

# **The Decades-Long Public School Staffing Surge**

## **What Can You Do?**

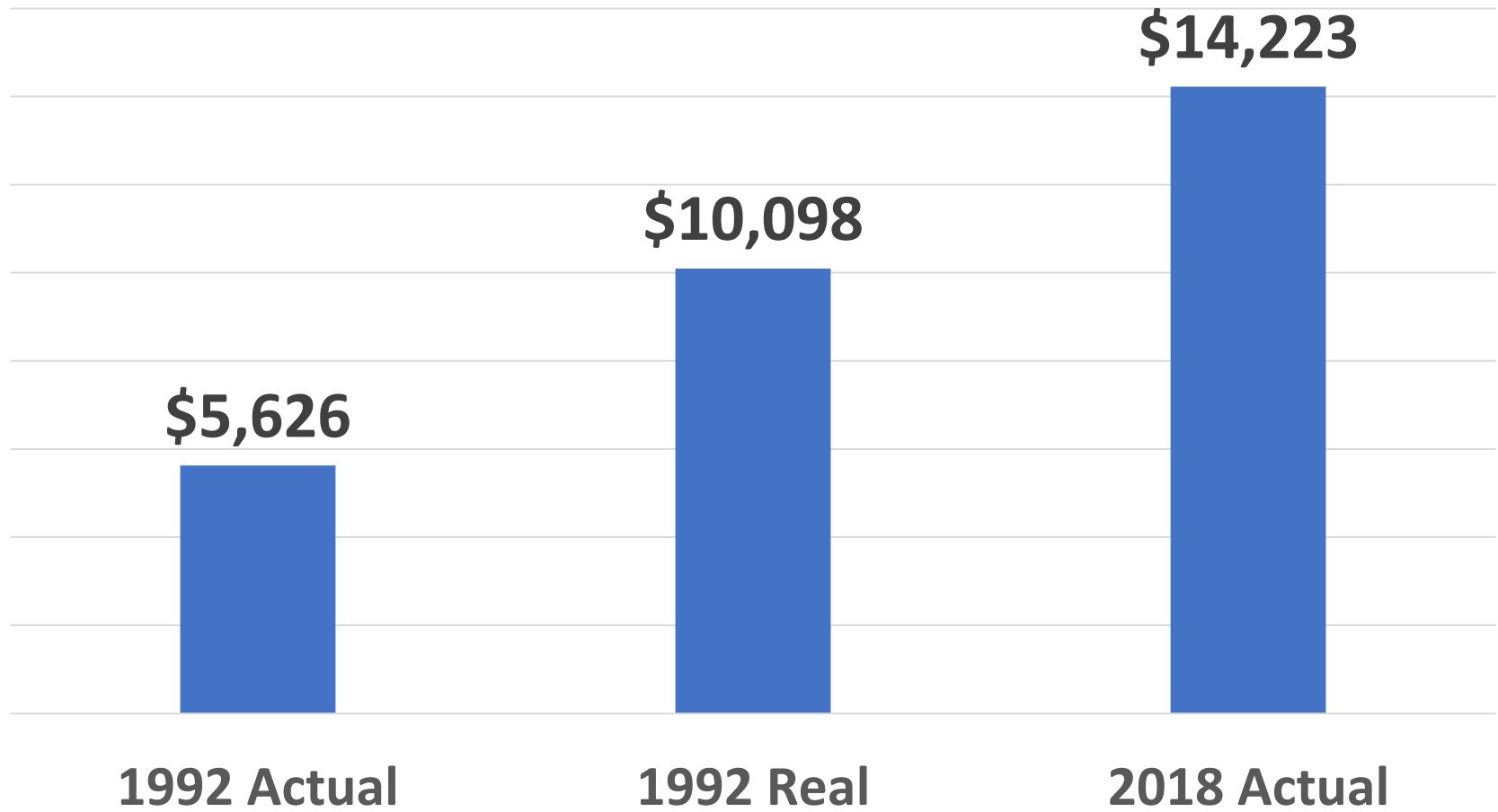
### **Part I**

**Ben Scafidi**

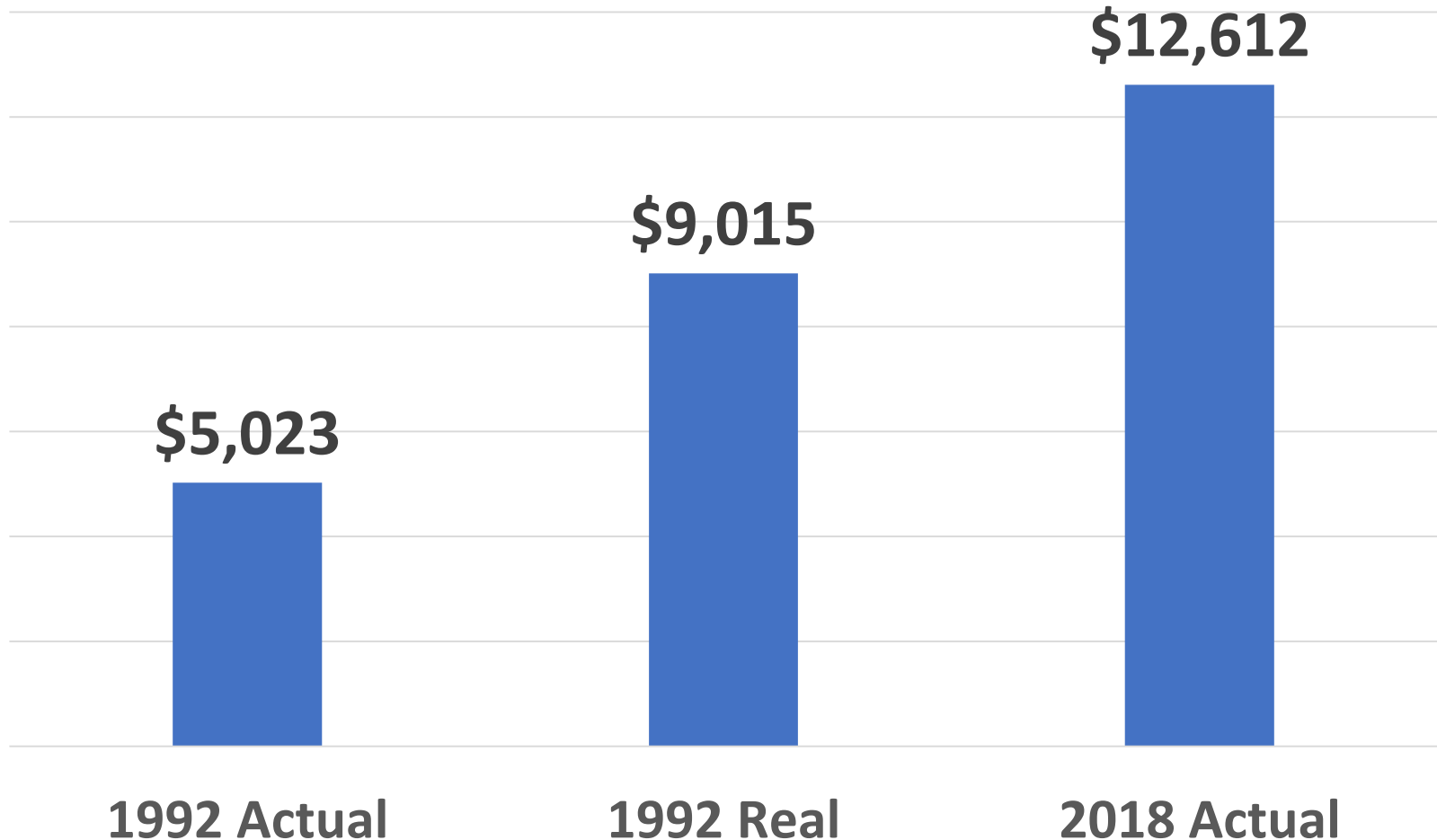
**Kennesaw State University**

**Friedman Fellow, EdChoice**

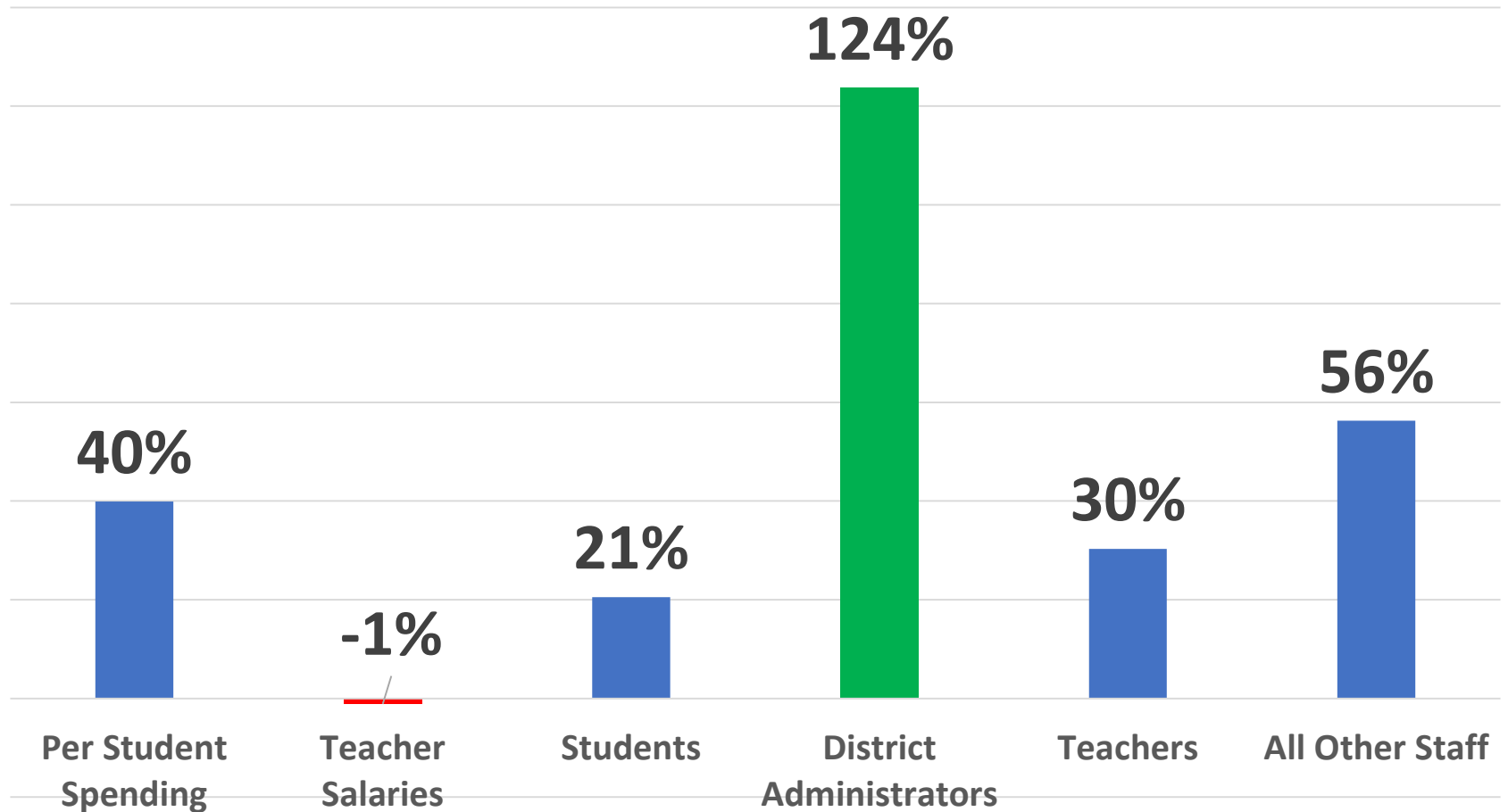
# **Total Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Expenditures Per Student Increased 41% in U.S. Public Schools 1992 to 2018**



# **Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Current Expenditures Per Student Increased 40% in U.S. Public Schools 1992 to 2018**



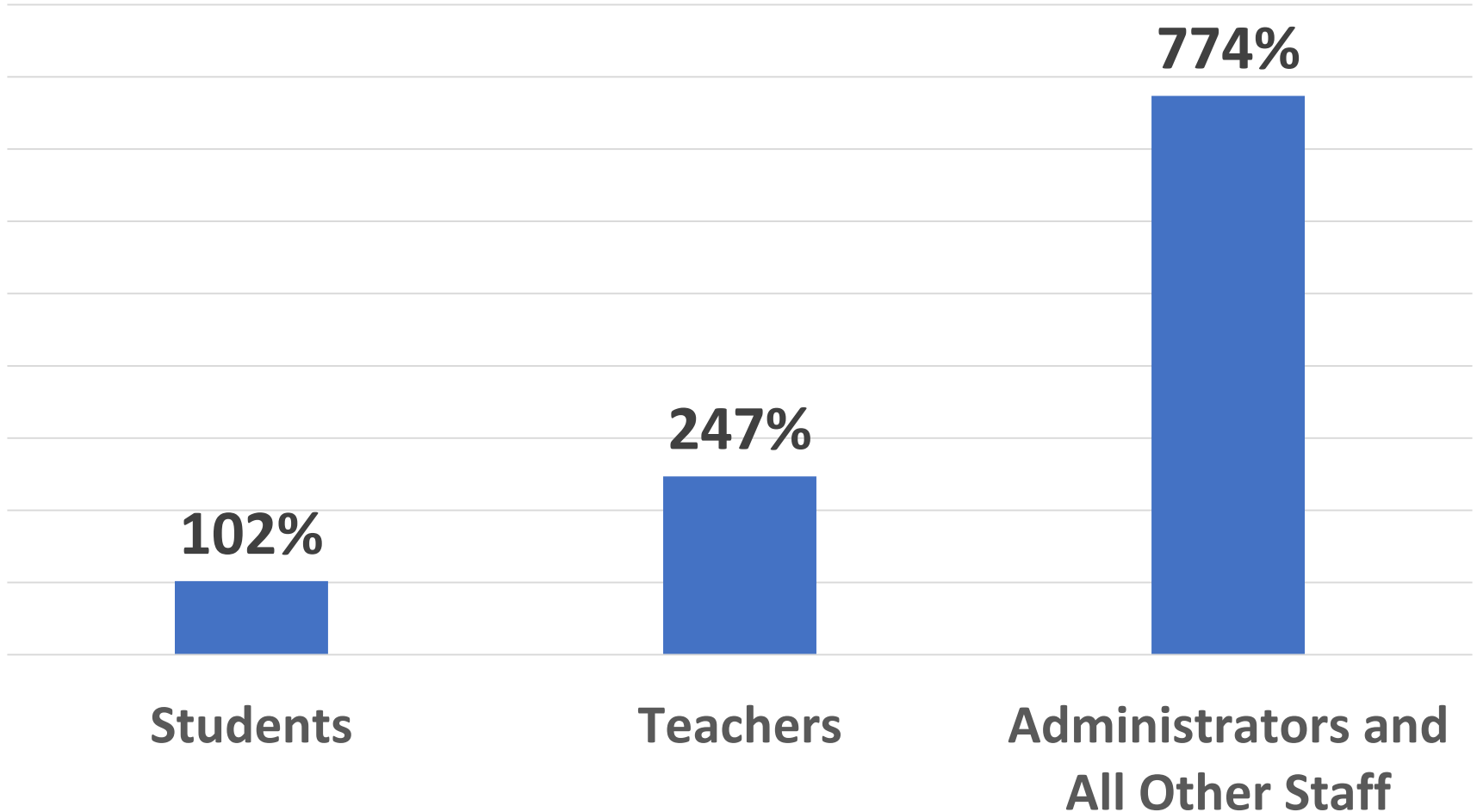
# US Public Schools, Change in Real (inflation-adjusted) Terms, FY 1992 to 2018



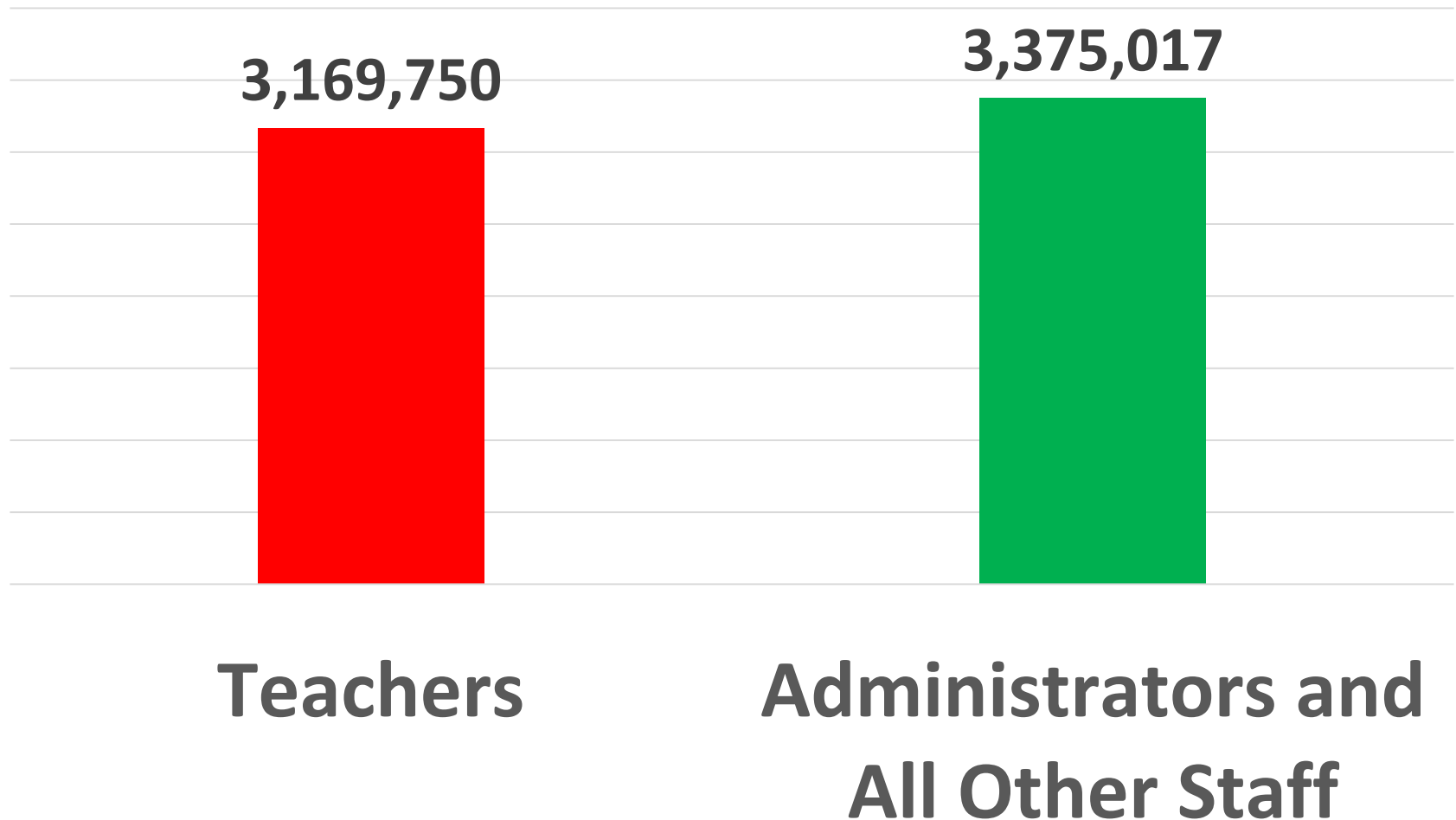
# **What if U.S. public schools had increased non-teaching staff at the same rate as its increase in students from 1992 to 2018?**

- **Would have saved U.S. public schools over \$48,700,000,000 per year in annual recurring savings.**
- **What could U.S. public schools do with \$48.7 billion per year?**
  - **Offer over 6 million children \$8,000 Education Savings Accounts**
  - **Give every teacher a \$15,300 increase in compensation**
  - **Reduce property taxes**

# U.S. Public School Staffing Surge FY 1950 to FY 2018



**In a sharp change with history, there are now 205,000 more non-teachers than there are teachers in American public schools (FY 2018).**



# **Some Notes About the Public School Hiring Spree**

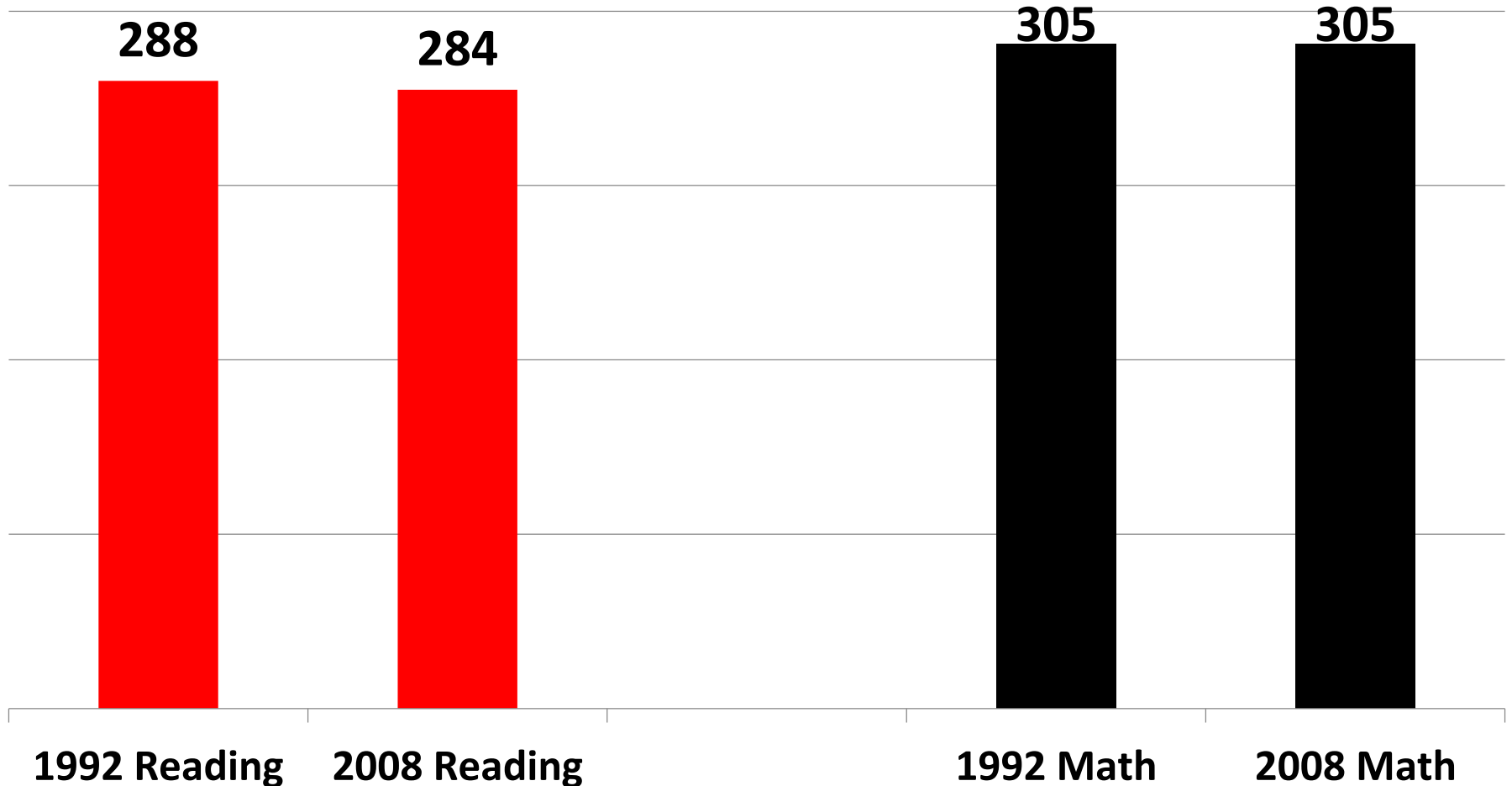
- **No evidence the “kids are worse.”**
- **No Child Left Behind did not make us do it.**
- **American public schools are more top-heavy than other wealthy nations.**



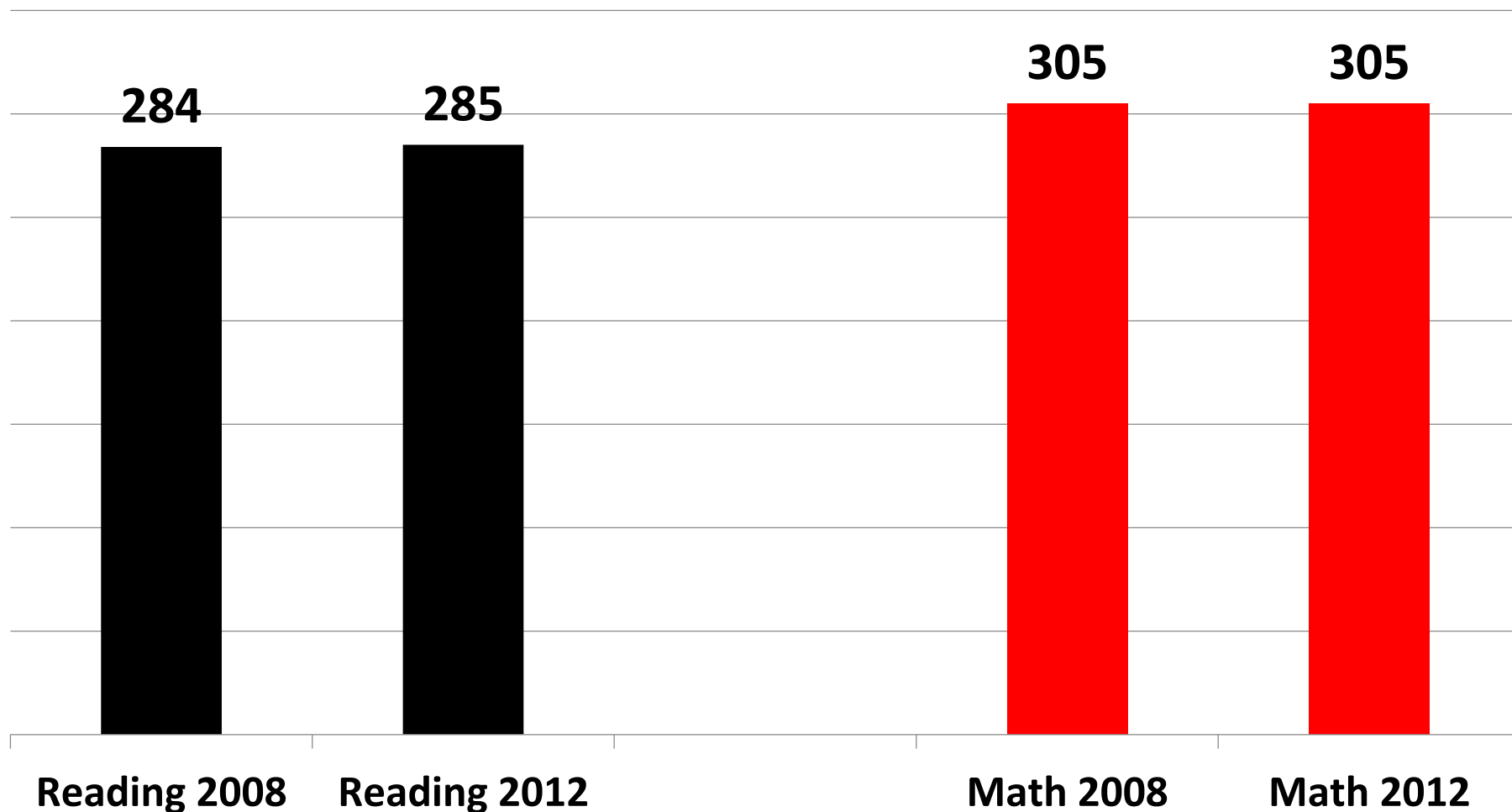
# **What about Student Achievement?**

**Did student achievement skyrocket during  
the staffing surge?**

# NAEP Reading and Math Scores 1992 and 2008

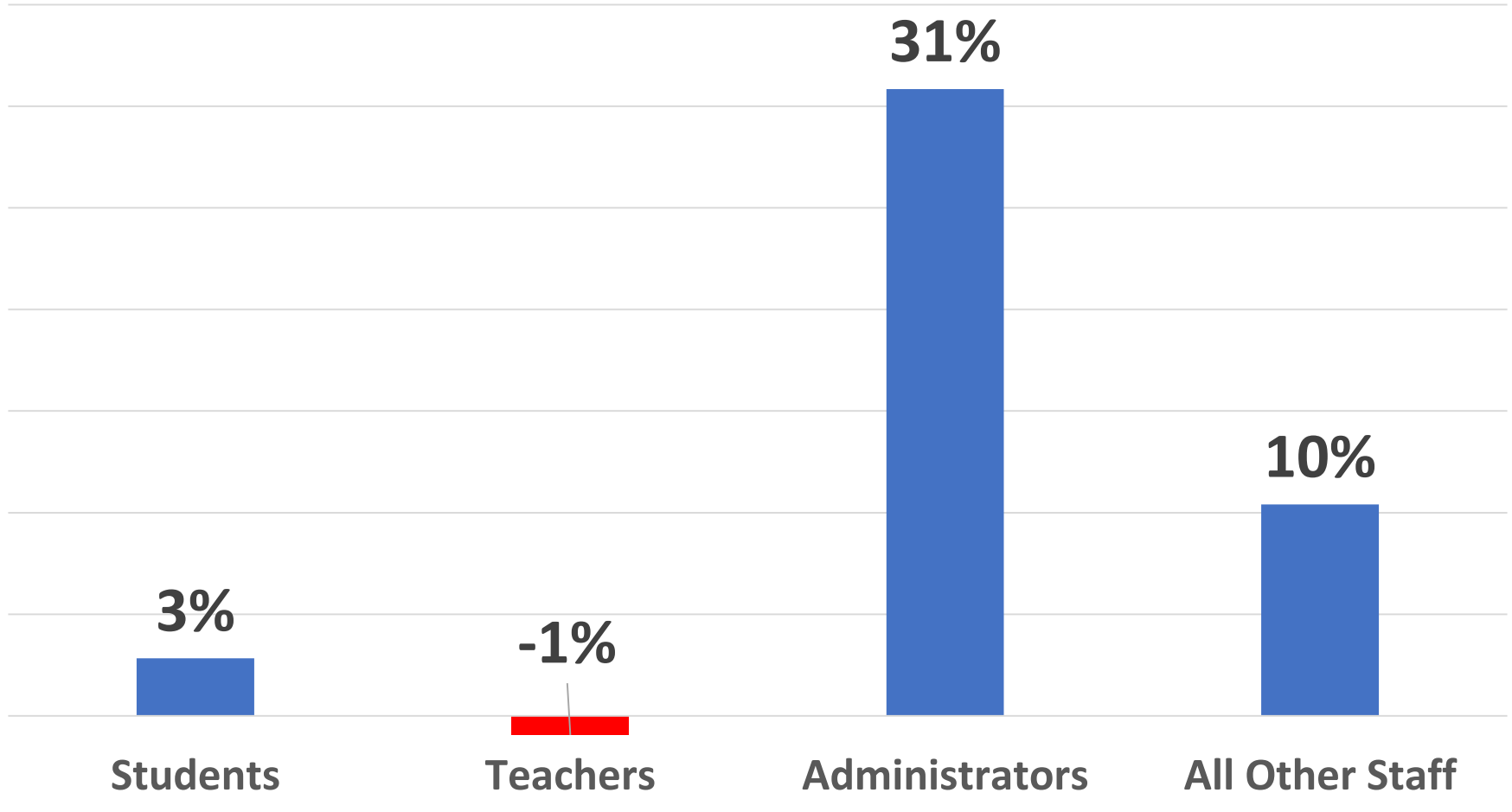


# NAEP Reading and Math Scores 2008 and 2012

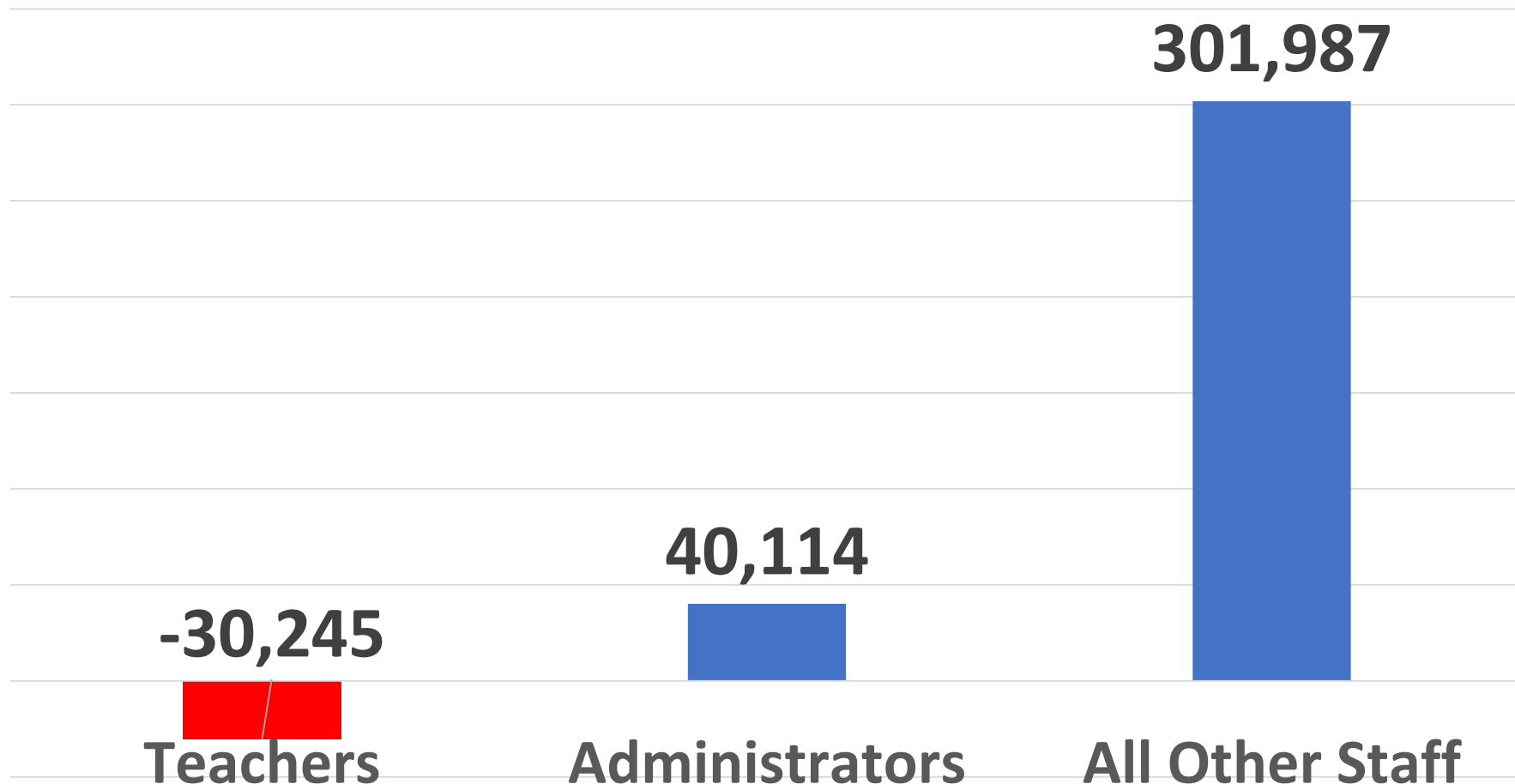


# Staffing Surge Since the Great Recession

## U.S. Public Schools, FY 2008 to 2018



# Change in the Number of FTE Employees U.S. Public Schools, FY 2008 to 2018



# Questions?

Connect with me:

**[ben.scafidi@gmail.com](mailto:ben.scafidi@gmail.com)**