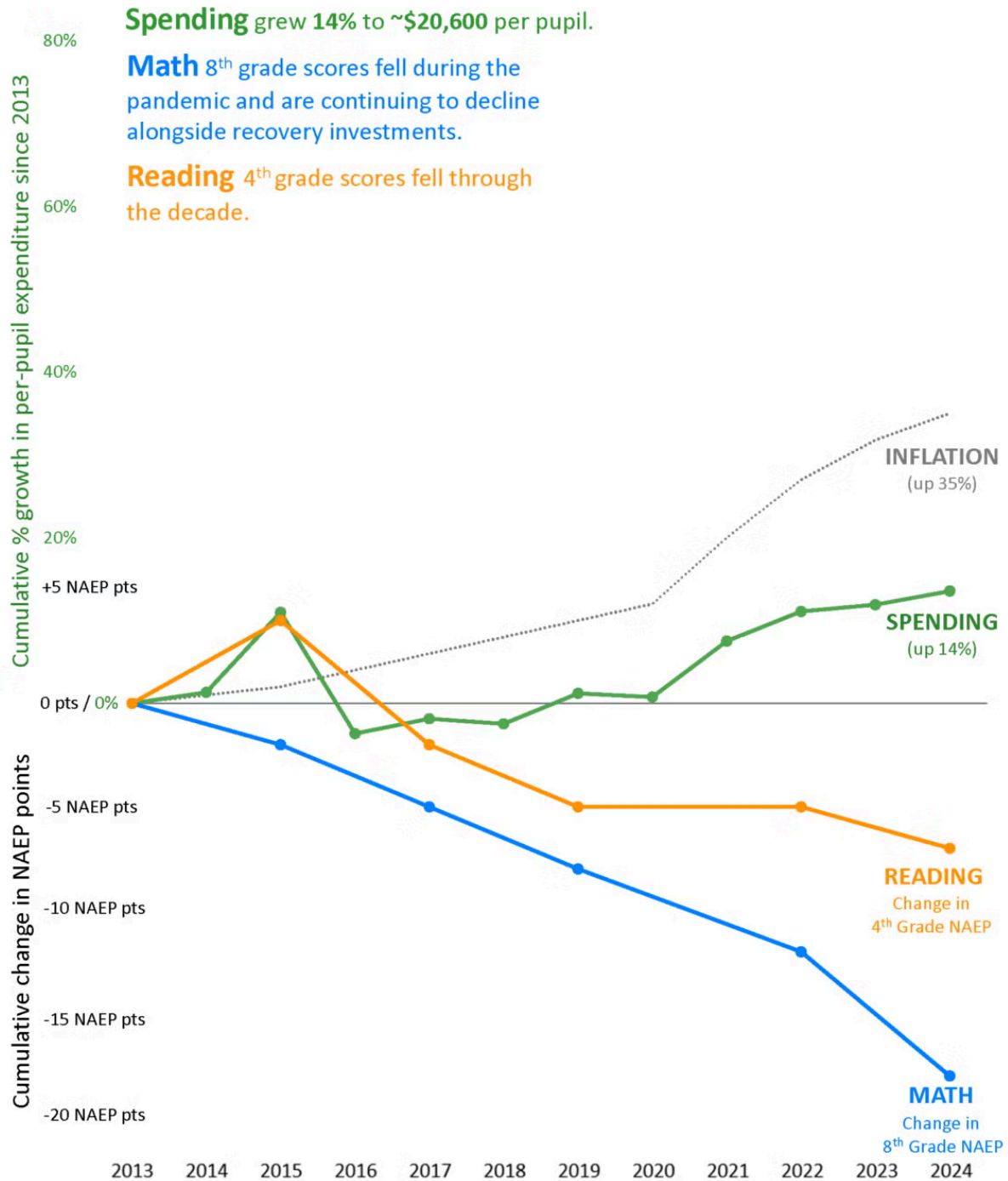




More education funding won't necessarily deliver better results for Alaska's students. Here's why:

1. Alaska students scored 51st nationally in 4th grade reading and math and 8th grade reading on the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress.
2. Despite delivering among the worst outcomes nationwide, Alaska spent \$20,340 per student in fiscal year 2023 ([Census](#)).
3. Alaska is not seeing an adequate return on its investment. The Edunomics Lab at Georgetown University plots a steady decline in reading and math scores since 2013 while spending is up 14 percent.
4. Even with no change to the base student allocation, Alaska's K-12 funding [would have risen](#) 34 percent since 2008 due to adjustment factors alone. Increases in the BSA cascade throughout the formula due to adjustment factors.
5. Legislators regularly allocate one-time funding to education, which is not typically accounted for in arguments that the base student allocation has not increased with inflation.
6. The federal government gave over half a billion dollars in Covid-19 relief funds to Alaska's school districts. Despite warnings that the funding would be one-time, districts used the funds for permanent program commitments.
7. Despite increasing spending, the number of "officials and administrators" grew 46.8 percent between 2008 and 2022, but the number of teachers fell 9.67 percent between 2008 and 2022. ([NCES data](#)).
8. Peer-reviewed research [finds](#) that education choice improves outcomes. Wolf et al found that, "More education freedom is [significantly associated](#) with increased NAEP scores and gains."
9. Alaska's charter schools [perform better](#) than their peers in traditional public schools regardless of ethnicity, subgroup, or gender. Alaska's charter [schools ranked #1](#) in a peer-reviewed study of charter schools nationwide.
10. Evidence shows that what matters more than [what we spend is how we spend](#). Targeting funding toward initiatives that successfully improve student performance, like early literacy programs, investing in high-quality teachers rather than administrators, and expanding access to education options that do more with less, will be more effective in improving outcomes.

## Alaska: Change in Spending and Scores since 2013



Analysis by Edunomics Lab using data from these sources: *Scores*: The Nation's Report Card (NAEP) 2013-2024. *Spending*: U.S. Census Annual Survey of School System Finances through 2023, then NEA's Ranking of the States estimate for 2024. *Inflation*: CPI, BLS. *Questions*: Edunomics@Georgetown.edu