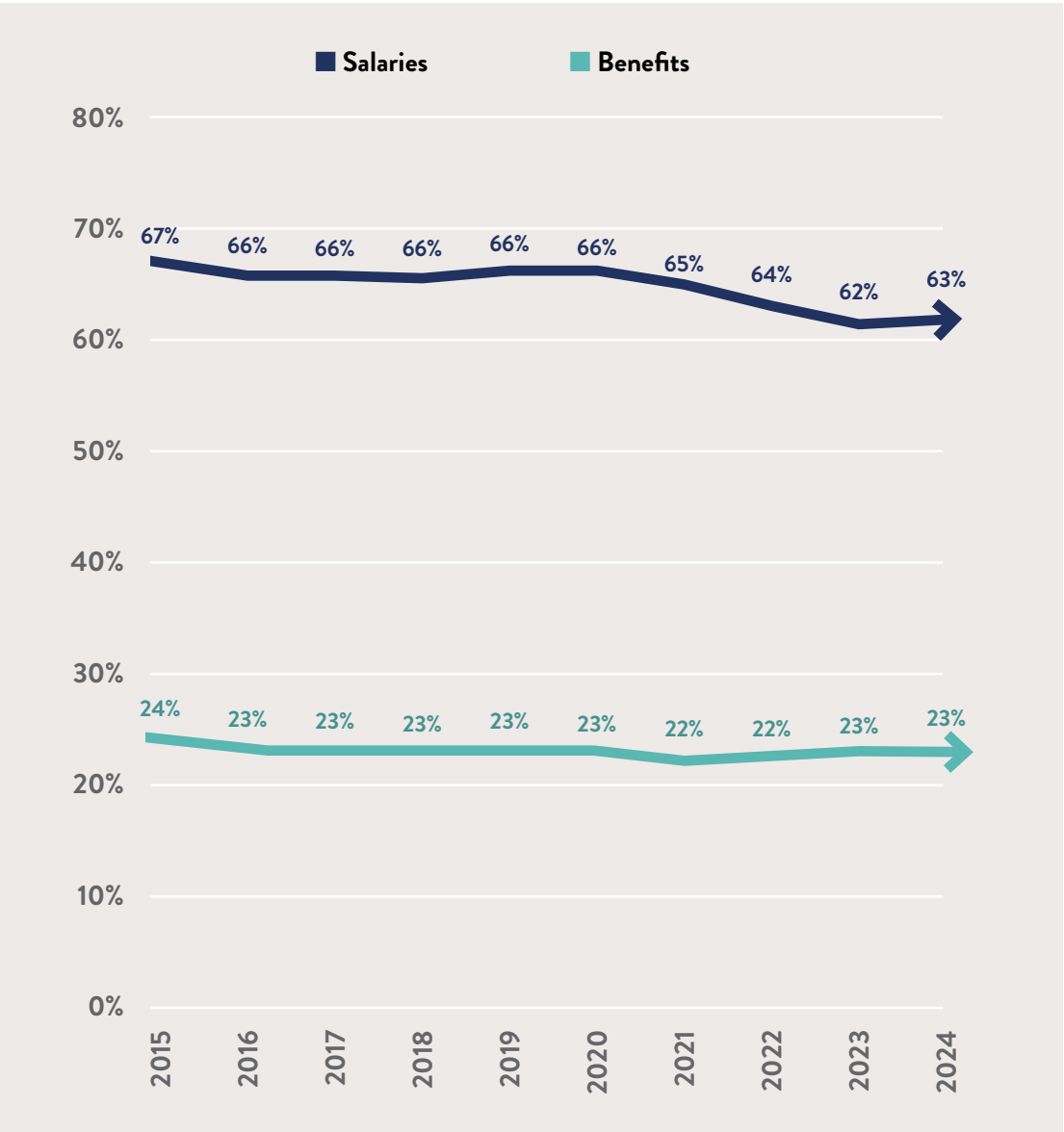


Source: [NCES \(Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year 2023–24 \(Fiscal Year 2024\)\)](#).



HOW FUNDS ARE SPENT: SALARIES AND BENEFITS

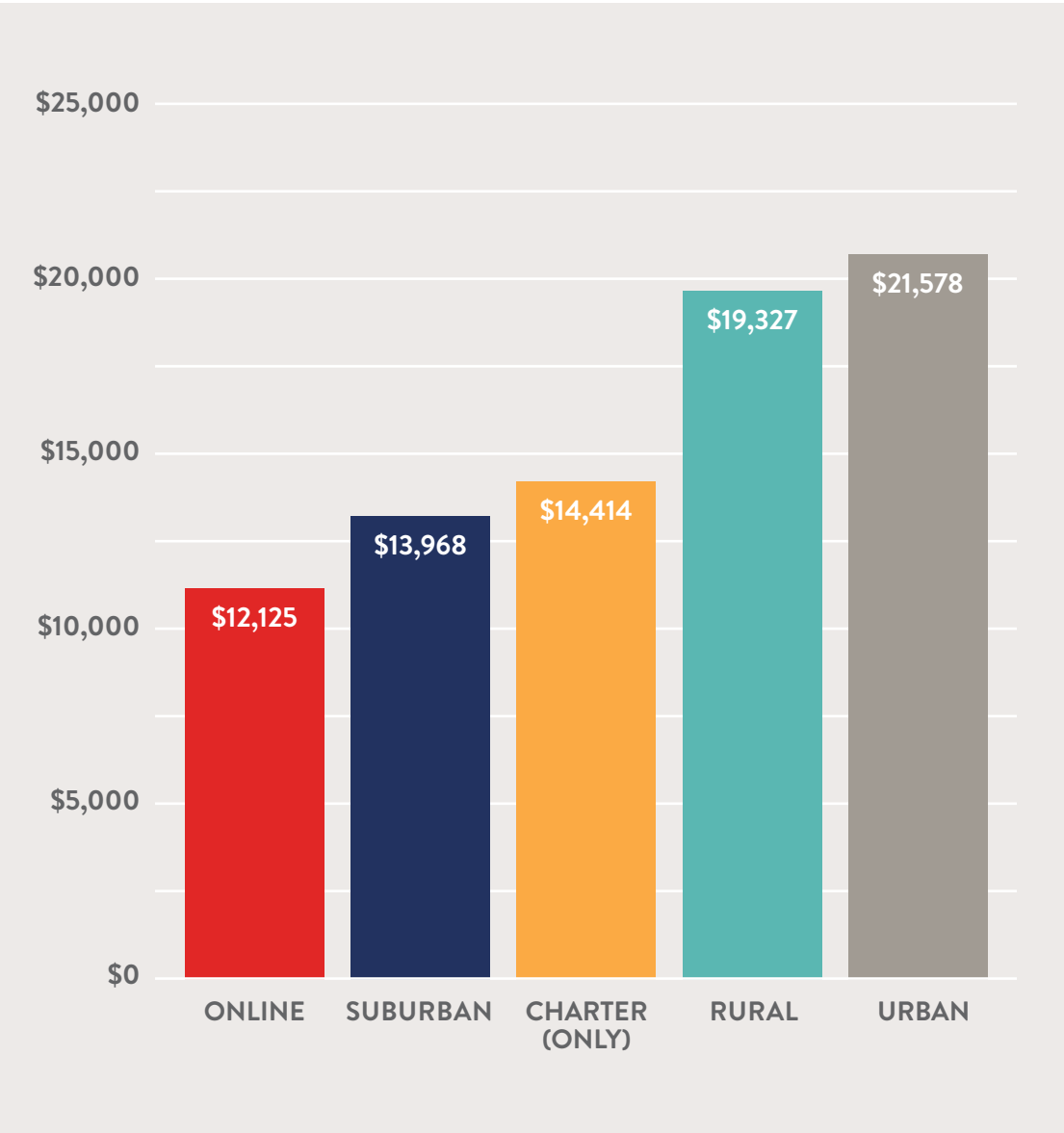
About 63% of public schools' instructional expenditures are spent on salaries and about 23% on benefits.



Source: NCES Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Years 2014-15 through 2023-24.

EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL

On average, Idaho school districts spent about \$14K per pupil in total operational expenses in FY25. Rural and urban districts had the highest per pupil expenditures, while online districts spent the least.



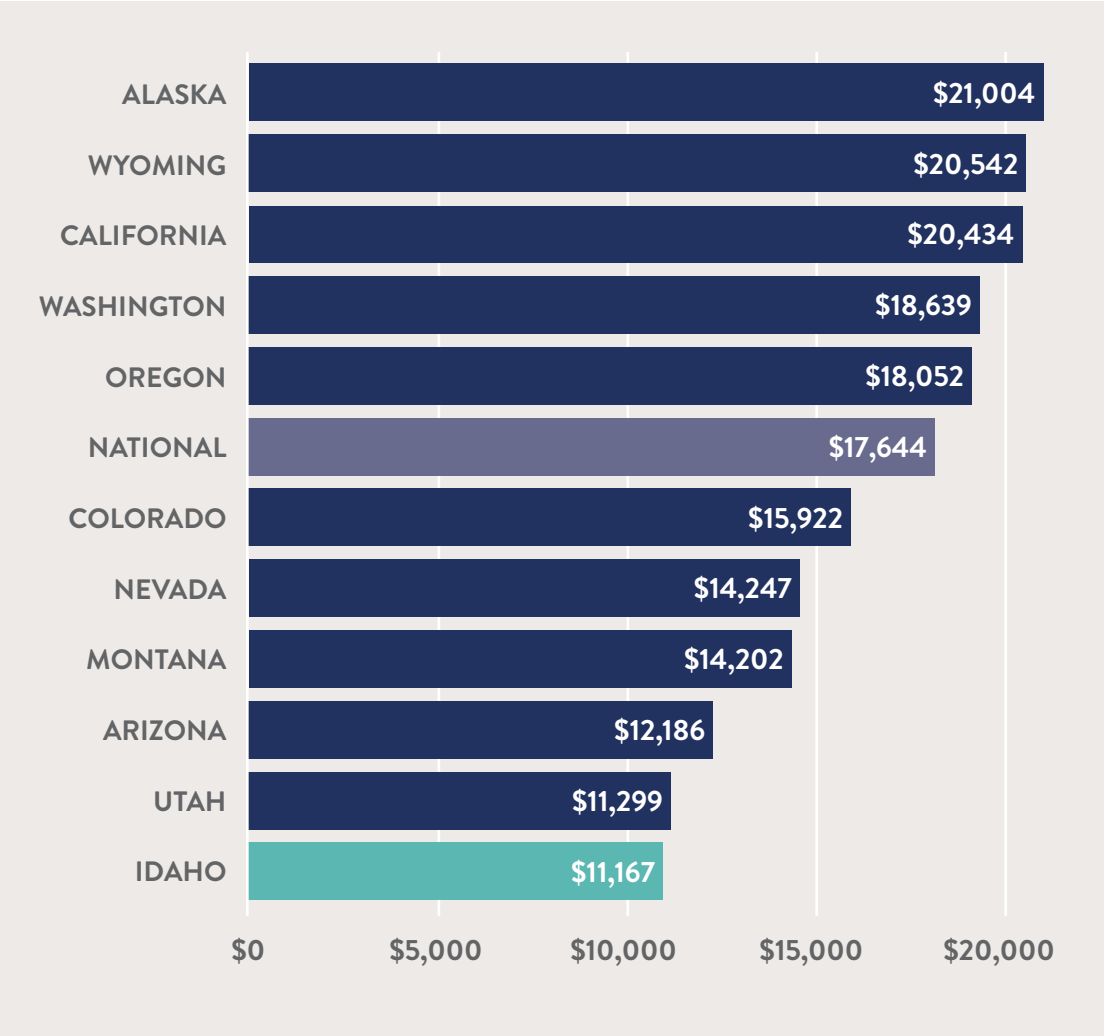
Source: Public School Finance - IDE; Historical-Enrollment-by-District-or-Charter-Summary.
Note: For methodology of district classification, see notes to "Public School Students by Typology". Figures are total FY2025 expenditures from all funds, divided by 2024-2025 enrollment, so that spending and enrollment cover the same year. Per-pupil expenditures at the district level are higher than those reported from federal data because district expenditures include allocations of local revenue sources like special levies. The Suburban, Rural, Urban, and Online categories include charter schools; the Charter (Only) row overlaps them and is not a separate category. Statewide average across all districts is about \$13,685.

Because these are all-funds figures, they include capital assets and debt service, which together account for about 14 percent of statewide spending but arrive unevenly — a single construction project can raise one district's per-pupil figure several-fold for one year. The urban average is especially sensitive to this, resting on only five small LEAs. One urban charter school undertook a major building project in FY2025, with capital and debt service making up about 71 percent of its spending for the year; that school alone raises the urban average by roughly \$5,600, and without capital and debt service the urban figure would be near \$15,900 rather than \$21,600. A second, smaller change is that one urban school was reclassified as suburban this year under the typology methodology described above; because it spent below the urban average, its departure raised the urban figure further. Year-over-year comparisons of the urban and online categories should therefore be made with caution.



EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL COMPARED TO NEARBY STATES

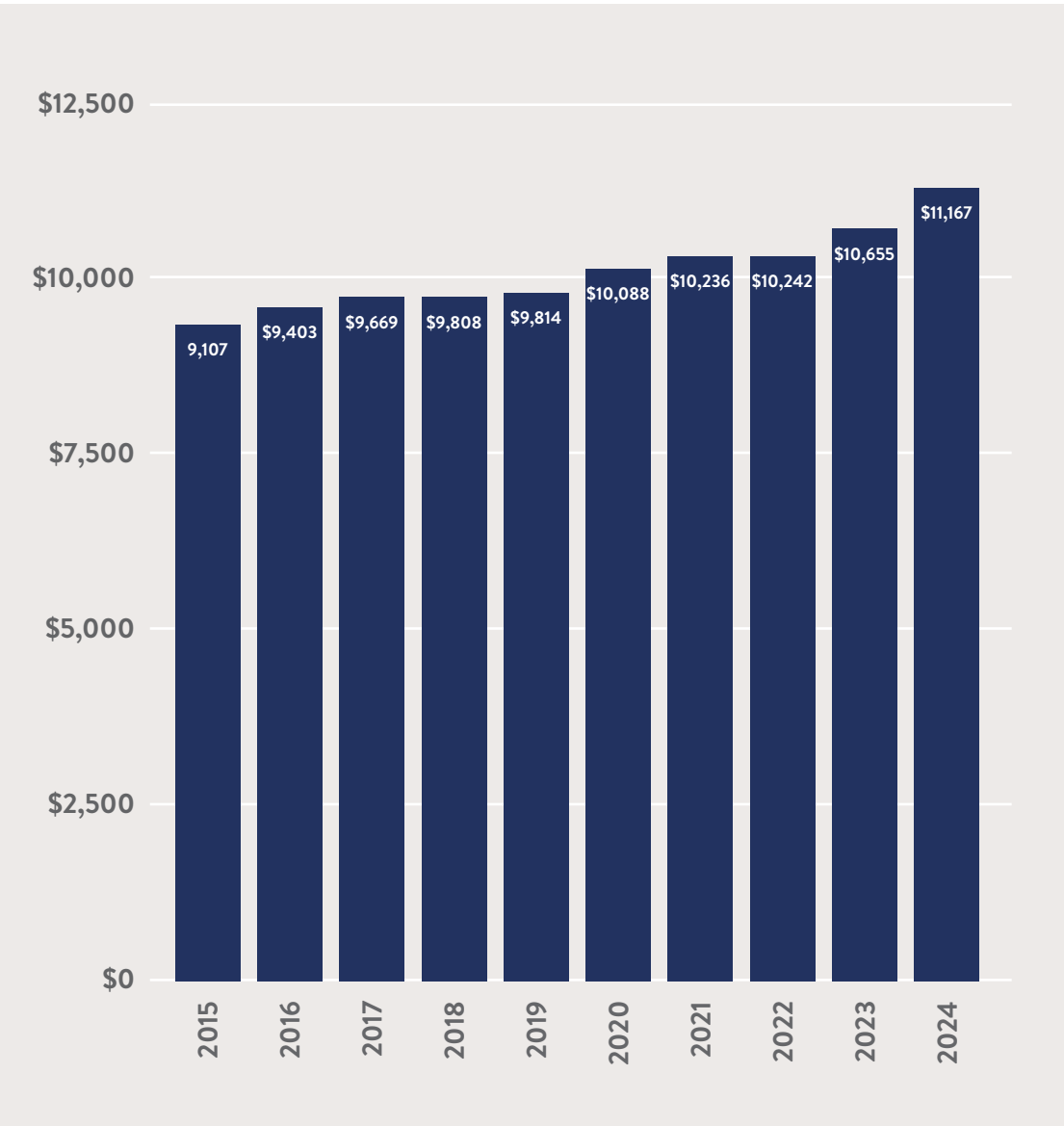
Idaho spends much less than the national average and other Western states per pupil each year.



Source: Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year 2023–24 (Fiscal Year 2024).
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). Data reported are not for the same time period as the table “Expenditures Per Pupil” above.

PUBLIC SCHOOL EXPENDITURES OVER TIME

Adjusted for inflation, expenditures per pupil have steadily increased in Idaho between 2015 and 2024.

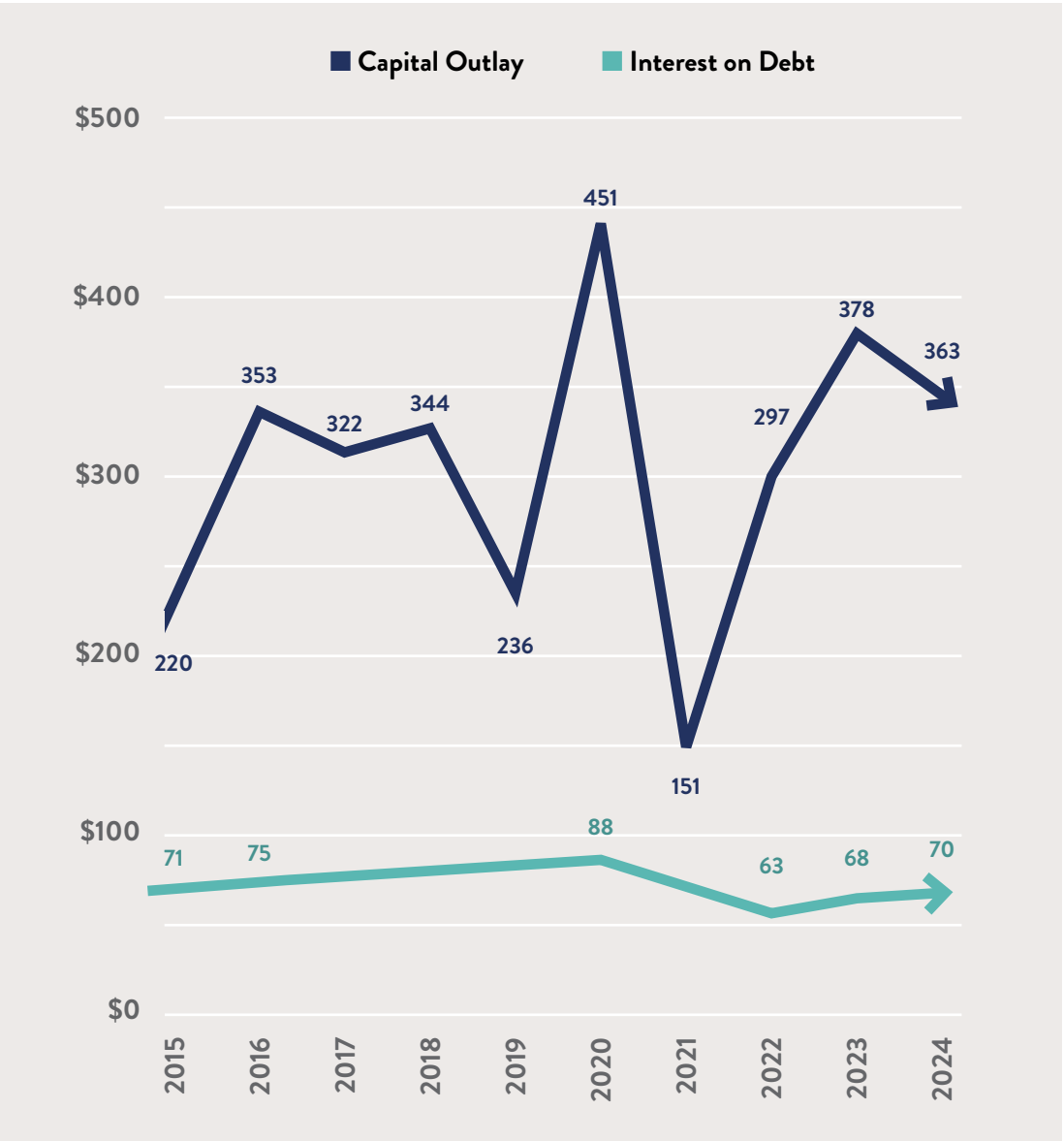


Source: NCES Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Years 2014-15 thru 2023-2024.
Note: Expenditure data were adjusted to 2024 levels using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index.



CAPITAL OUTLAY AND DEBT SERVICE

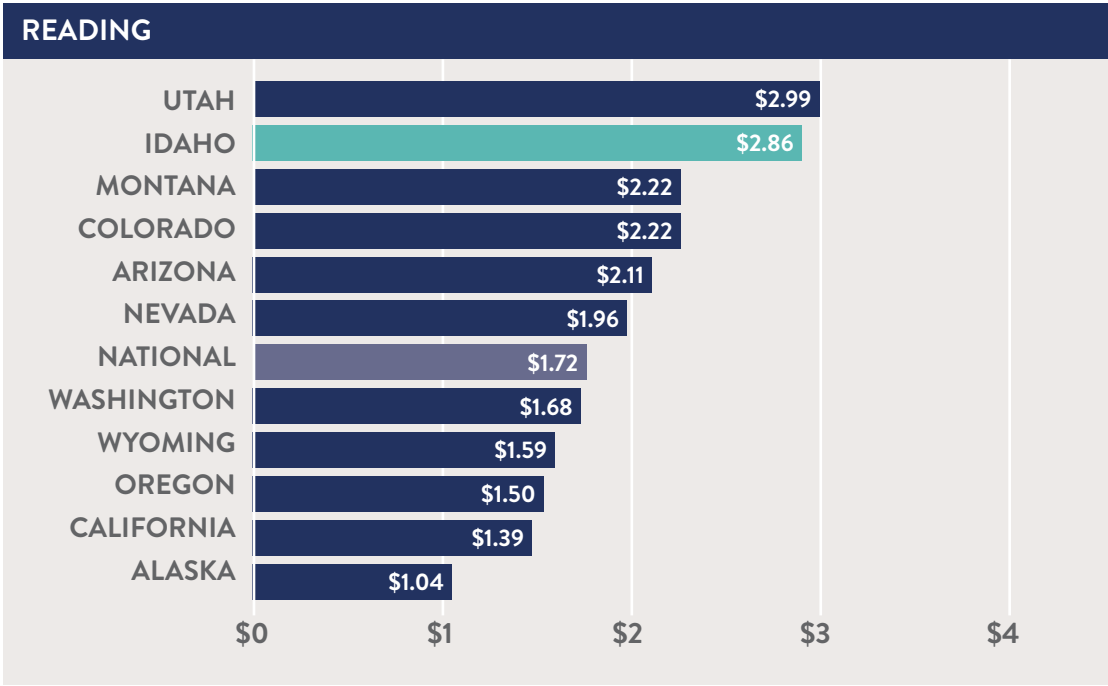
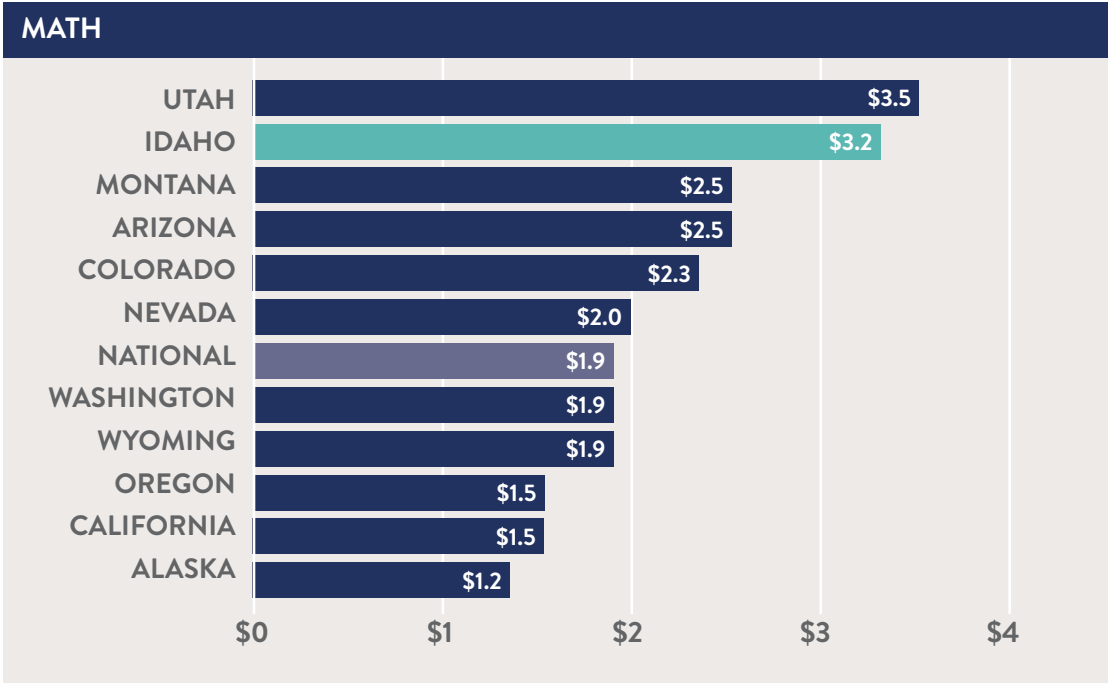
Over the past decade, Idaho public schools have spent between \$150M and \$450M per year on capital outlay—expenditures on construction, land, and equipment, with around \$70M on interest on debt.



Source: NCES Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Years 2014-15 thru 2023-24.
Note: Numbers are in millions of dollars adjusted to 2024 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 2023-24 (Fiscal Year 2024). See notes to state expenditure data from above. Test score data are from NAEP's Data Explorer for 2024. Calculations shown are the average of 4th and 8th grade percent proficiency 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

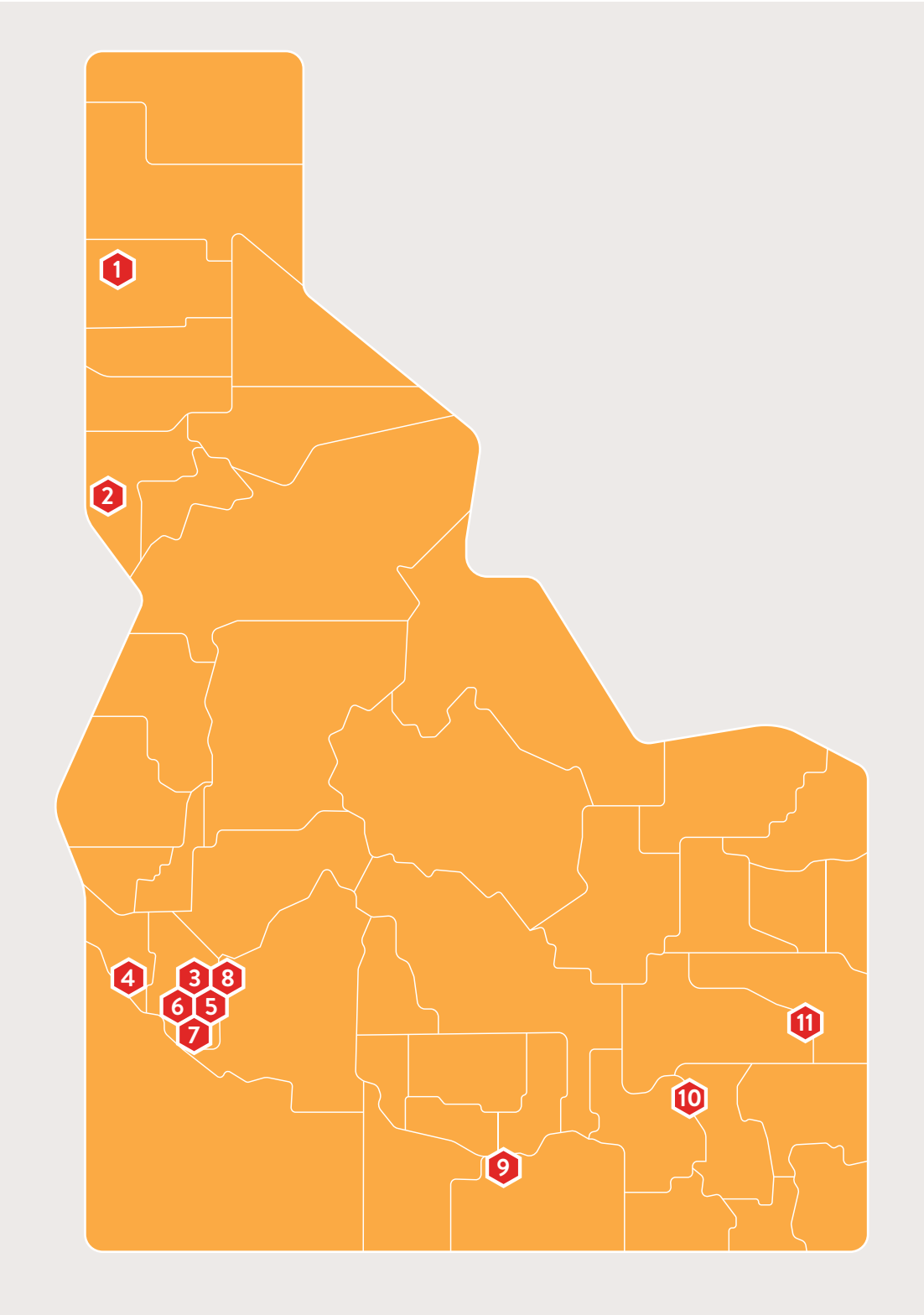


MAP OF TECHNICAL SKILLS CENTERS

Idaho has technical skill centers located throughout the state.

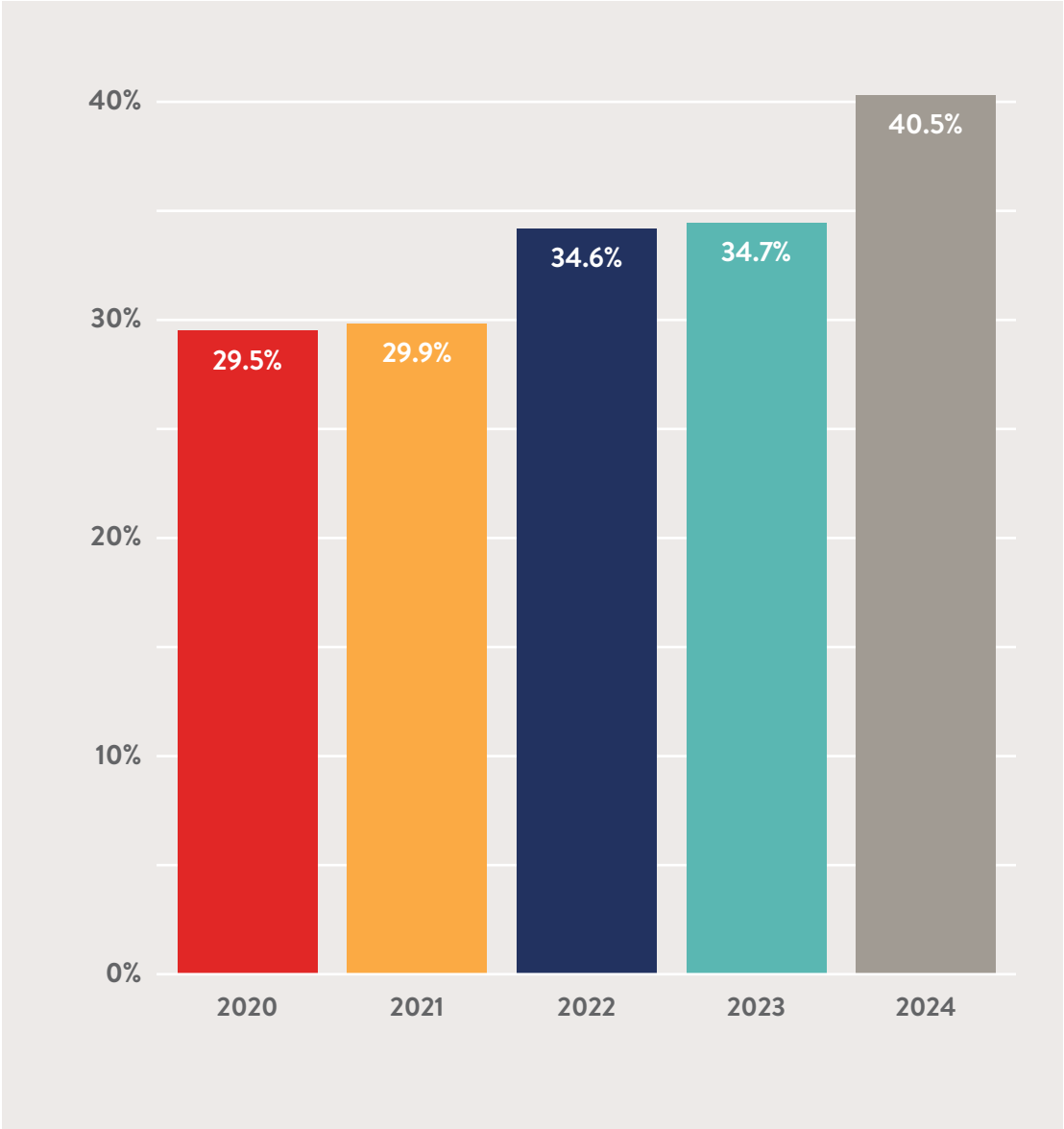
TECHNICAL SKILLS CENTERS	LOCATION	REGION
1. Kootenai Technical Education Campus (KTEC)	Rathdrum	1
2. A. Neil DeAtley Career Education Center	Lewiston	2
3. ADA Career-Technical Center	Meridian	3
3. Meridian Medical Arts Charter High School	Meridian	3
3. Meridian Technical Charter High School	Meridian	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](#).
Note: A secondary career technical center is an organized school that is separately located from the district's other schools and serves students from more than one school or district. Two of the centers listed here — Kuna School District CTC and Meridian Medical Arts Charter High School — do not appear on the Division of Career Technical Education's most recent published list, but both operate as career technical centers and are included on that basis.



CTE ENROLLMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL IDAHO ENROLLMENT

Around 40% of Idaho grade 7-12 students participated in at least one career and technical education course. In 2024, this meant that 61,349 students across the state participated.



Source: Idaho State Enrollment Data, United States Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education.





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NOTE FROM RESEARCHERS:

In the enclosed tables, enrollment data sometimes differ between tables. This is because, for instance, some state data were reported based on spring enrollment and others on fall enrollment, and some enrollment data include pre-school children. 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.

100% (\$13,200) of this project was funded by Federal CSP Grant dollars;
0% (\$0) of this report/event is funded by non-governmental sources;
total cost \$13,200.

REDFISH METRICS

