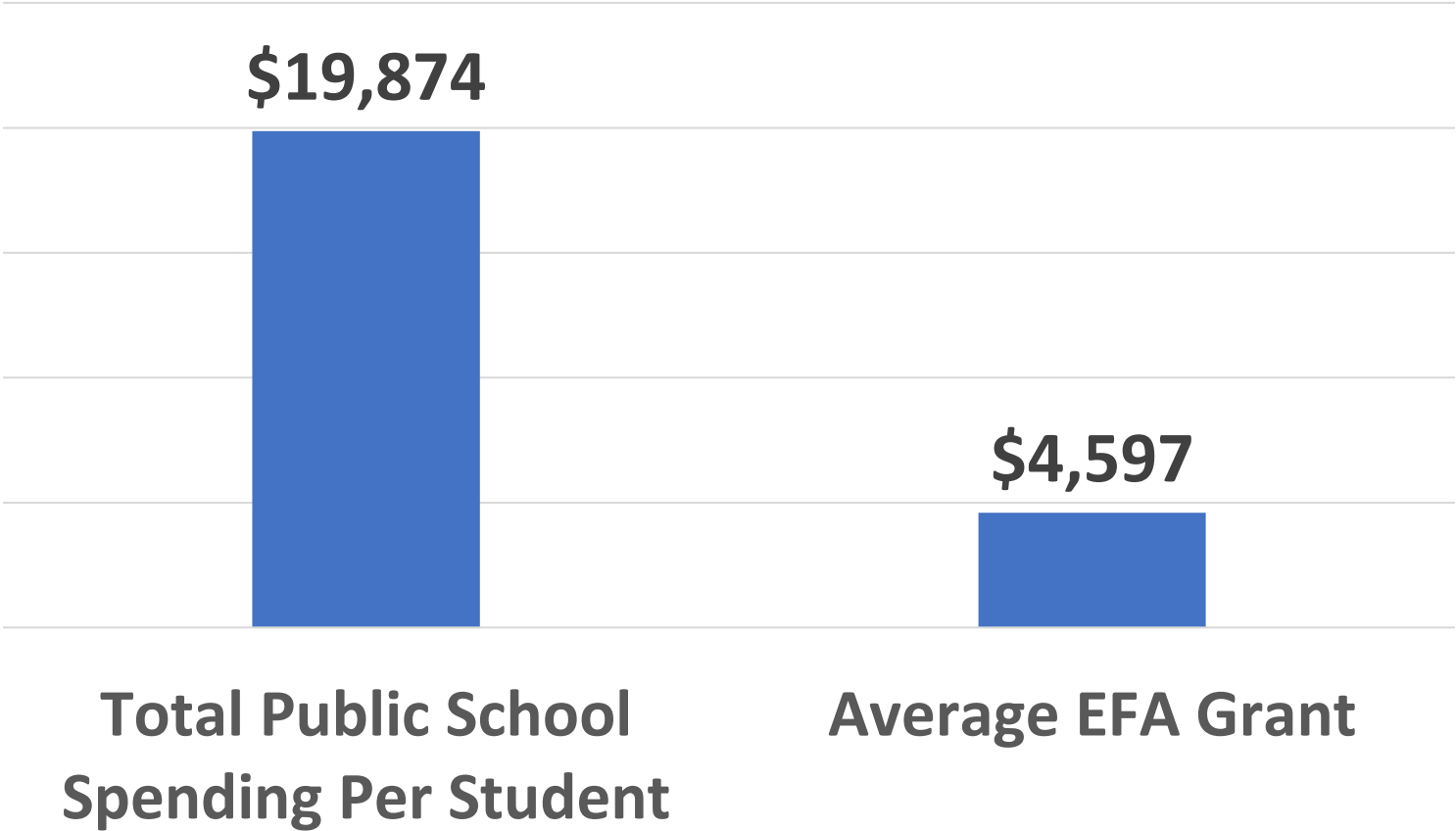
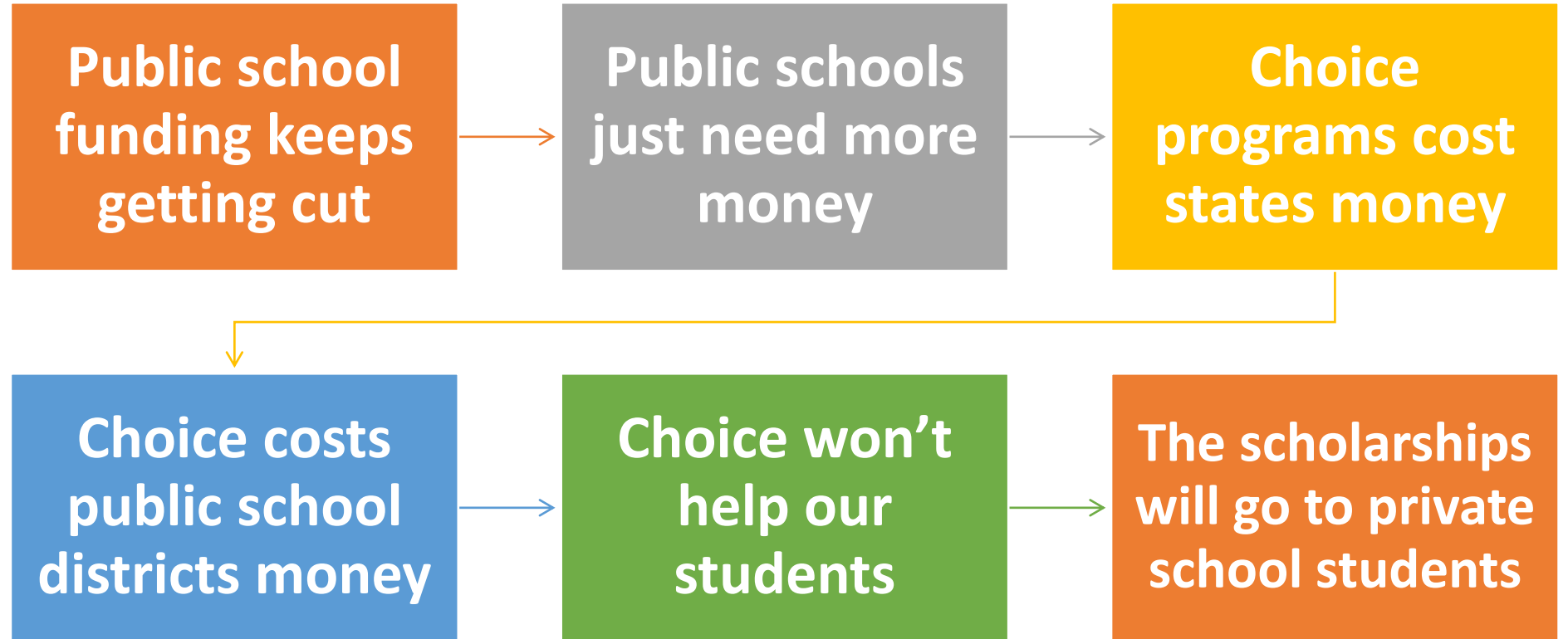


They are going to tell you the much shorter bar is the fiscal problem (New Hampshire, 2020 data)



Myths



MALARKEY



Choice Myths vs Choice Facts

Ben Scafidi

Friedman Fellow, EdChoice

Kennesaw State University

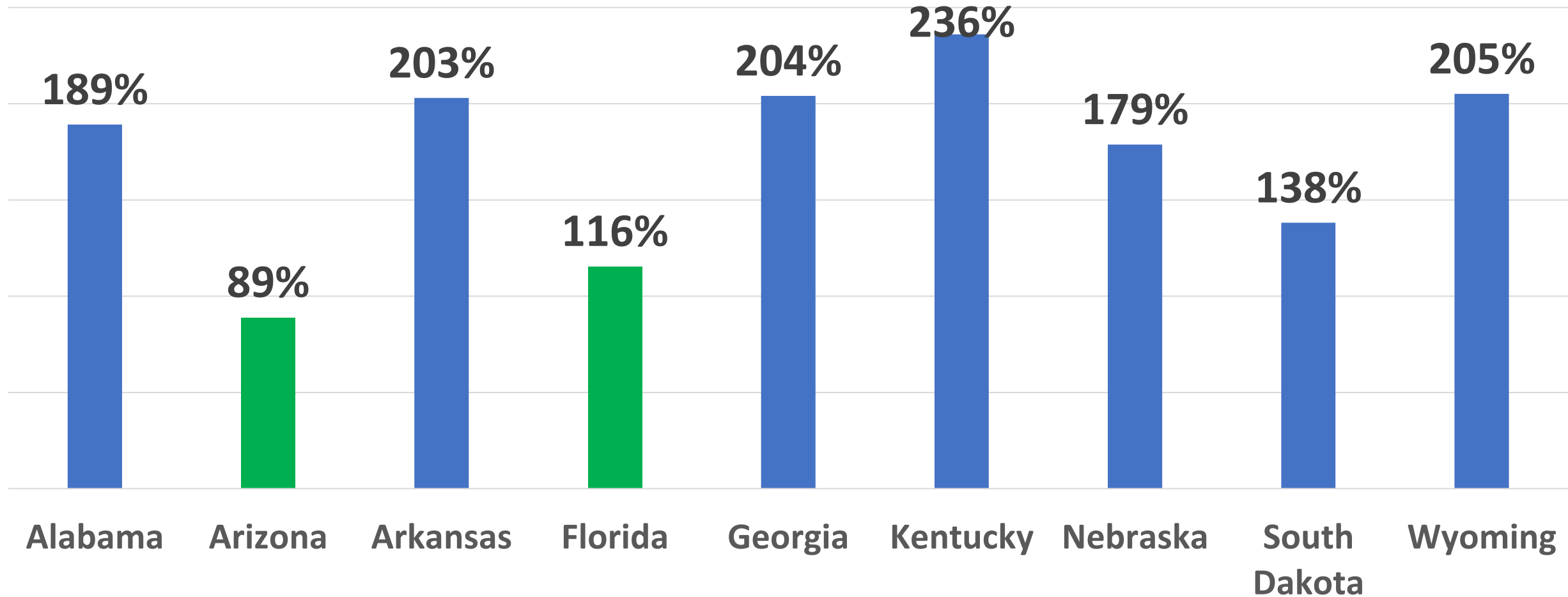
**Public School
Funding
Keeps
Getting Cut**

FALSE

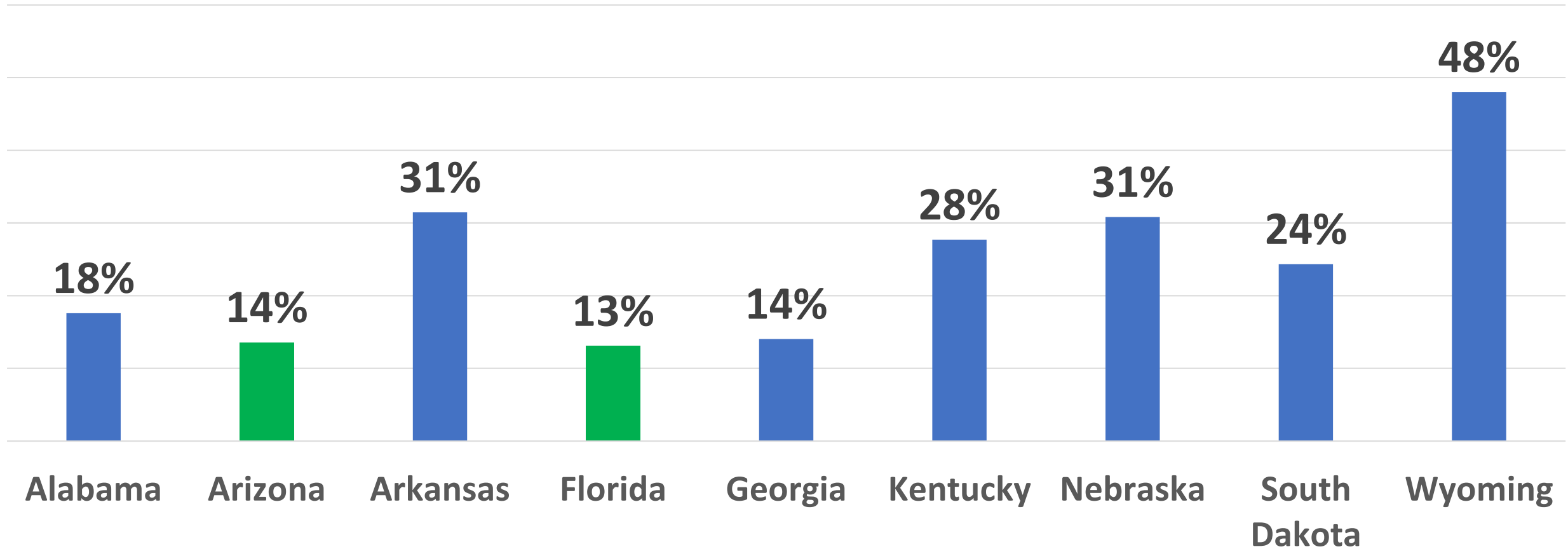


- **“Public investment in K-12 schools — crucial for communities to thrive and the U.S. economy to offer broad opportunity — has declined dramatically in a number of states over the last decade.”**

Increase in Current Expenditures Per Student, 1970 to 2018 (adjusted for inflation)



Increase in Current Expenditures Per Student, 2000 to 2018 (adjusted for inflation)



Total Expenditures Per Student, 2018

Alabama	\$10,831
Arizona	\$9,863
Arkansas	\$11,640
Florida	\$10,716
Georgia	\$12,040
Kentucky	\$12,427
Nebraska	\$14,650
South Dakota	\$12,062
Wyoming	\$18,288

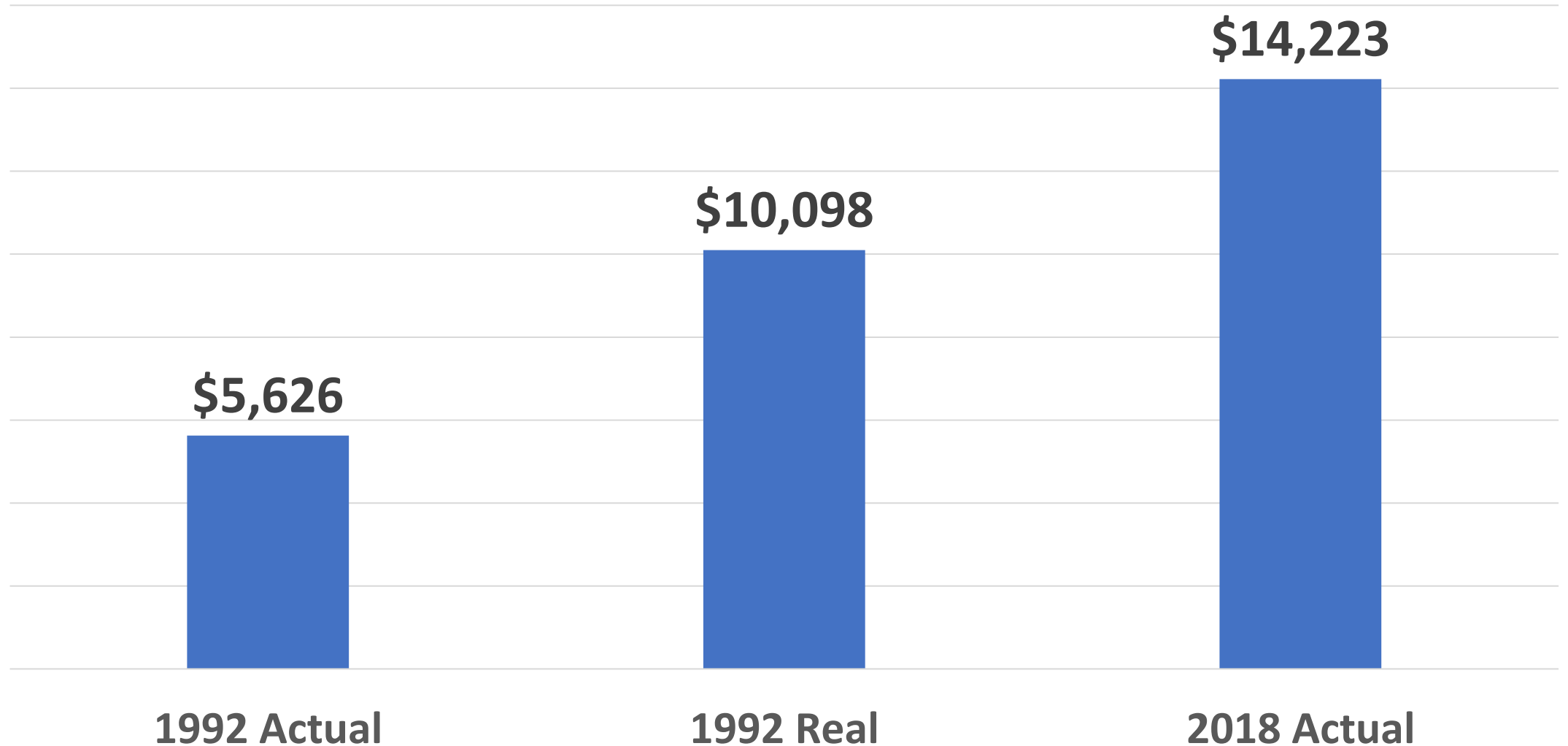


Public Schools Just Need More Funding

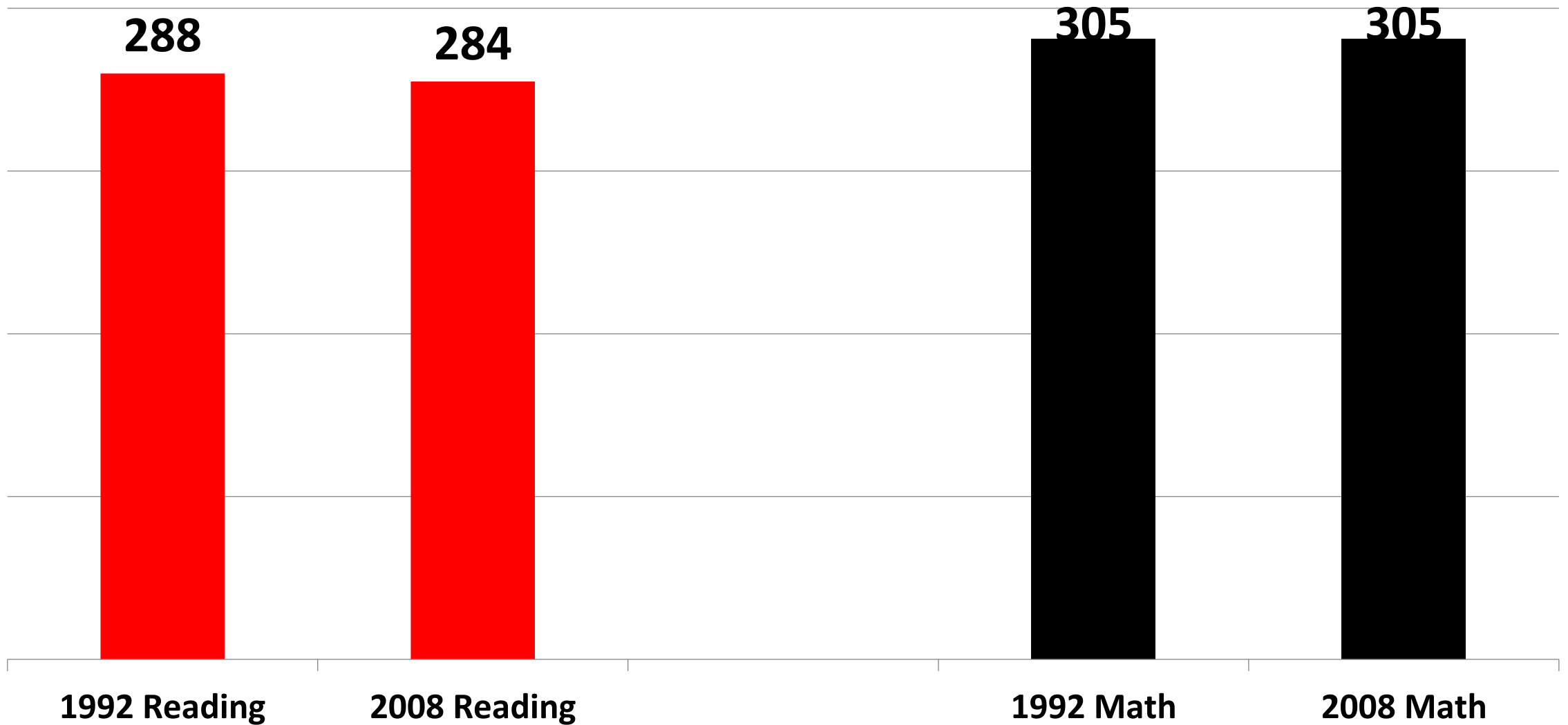
**Been there,
done that**

“So many of our schools have been underfunded for years, and it shows. The quality of an education depends largely on funding ...”

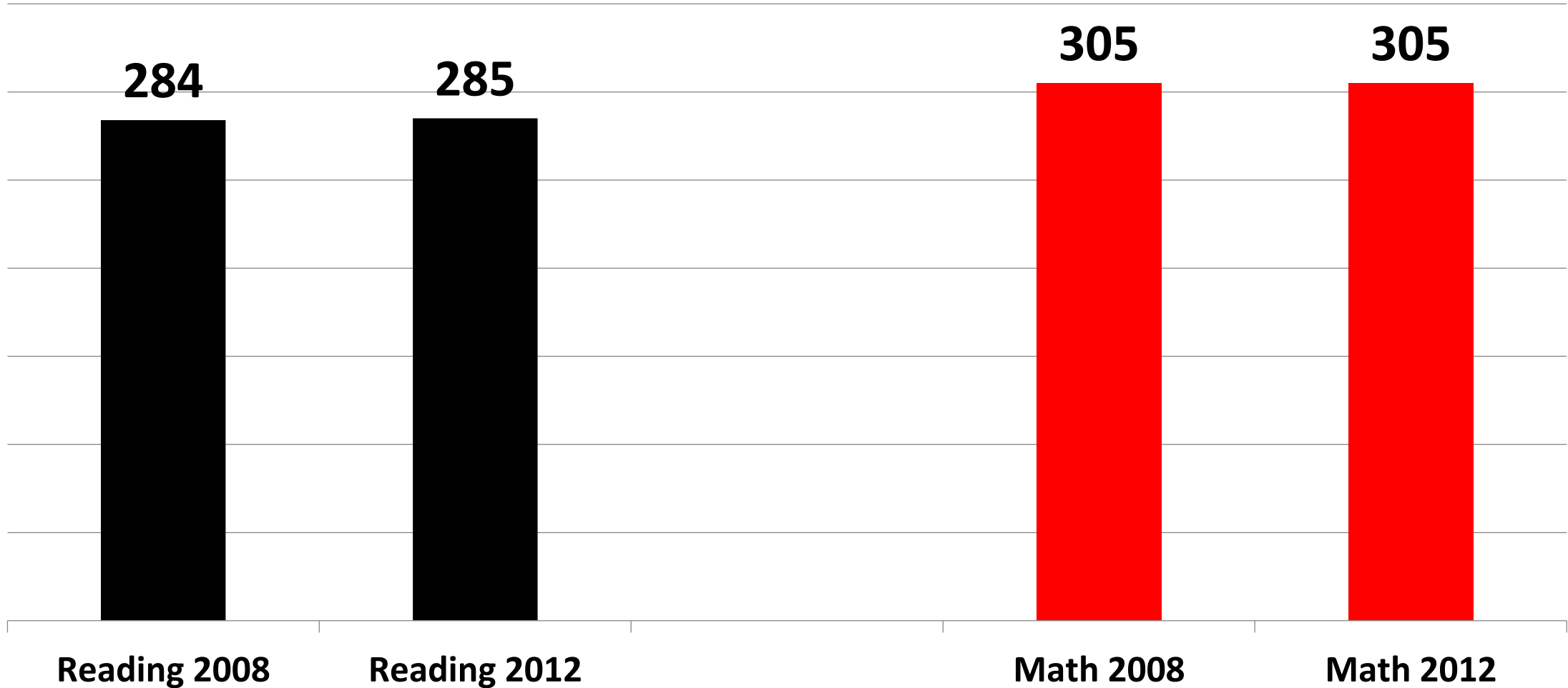
Total Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Expenditures Per Student Increased 41% in U.S. Public Schools 1992 to 2018



NAEP Long-Term Trend Reading and Math Scores 1992 and 2008 (17-year olds)



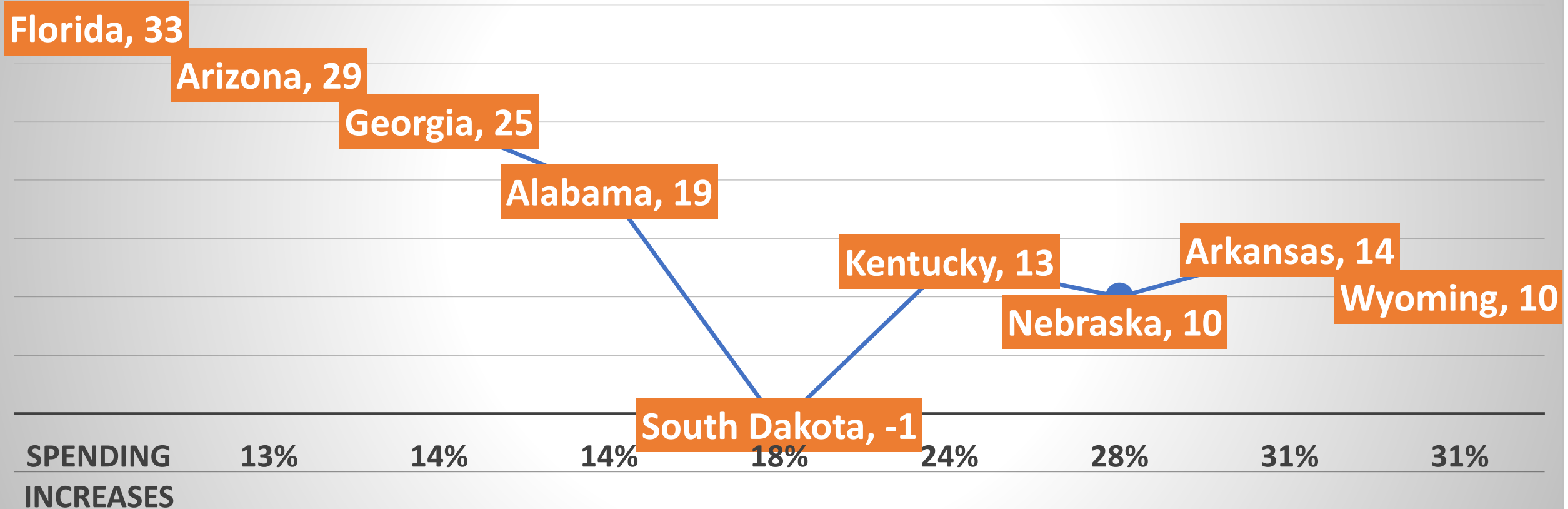
NAEP Long-Term Trend Reading and Math Scores 2008 and 2012 (17-year olds)



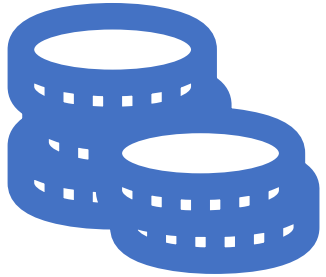
NAEP Gains, 2003 to 2019

Per Student Spending Increases, 2000 to 2018

NAEP Gains



EdChoice Programs Cost States Money



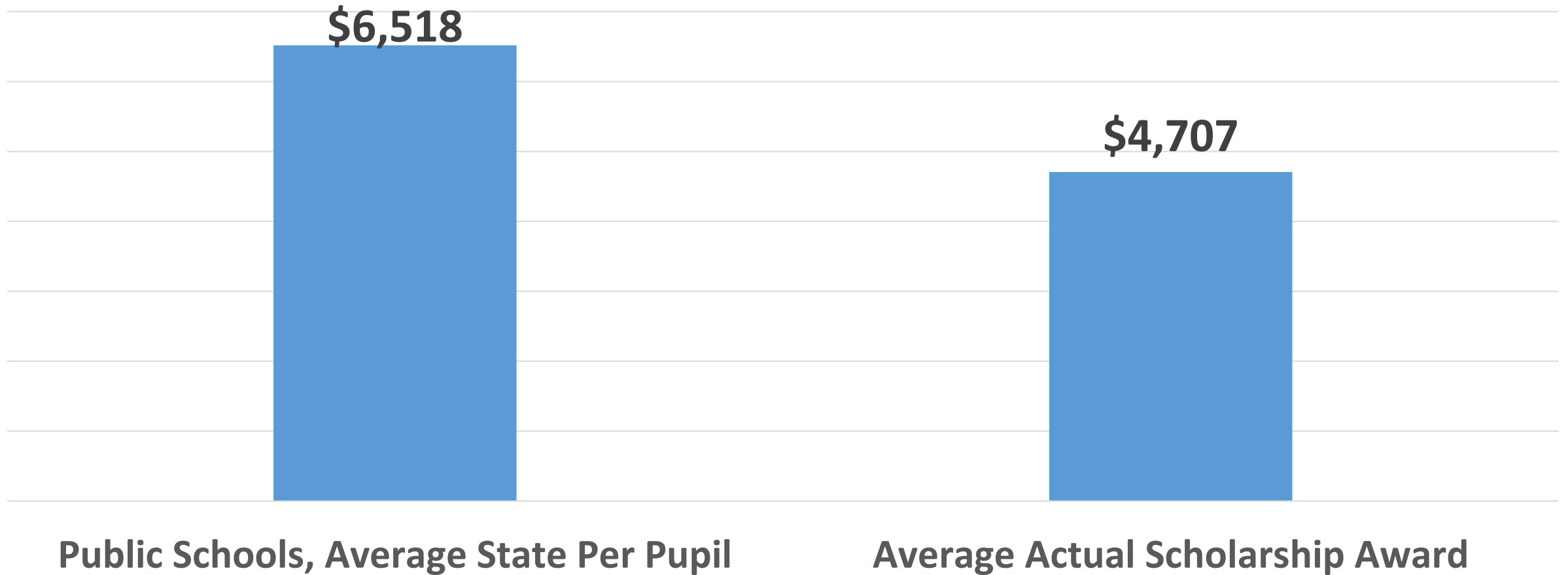
Really?

Indiana Choice Scholarship Program

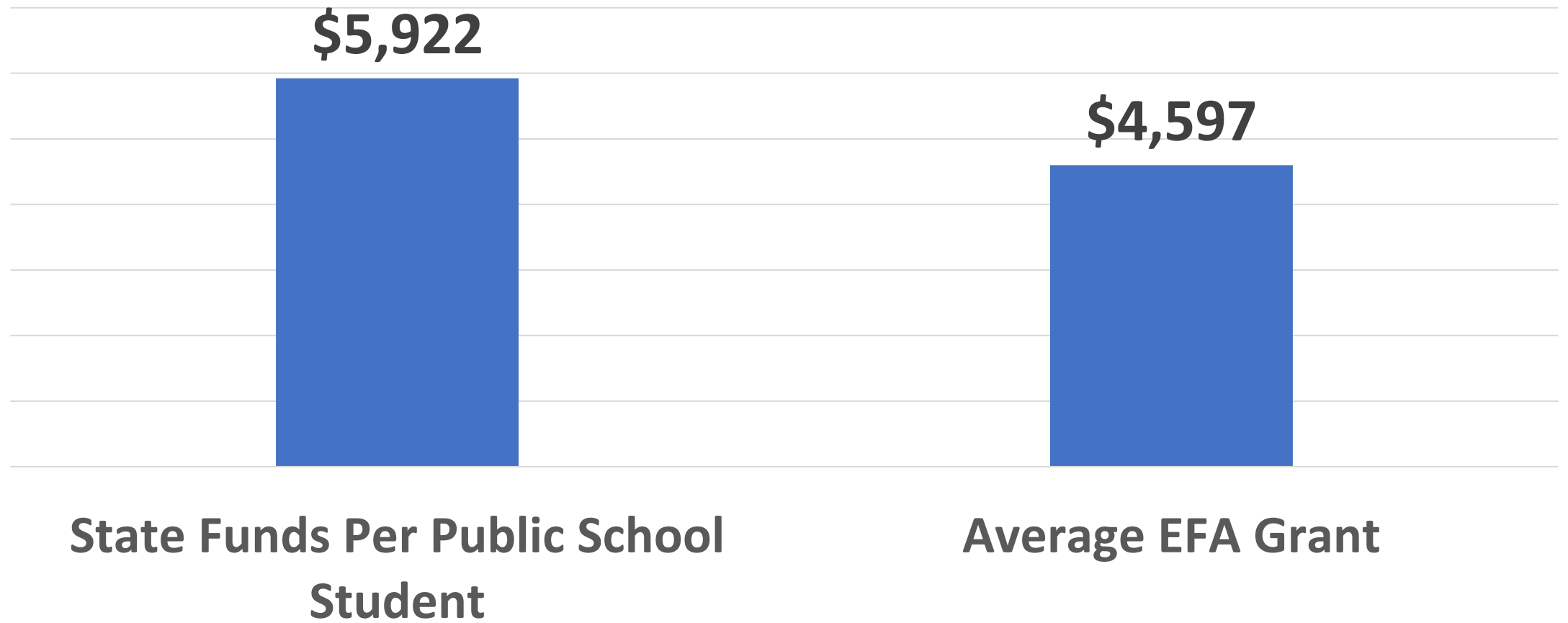
- **“A new report shows the state’s private school voucher program ran a \$53 million deficit this year.”**
- **“The idea that somehow this program is costing the state money is frankly insane,” Enlow said.**

Indiana Choice Scholarships, 2019-20

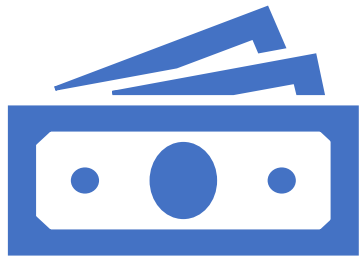
Source: IDOE's June 2020 Choice Scholarship Program Annual Report; <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/school-finances.html>



New Hampshire State Funding for Public School and Education Freedom Account Students, 2019-20



EdChoice Programs Cost Public School Districts Money



Really?

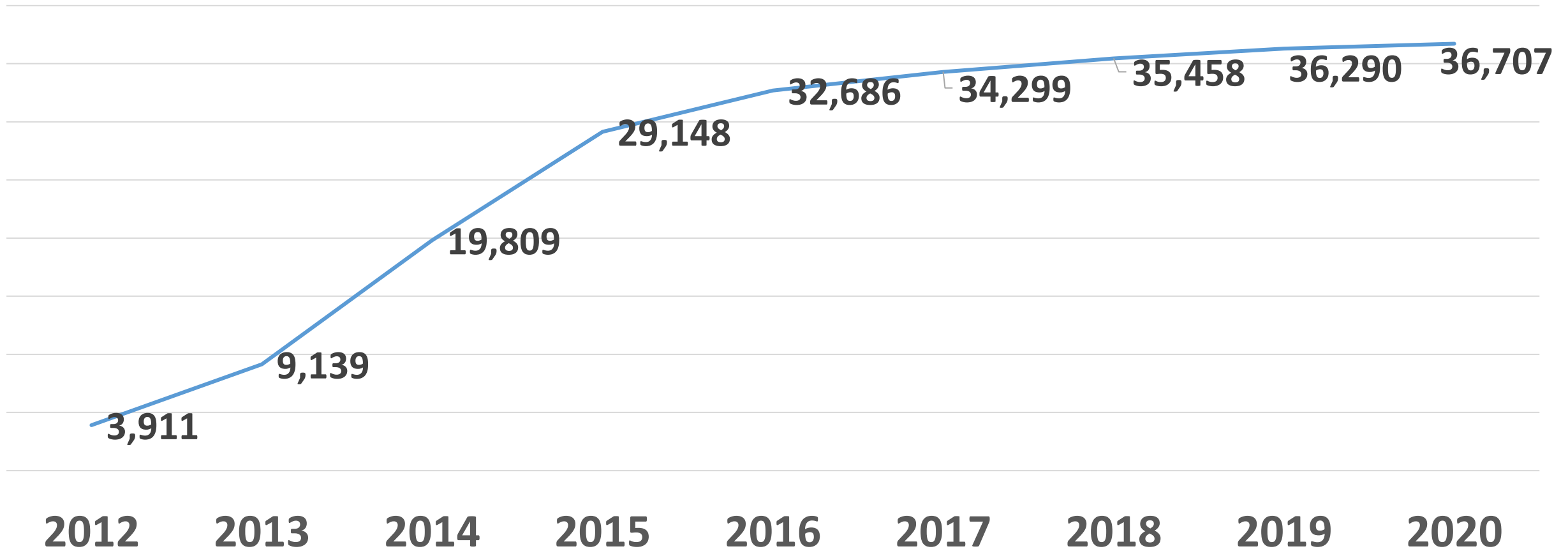
When a child leaves a public school for any reason (moves to another district, open enrollment, choice, etc.)

- The local districts retain all locally generated funds (e.g. property taxes, etc.)
- The districts lose most state funds
- The districts retain most federal funds
- **No other enterprise in America gets to retain funds for customers they lose**

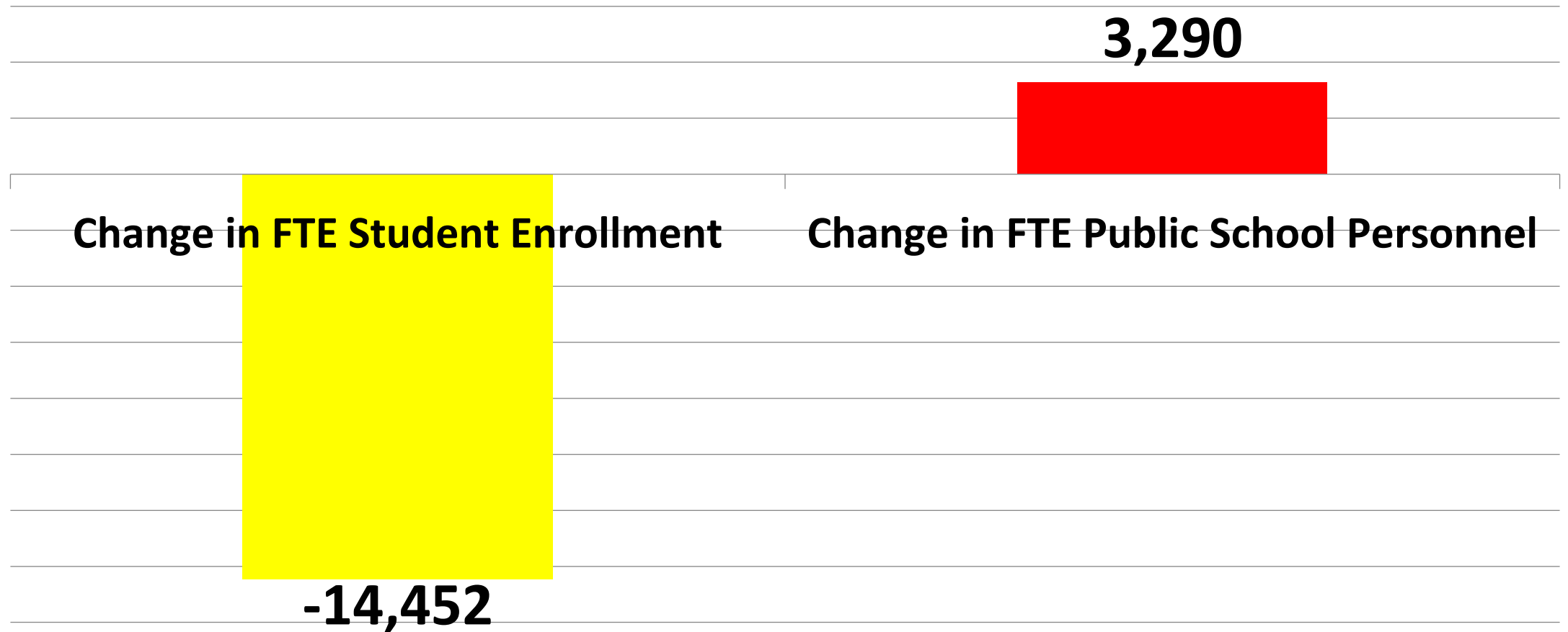
Average Retained Funds by Districts (2018)

	Total Revenues Per Student	Retained Local + Federal Funds	% of Revenues Retained
Alabama	\$10,792	\$4,821	45%
Arizona	\$9,697	\$5,126	53%
Arkansas	\$11,592	\$5,571	48%
Georgia	\$12,147	\$6,464	53%
Kentucky	\$12,422	\$5,433	44%
Nebraska	\$14,308	\$9,669	68%
South Dakota	\$12,011	\$7,867	65%
Wyoming	\$19,320	\$8,338	43%

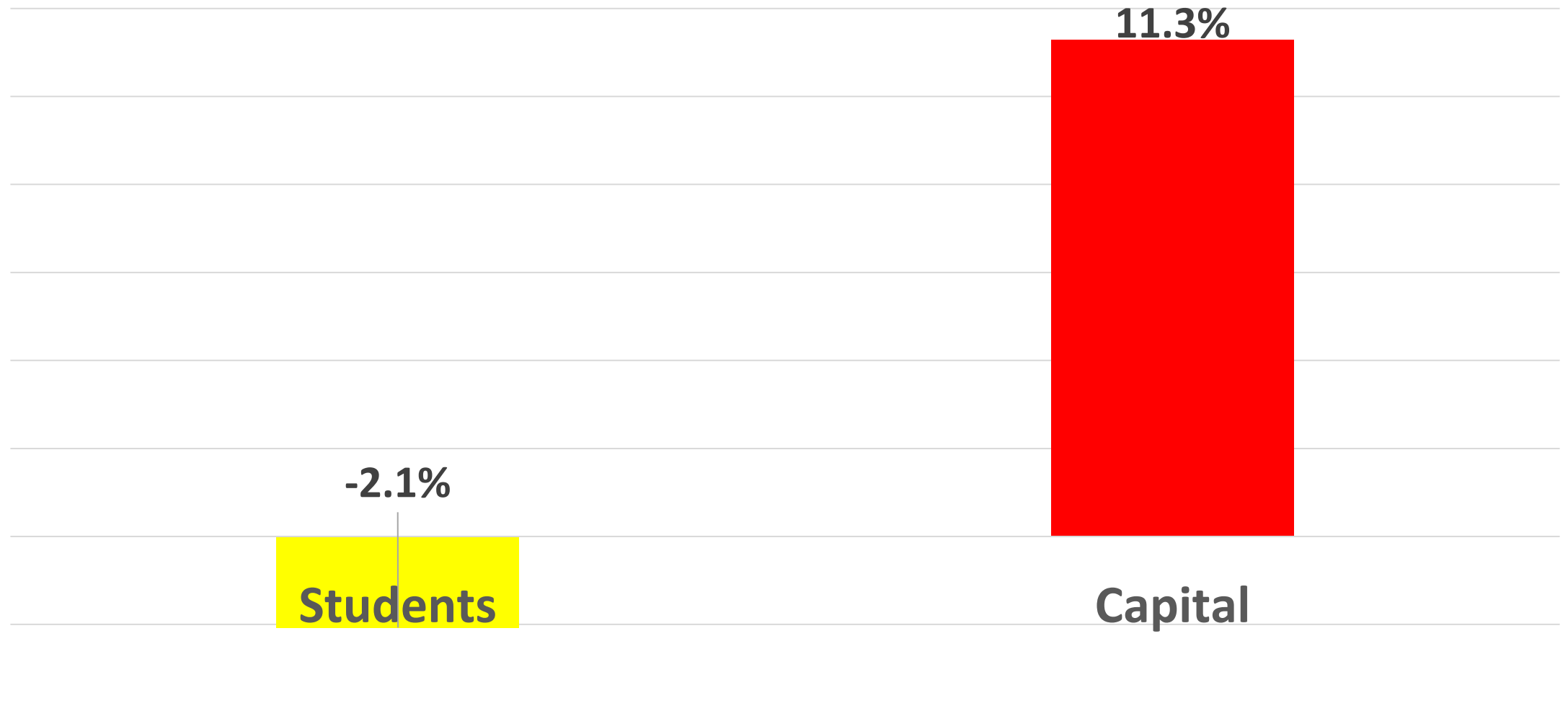
Number of Indiana Choice Scholarships Awarded, 2012 to 2020



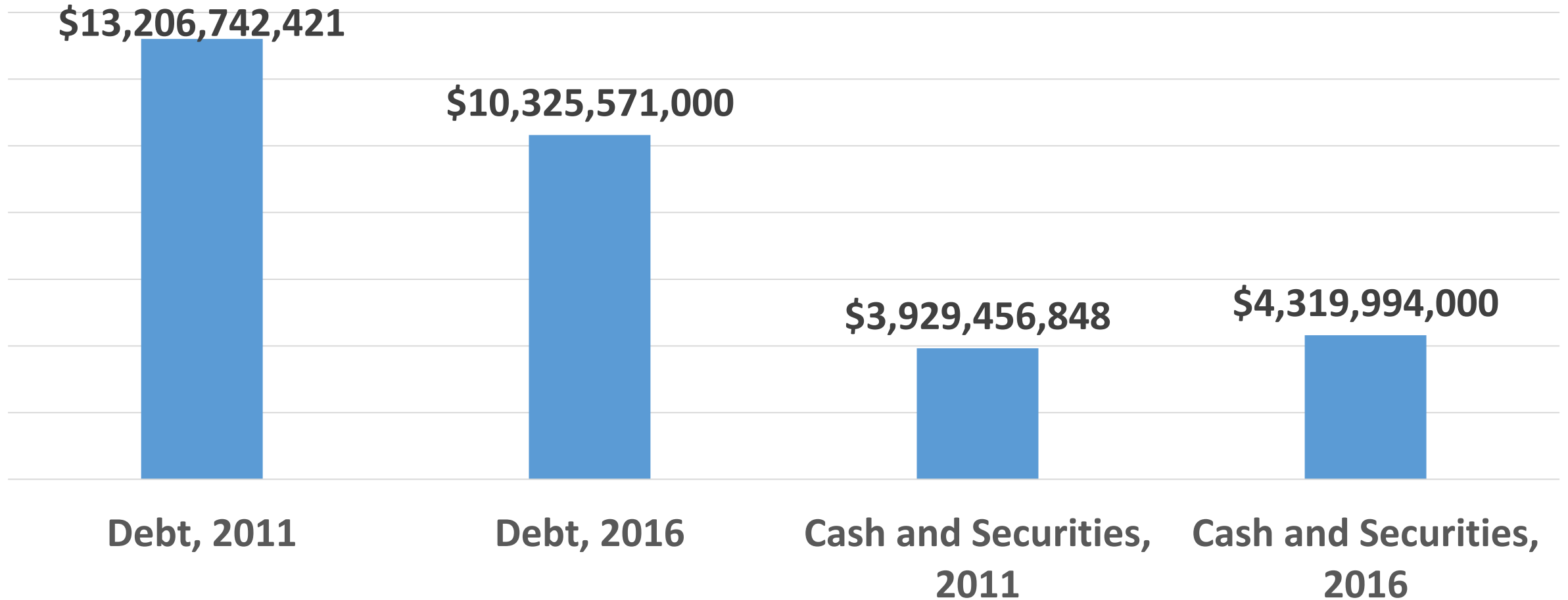
Indiana Public School District Staffing Surge, 2012 to 2016



Change in Enrollment and Real Capital Expenditures Per Student, Indiana Public Schools, 2011 to 2016



Real Changes in Total Debt, Cash and Securities 2011 to 2016

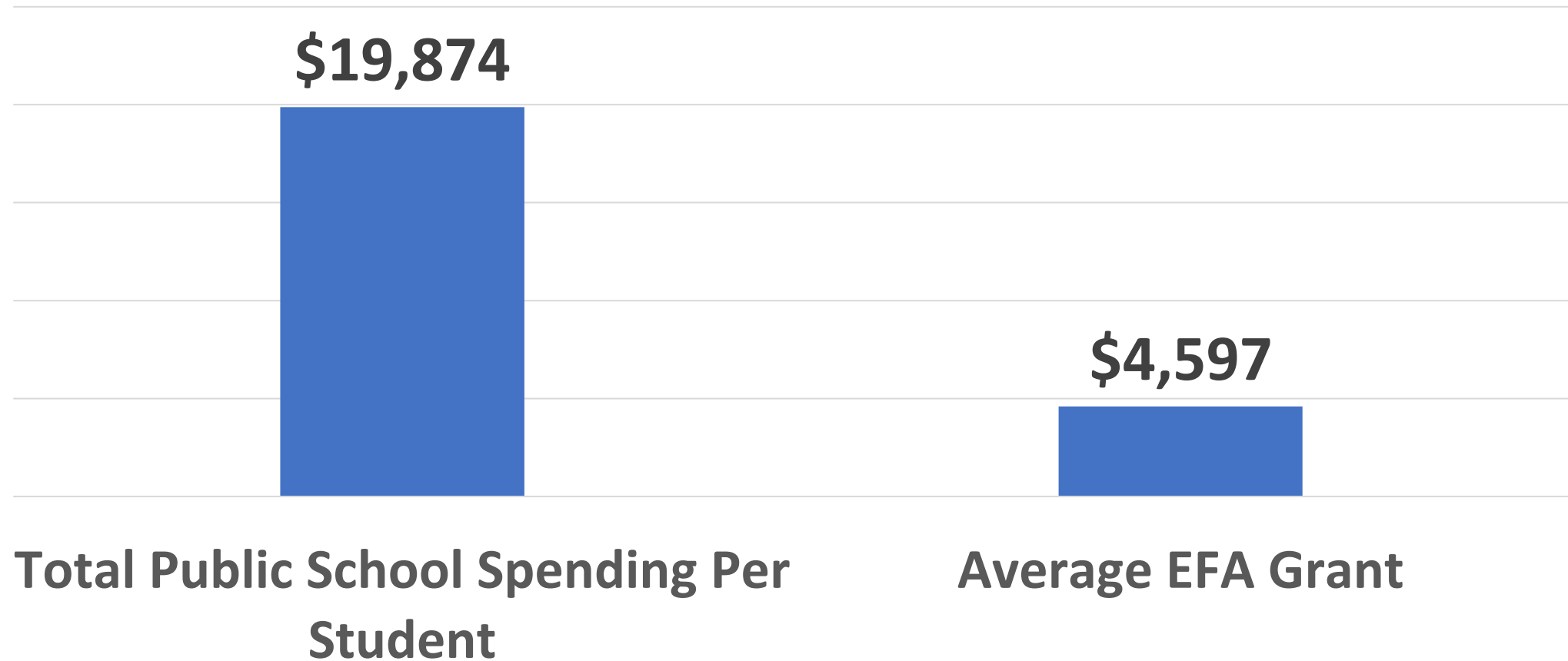


Really?

They spend \$20-grand per student and EFAs are about \$5,000 per student.

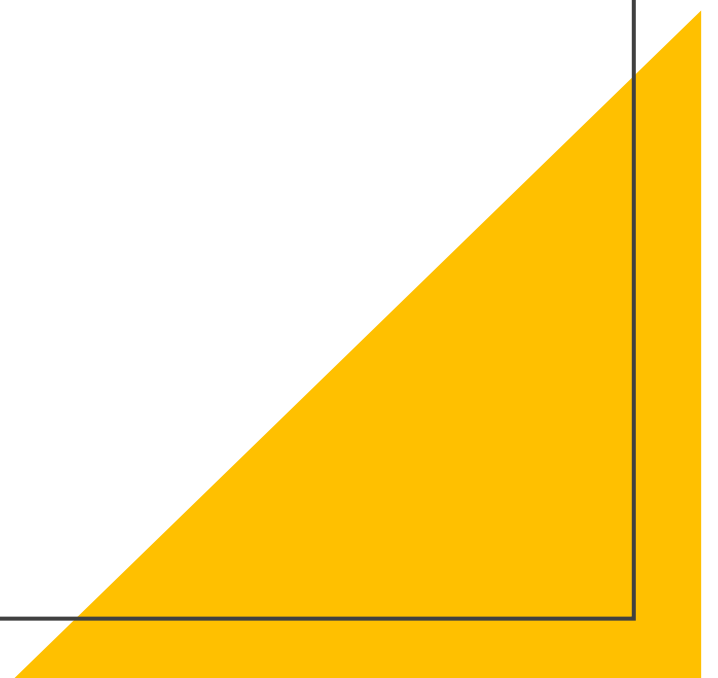
- **(public school advocate) says the plan will siphon limited money and resources from traditional public schools and force cities and towns to raise property taxes to make up for the loss of state funding.**

New Hampshire Public School Spending and Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs), 2019-20



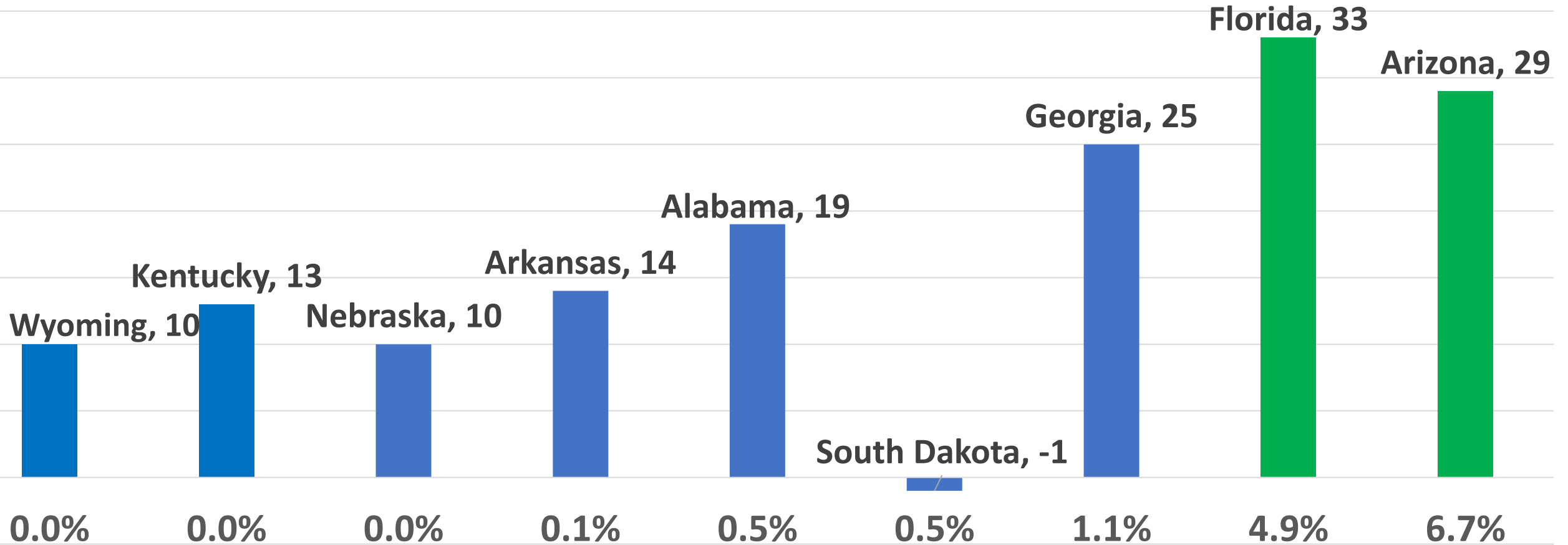
EdChoice Won't Help Our Students

**Mountain of Evidence
Says It Does**



NAEP Gains, 2003 to 2019 (Vertical)


EdChoice Share, 2020 (Horizontal)



New Hampshire's Education Freedom Account (EFA) Program is Interesting

- **All children living in households earning less than 300% of the federal poverty line are eligible. All—includes public, private, and homeschool students.**
- **Most homeschool students and a significant percentage of private school students will not use NH's EFA program.**
 - **Homeschool families often want to be left alone**
 - **Not all eligible people take-up government benefits (Indiana Choice Scholarship Program, Pell Grants for College, etc.)**

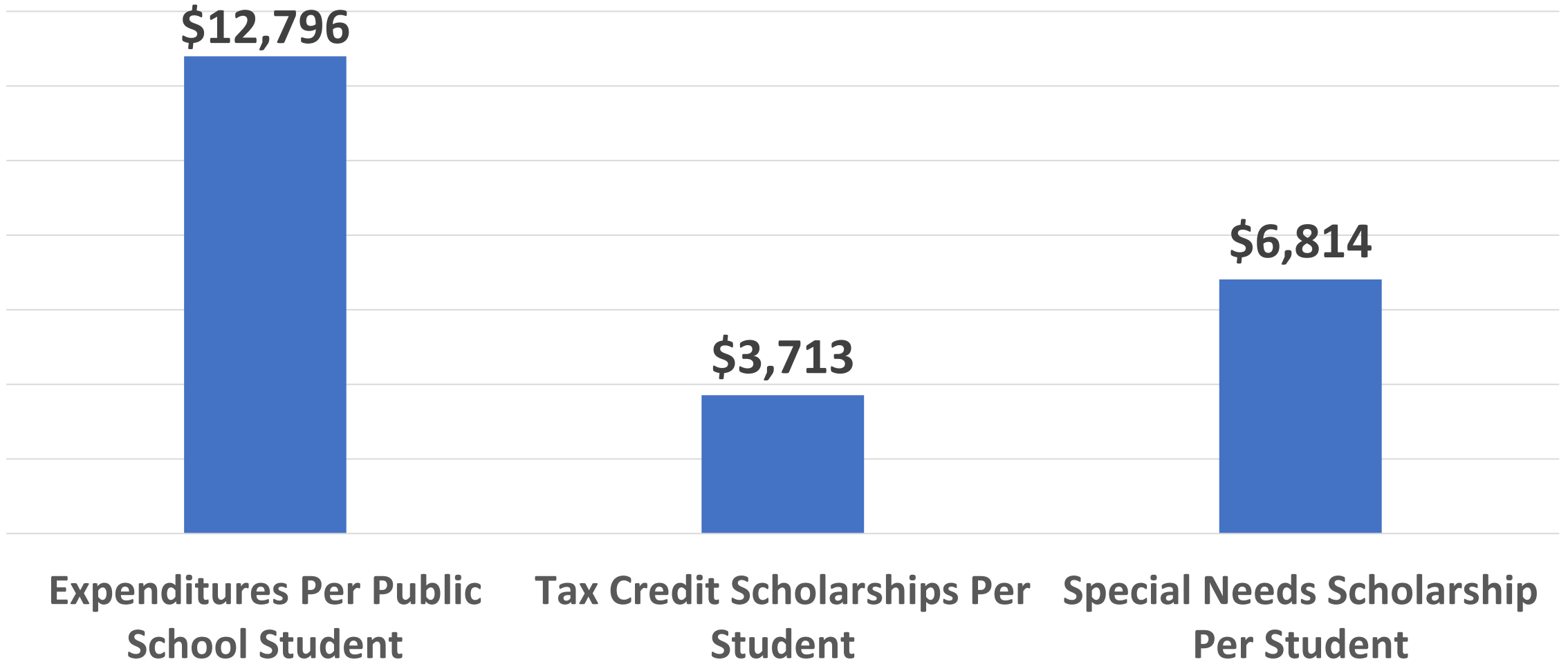
The scholarships will be offered to all private school students, but history suggests many will not accept.

- **Scholarships to students who would have attended a private school, even without an EdChoice program, are a fiscal cost.**
 - **These costs must be weighed against the substantial fiscal savings that result from families choosing to switch their children from a public to a private school via the EdChoice program.**
 - **I estimate that New Hampshire taxpayers will save \$1.85 million next year and \$4.8 million in year 2— in net fiscal savings.**
- 

Takeaways

- **There are a lot of oft-repeated myths about education choice programs. Arm yourself with the facts.**
- **Each time they repeat a myth, you respond with the facts.**
- **Your EdChoice state contact has access to researchers like me and many other folks too—we stand ready to help you.**

Georgia, FY 2019



EdChoice Reports are available ...

www.edchoice.org

Click on “School Choice”

Then, click on “FAQs”