

Show Me the Money

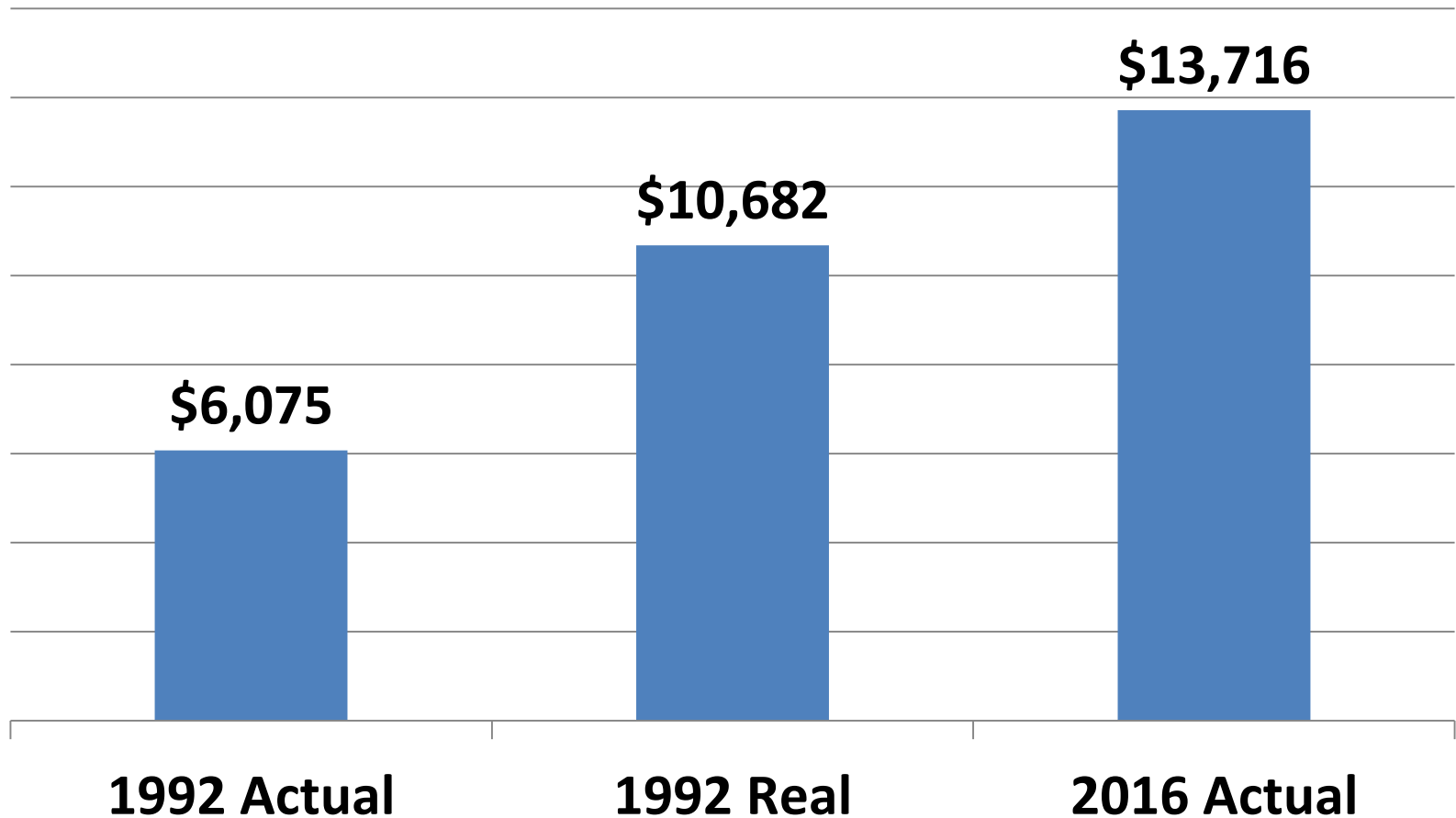
Where Do Taxpayer Funds for
Public Schools Actually Go?

Ben Scafidi

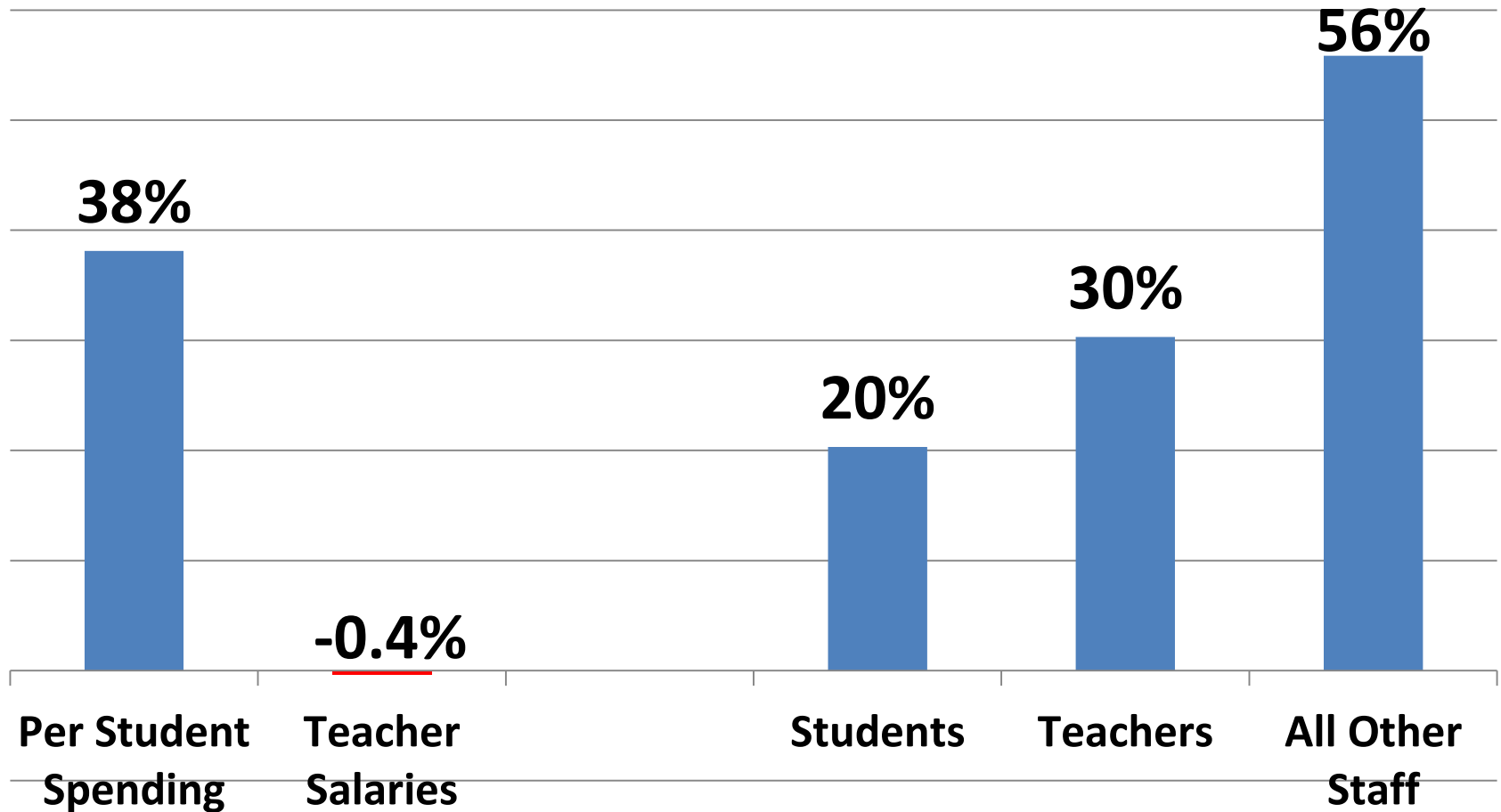
Kennesaw State University

Friedman Fellow, EdChoice

Total Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Expenditures Per Student Increased 28% in U.S. Public Schools 1992 to 2017



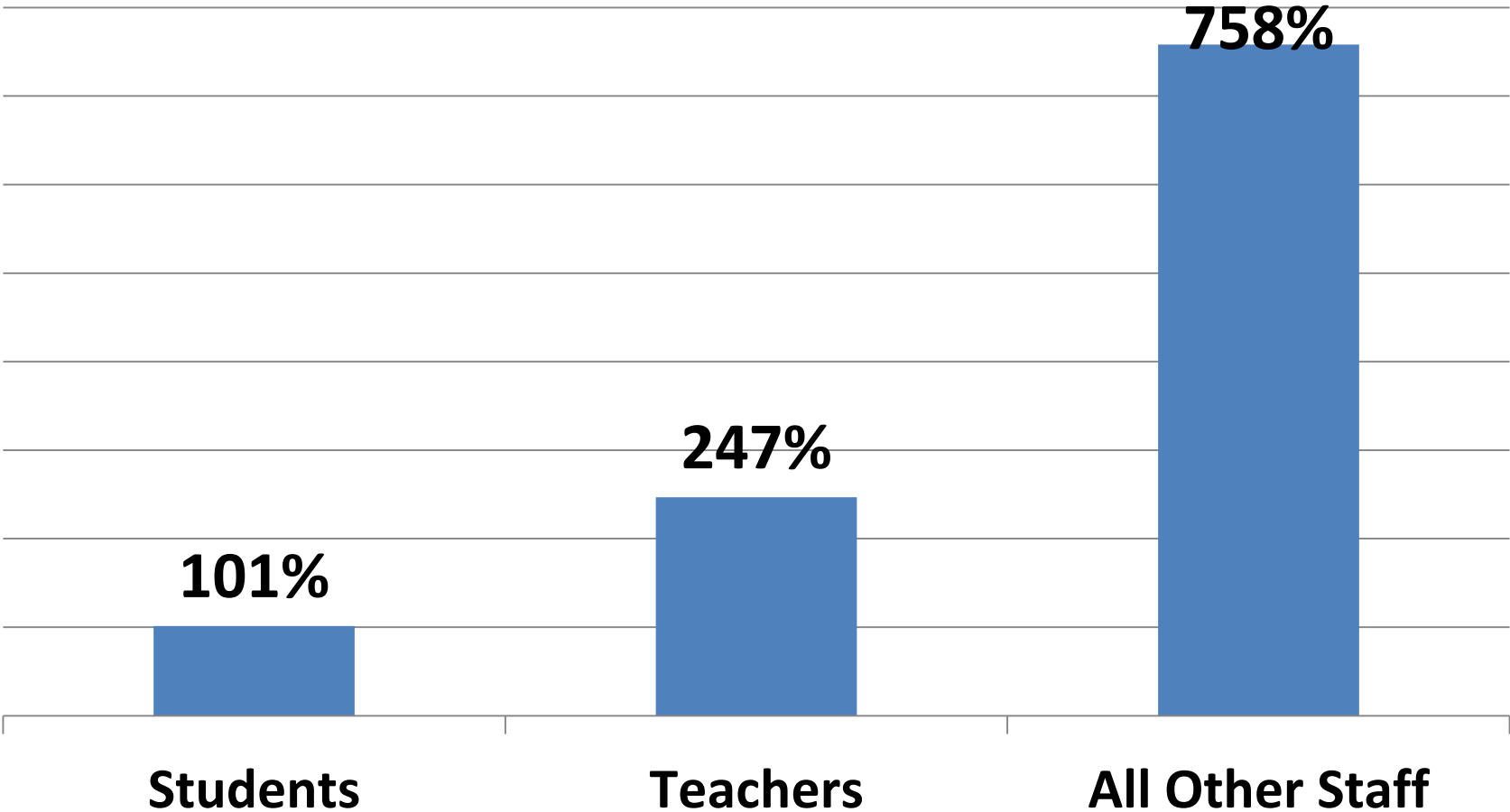
US Public Schools, Change in Real (inflation-adjusted) Terms, FY 1992 to 2017



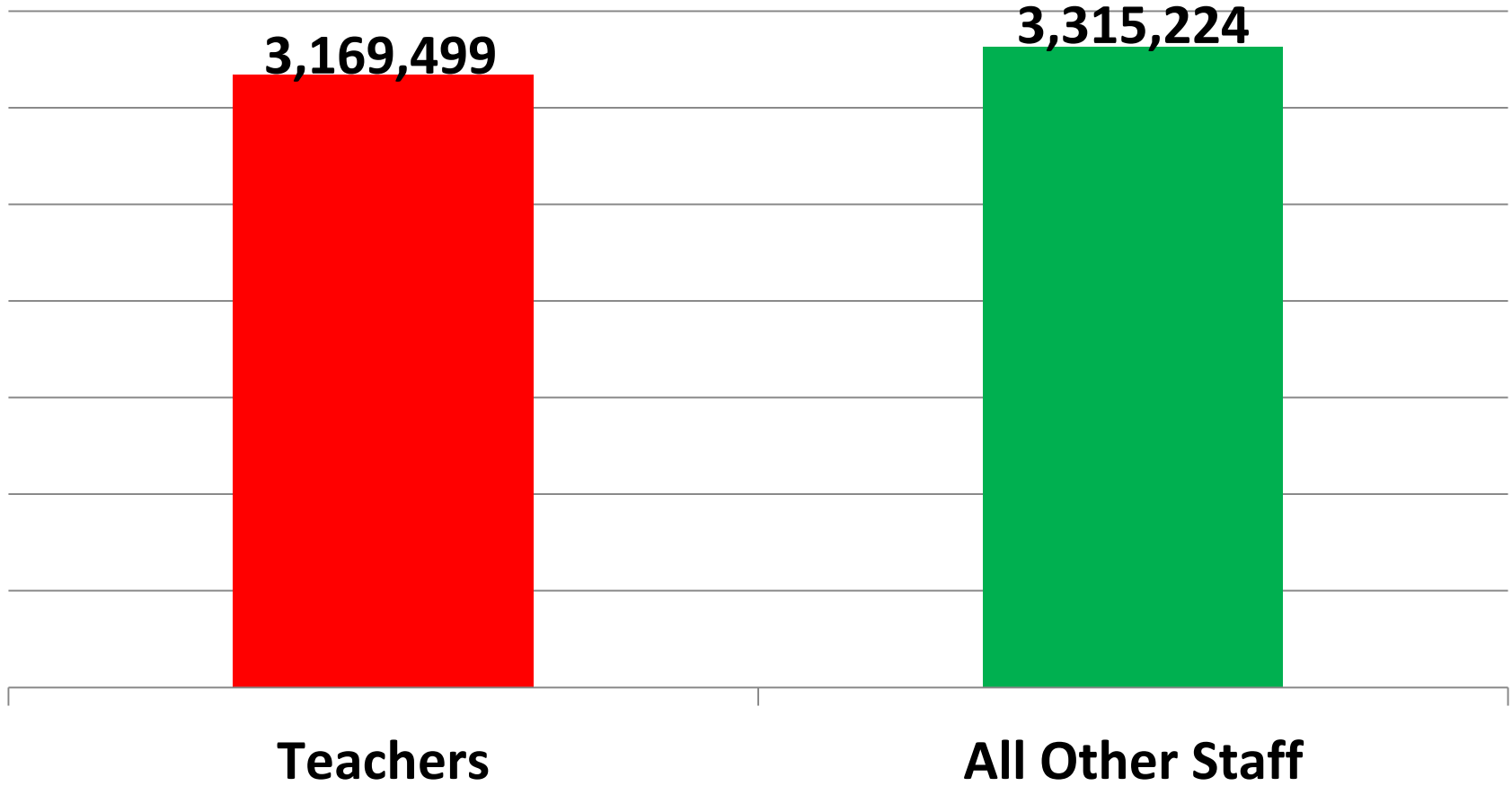
What if U.S. public schools had increased non-teaching staff at the same rate as its increase in students?

- Would have saved U.S. public schools over **\$45,300,000,000** per year in annual recurring savings.
- What could U.S. public schools do with \$45.3 billion per year?
 - Offer 5.67 million children \$8,000 Education Savings Accounts
 - Give every teacher a \$14,340 raise
 - Reduce property taxes

U.S. Public School Staffing Surge FY 1950 to FY 2017



In a sharp change with history, there are now almost 150,000 more non-teachers than there are teachers in American public schools (FY 2017)



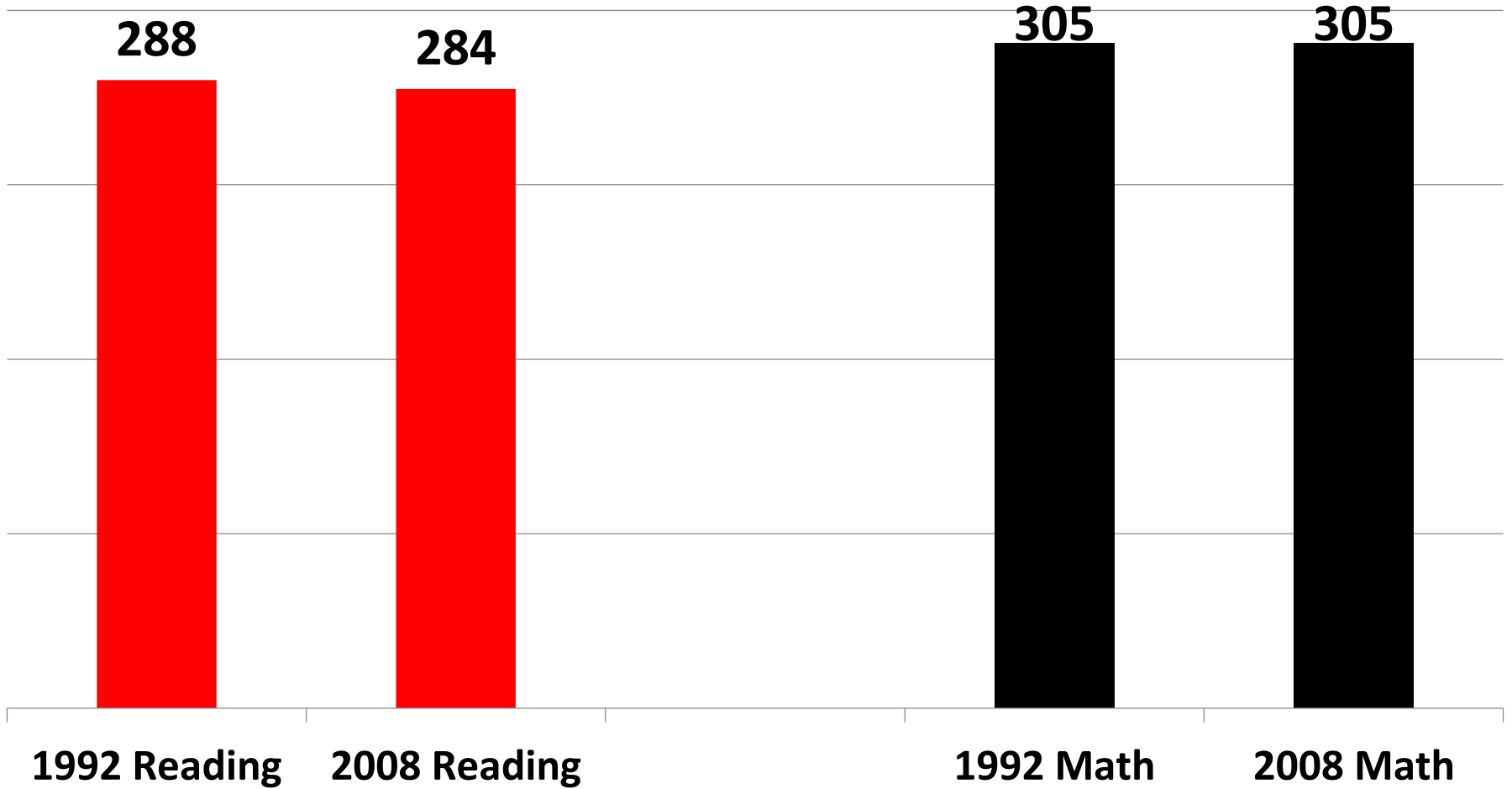
Some Notes About the Public School Hiring Spree

- **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.**

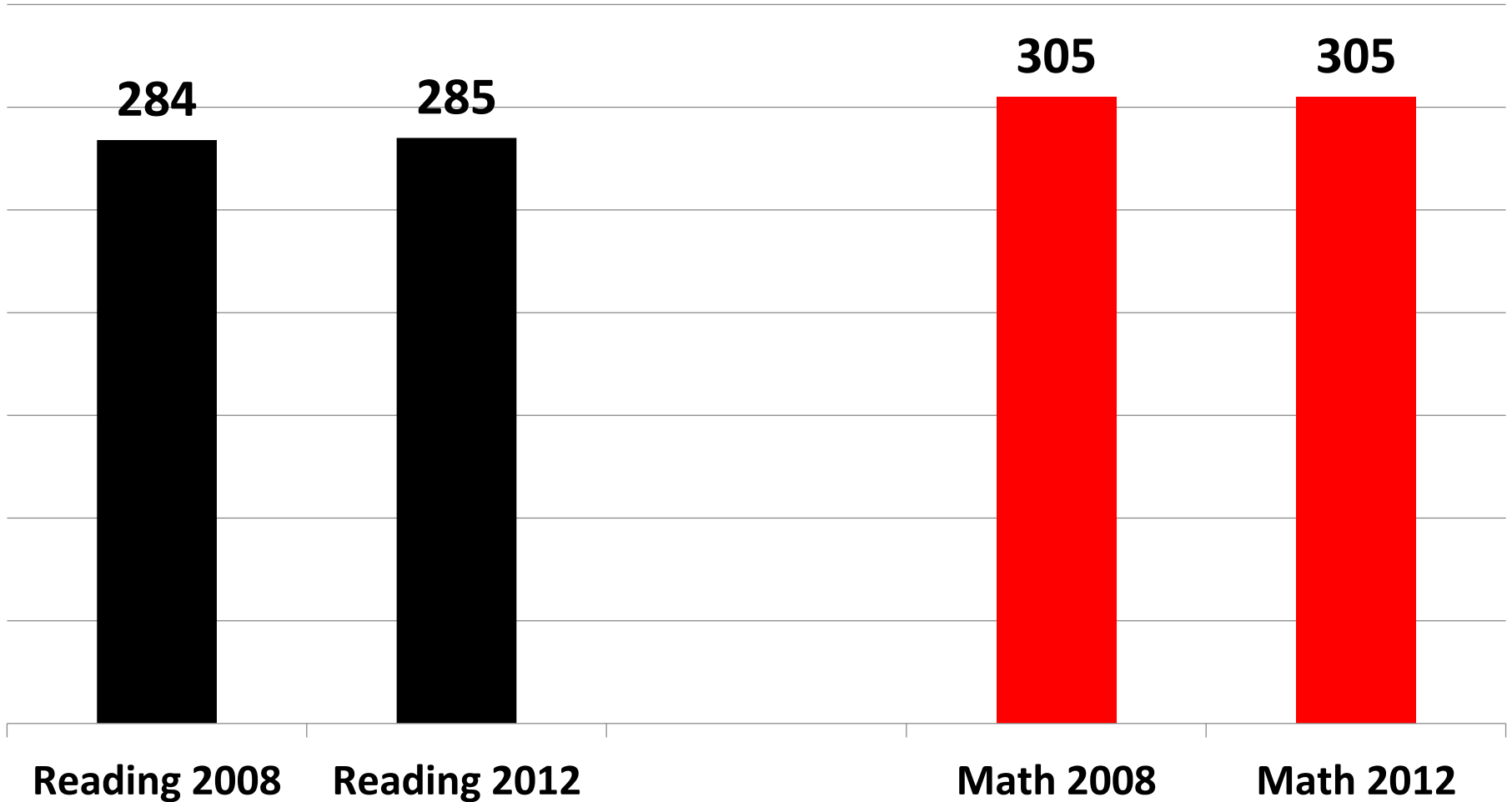
What about Student Achievement?

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

NAEP Reading and Math Scores 1992 and 2008



NAEP Reading and Math Scores 2008 and 2012



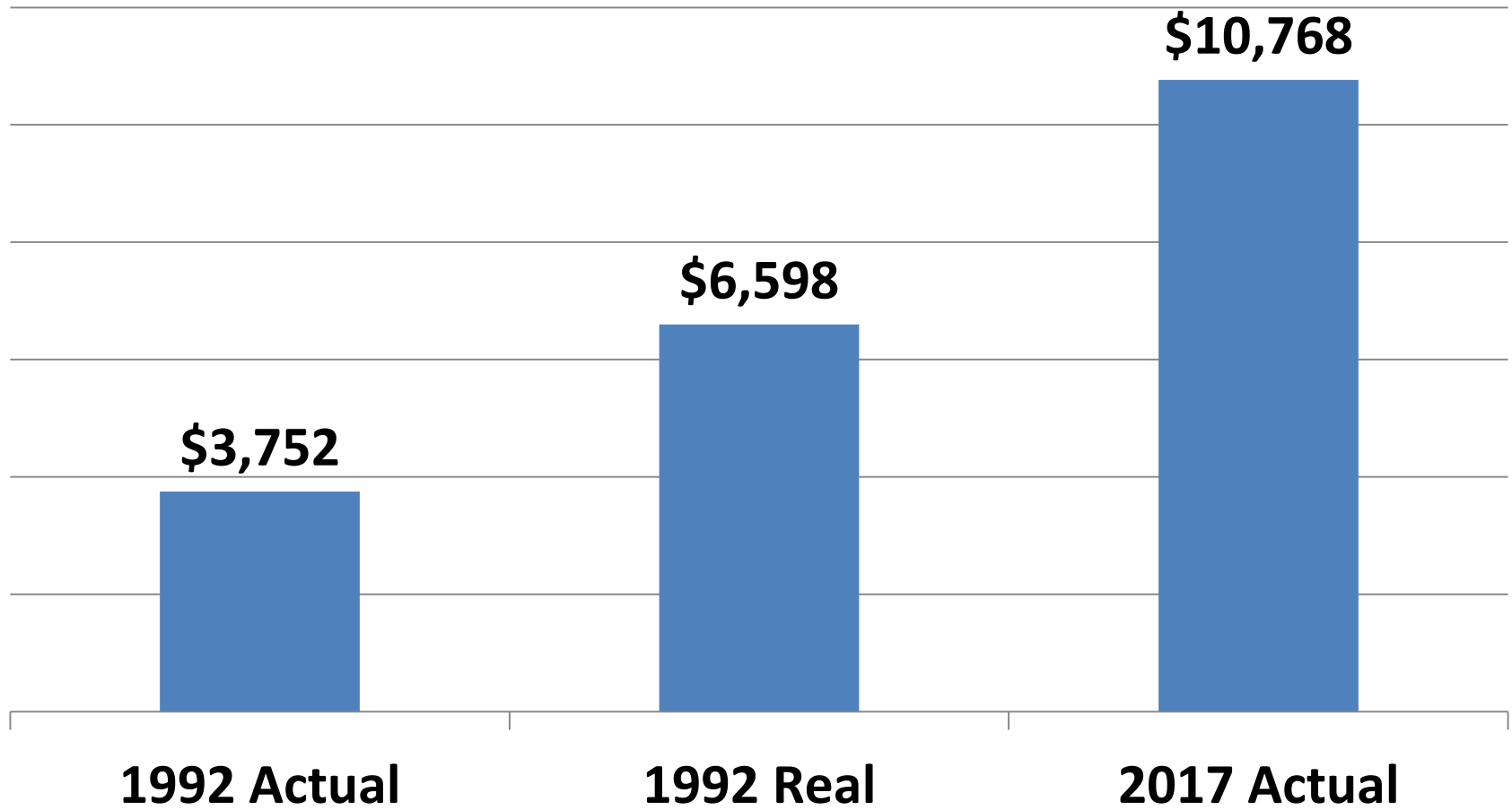
Show Me the Money

In Your States

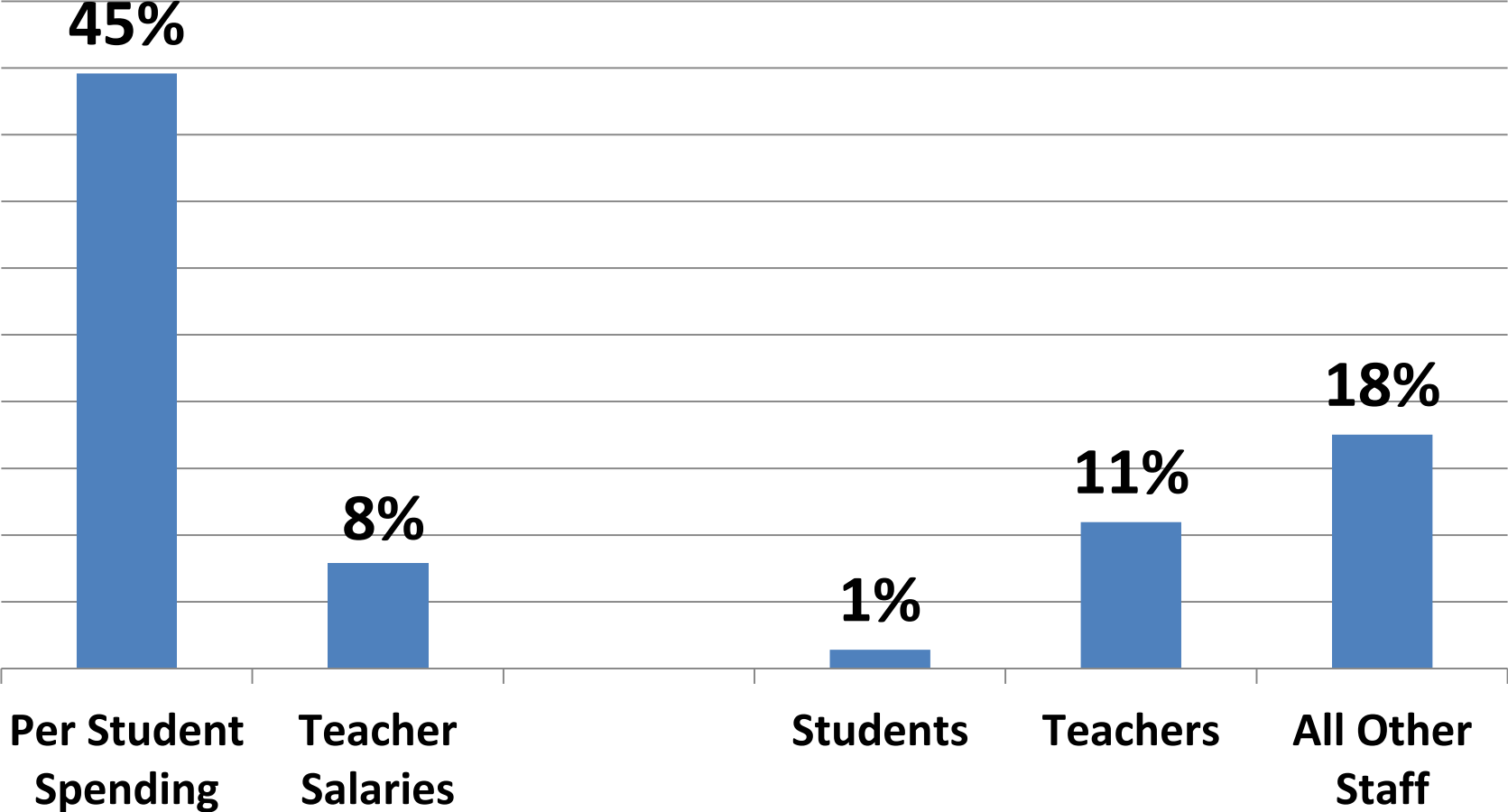
Data Notes

- All data that follow were reported by your state department of education to the National Center for Education Statistics at the U.S. Department of Education. (www.nces.ed.gov)
- Unless noted otherwise, data on total spending, “current” spending, staffing and teacher salaries are from 1992 and 2017, where 2017 is the most recent available.
 - “Current” spending is total spending minus capital and debt service.

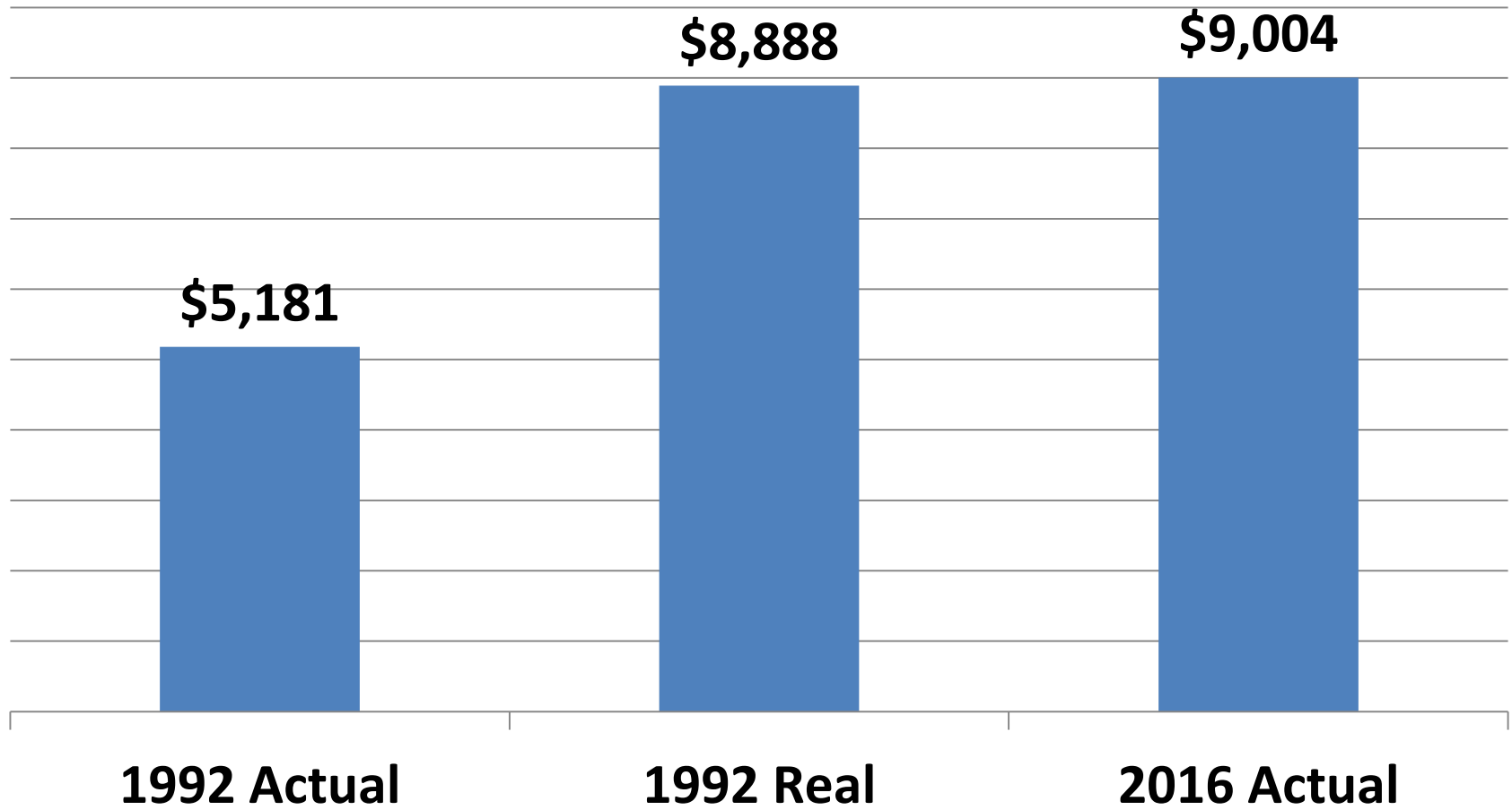
Total Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Expenditures Per Student Increased 63% in Alabama Public Schools 1992 to 2017



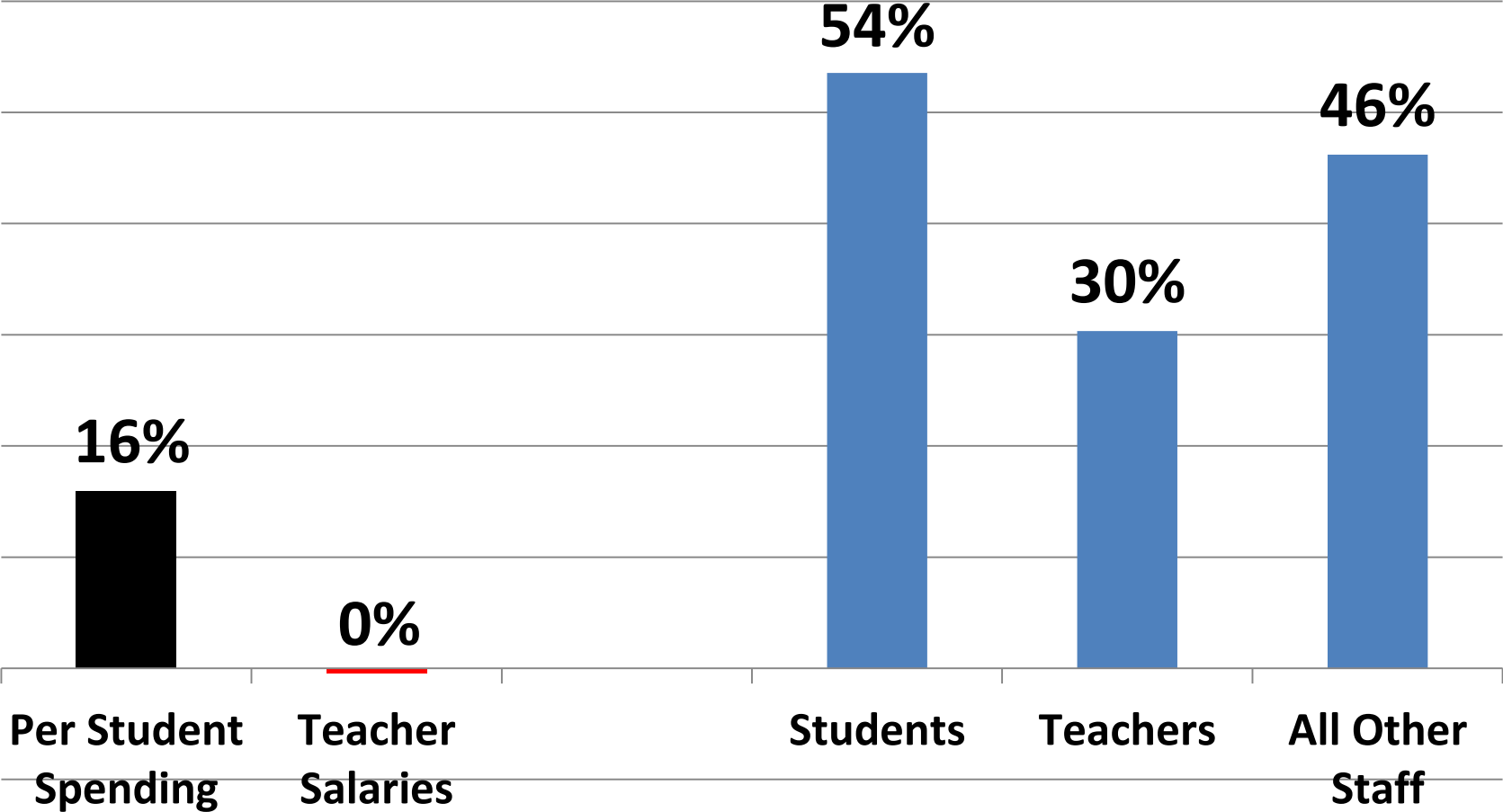
Alabama Public Schools, Change in Real (inflation-adjusted) Terms, FY 1994 to 2012



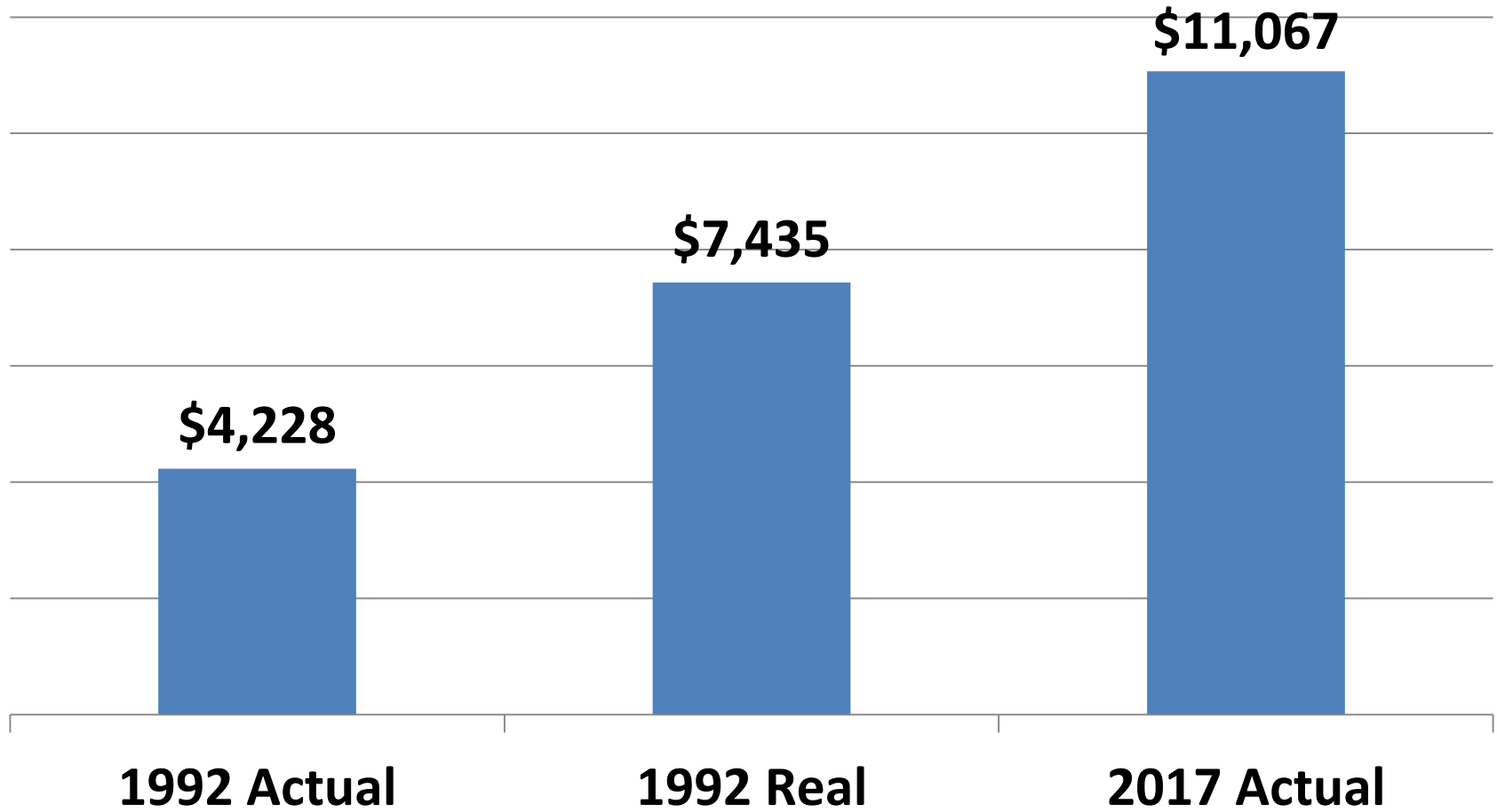
Total Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Expenditures Per Student Increased 1% in Arizona Public Schools 1992 to 2017



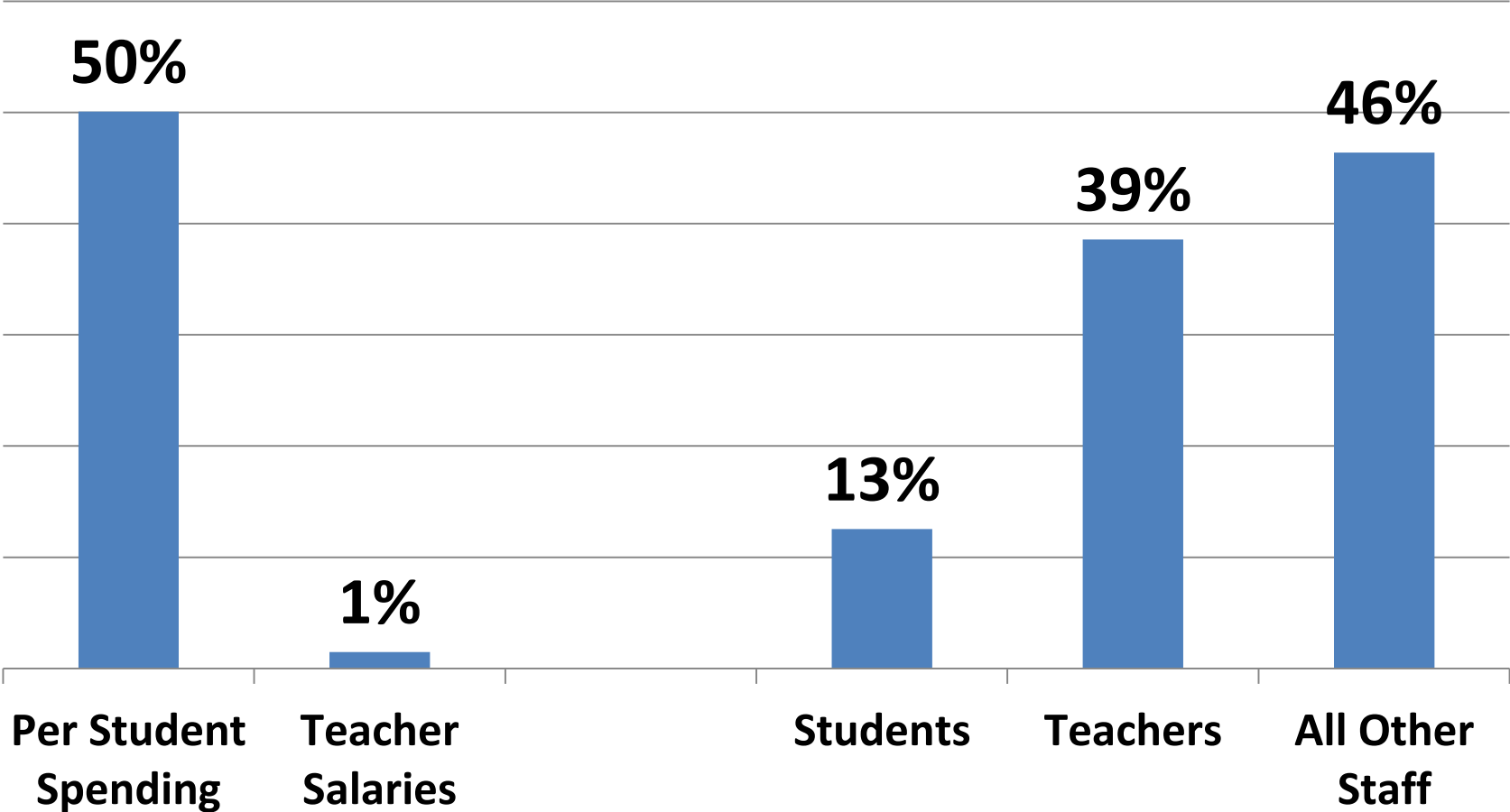
Arizona Public Schools, Change in Real (inflation-adjusted) Terms, FY 1994 to 2015



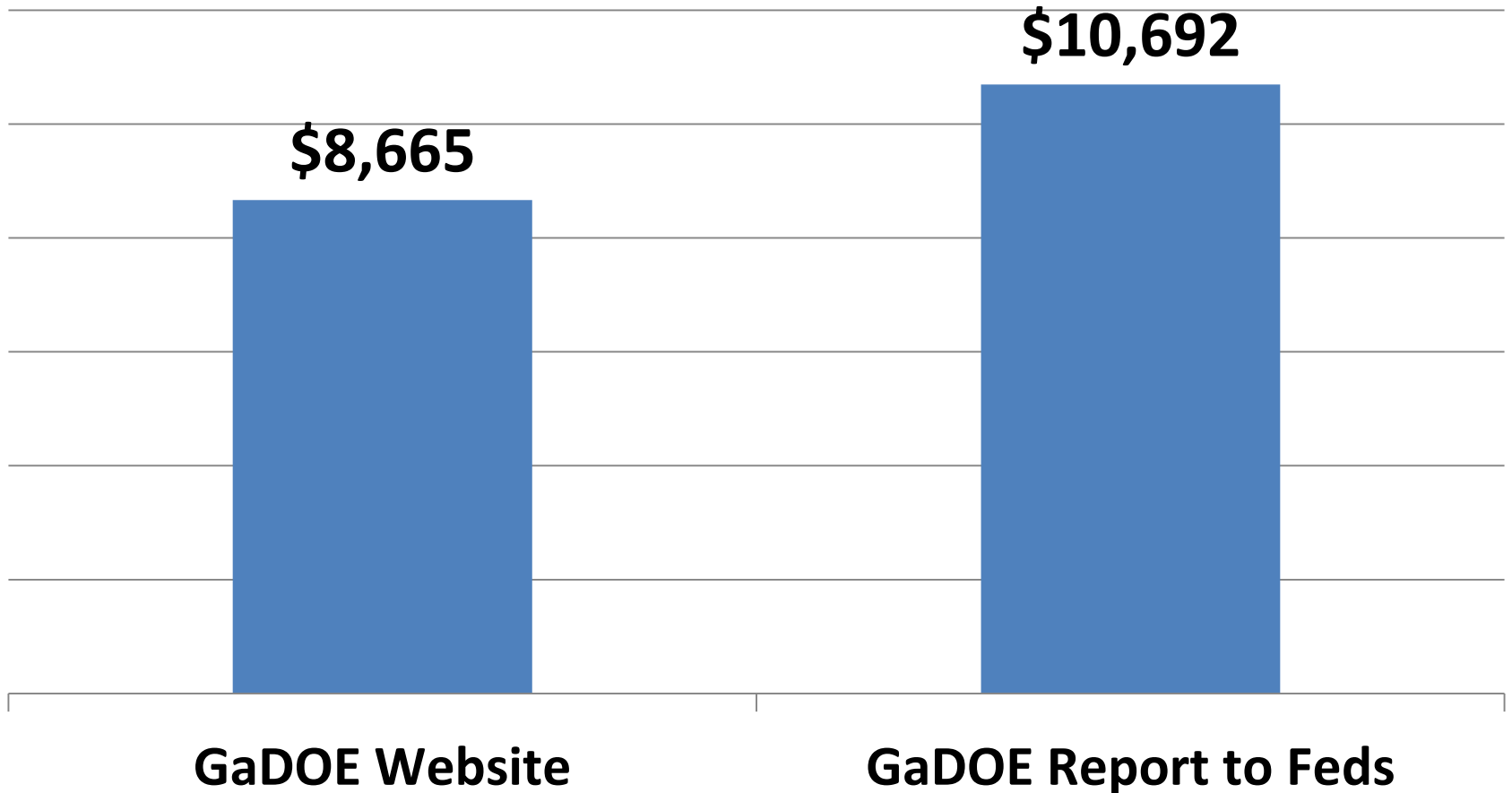
Total Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Expenditures Per Student Increased 49% in Arkansas Public Schools 1992 to 2017



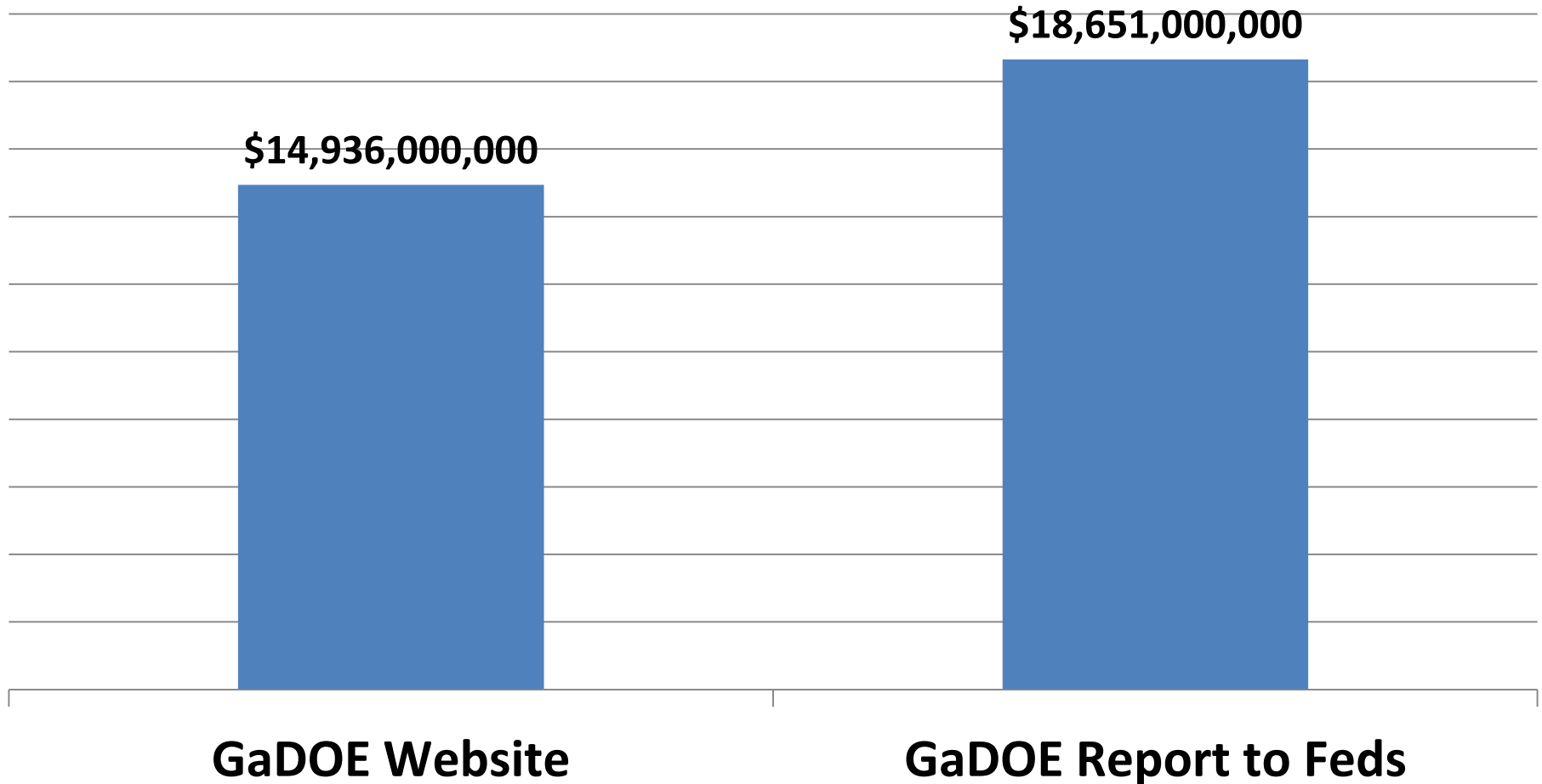
Arkansas Public Schools, Change in Real (inflation-adjusted) Terms, FY 1992 to 2017



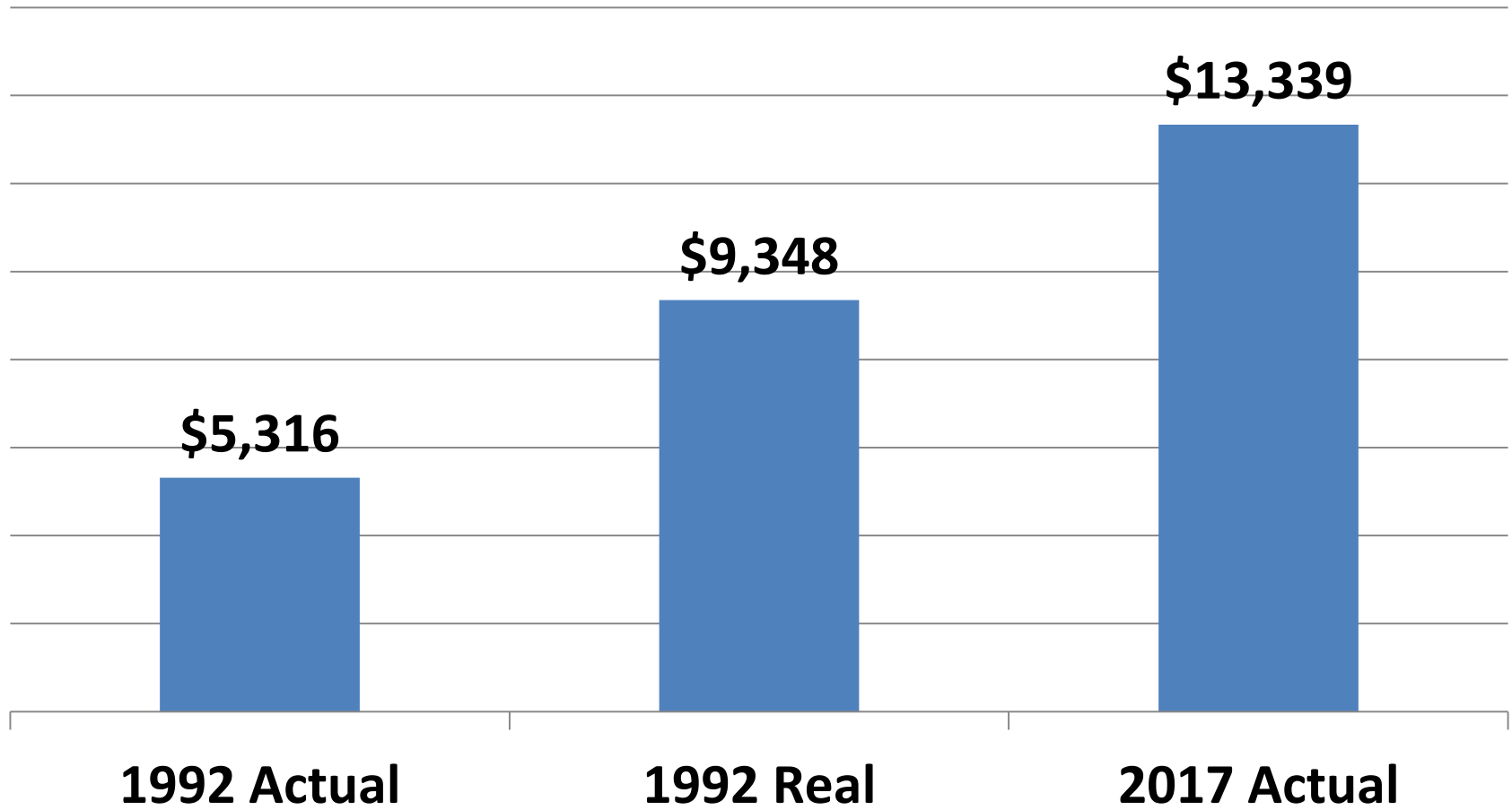
Most State Departments of Education (DOEs) are Not Transparent with Respect to How Much is Really Spent on Public Schools (2015)



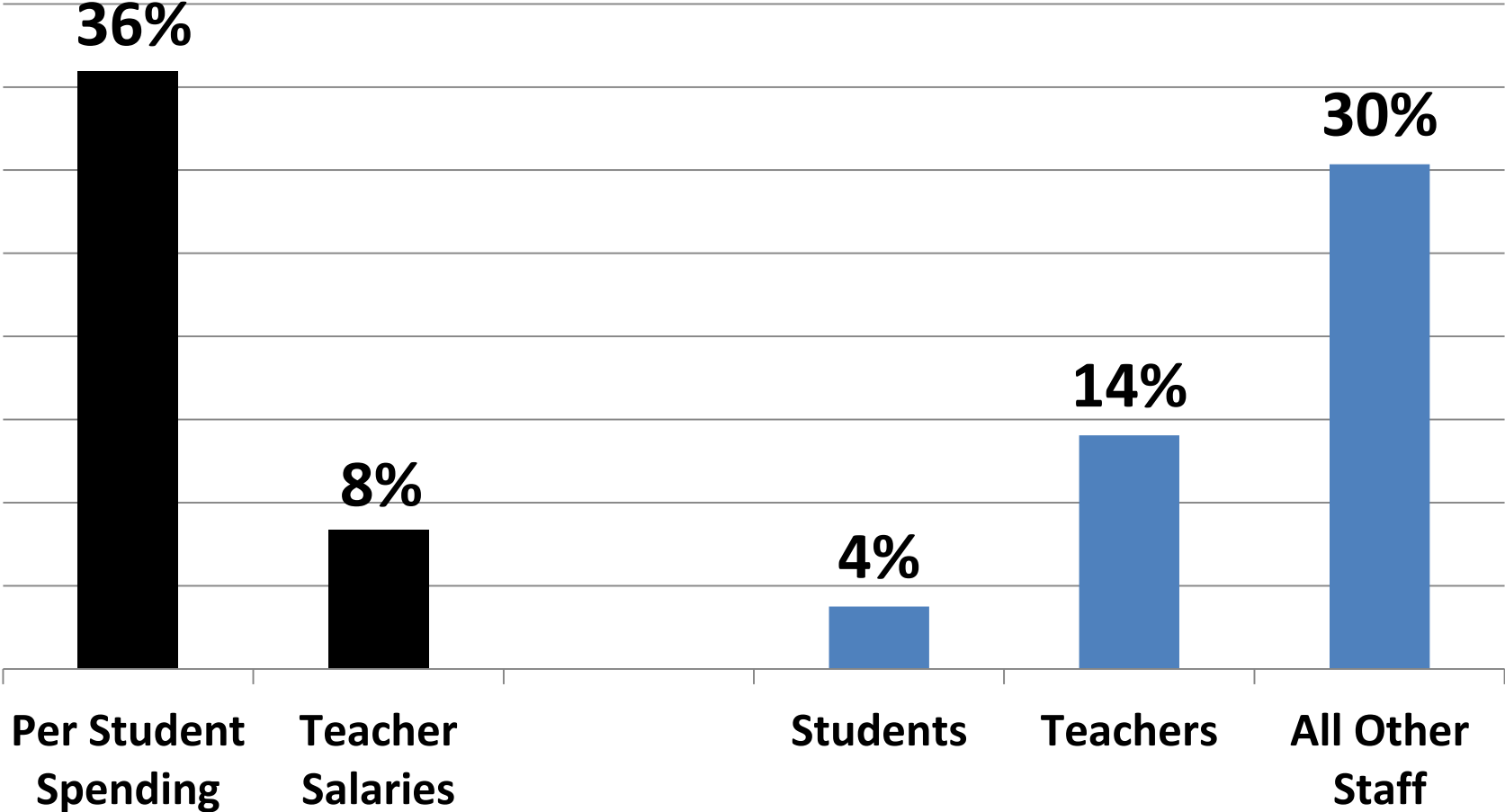
Discrepancy Between Georgia DOE Website and Georgia DOE Report to the US DOE is Over \$3.7 Billion



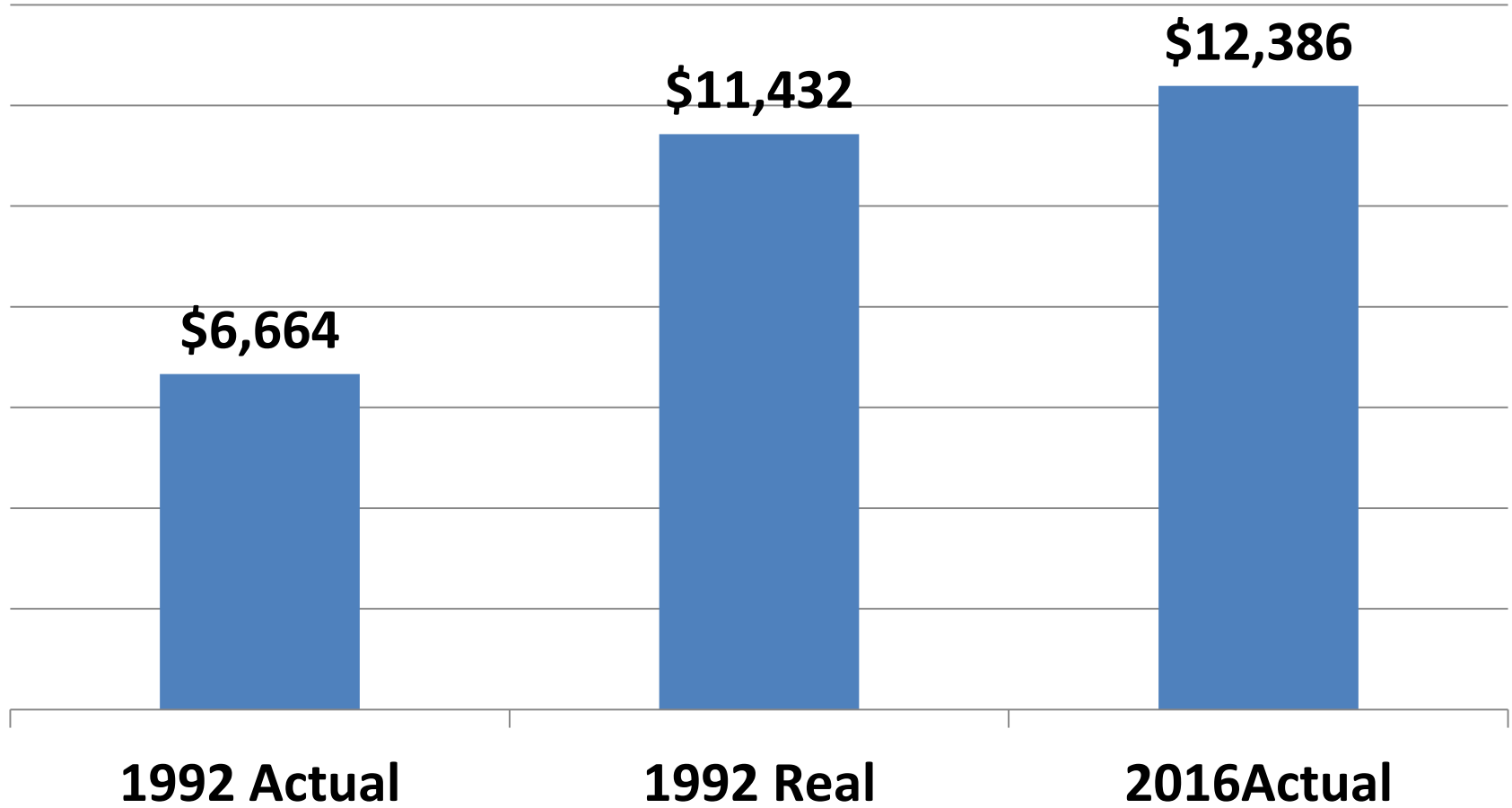
Total Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Expenditures Per Student Increased 43% in Iowa Public Schools 1992 to 2017



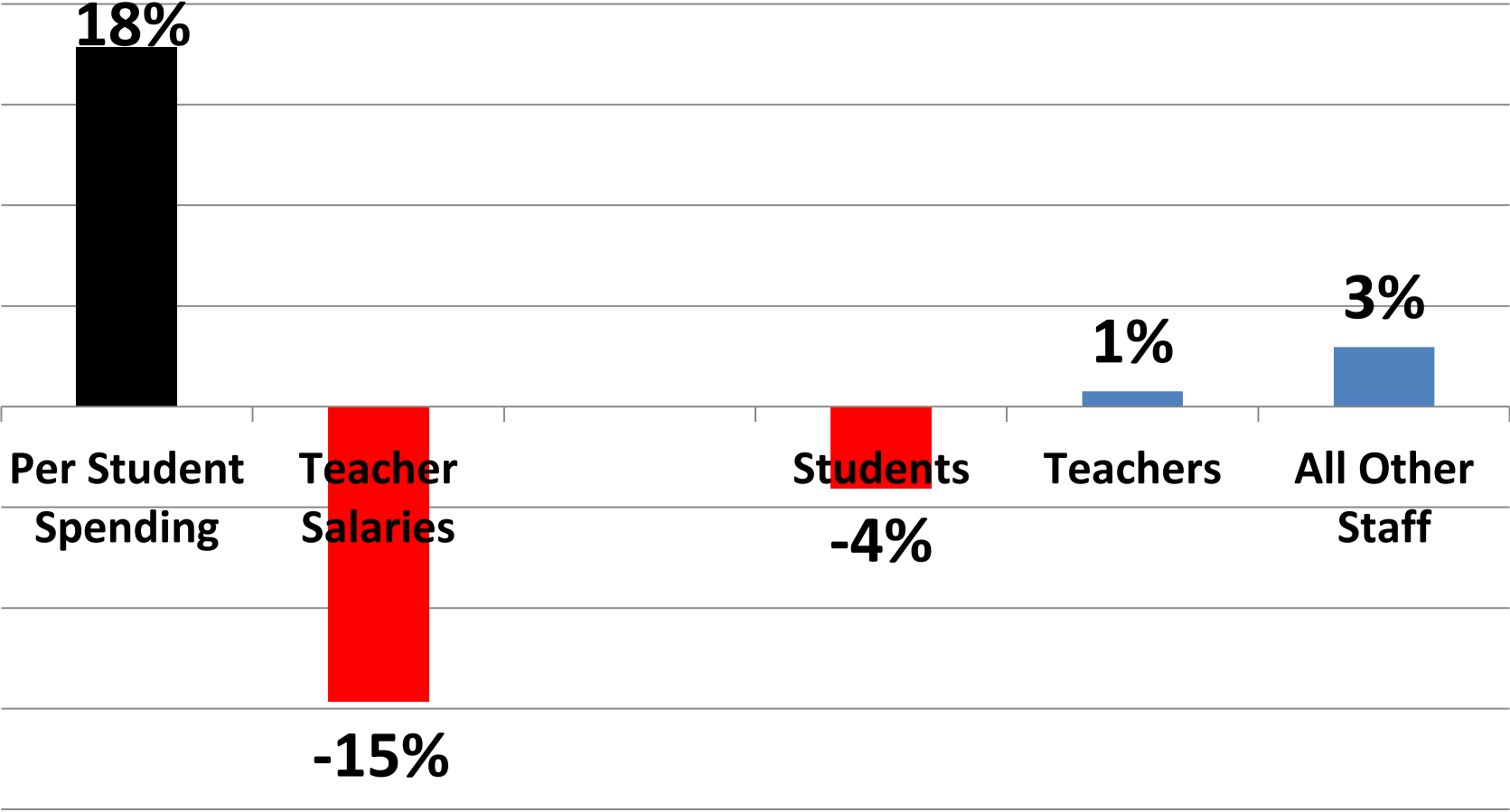
Iowa Public Schools, Change in Real (inflation-adjusted) Terms, FY 1992 to 2017



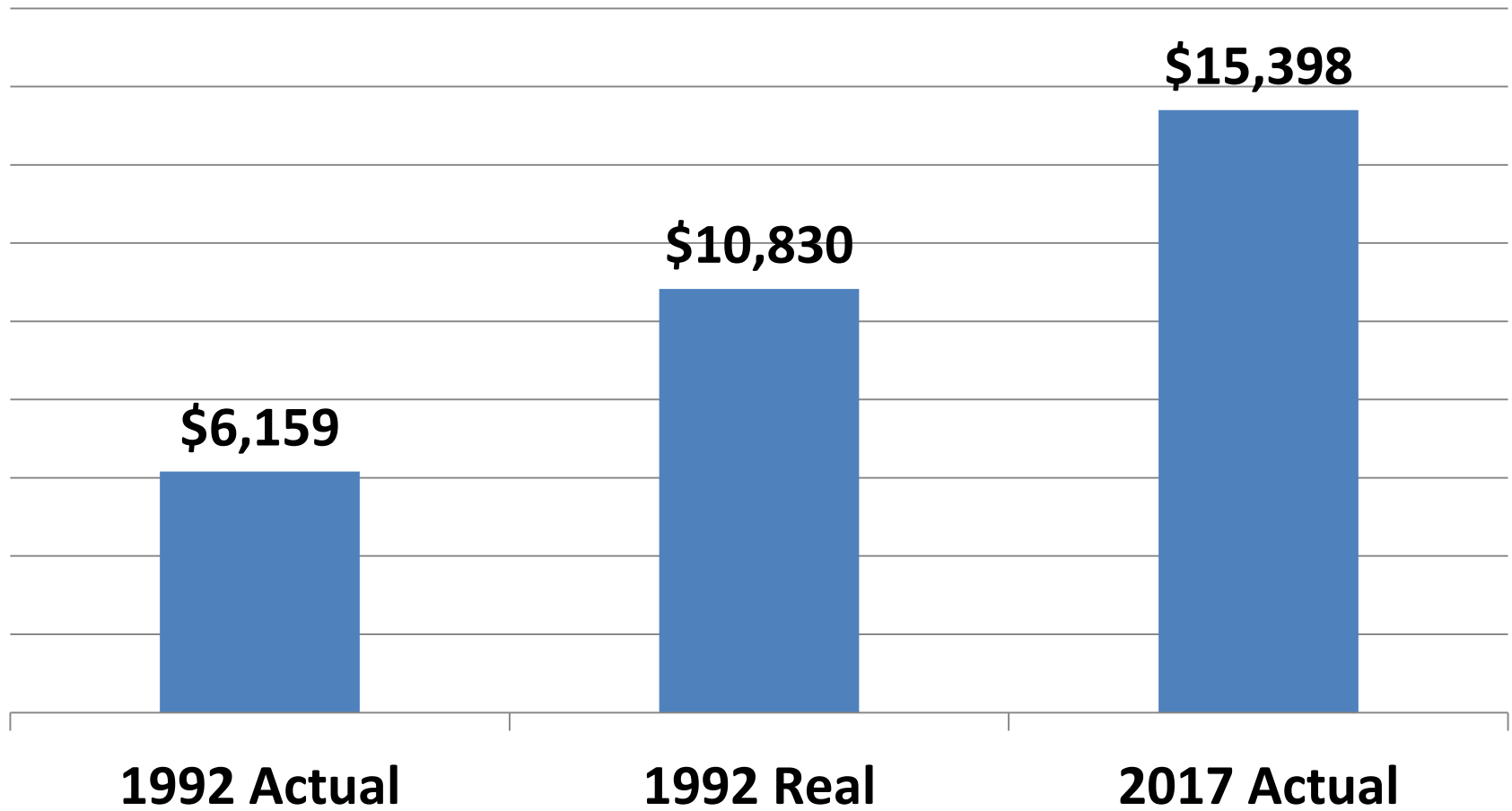
Total Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Expenditures Per Student Increased 8% in Michigan Public Schools 1992 to 2016



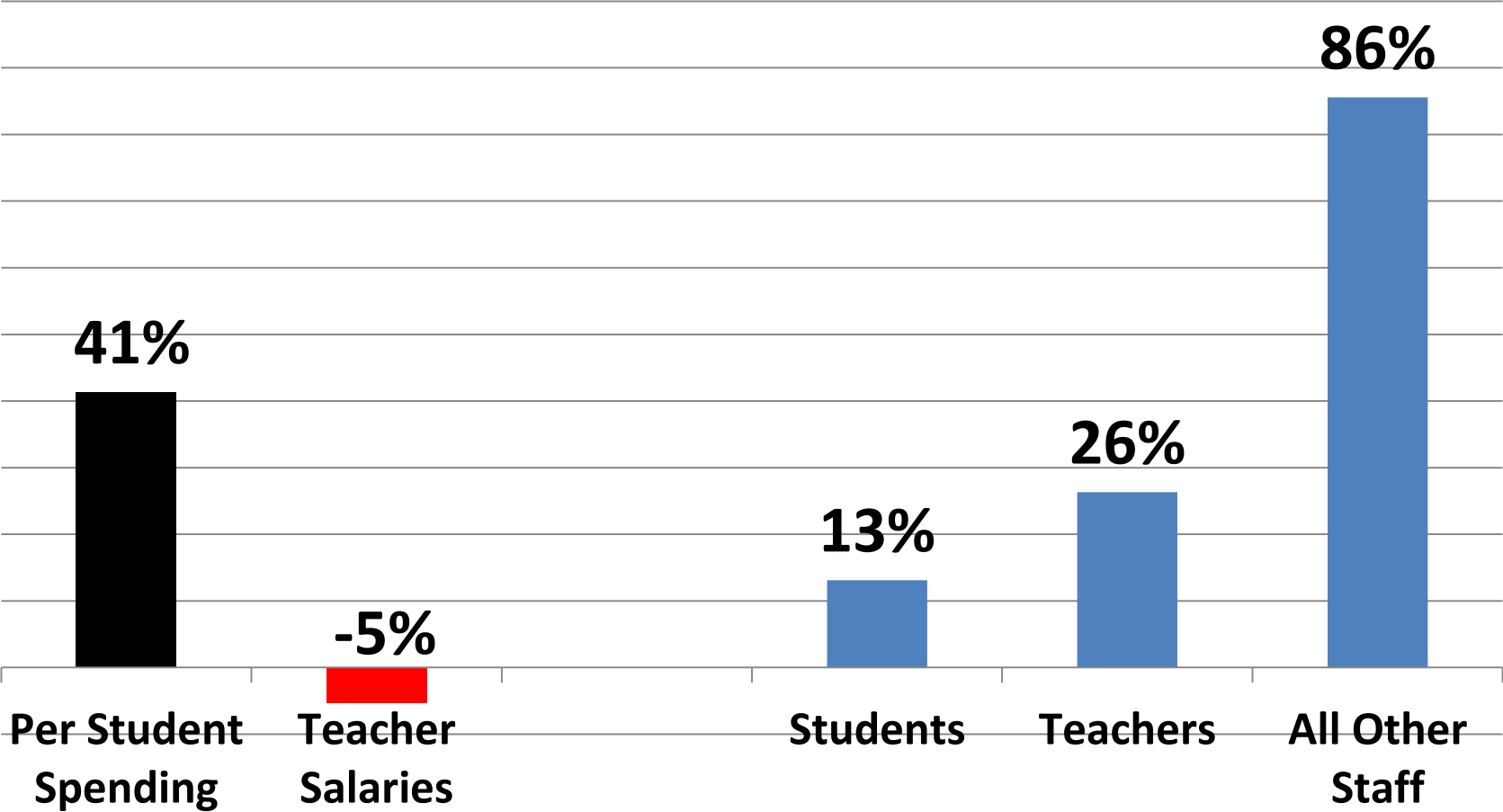
Michigan Public Schools, Change in Real (inflation-adjusted) Terms, FY 1992 to 2017



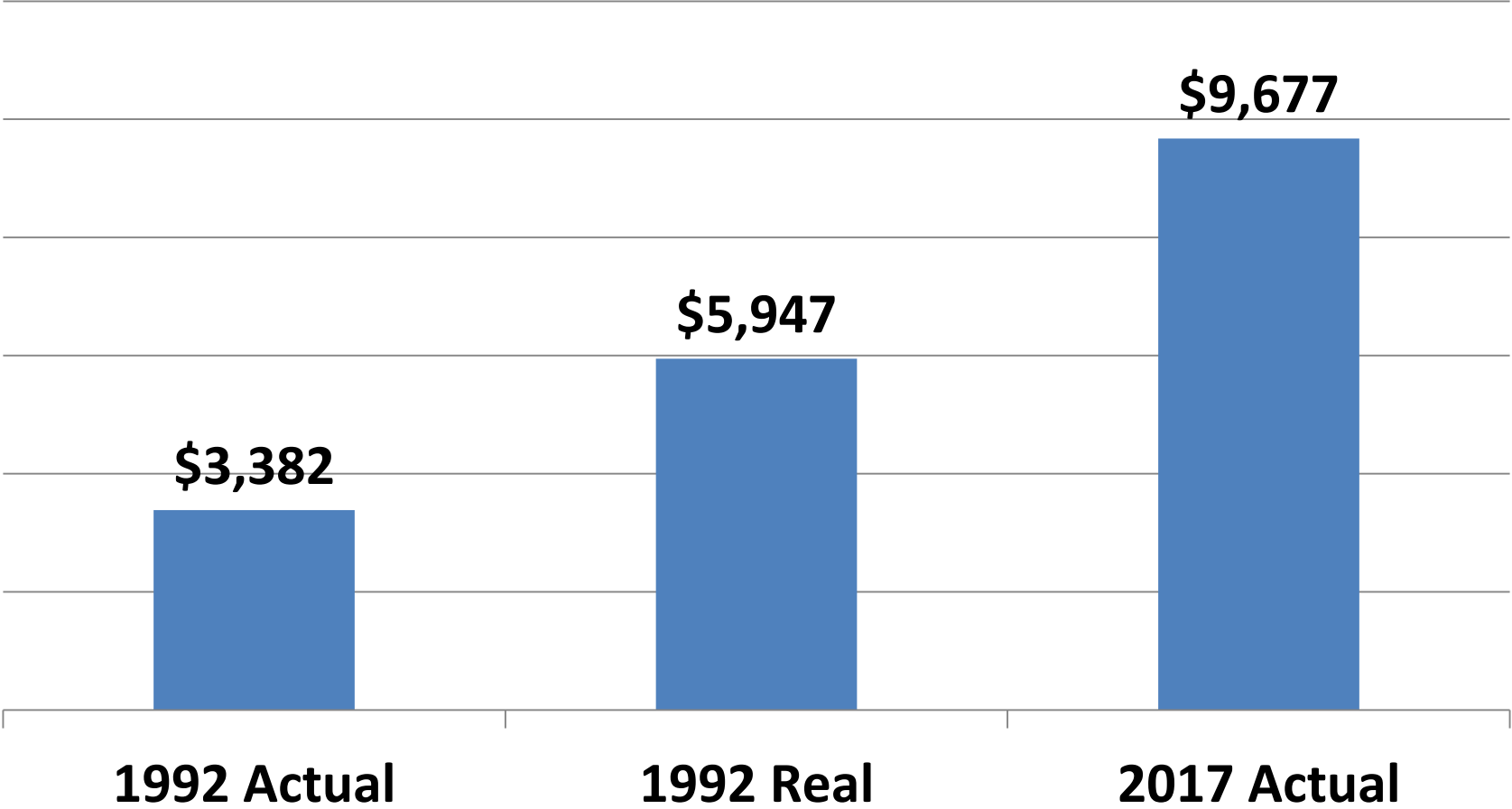
Total Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Expenditures Per Student Increased 42% in Minnesota Public Schools 1992 to 2017



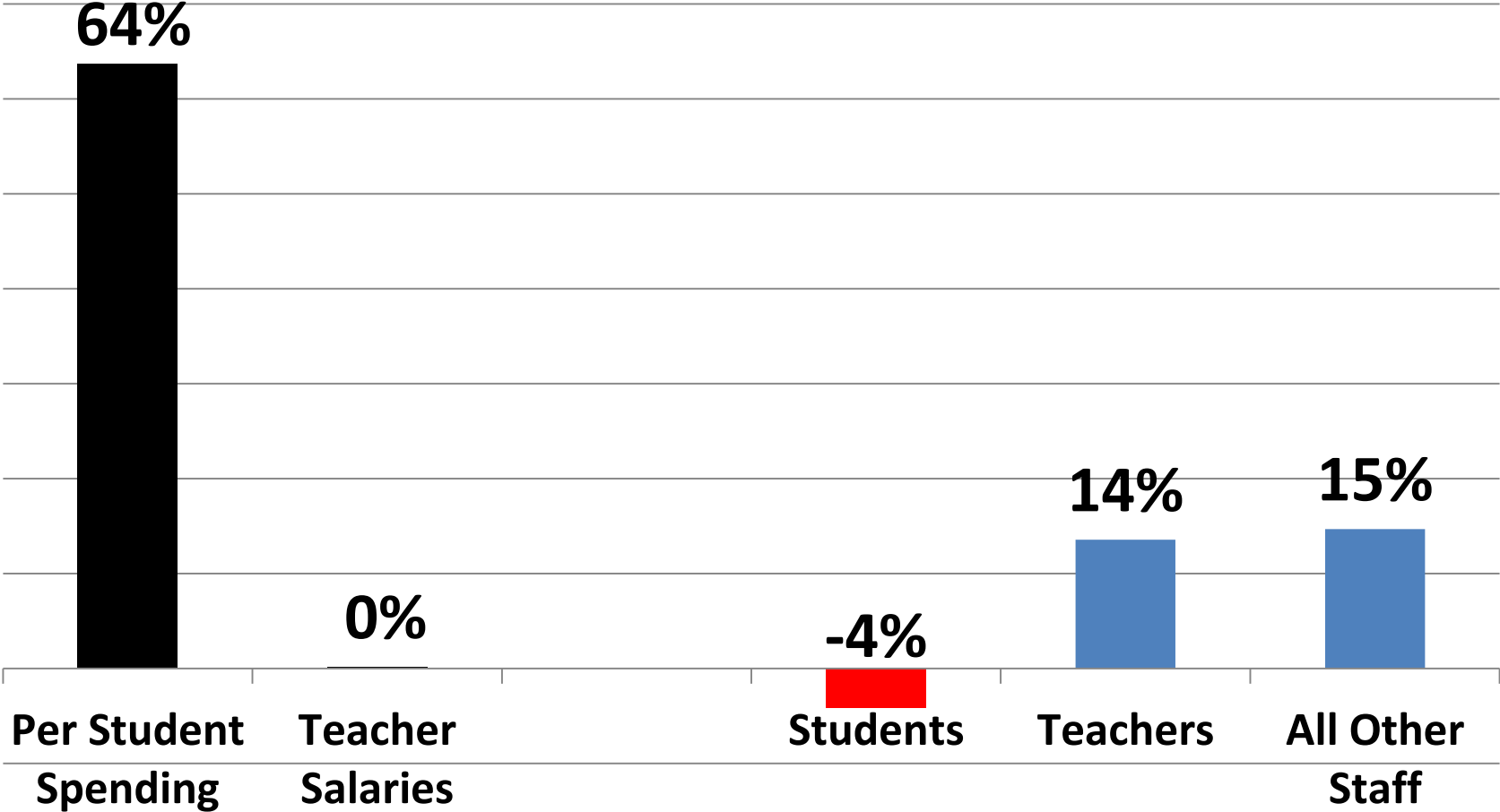
Minnesota Public Schools, Change in Real (inflation-adjusted) Terms, FY 1992 to 2017



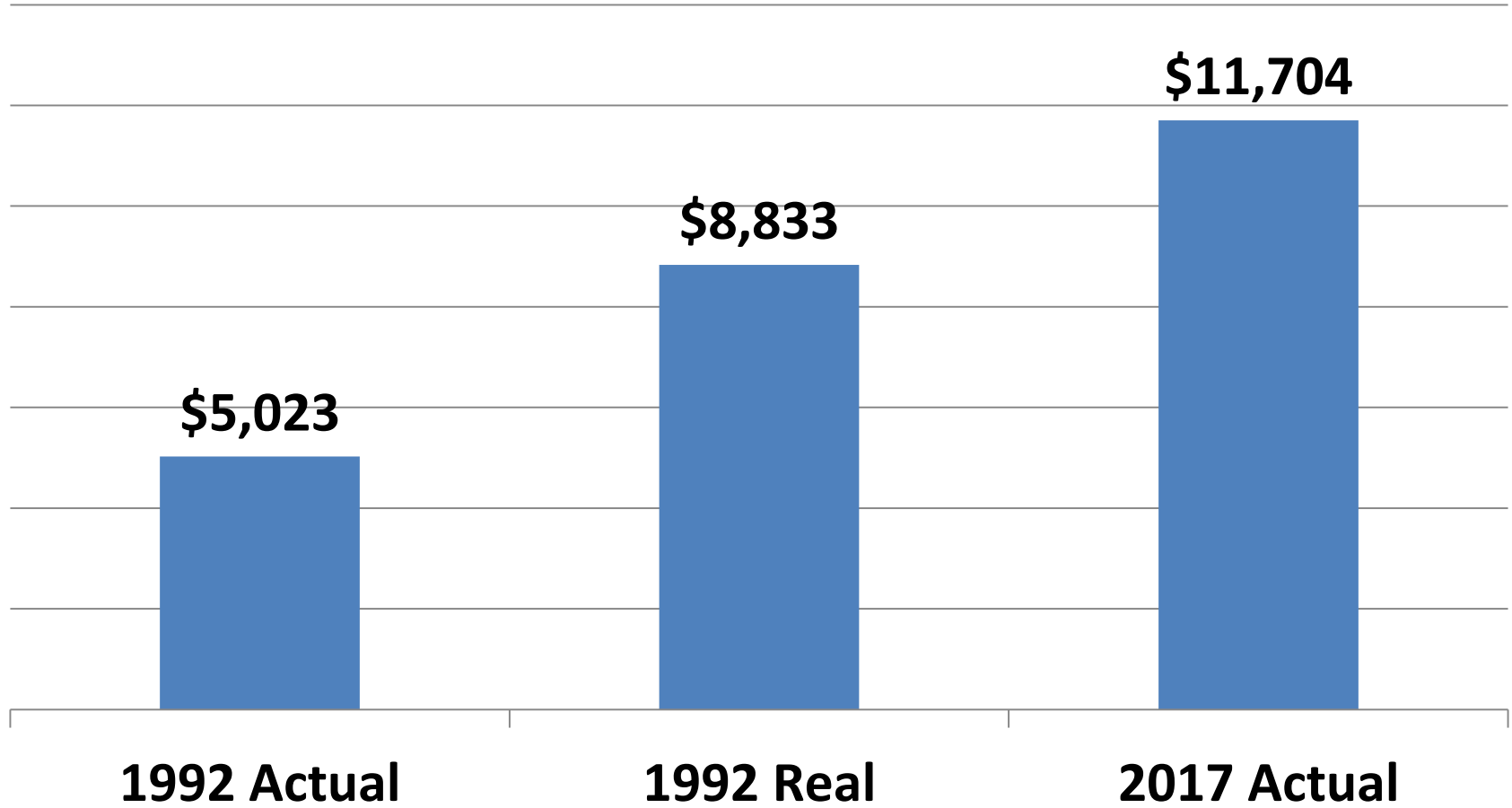
Total Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Expenditures Per Student Increased 63% in Mississippi Public Schools 1992 to 2017



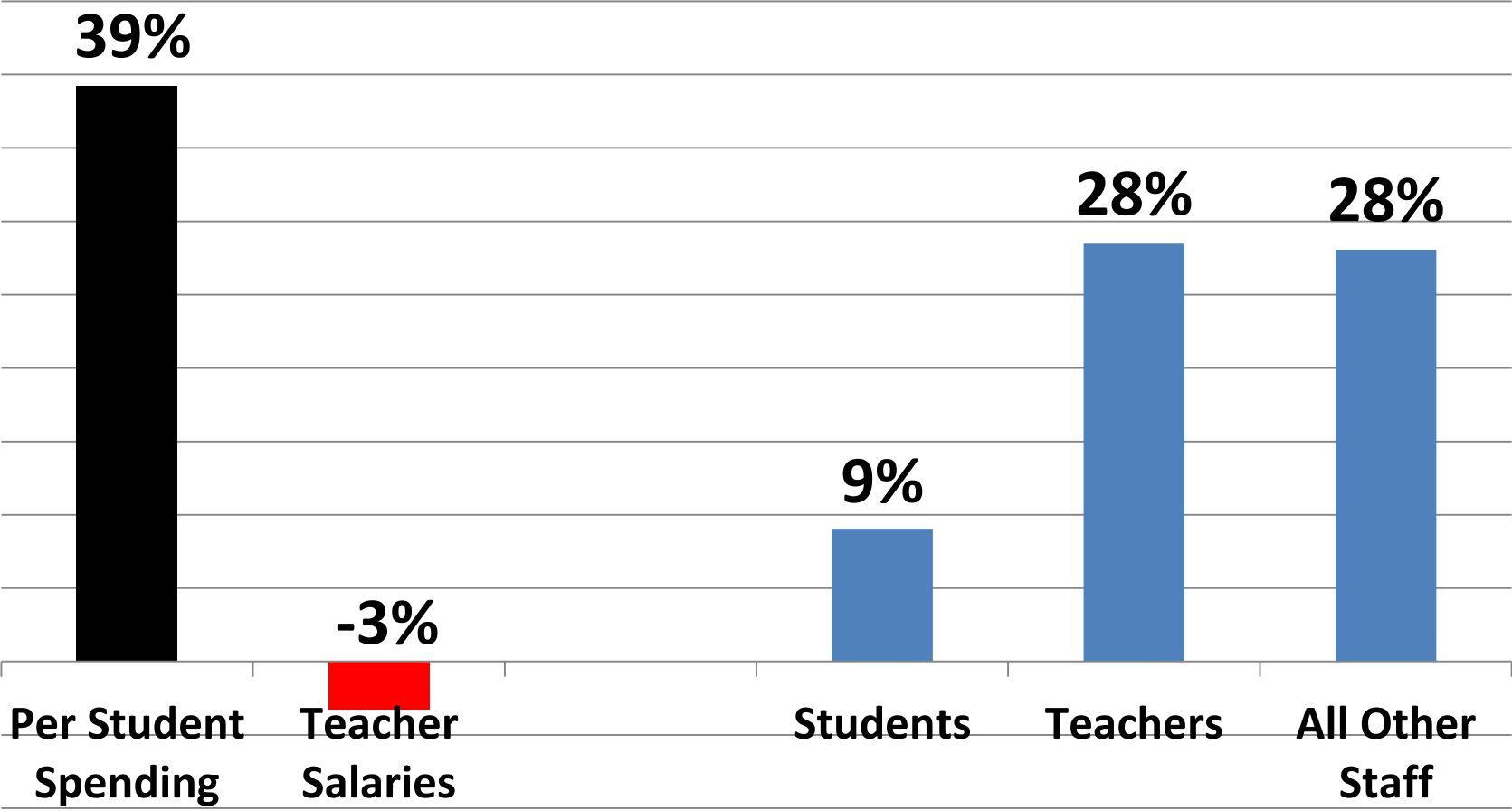
Mississippi Public Schools, Change in Real (inflation-adjusted) Terms, FY 1992 to 2016



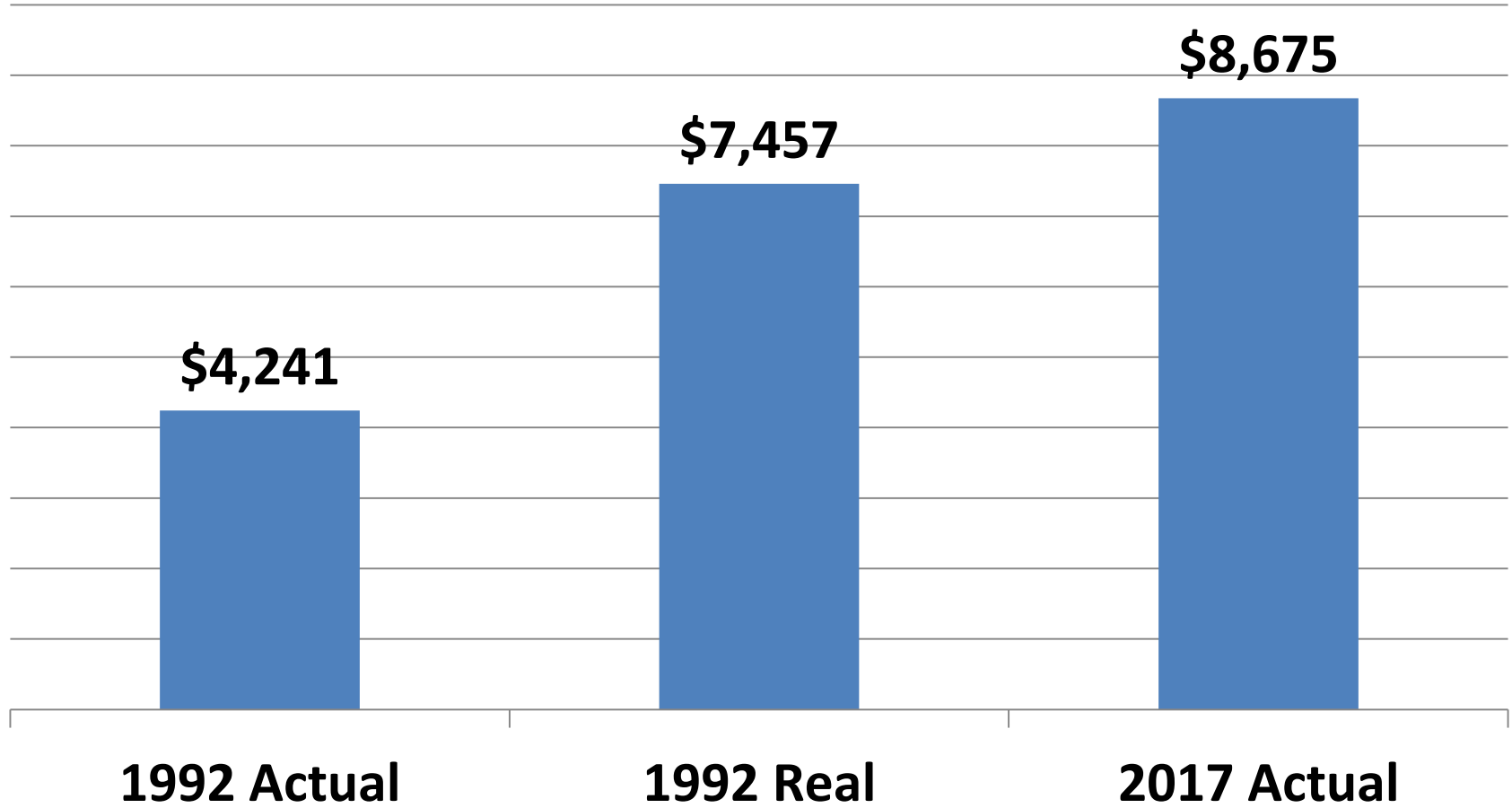
Total Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Expenditures Per Student Increased 33% in Missouri Public Schools 1992 to 2017



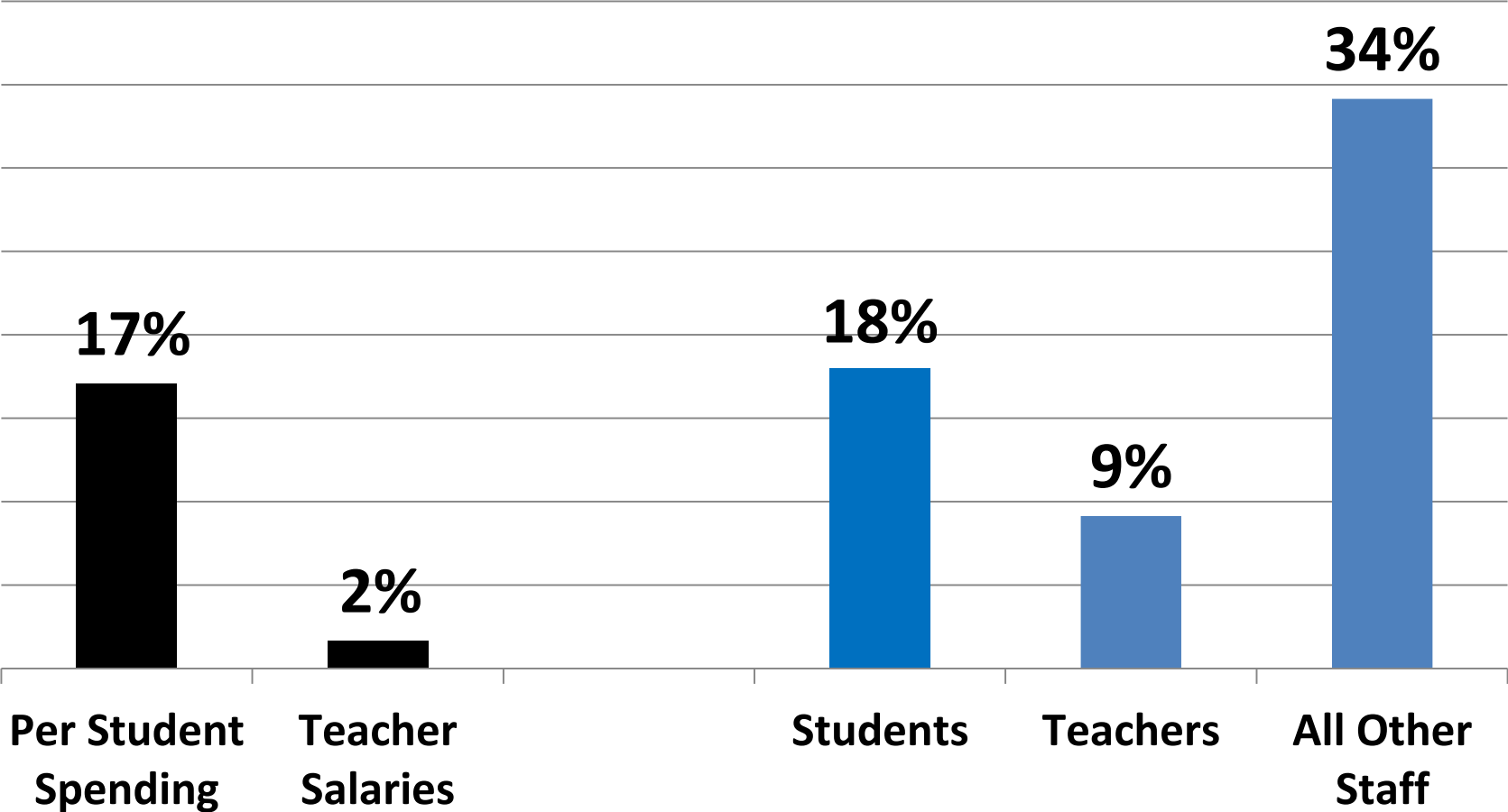
Missouri Public Schools, Change in Real (inflation-adjusted) Terms, FY 1992 to 2016



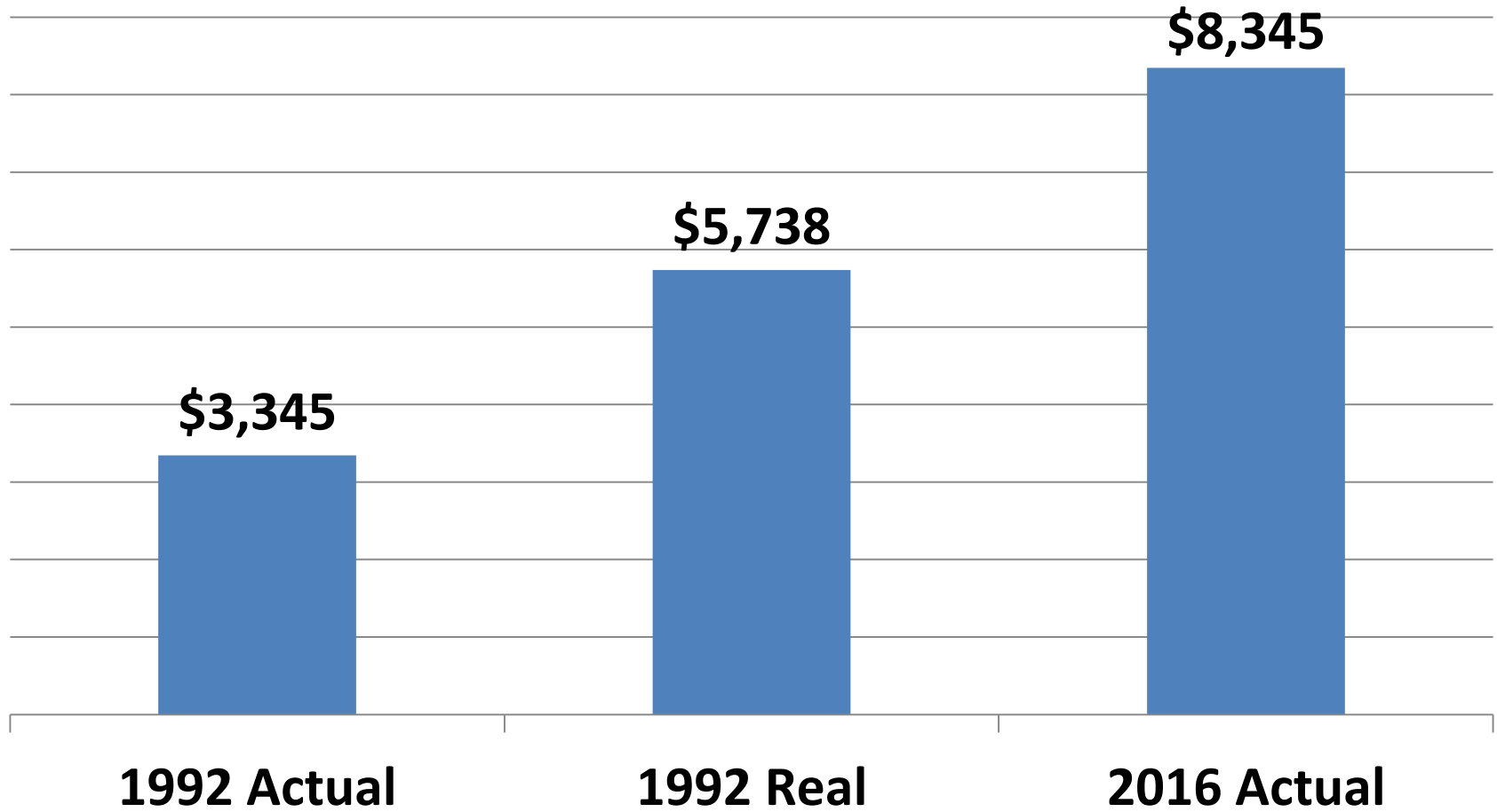
**Total Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Expenditures Per Student
Increased 16% in Oklahoma Public Schools
1992 to 2017**



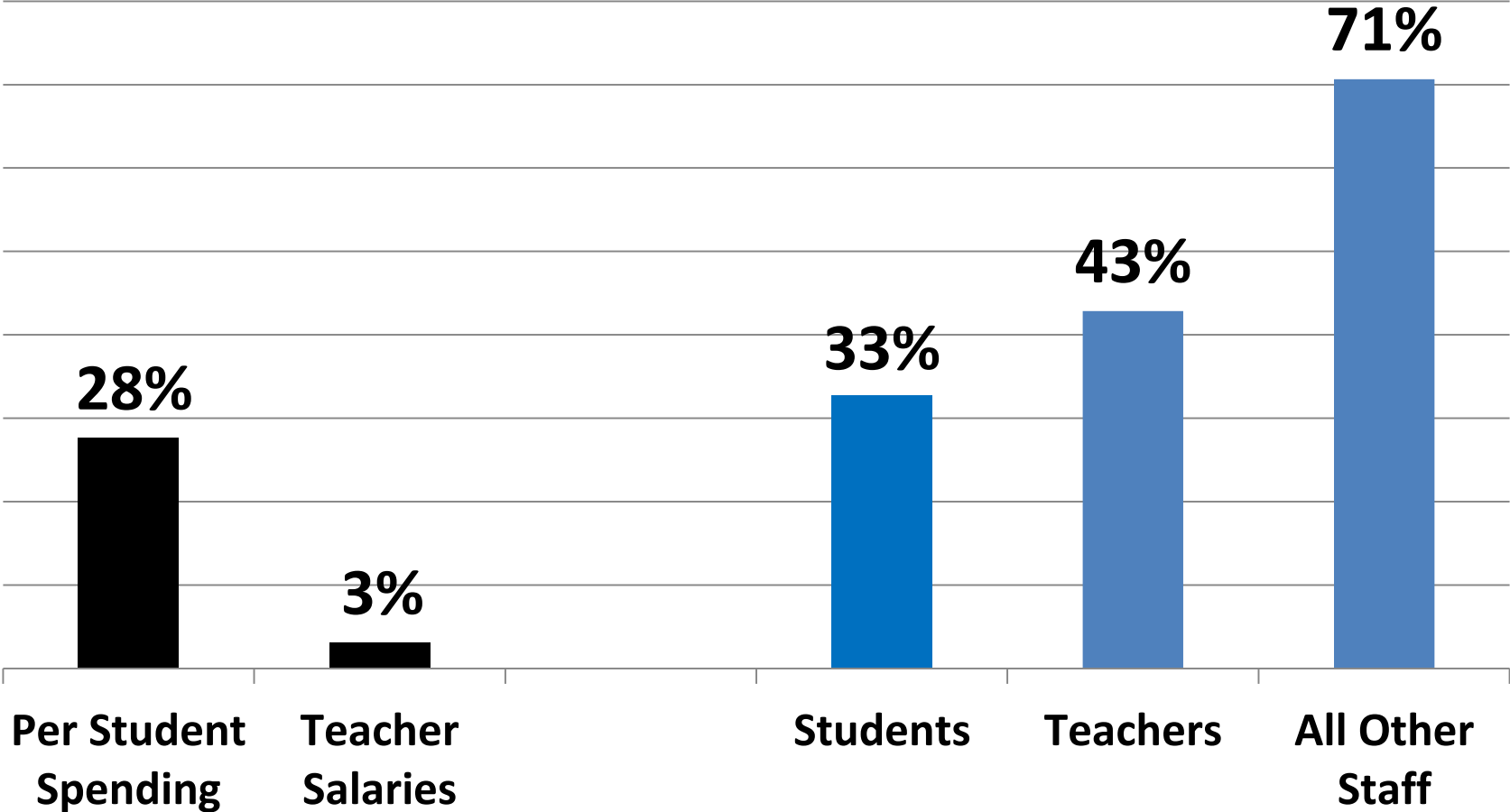
Oklahoma Public Schools, Change in Real (inflation-adjusted) Terms, FY 1992 to 2017



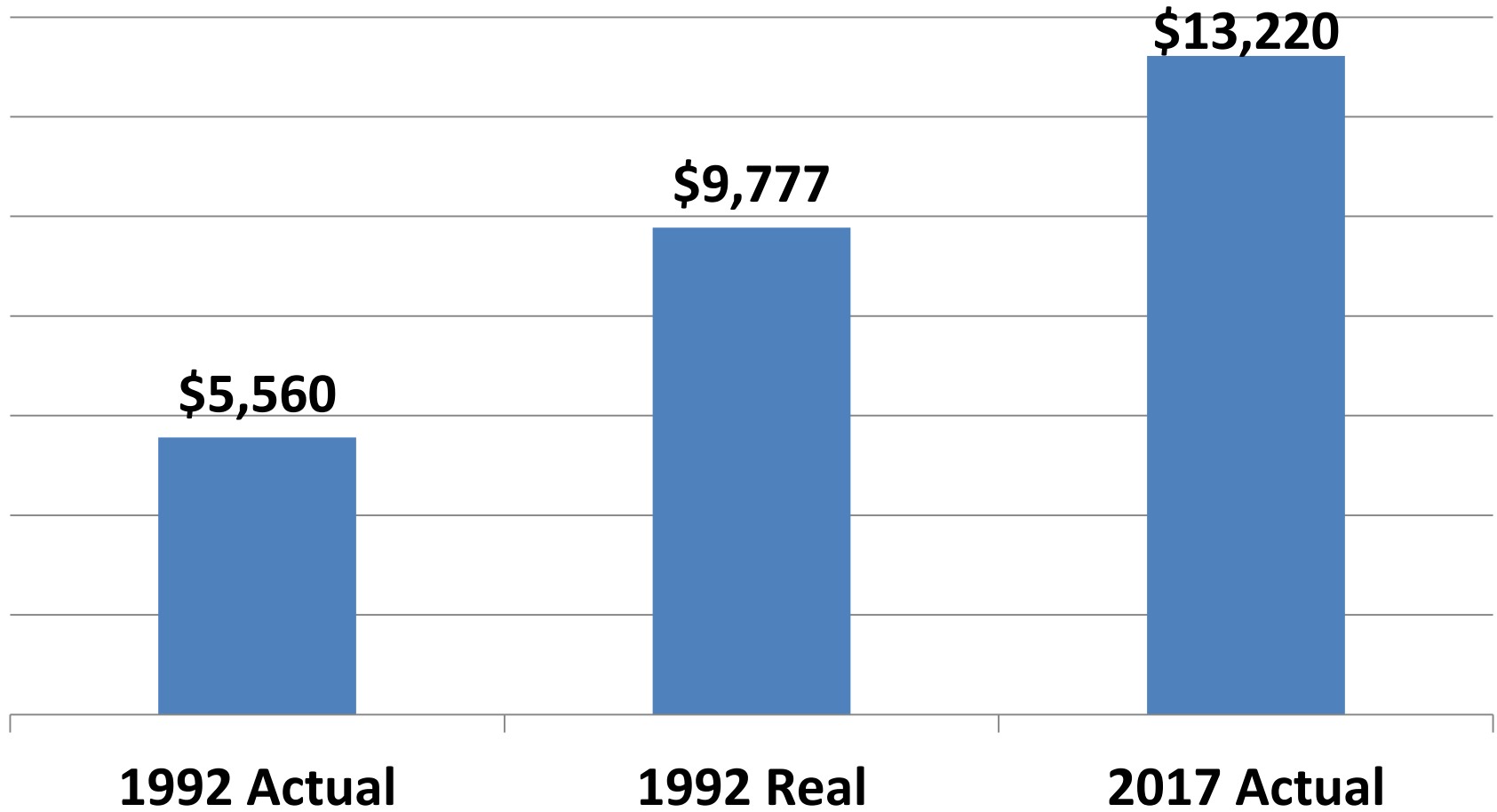
Total Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Expenditures Per Student Increased 45% in Utah Public Schools 1992 to 2016



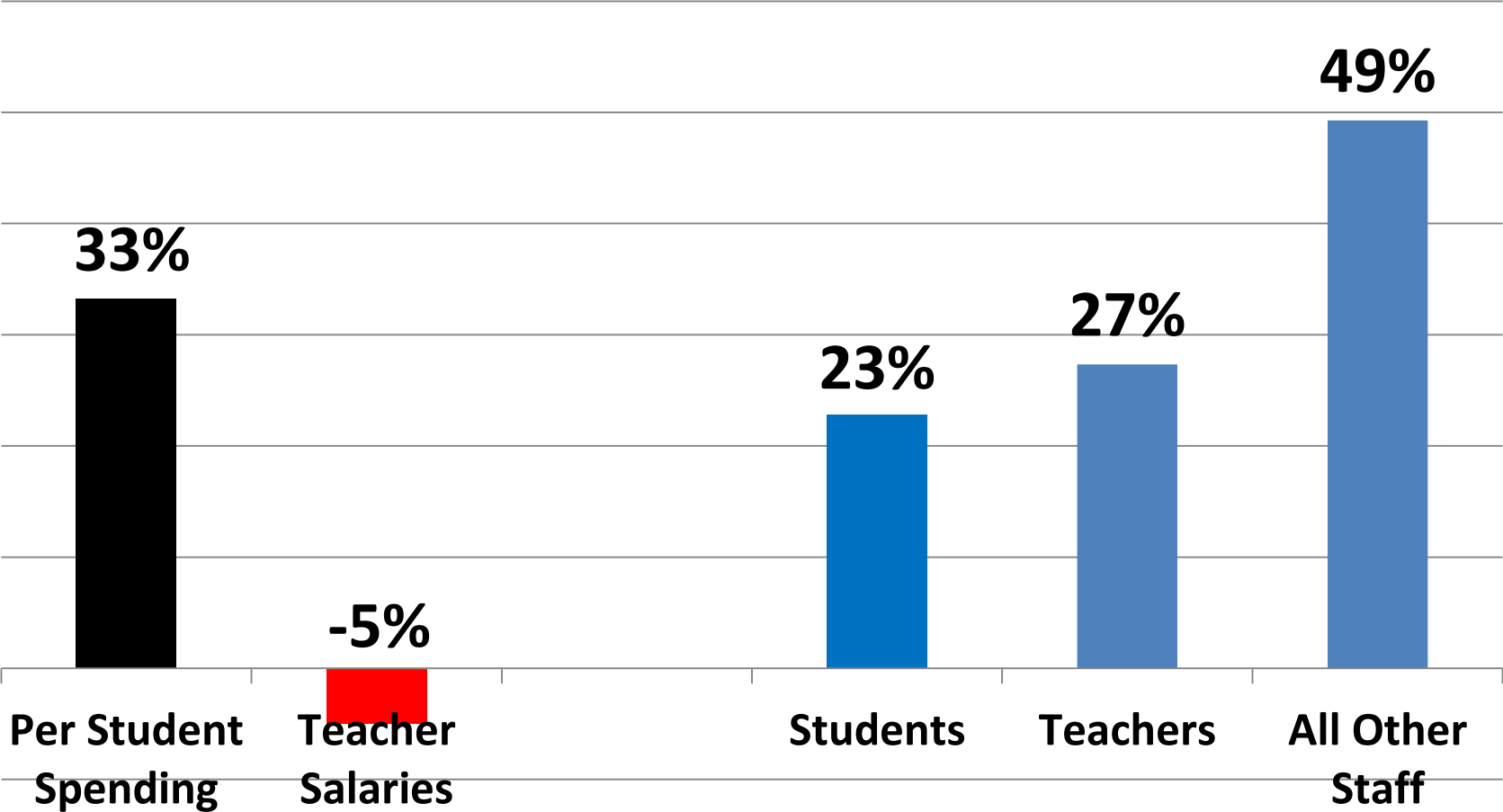
Utah Public Schools, Change in Real (inflation-adjusted) Terms, FY 1994 to 2014



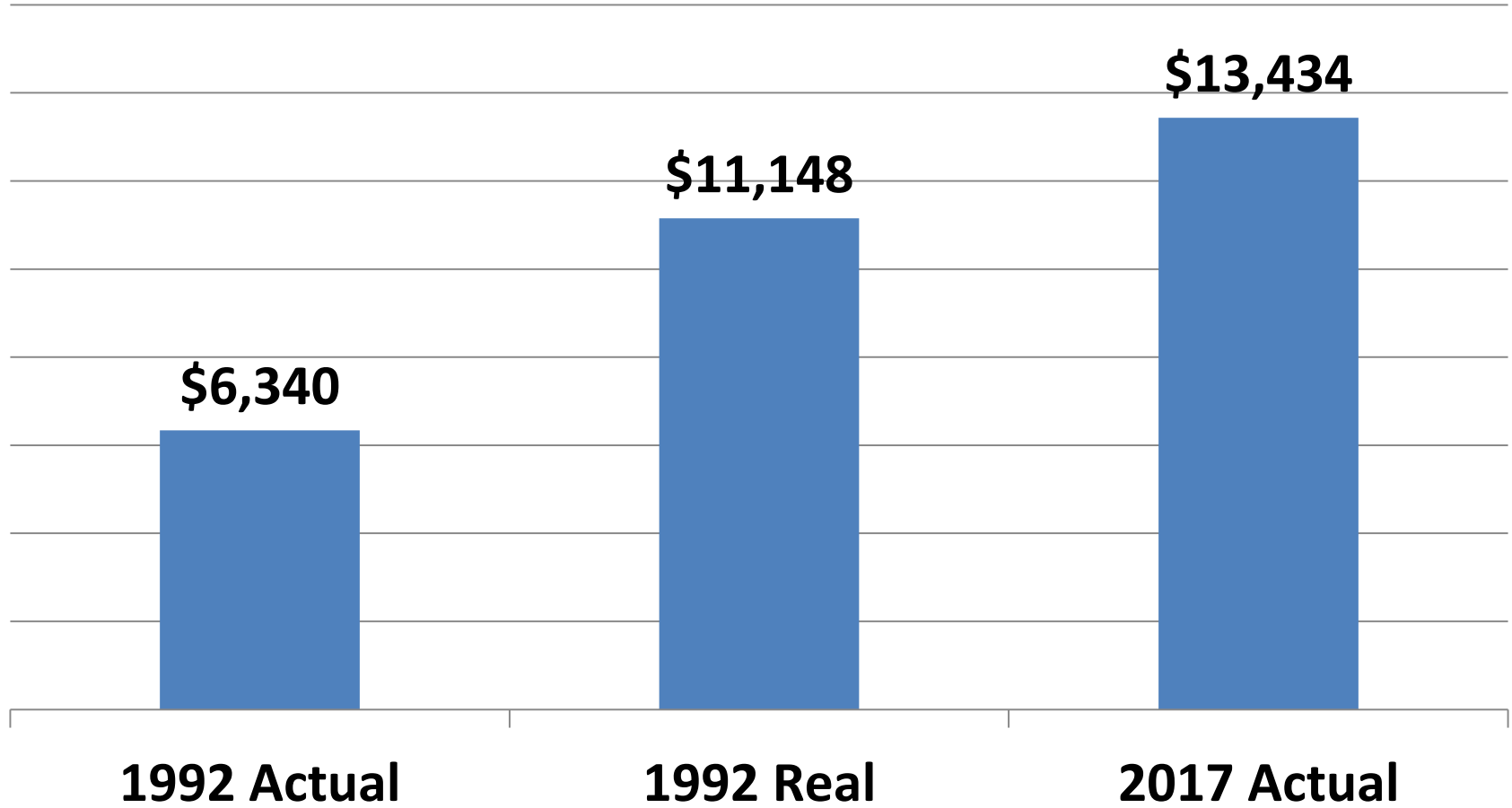
**Total Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Expenditures Per Student
Increased 35% in Virginia Public Schools
1992 to 2017**



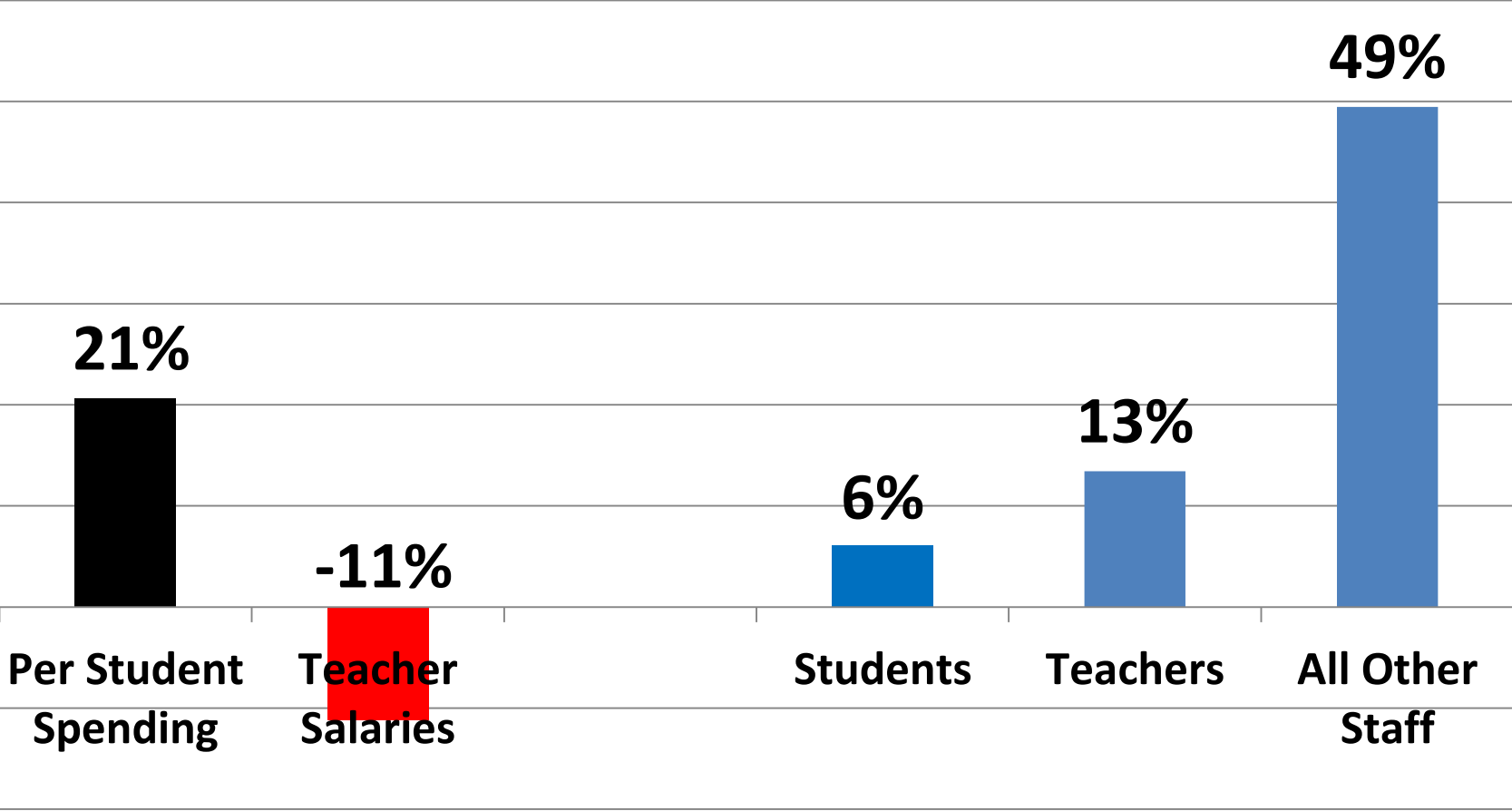
Virginia Public Schools, Change in Real (inflation-adjusted) Terms, FY 1994 to 2016



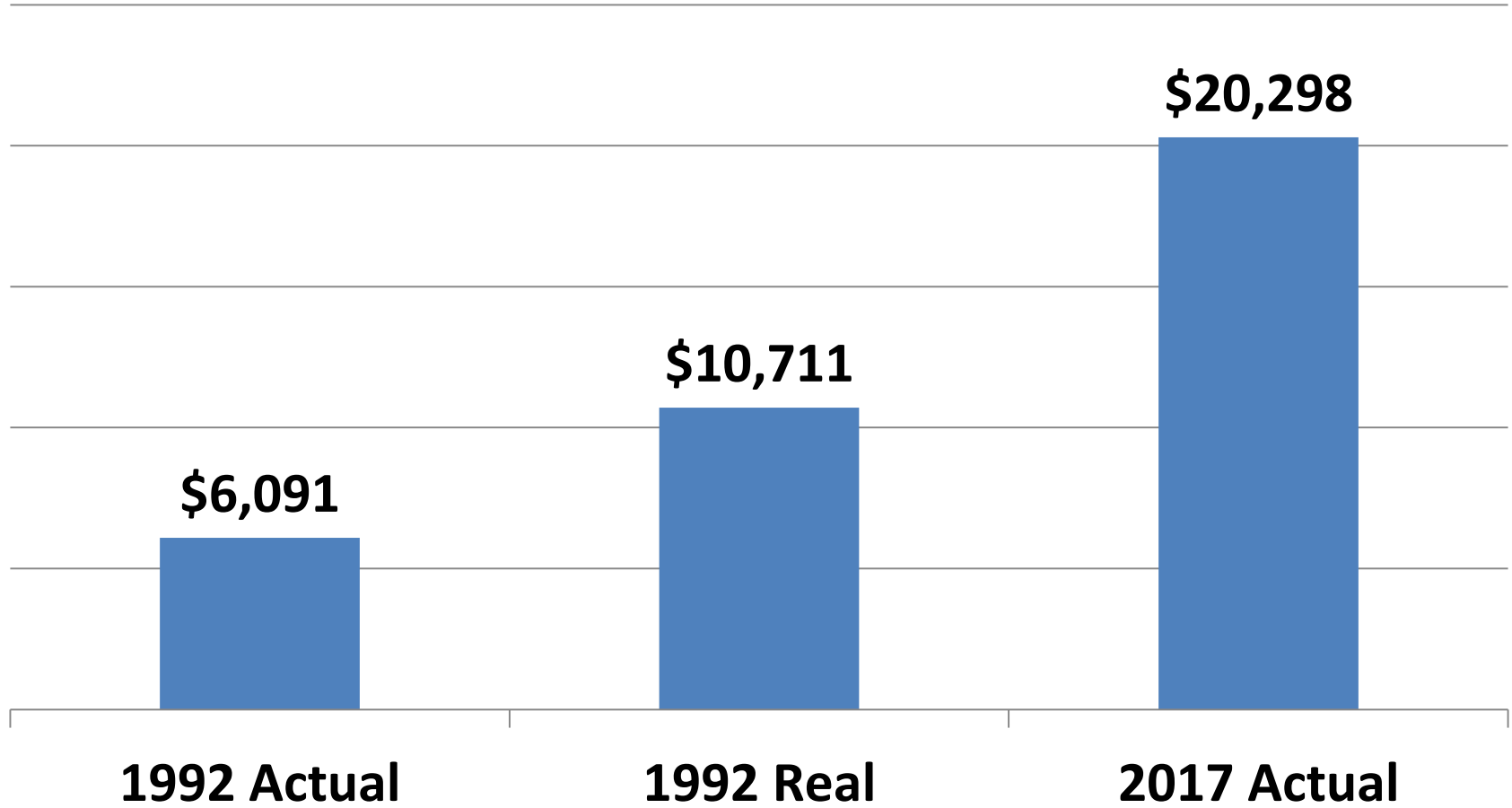
**Total Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Expenditures Per Student
Increased 21% in Wisconsin Public Schools
1992 to 2017**



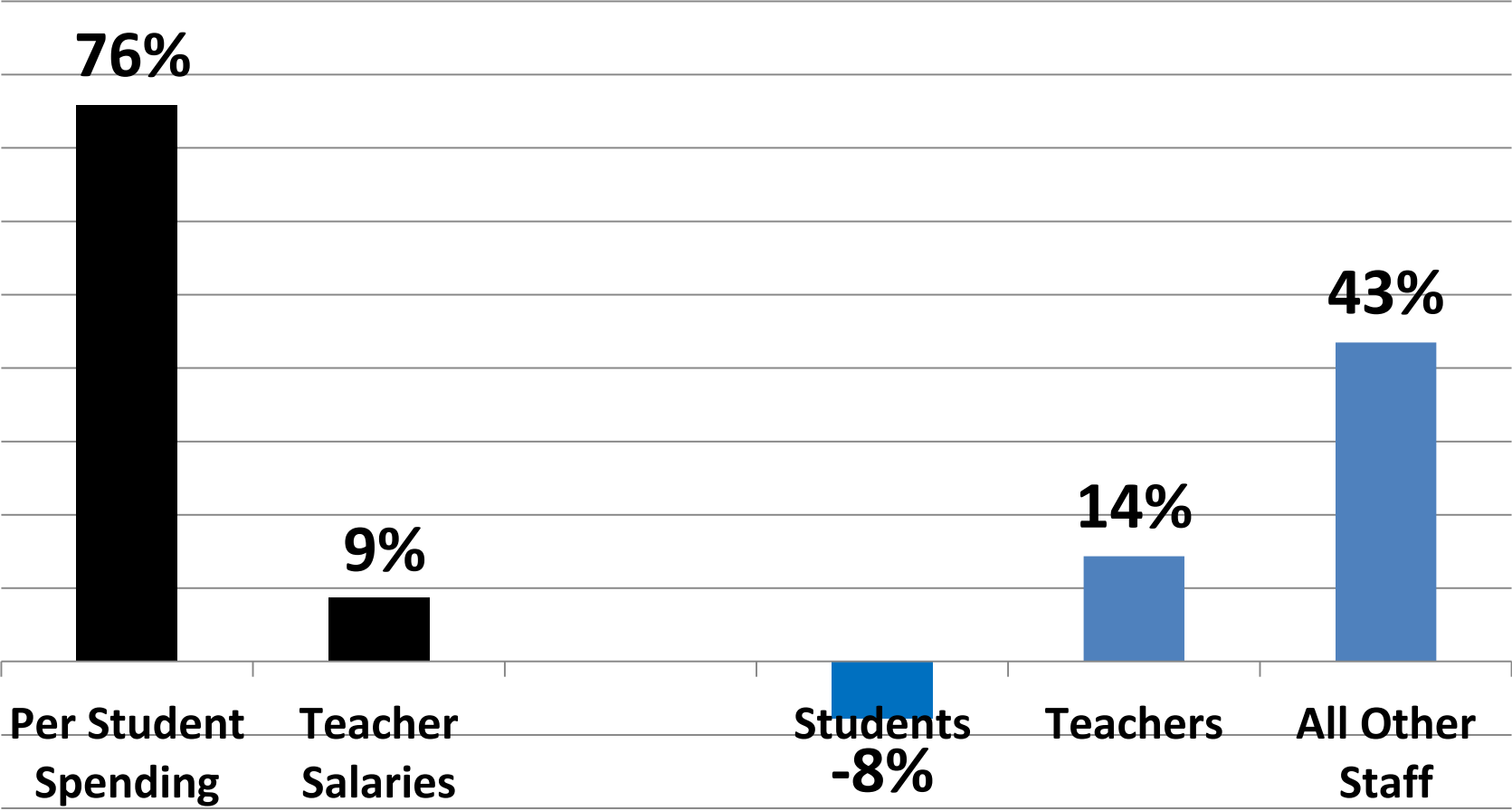
Wisconsin Public Schools, Change in Real (inflation-adjusted) Terms, FY 1992 to 2017



Total Inflation-Adjusted (Real) Expenditures Per Student Increased 90% in Wyoming Public Schools 1992 to 2017



Wyoming Public Schools, Change in Real (inflation-adjusted) Terms, FY 1992 to 2017



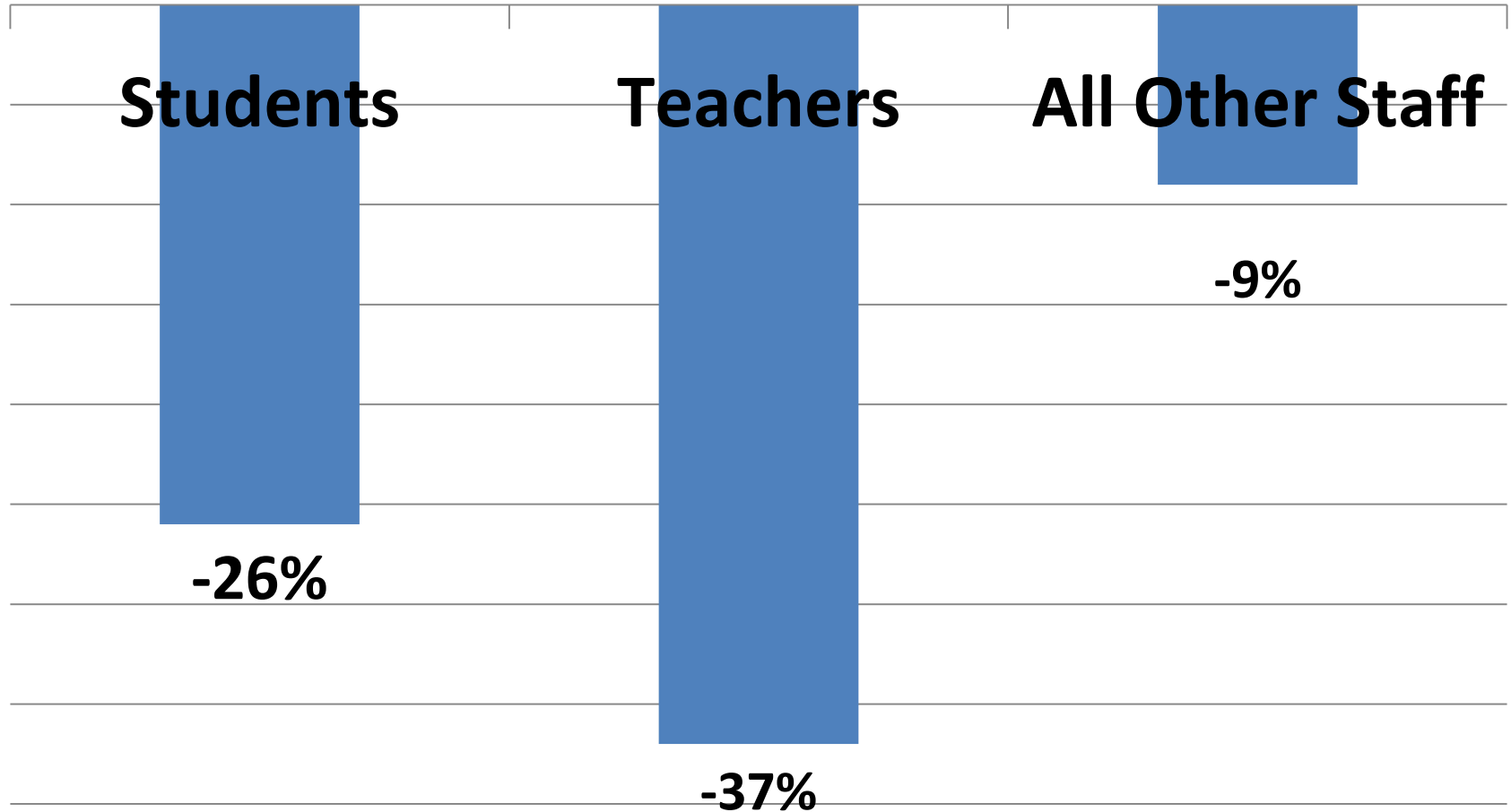
Opportunity Cost of Excess All Other Staff

| | Extra Staff | Cost @ \$60,000 per | Teacher Salary Increase | # \$8,000 ESAs |
|-------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| ALABAMA | 11,937 | \$716,243,078 | \$15,187 | 89,530 |
| ARKANSAS | 8,762 | \$525,714,942 | \$14,713 | 65,714 |
| ARIZONA | -2,738 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| IOWA | 7,690 | \$461,398,230 | \$12,885 | 57,675 |
| MICHIGAN | 6,689 | \$401,364,835 | \$4,801 | 50,171 |
| MINNESOTA | 24,172 | \$1,450,299,000 | \$25,572 | 181,287 |
| MISSISSIPPI | 5,863 | \$351,786,617 | \$11,019 | 43,973 |
| MISSOURI | 9,139 | \$548,359,616 | \$8,108 | 68,545 |
| OKLAHOMA | 5,190 | \$311,398,572 | \$7,579 | 38,925 |
| UTAH | 6,168 | \$370,097,702 | \$13,598 | 46,262 |
| VIRGINIA | 15,674 | \$940,463,211 | \$10,424 | 117,558 |
| WISCONSIN | 15,700 | \$942,029,491 | \$15,964 | 117,754 |
| WYOMING | 3,366 | \$201,960,090 | \$26,908 | 25,245 |

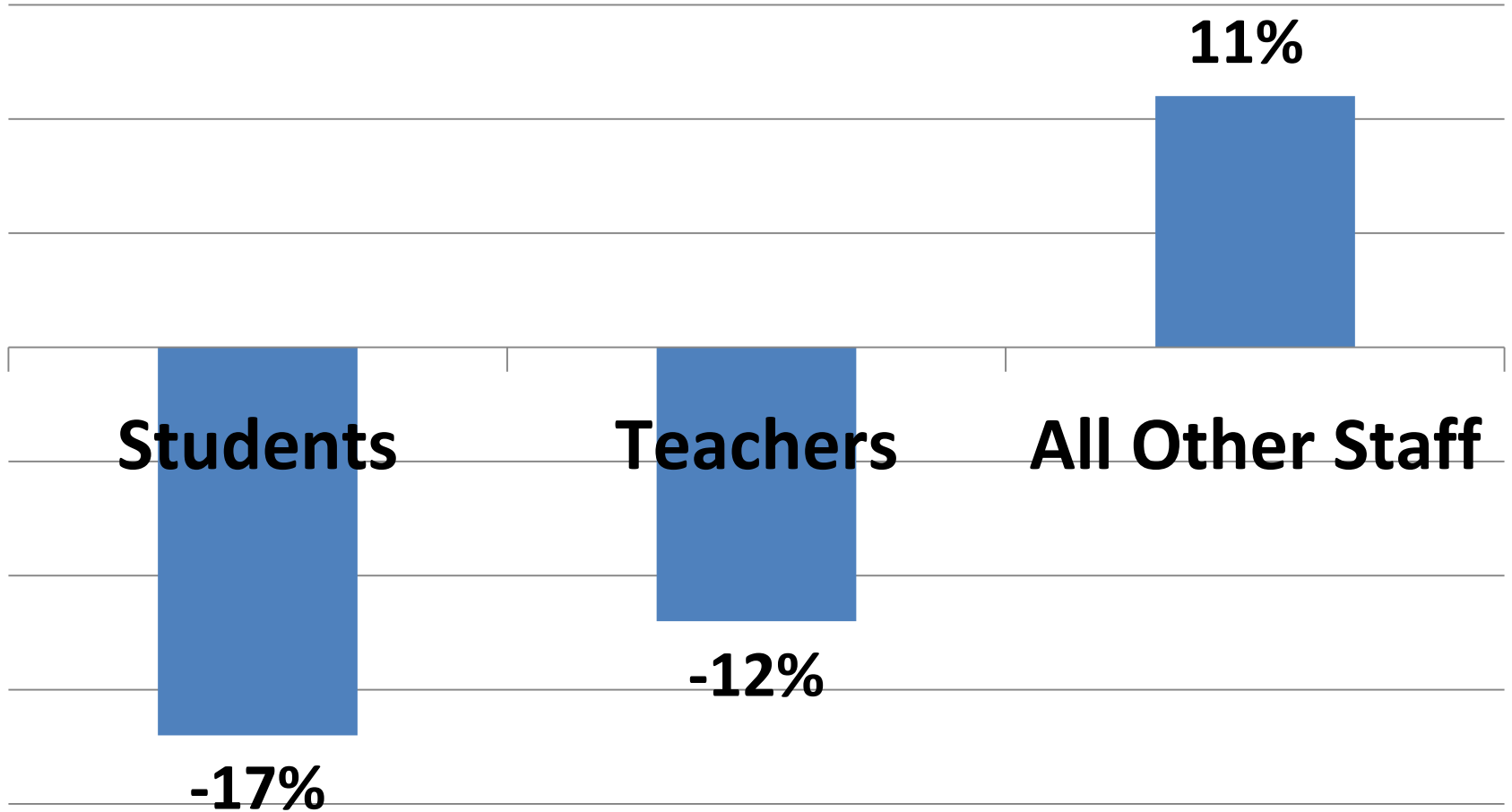
Different States are Clearly Making Different Staffing and Teacher Salary Choices

So are different public school districts. I will keep the following districts and states anonymous.

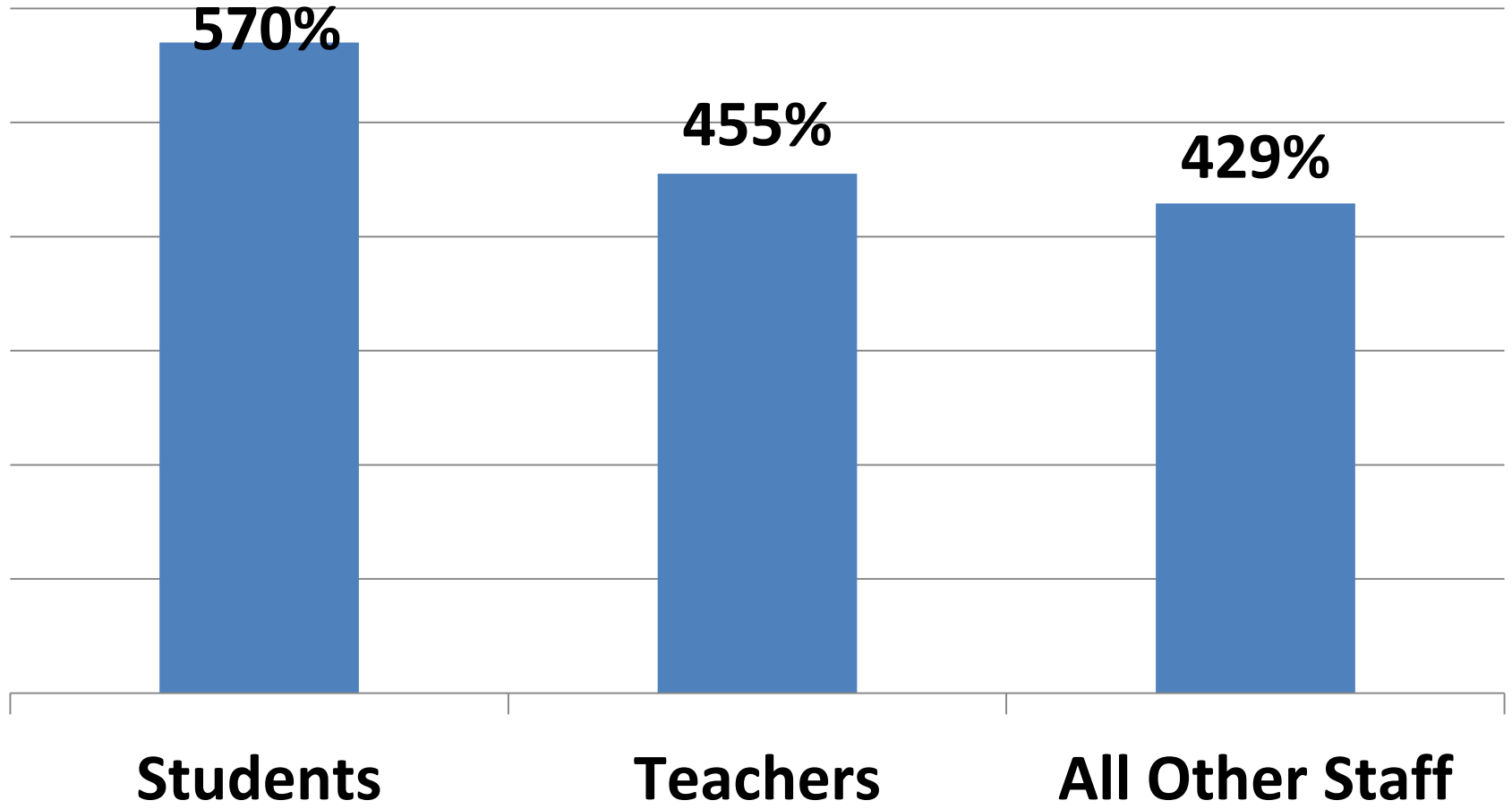
Bagdad Unified District (Arizona)



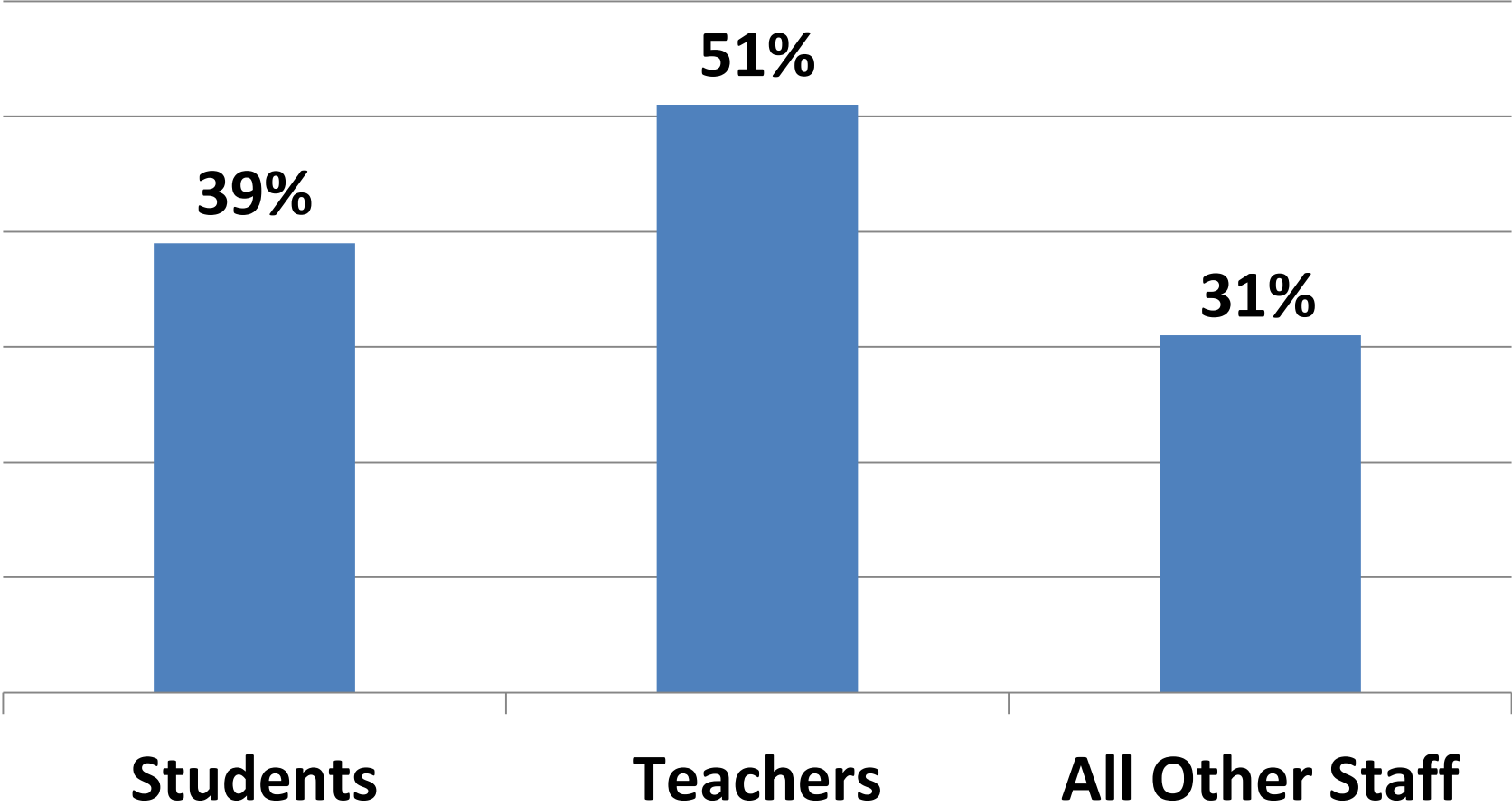
Douglas Unified District (Arizona)



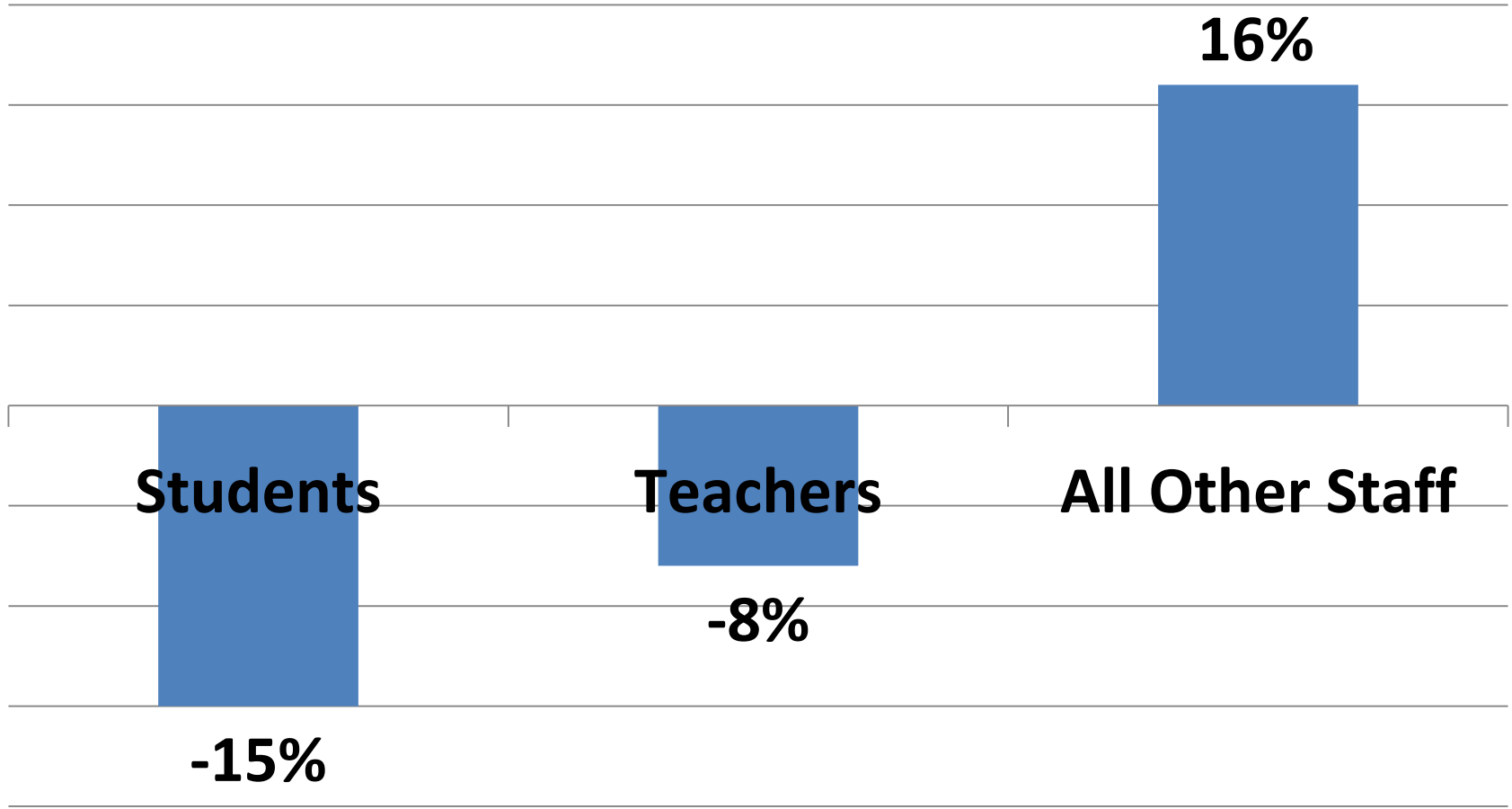
Litchfield Elementary District (Arizona)



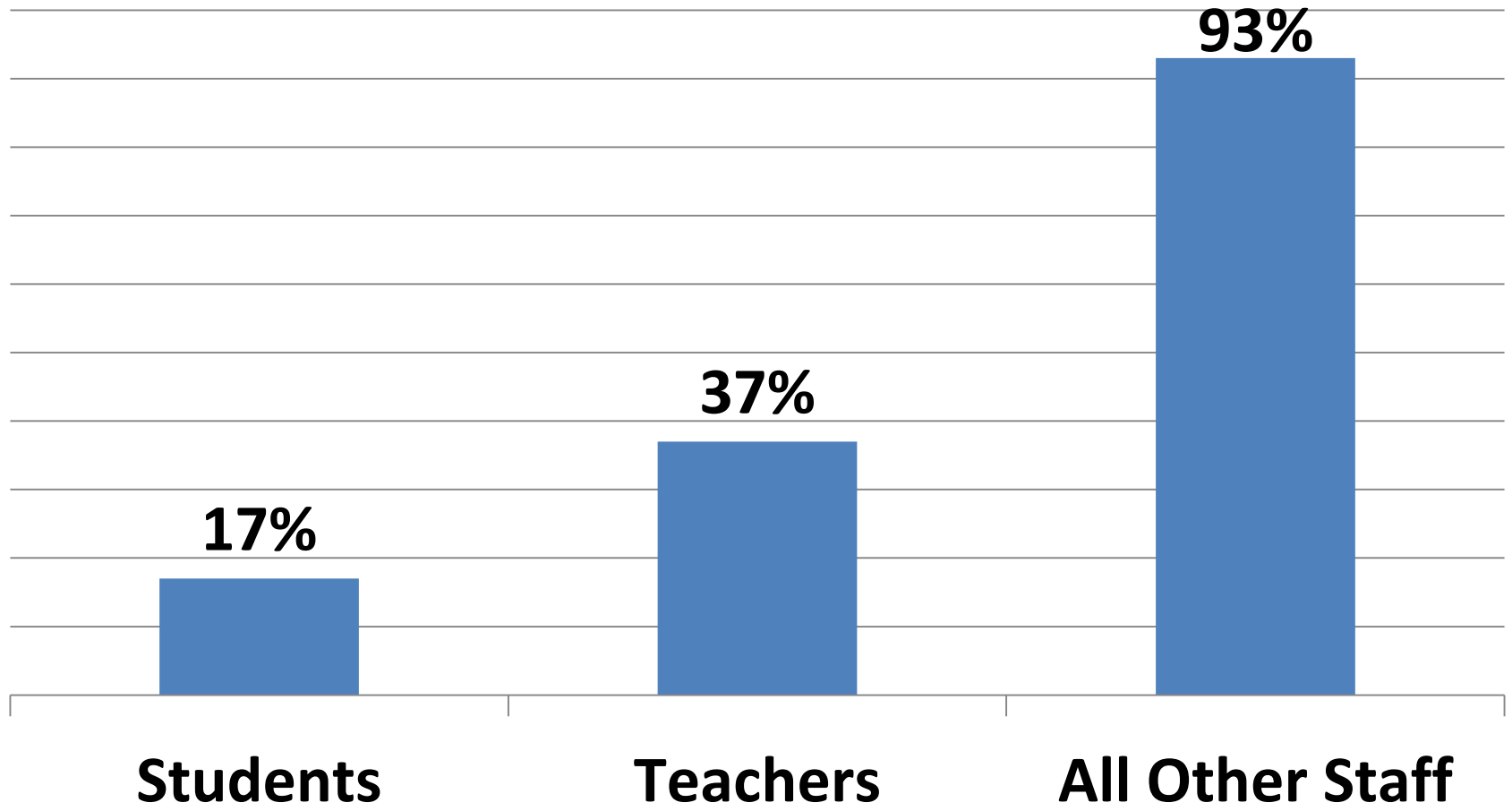
Ballard Community School District (Iowa)



Pekin Community School District (Iowa)



Mankato Public School District (Minnesota)

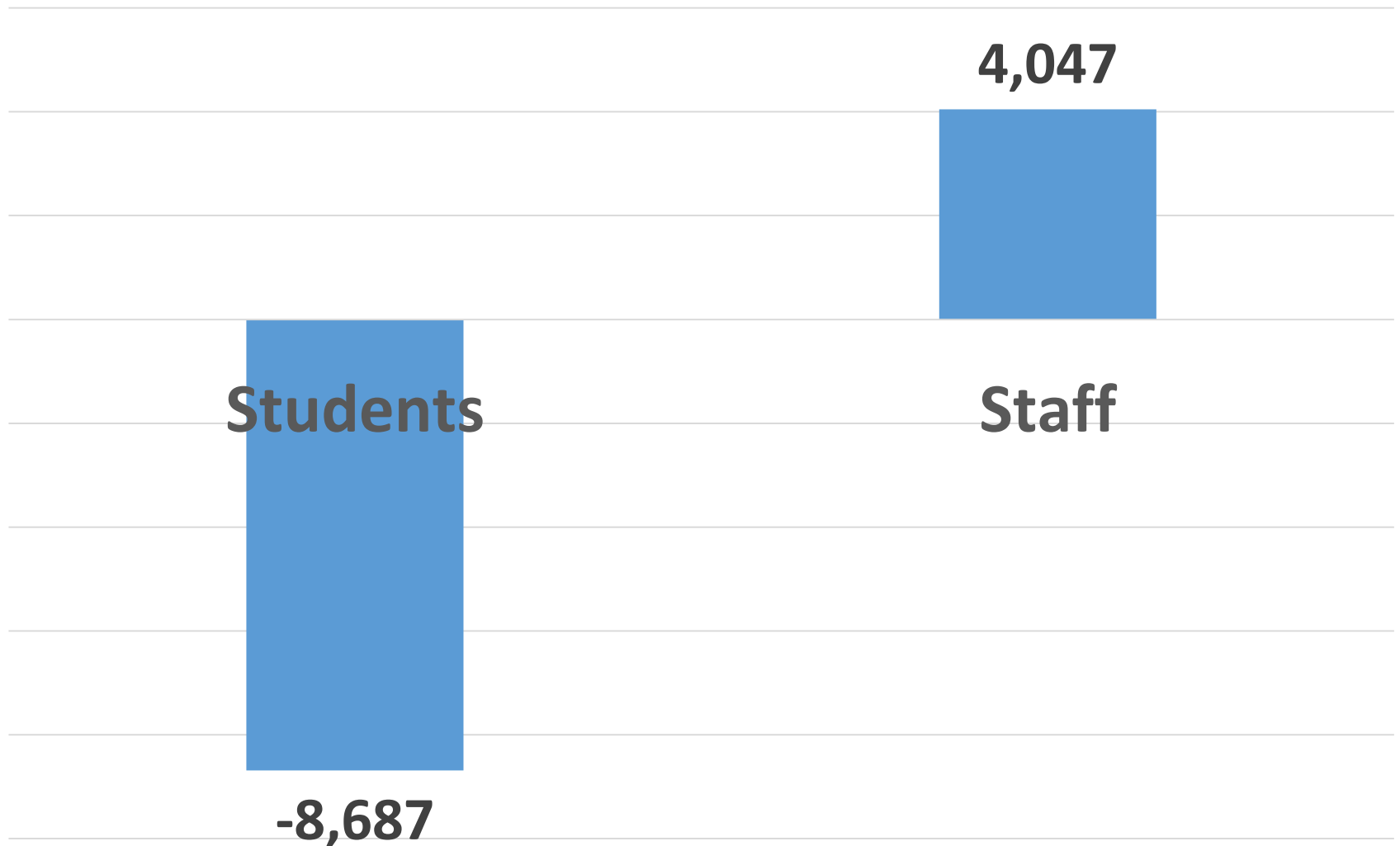


In the real world, choice does not appear to be harming the resources available to students in public schools

Indiana Began a Relatively Large Voucher Program in fall 2010

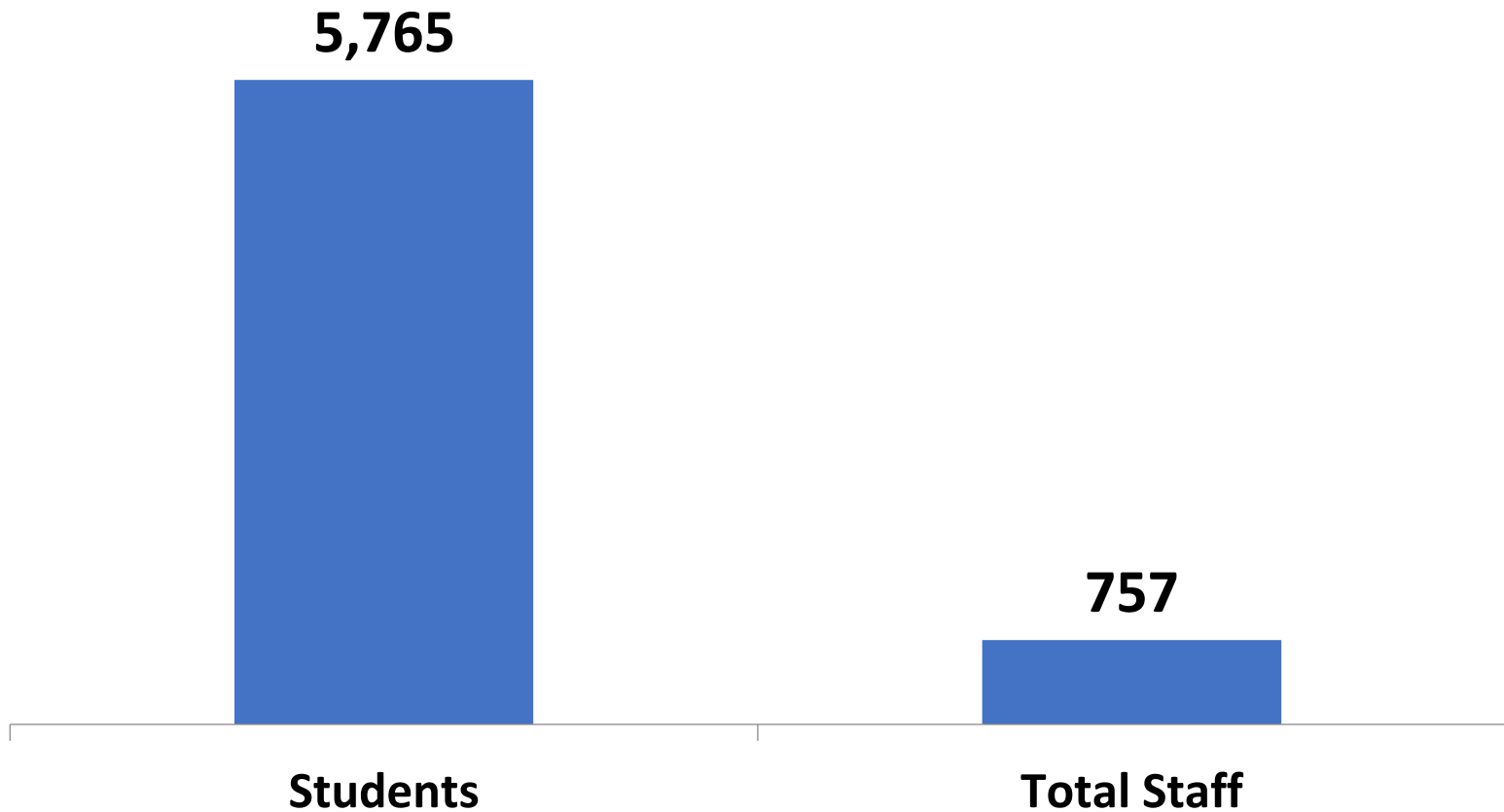
**32,636 students were using
scholarships to attend private
schools by FY 2016.**

Change in the Number of Students and Number of FTE Employees in Indiana Public Schools, 2011-12 to 2015-16



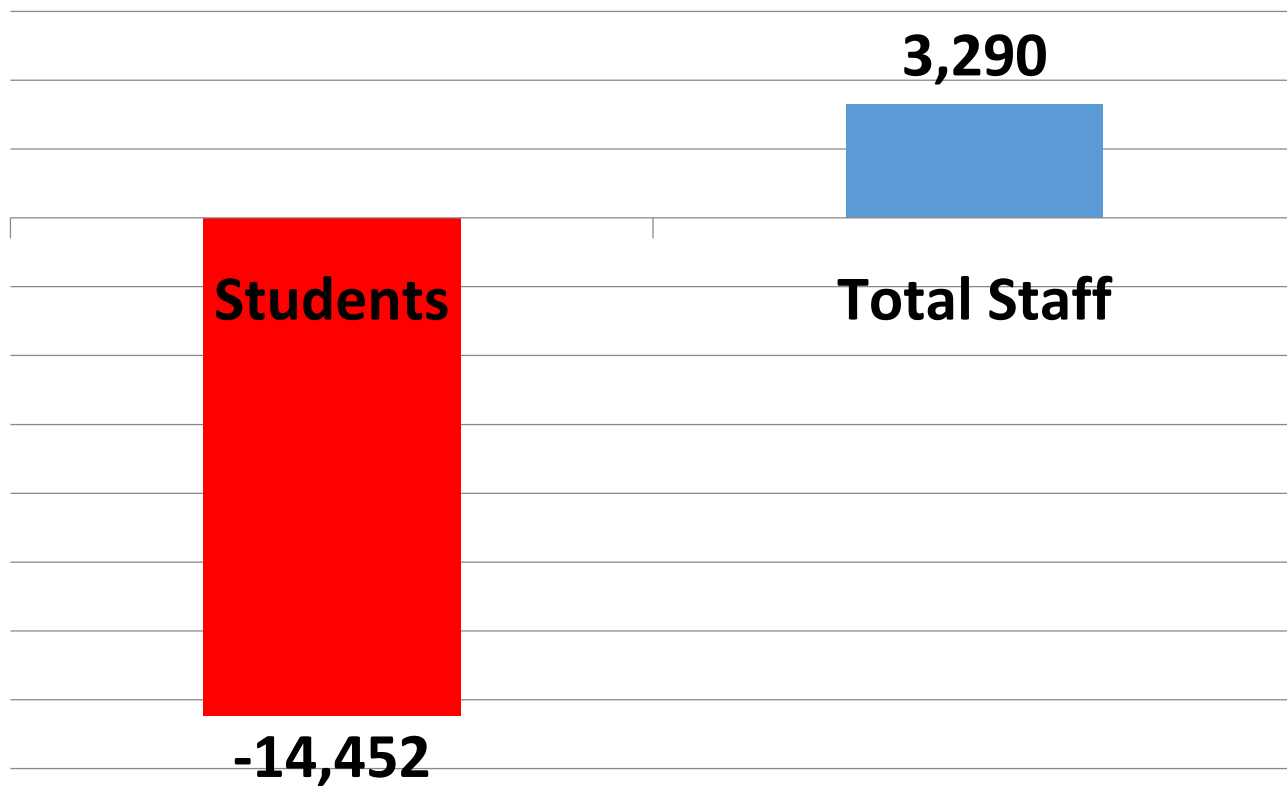
Changes in Indiana CHARTER SCHOOL Enrollment and Staffing, FY 2011-12 to 2015-16

(Virtual charters are NOT included in the net changes below)



Changes in Indiana TRADITIONAL Public School Enrollment and Staffing, FY 2011-12 to 2015-16

(excludes charter and virtual)



Los Angeles Unified School District experienced a 10 percent enrollment decline from 2014 to 2018

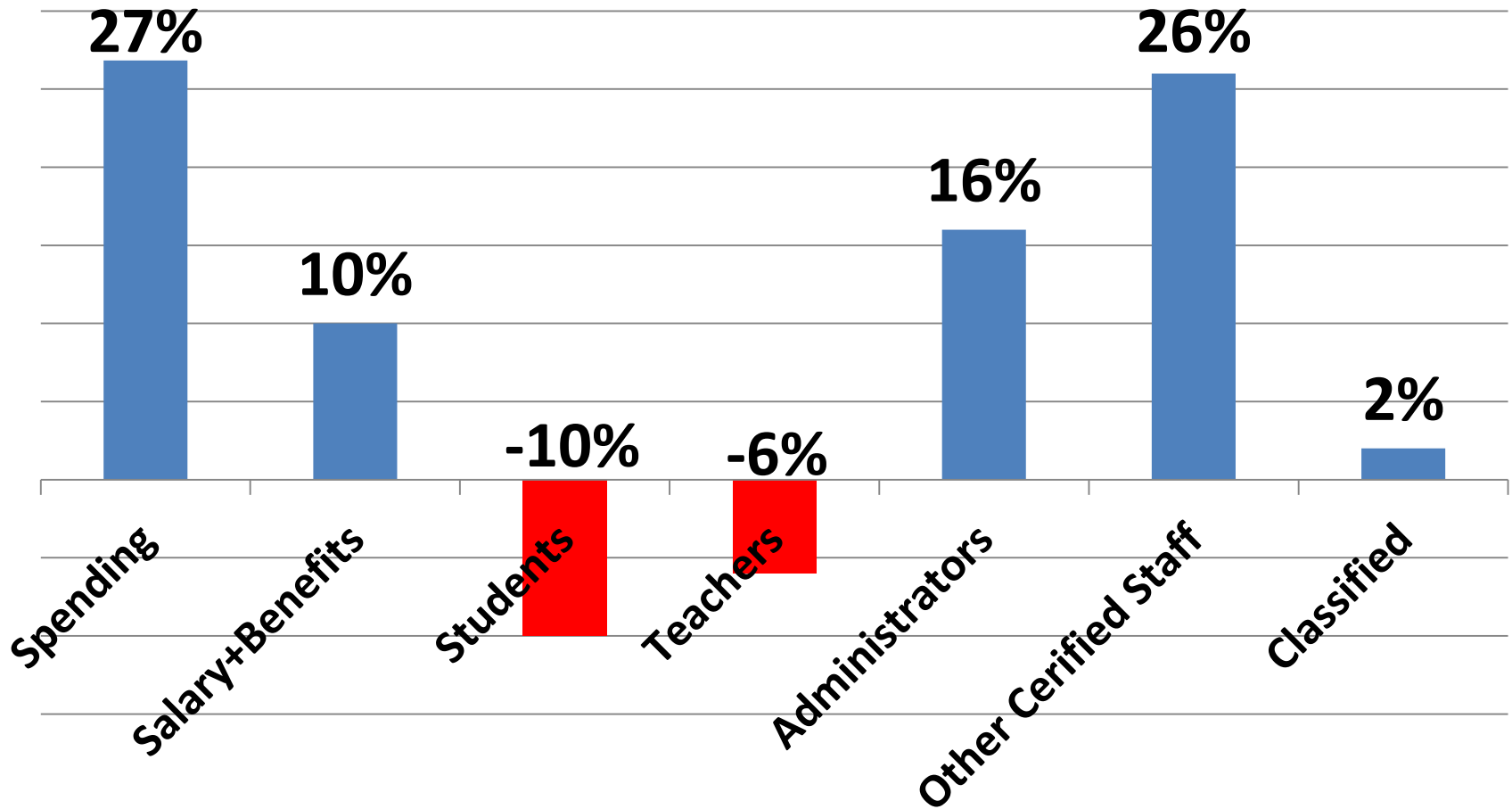
**About a third of that loss in students
was to charter schools**

Source: Lisa Snell, et al., Reason Foundation 2018
[https://reason.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018-
evaluation-of-laUSD-fiscal-outlook.pdf](https://reason.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018-evaluation-of-laUSD-fiscal-outlook.pdf)

Los Angeles Public Schools

FY 2014 to FY 2018

(Source: Snell, et al., 2018)



Takeaways 1

- **If you keep putting more state taxpayer funds into public schools, you can expect:**
 - **Staffing Surge among “All Other Staff” (non-teachers)**
 - **Stagnant Teacher Pay**
 - **Stagnant Student Outcomes**
- **Give your state’s public school personnel files to a researcher in your state to document exactly which job classifications are responsible for the staffing surge in your states – this is public data**
- **Keep the staffing surge data for your school districts in your pocket**

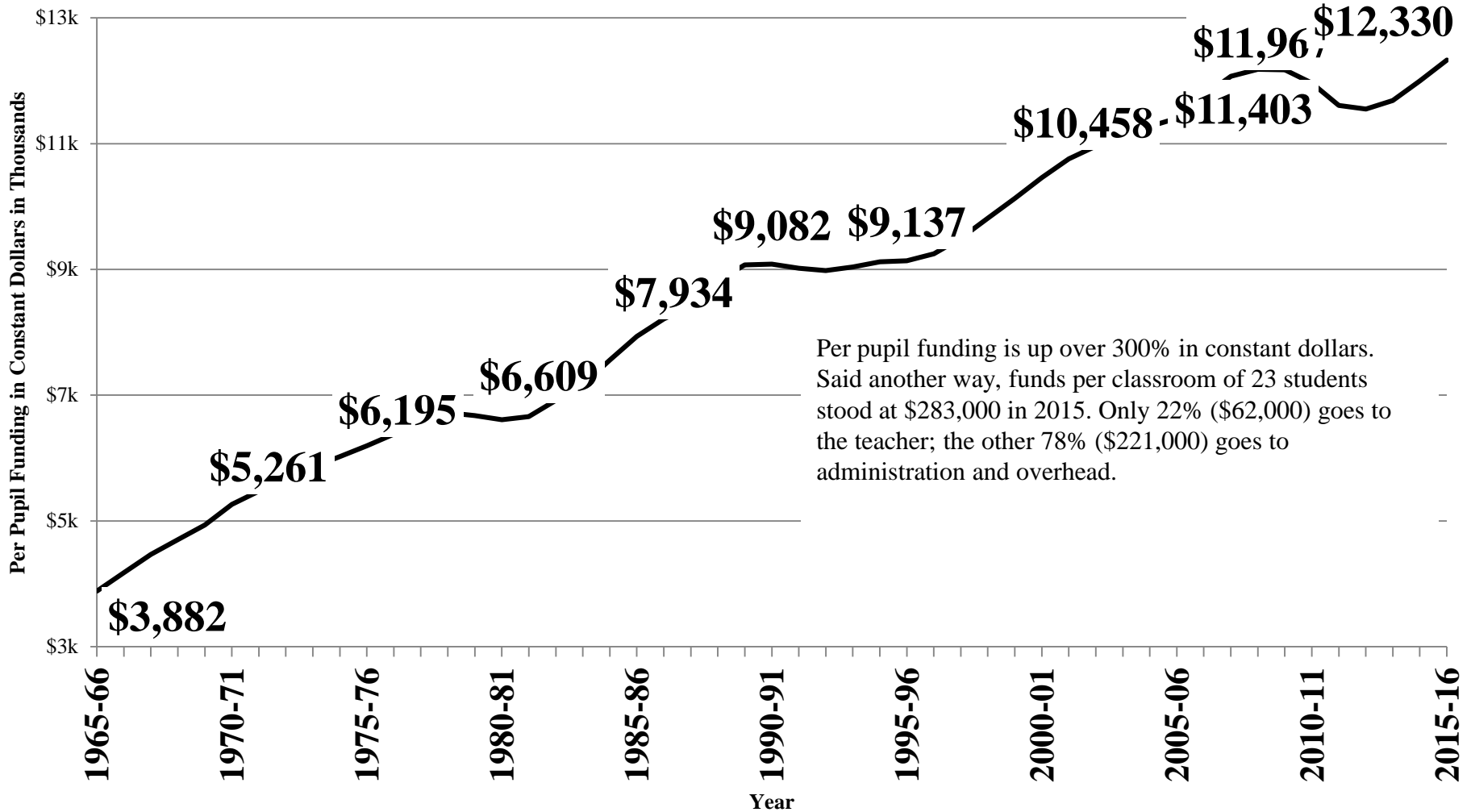
Takeaways II

- **Your state department of education should report annually charts on real spending increases, changes in staffing and average teacher salaries, and NAEP scores against the national average and post them in an easy to find place on their website so that residents of your great can have this basic information.**

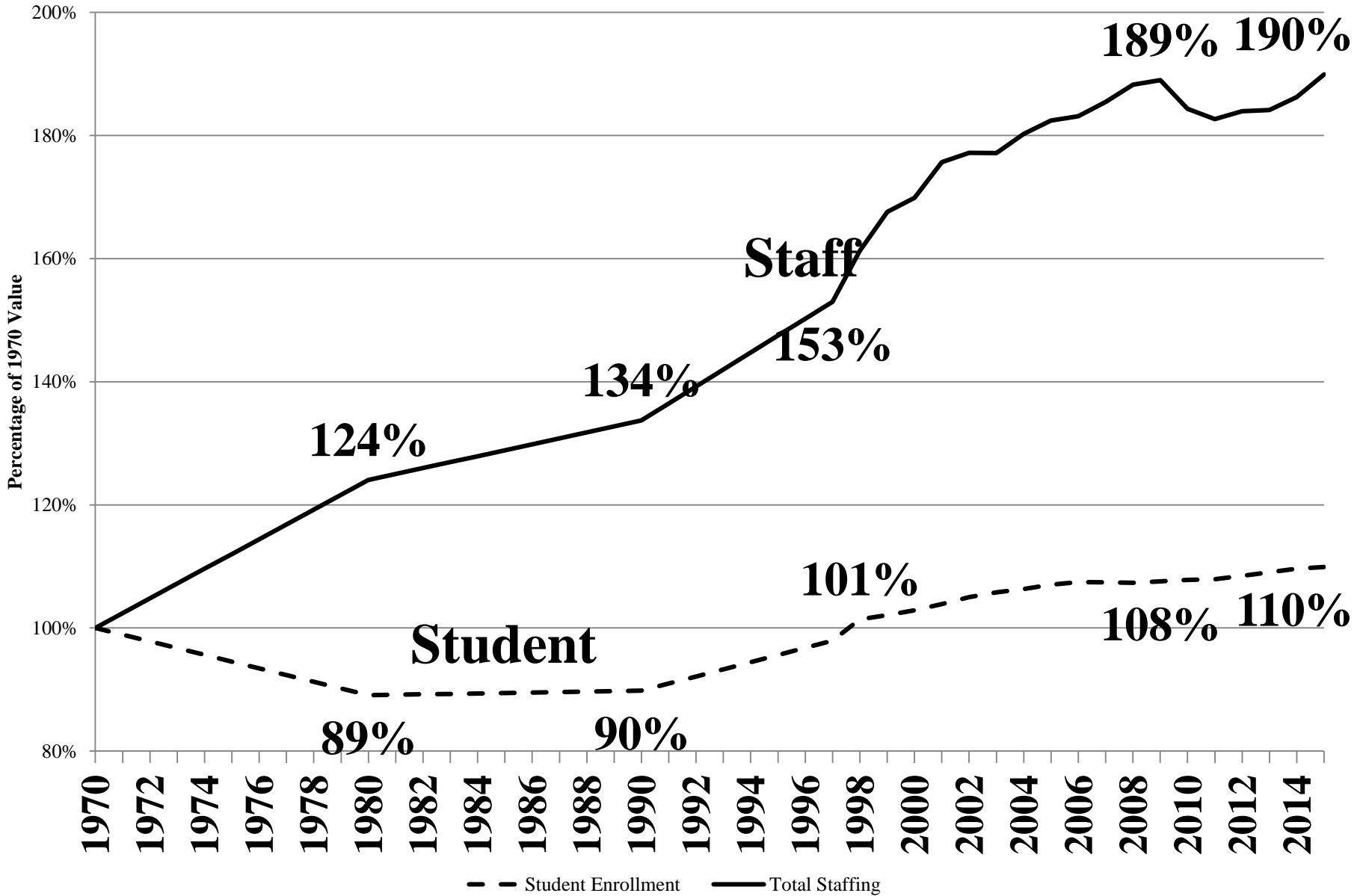
Some dude named Mick Zais had Transparency Graphs on the SCDE Website, **but ...**

- http://ed.sc.gov/agency/stateboard/documents/EmploymentandEnrollmentSince1995_2011-2012update_Rev2-8-13.pdf
- They were taken down shortly after he left office.
- But his crew heard me speak the other day ...

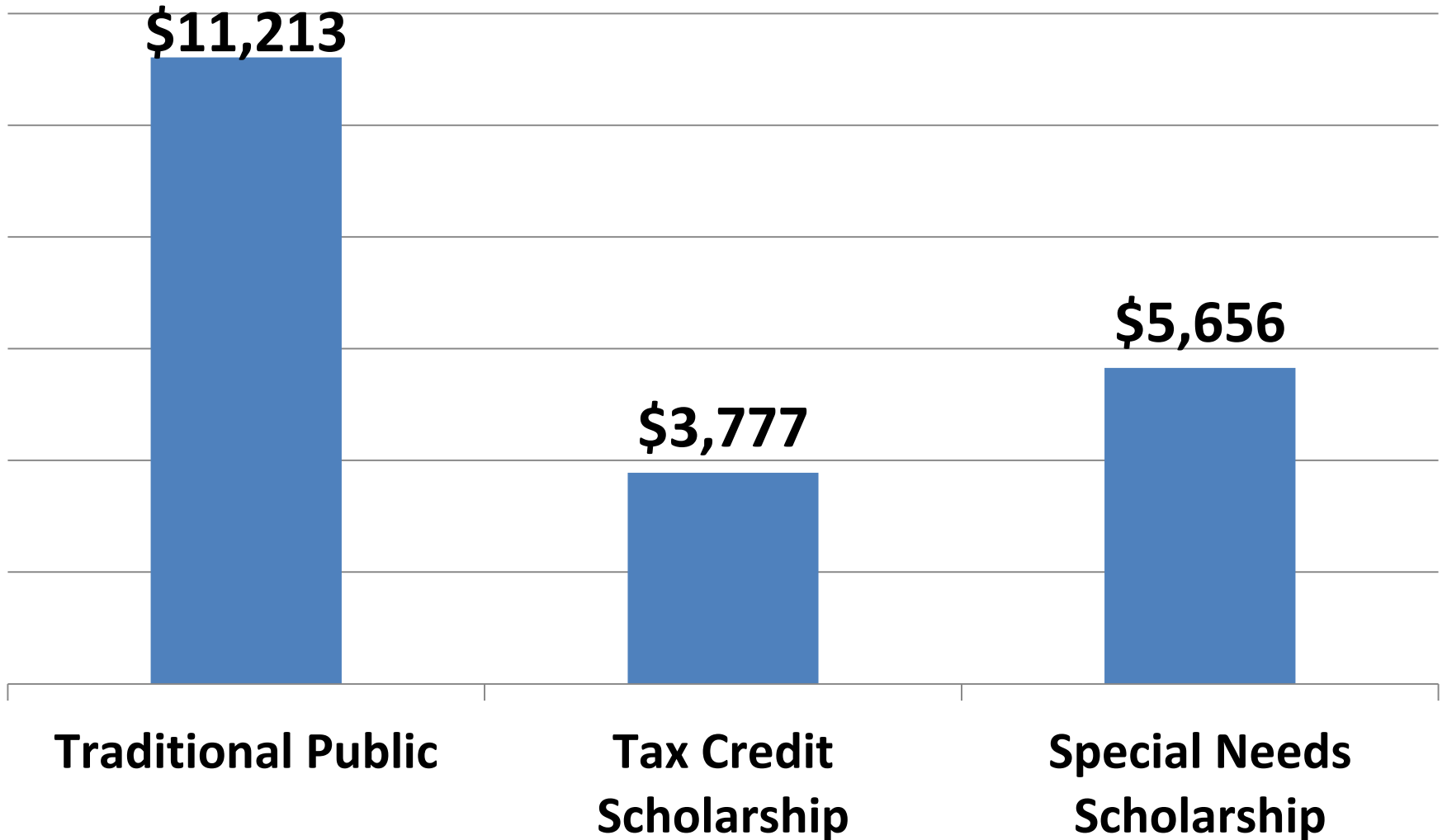
U.S. Per Pupil Funding in Constant 2017 Dollars, 1965 - 2015



Increase in Staff and Students in Public Schools, 1970-2015



Georgia, FY 2016



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www.edchoice.org

Click on “menu”

Then, click on “research”