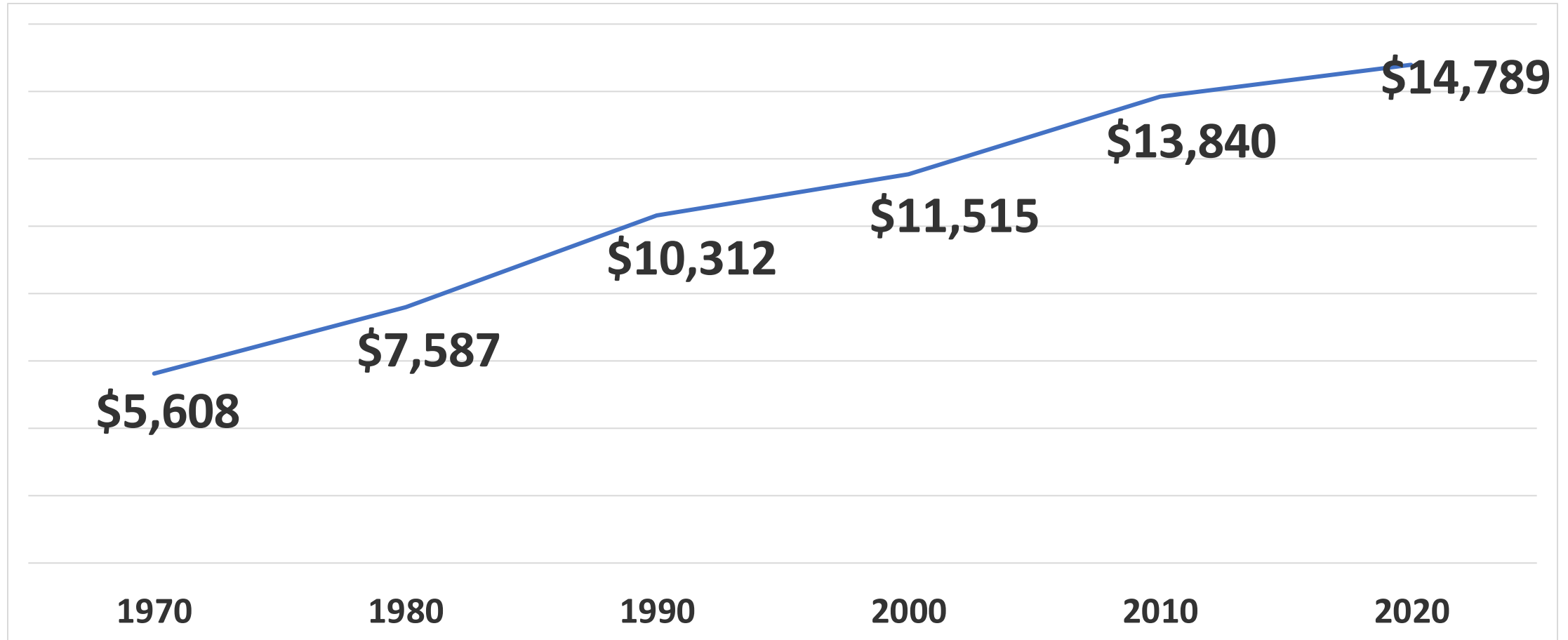


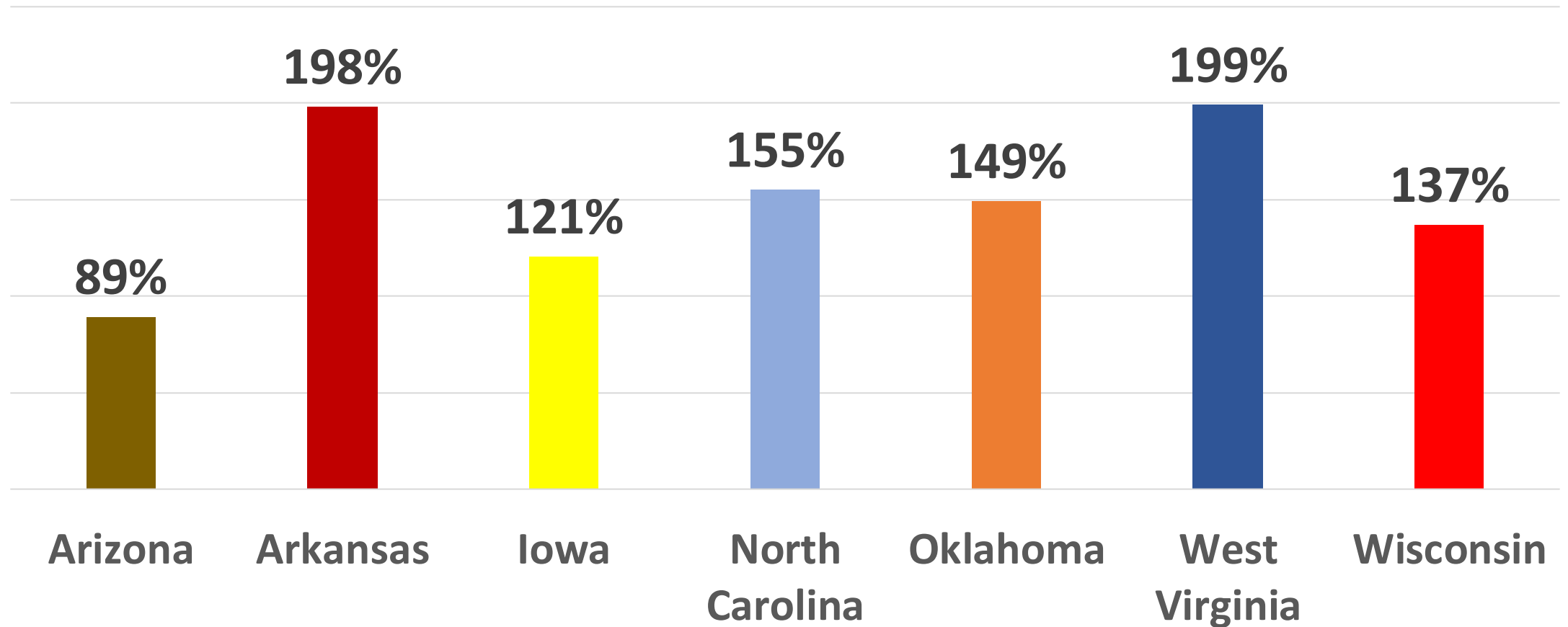


**We cannot allow parents  
to have choice because  
public school funding is being cut**

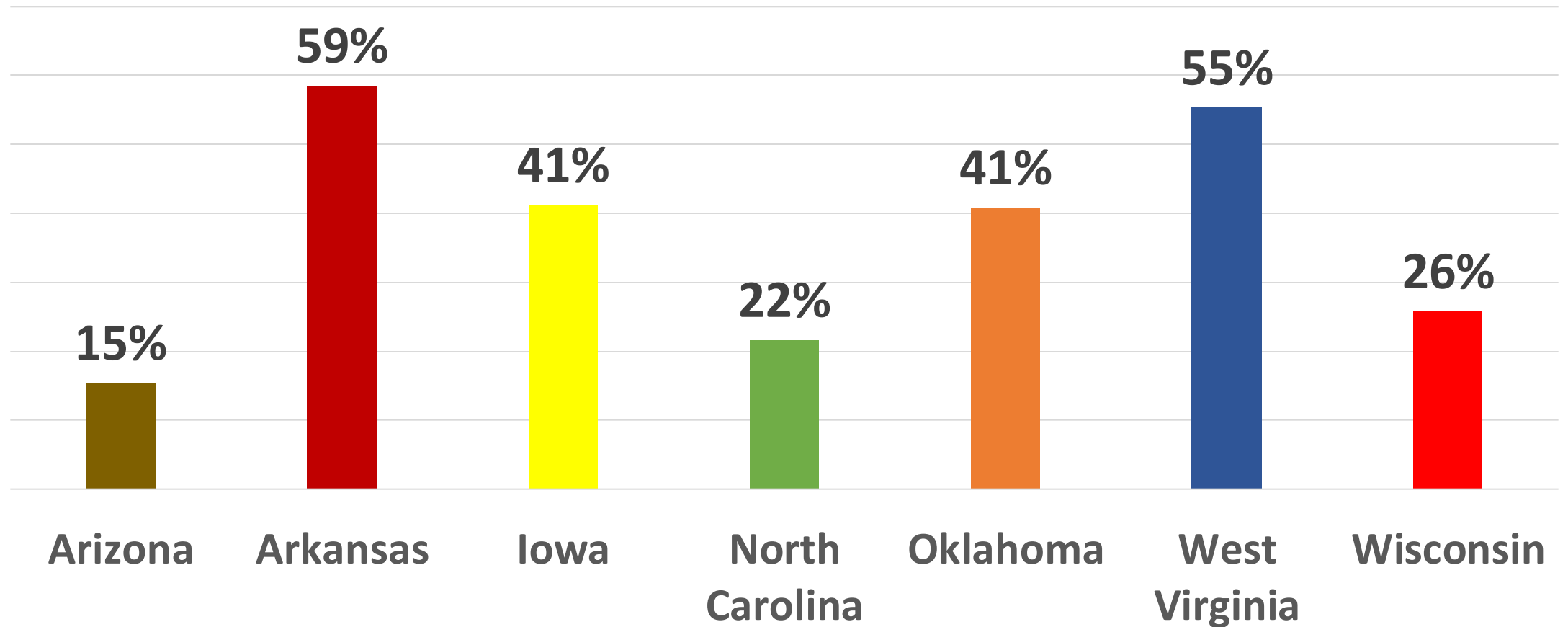
**Reality: In most years, spending per student adjusted for inflation increases and over time these increases are very large (current spending per student)**



# Your state had an increase in per student spending adjusted for inflation, 1970 to 2019



# Your state had an increase in per student spending adjusted for inflation, 1990 to 2019



# Roadblocks to Choice

**Real** or **Perceived**

**Ben Scafidi**

**Kennesaw State University  
Friedman Fellow, EdChoice**



# We Cannot Let Parents Have Choice Because it Steals Money from Public Schools



## **Reality – public school students have more resources available to them when some students leave**

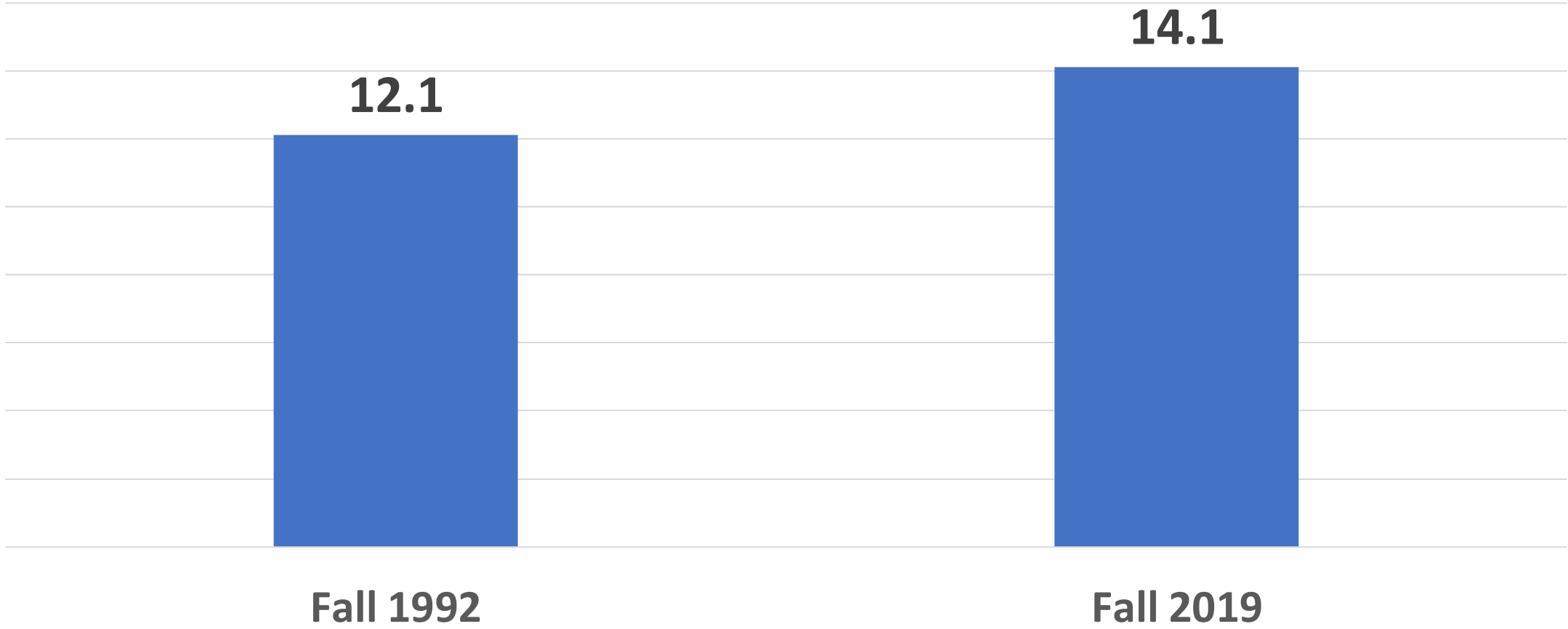
- **Public schools receive funding from federal, state, and local taxpayers**
- **In almost all states, the school funding system is very favorable to public school districts in that not all funds leave when students leave**
  - **I know of no other enterprise where this is the case—when students leave universities typically all funds follow the student.**
- **Consequently, public school districts typically have more resources for students who remain in public schools—when students leave the district for any reason**

# West Virginia Public School Districts Have Been Experiencing Enrollment Declines for Decades

- Every public school district experienced an enrollment decline after 1992, 17 percent student enrollment decline statewide.
- Every school district in the state has experienced an increase in resources available to students. All of them.
- Every school district in the state saw its teachers and other employees get much better compensation—even as student enrollments were declining.
- Thus, as student enrollments declined, West Virginia public school students experienced better staffing and better compensated teachers and other staff. In each and every public school district. All of them.

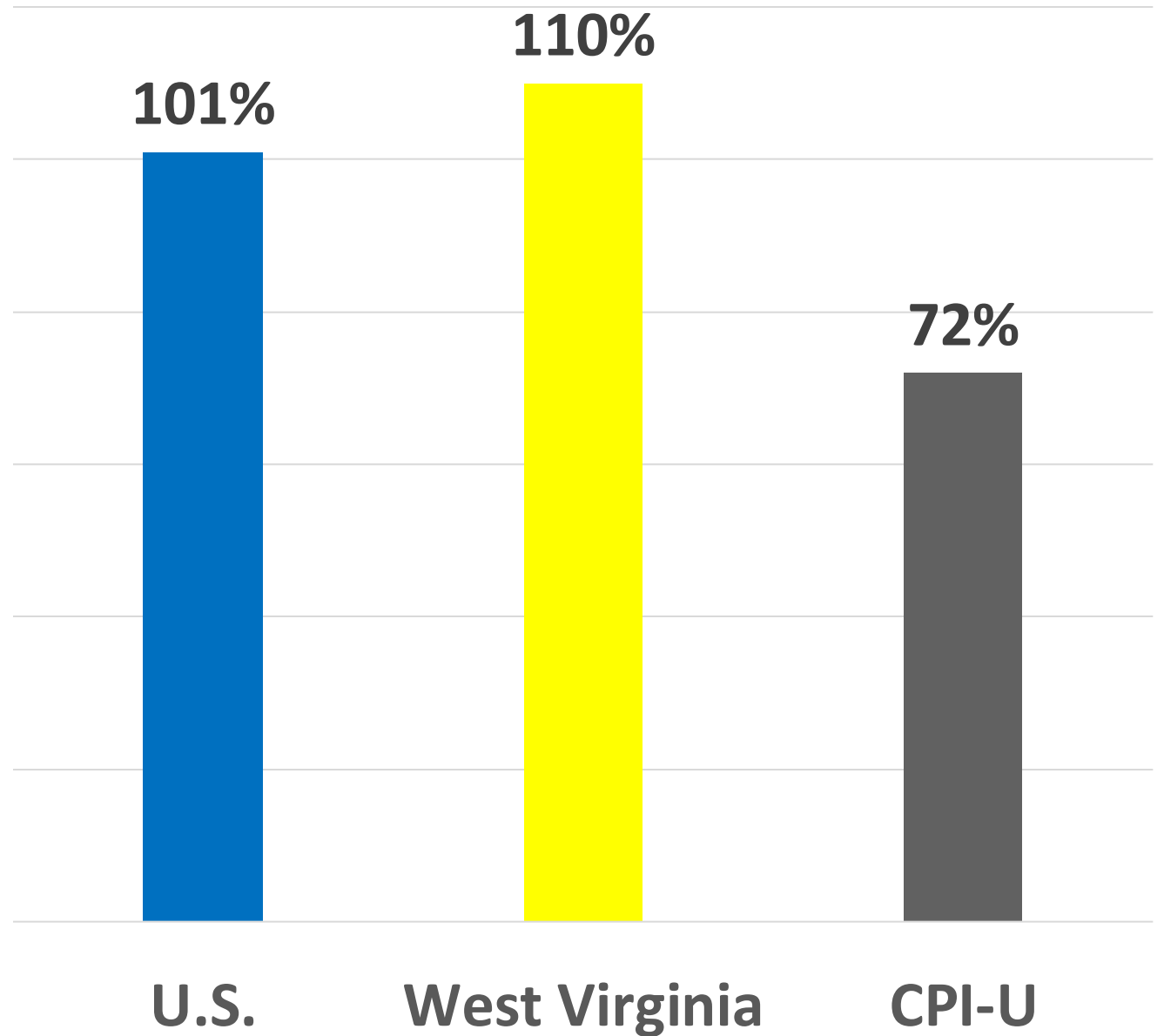


# Staff Per 100 Students West Virginia Public Schools



**Total  
Compensation  
Per Public School  
Employee**

**1994 to 2019**



# How Could this Happen in West Virginia?

- How could districts lose 17 percent of their students after 1992 (they had no school choice during this time period) and yet the students who remained in public schools had access to more and better compensated teachers and other public school staff?
- **Favorable school finance system**
  - Districts retain most federal funds when they experience enrollment declines
  - A minor portion of state funds are not enrollment driven, so districts retain those dollars when there are enrollment declines
  - Districts can choose to maintain local funding when they experience enrollment declines

**But what if districts lose students because of a choice program?**

**Reality: No Difference because the funding mechanisms tend to be the same regardless of why students leave districts**

Change in student enrollment and public school staff in Indiana, 2012 to 2020



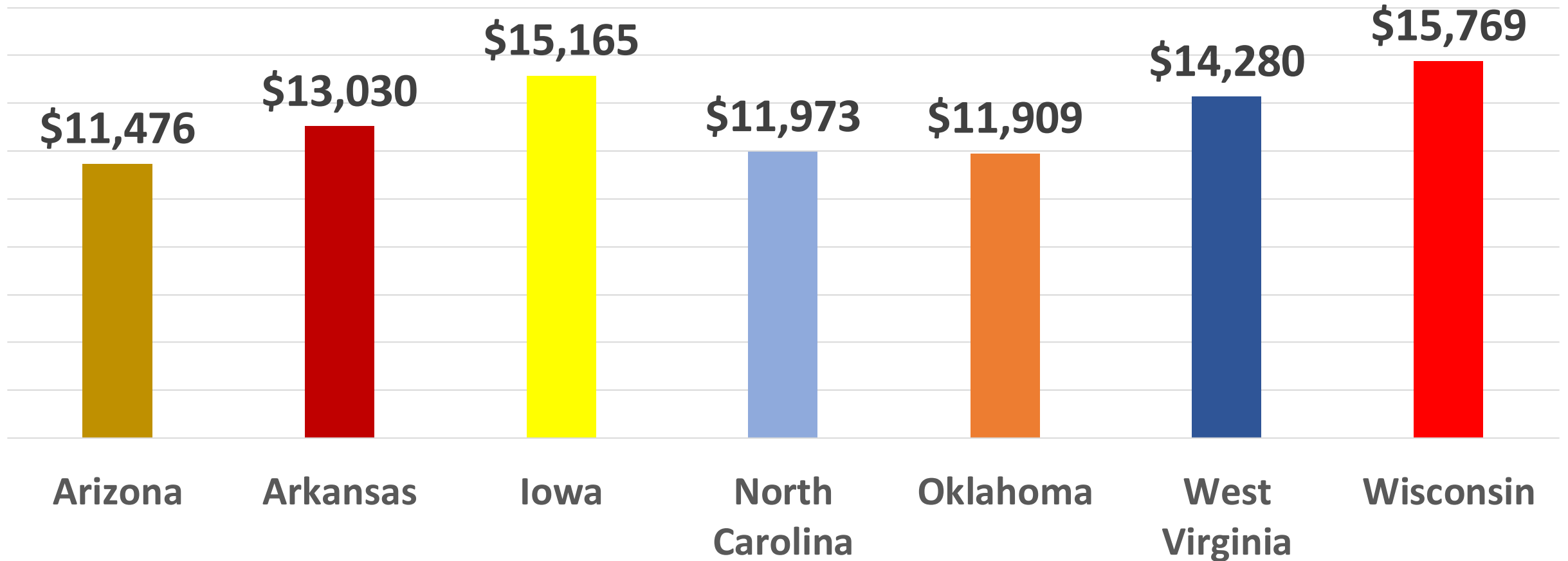
# Parents Cannot Have Choice Because We are Not Spending Enough on Public Education



**Reality: Taxpayers are spending more on public education than ever and the relationship between more money and better student outcomes is tenuous—at best**

# Total spending per student, 2020-21 academic year

(most charter schools excluded—only district-authorized charters included)



# Total Spending Per Student in 2019 and Changes in NAEP Test Scores 2003 to 2019

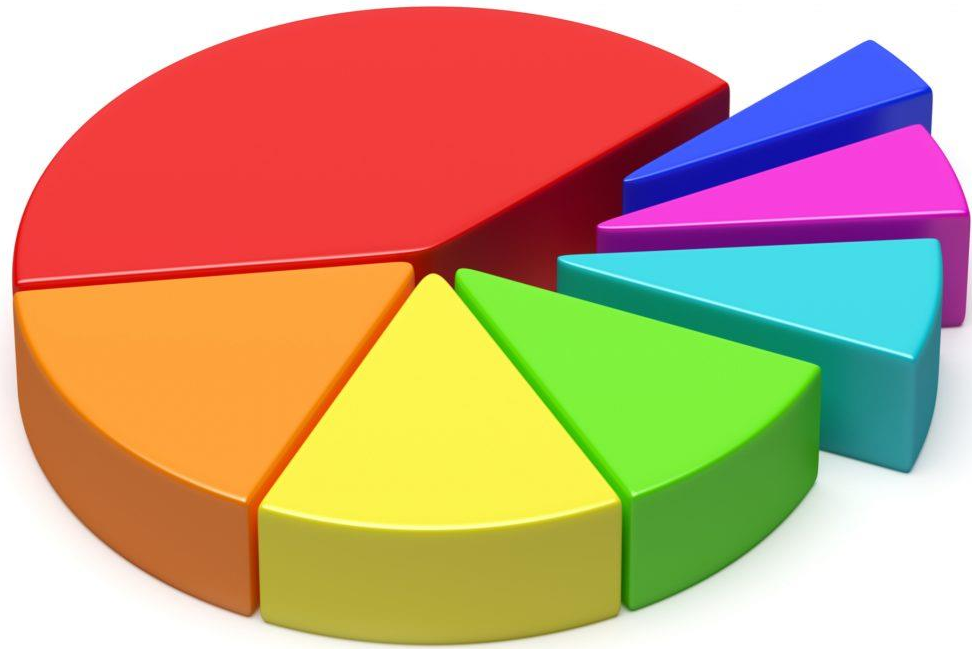
correlation = **-.31**

	Per Student \$	Change in NAEP
National Public	\$15,036	15
Arizona	10,480	29
Arkansas	12,212	14
Iowa	13,944	-7
North Carolina	10,680	3
Oklahoma	10,493	10
West Virginia	13,189	-9
Wisconsin	14,487	10



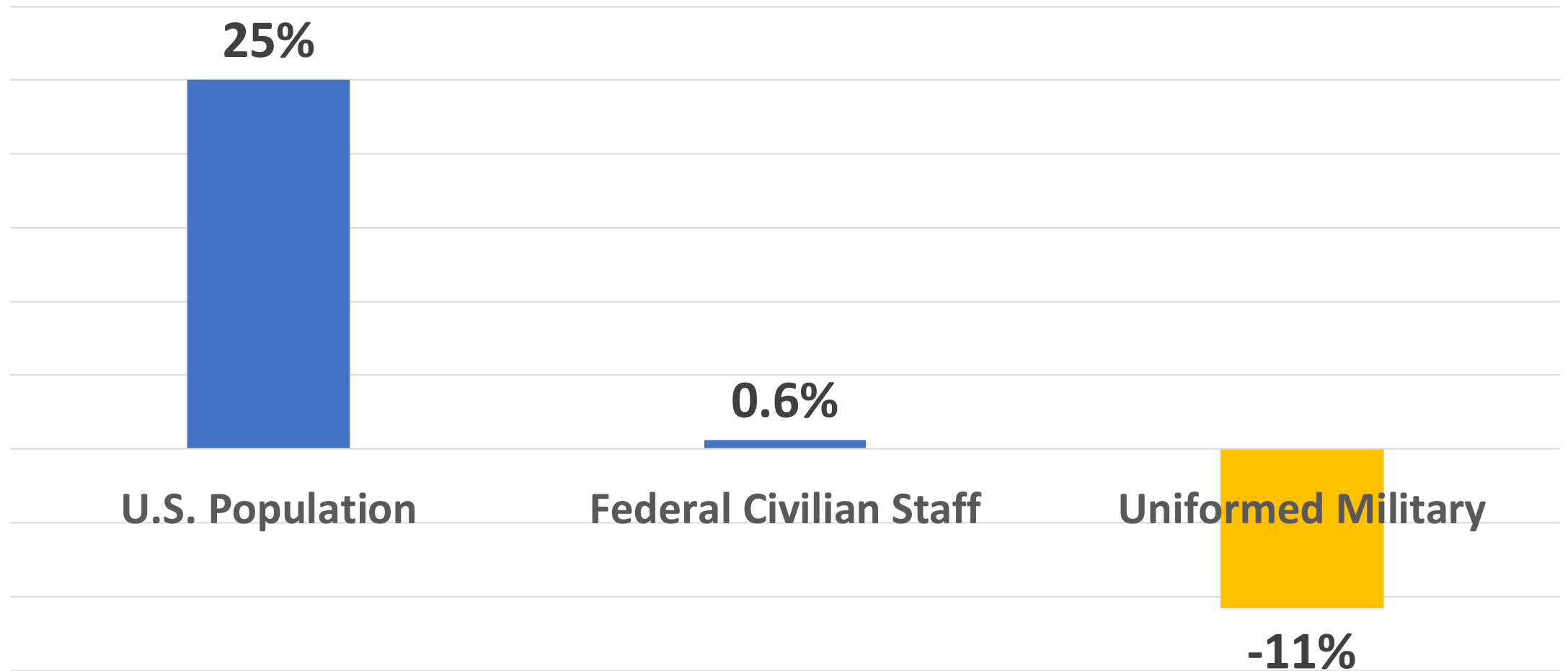
# EdChoice Share and Changes in NAEP Scores 2003 to 2019 **correlation = +.60**

	EdChoice Share	Change in NAEP
National Public	1.0%	15
Arizona	6.7%	29
Arkansas	0.1%	14
Iowa	1.9%	-7
North Carolina	0.8%	3
Oklahoma	0.5%	10
West Virginia	0.0%	-9
Wisconsin	4.3%	10



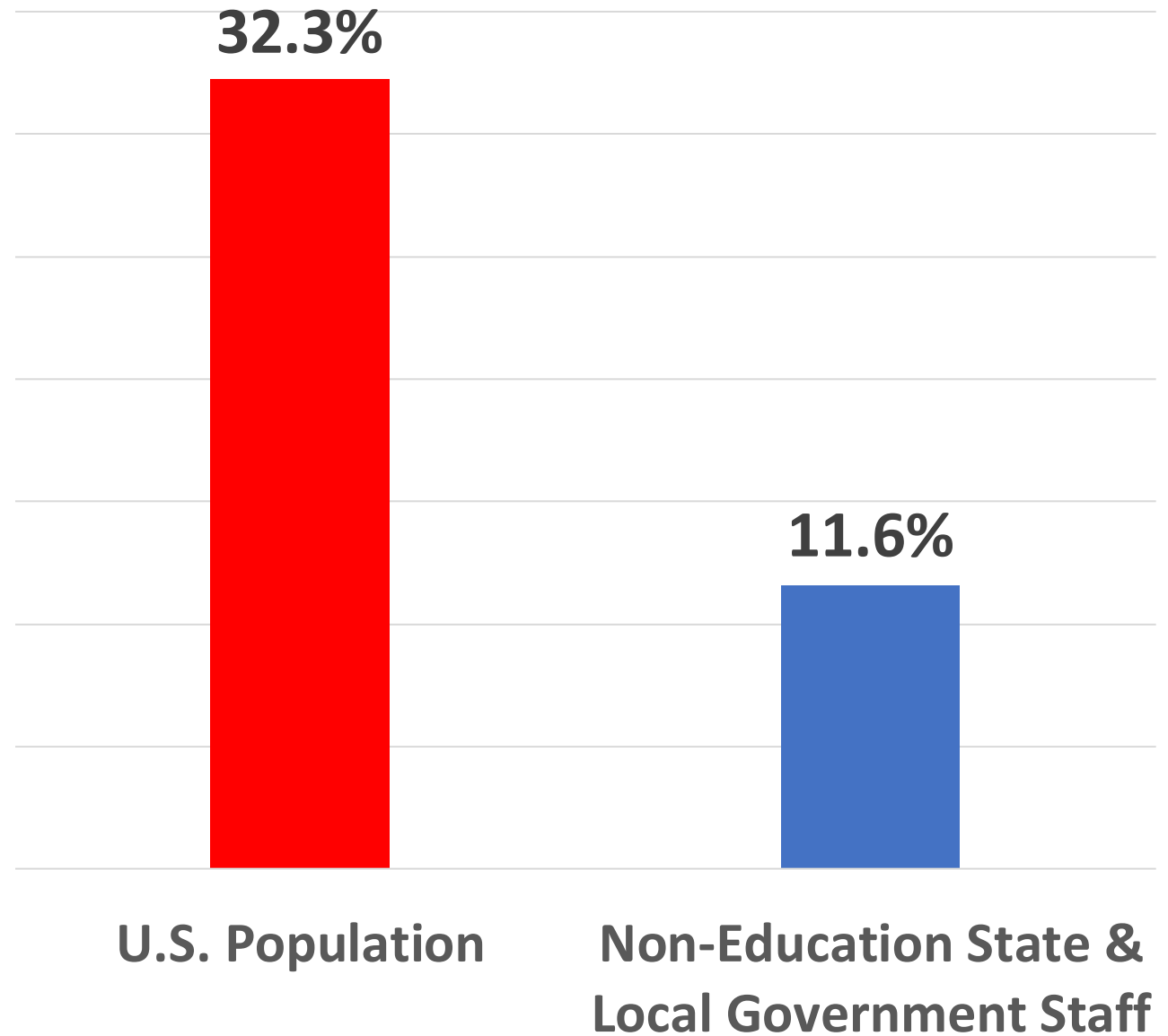
**Parents Cannot Have Choice Because  
Public Education is Not a Priority in America**

# U.S. Population and Federal Employment Changes, 1995 to 2020



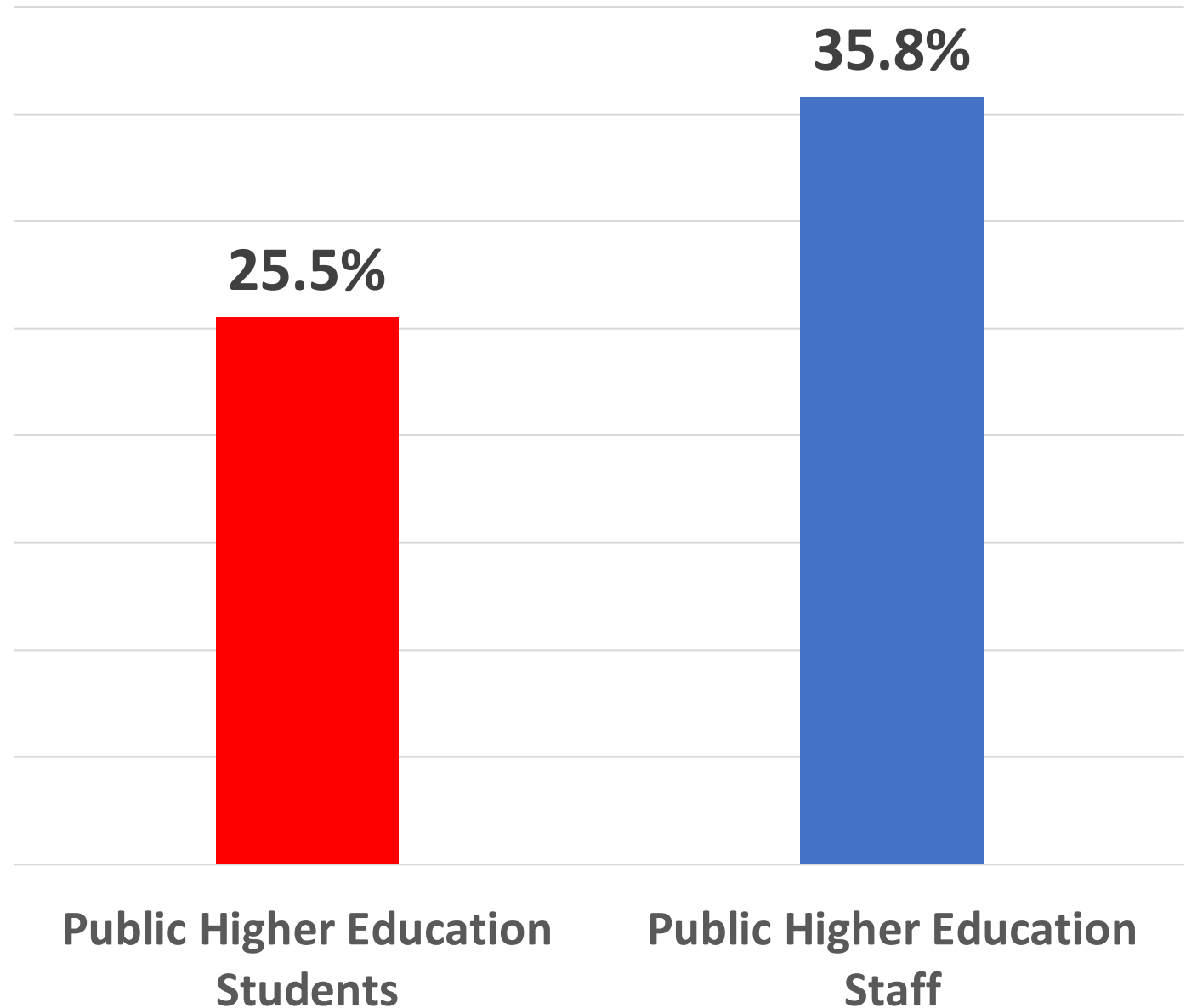
**Change in U.S.  
Population and FTE  
Employment in  
(non-education)  
State and Local  
Government  
Functions**

**1994 to 2022**

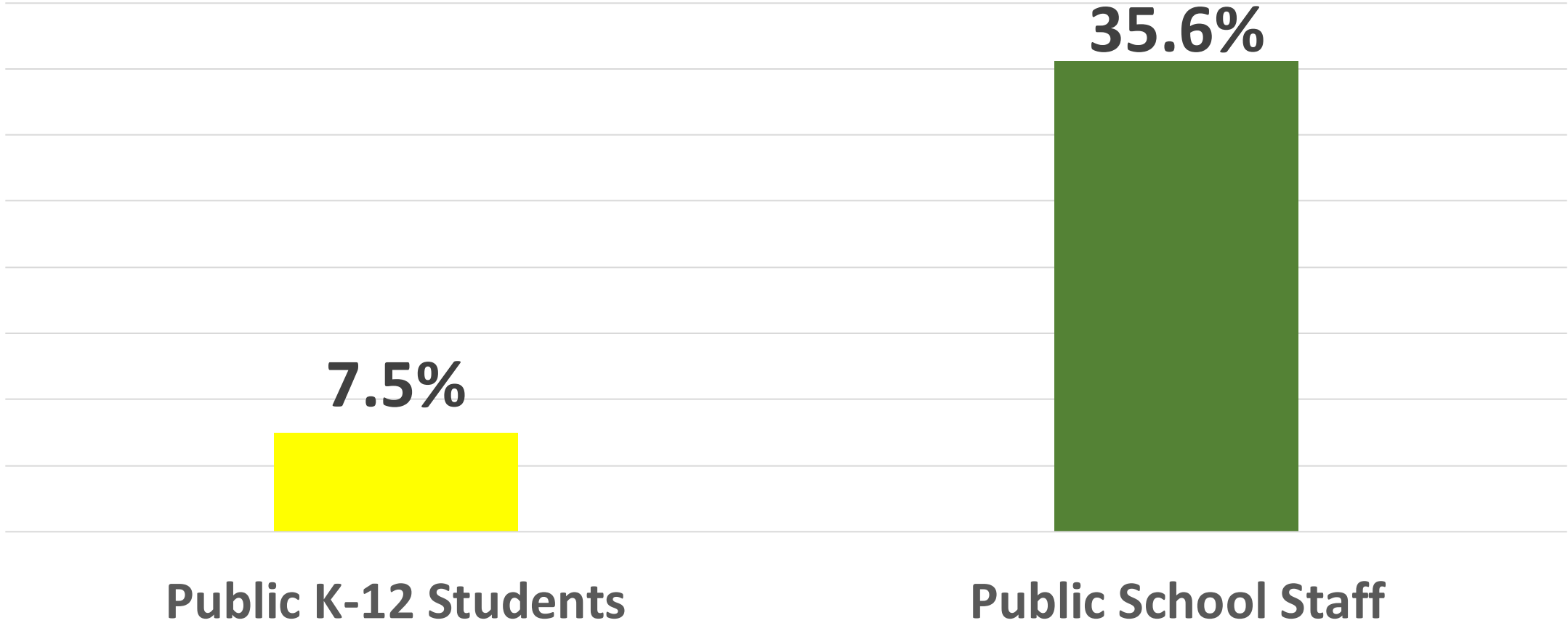


# Staffing Surge in Public Colleges and Universities

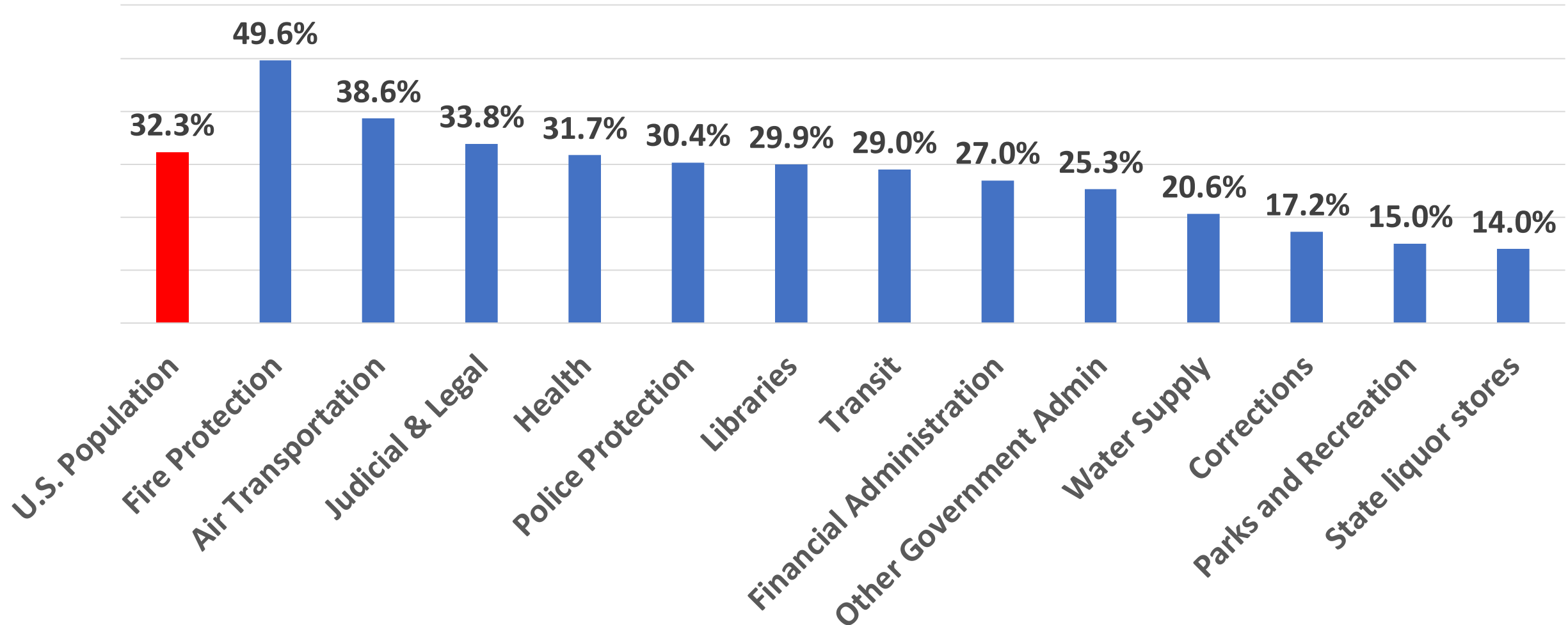
1994 to 2022



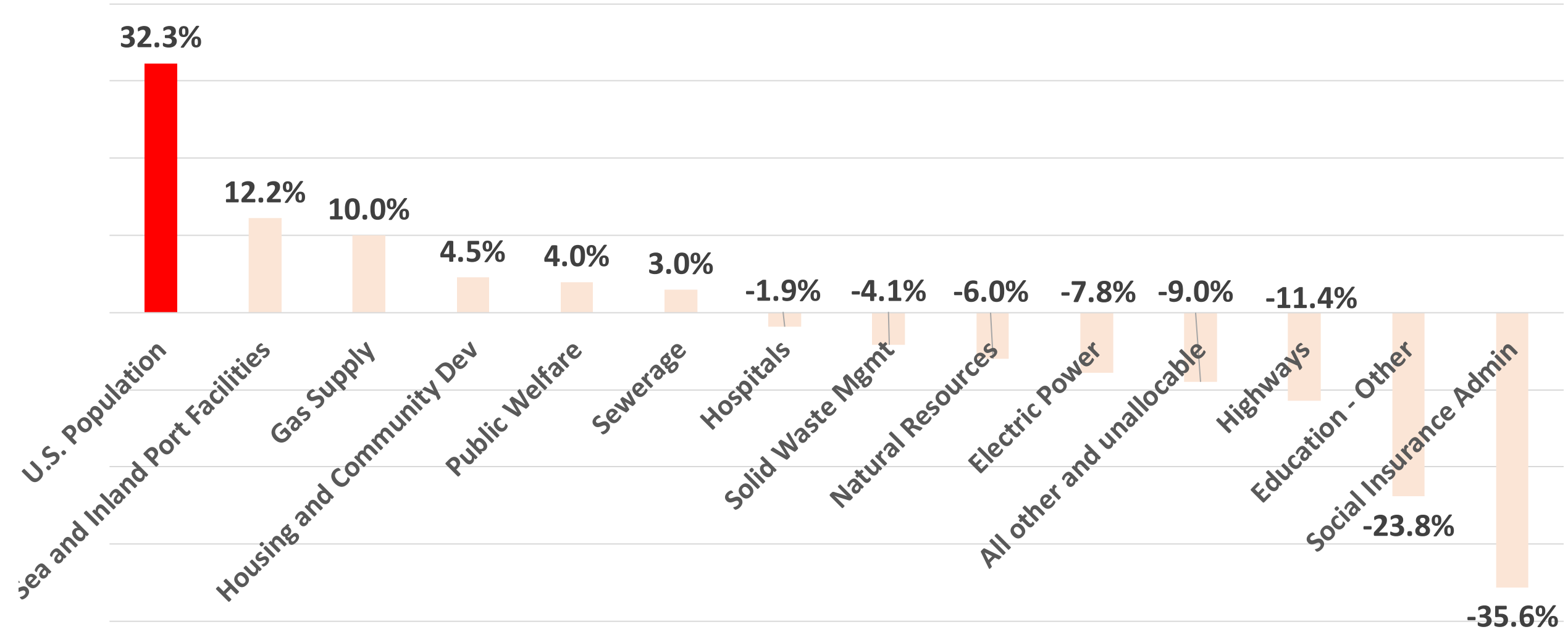
# Staffing Surge in U.S. Public Schools 1994 to 2022



# Change in U.S. Population and Employment in State and Local Government Functions (non-education), 1994 to 2022



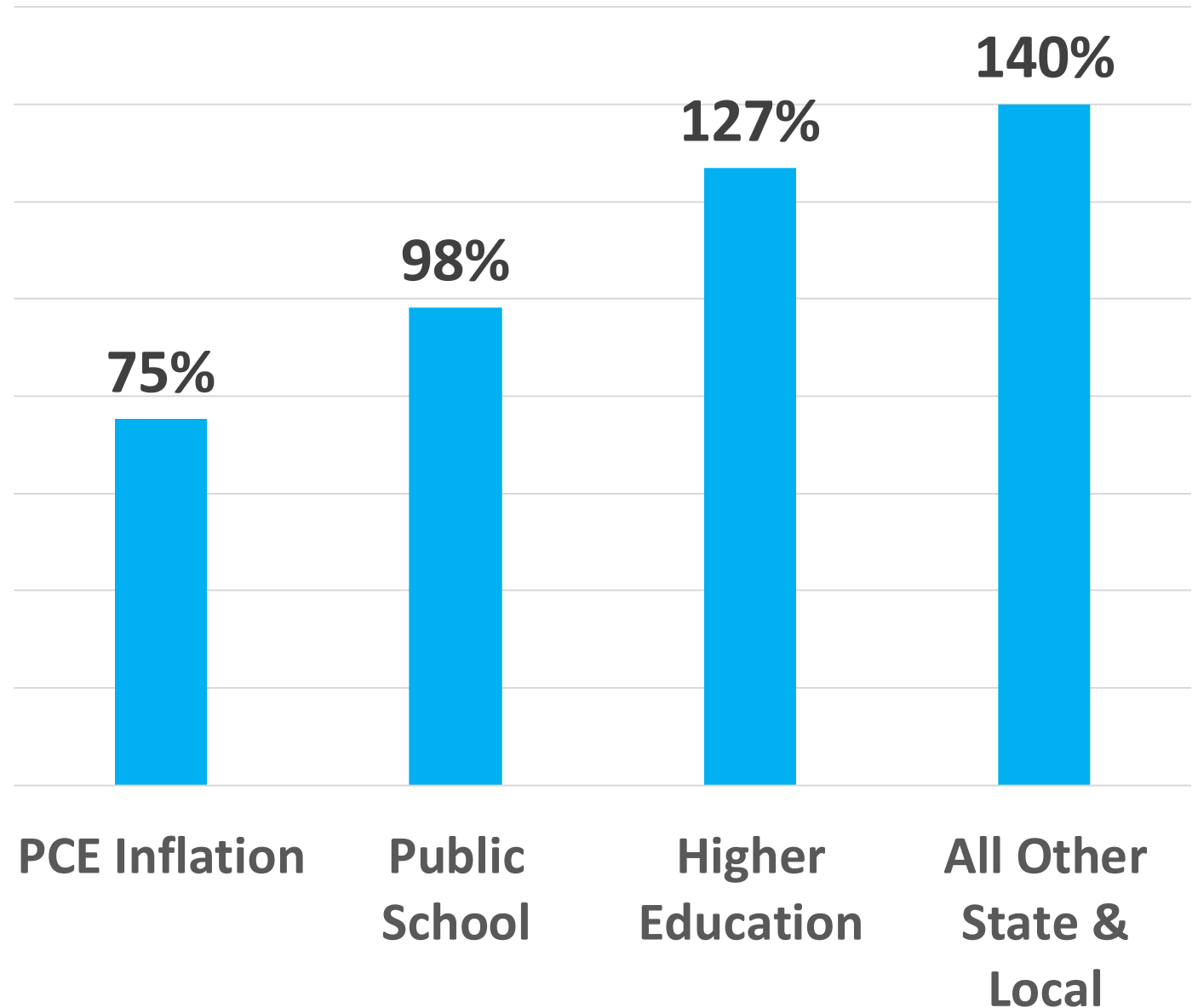
# Change in U.S. Population and Employment in State and Local Government Functions (non-education), 1994 to 2022



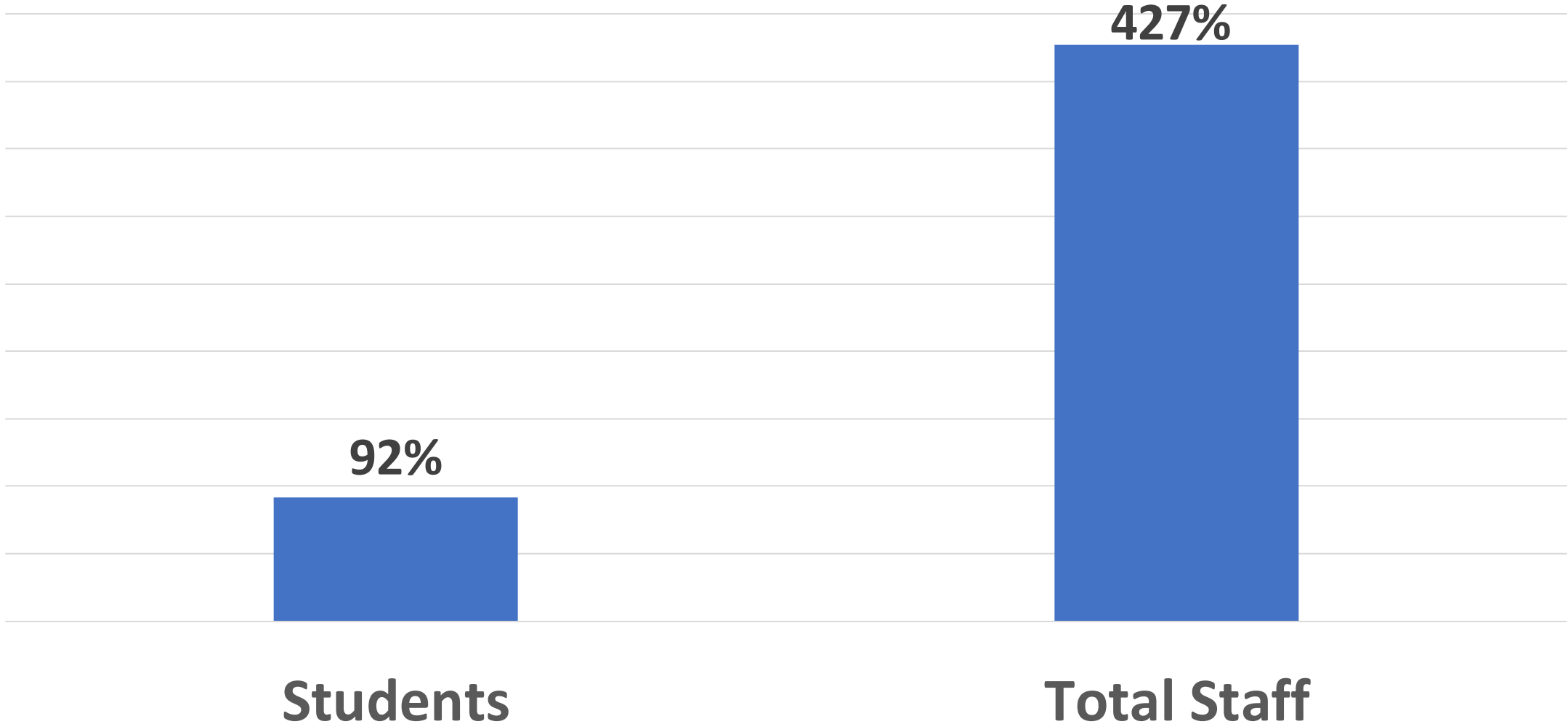


# Percent Change in Salaries and the Cost of Living

1994 to 2022



# The Public School Staffing Surge Has Been Going on a Long Time, 1950 to 2020





**We used to teach good students like Lena Horne, now we get students like this guy**

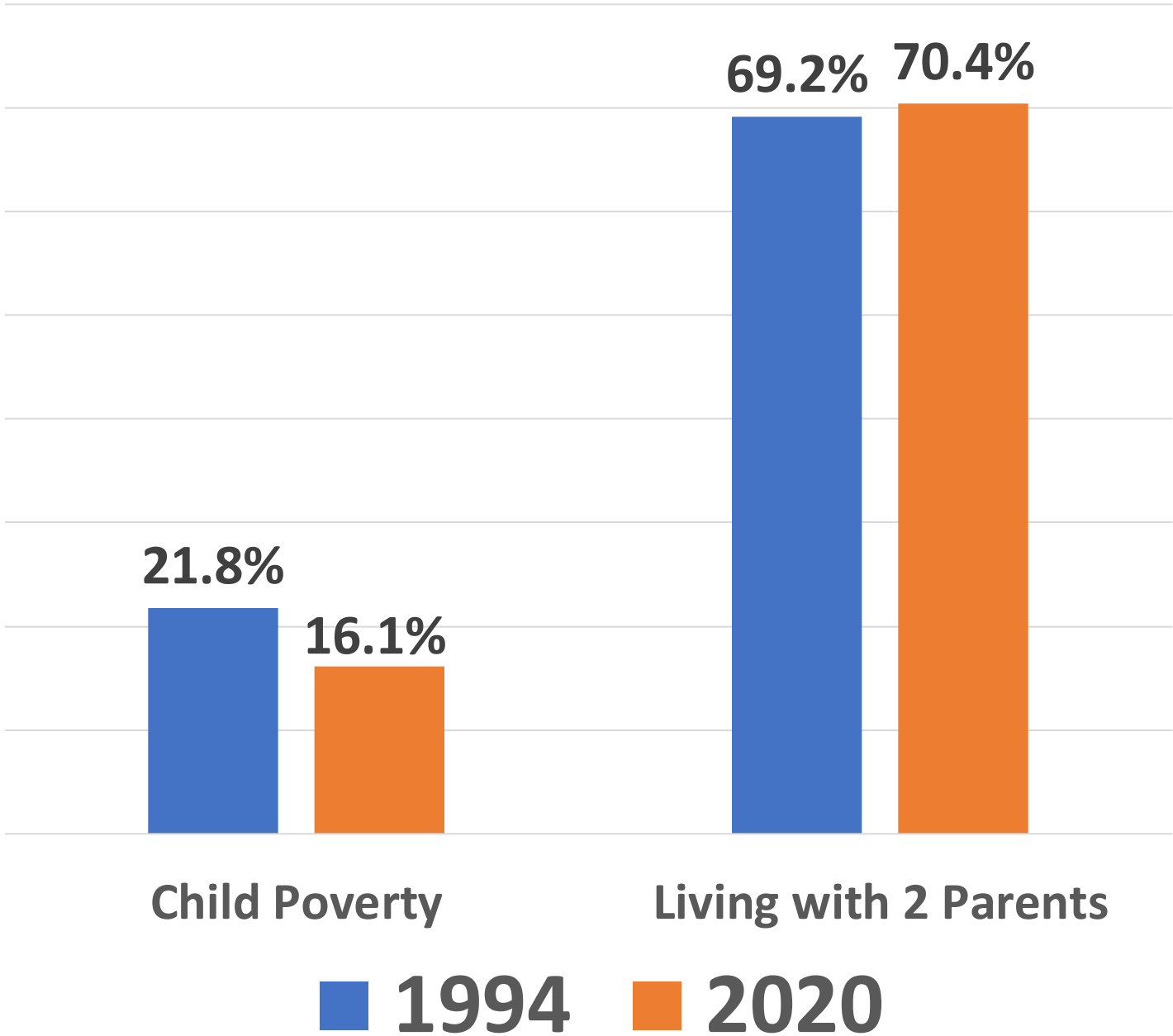


# **The Needs of Public School Students Have Been Skyrocketing Over Time**

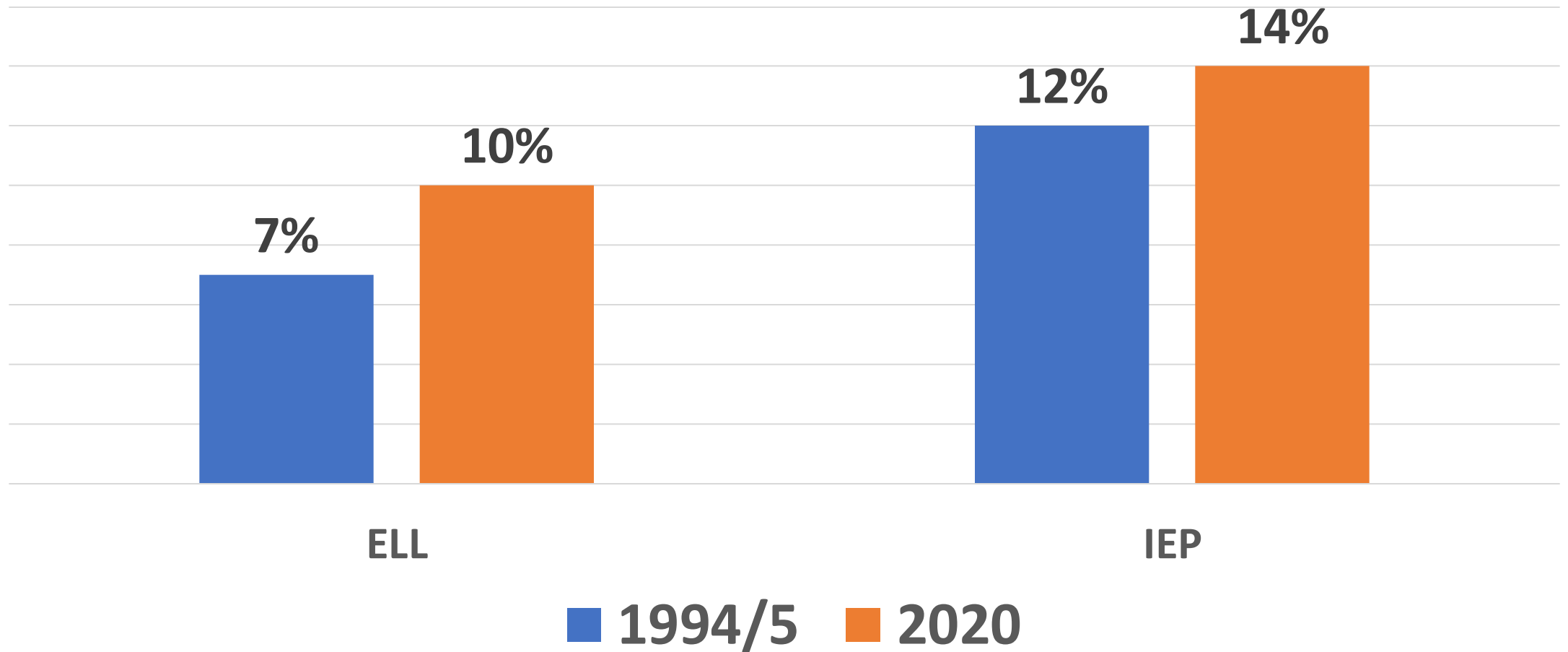
**Reality: Research suggests students today are more advantaged with respect to observable characteristics**

**Student placements into ELL and Special Education are higher.**

**Child Poverty  
has Decreased  
Since 1994,  
while the  
Percent of  
Children Living  
with Two  
Parents has  
Increased  
Slightly**



# To be fair, the percent of children receiving ELL and Special Needs services has increased





**Parents Cannot Have Choice  
Because There is a Looming  
Fiscal Cliff in Public  
Education After 2024**

# **Reality: Public School Spending Per Student is on Autopilot to Skyrocket Until 2024**

**Extra federal funds must be spent by 2024, but there is a move to push that back to 2026.**

**Student enrollments have been declining recently.**

**Public school districts increased their reserves significantly after the Great Recession and are likely continuing to do so.**

**Local districts ability to pay is up significantly, on average**



**Across three federal Covid  
bailout bills, public schools were  
given an extra **\$189.5 billion**  
to spend by 2024.**

	<b>Total ESSR Funds</b>	<b>Spent by 7/31/23</b>	<b>Unspent Funds</b>	<b>Percent Unspent</b>
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>\$4,011,082,408</b>	<b>\$2,320,822,307</b>	<b>\$1,690,260,101</b>	<b>42.1%</b>
<b>Arkansas</b>	<b>\$1,940,096,007</b>	<b>\$1,480,388,271</b>	<b>\$459,707,736</b>	<b>23.7%</b>
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>\$1,191,543,114</b>	<b>\$881,560,103</b>	<b>\$309,983,011</b>	<b>26.0%</b>
<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>\$5,600,682,958</b>	<b>\$3,752,159,491</b>	<b>\$1,848,523,467</b>	<b>33.0%</b>
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>\$2,320,636,280</b>	<b>\$1,695,796,883</b>	<b>\$624,839,397</b>	<b>26.9%</b>
<b>West Virginia</b>	<b>\$1,187,632,662</b>	<b>\$650,339,110</b>	<b>\$537,293,552</b>	<b>45.2%</b>
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>\$2,402,701,451</b>	<b>\$908,473,064</b>	<b>\$1,494,228,387</b>	<b>62.2%</b>

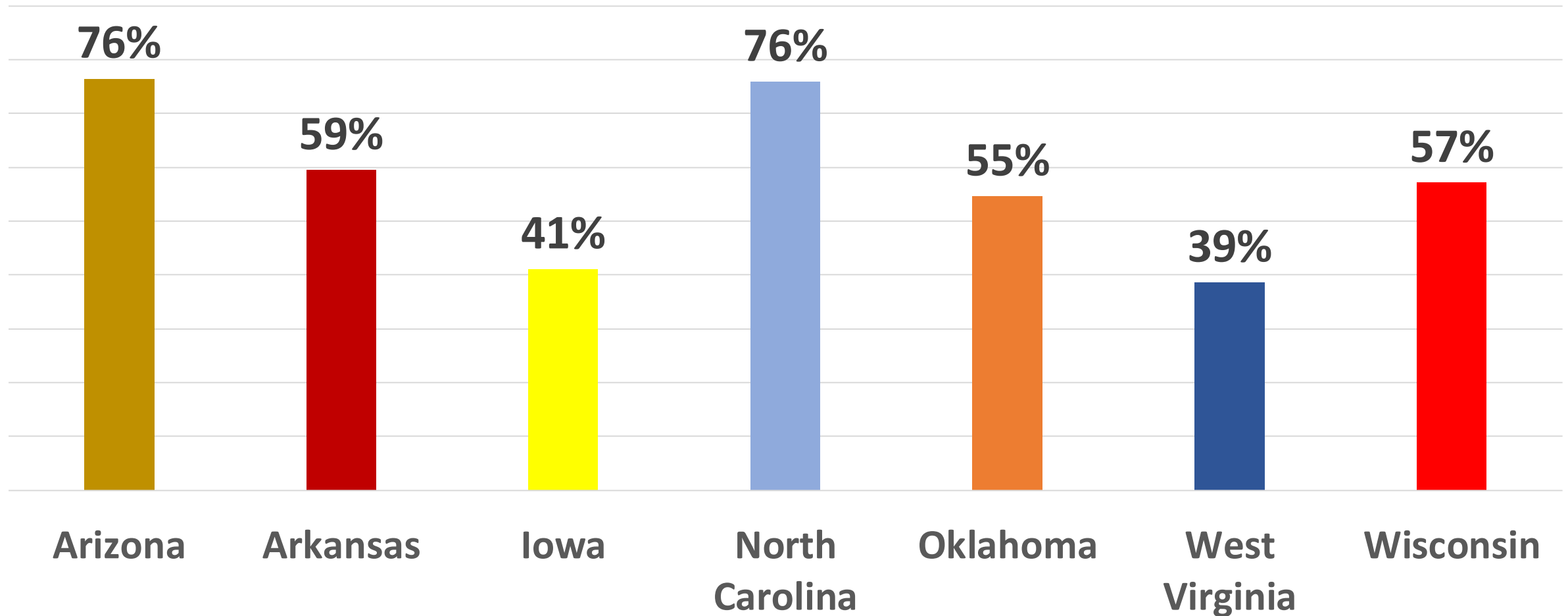
## Change in Public School Enrollment, Fall 2019 to Fall 2021

	Fall 2019	Fall 2021	Change in Students Fall 2019 to Fall 2021	Percent Change Fall 2019 to Fall 2021	PROJECTED Change in Students 2021 to 2031
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>1,152,586</b>	<b>1,133,284</b>	<b>-19,302</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>	<b>-1,884</b>
<b>Arkansas</b>	<b>496,927</b>	<b>489,565</b>	<b>-7,362</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>	<b>-565</b>
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>517,324</b>	<b>510,661</b>	<b>-6,663</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>839</b>
<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>1,560,350</b>	<b>1,525,223</b>	<b>-35,127</b>	<b>-2.3%</b>	<b>-6,623</b>
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>703,719</b>	<b>698,696</b>	<b>-5,023</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>1,004</b>
<b>West Virginia</b>	<b>263,486</b>	<b>252,720</b>	<b>-10,766</b>	<b>-4.1%</b>	<b>-35,320</b>
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>855,400</b>	<b>829,359</b>	<b>-26,041</b>	<b>-3.0%</b>	<b>-44,359</b>

# Public School “Reserves” Per Student (adjusted for inflation)

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
<b>Arizona</b>	<b>\$1,741</b>	<b>\$2,588</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Arkansas</b>	<b>\$1,603</b>	<b>\$1,881</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>\$2,007</b>	<b>\$6,904</b>	<b>244%</b>
<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>Not Reported</b>		
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>\$858</b>	<b>\$2,805</b>	<b>227%</b>
<b>West Virginia</b>	<b>\$1,307</b>	<b>\$3,768</b>	<b>188%</b>
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>\$2,404</b>	<b>\$3,662</b>	<b>52%</b>

# 5-year increase in average home prices to June 2023, [https://www.fhfa.gov/DataTools/Tools/Pages/House-Price-Index-\(HPI\).aspx](https://www.fhfa.gov/DataTools/Tools/Pages/House-Price-Index-(HPI).aspx)





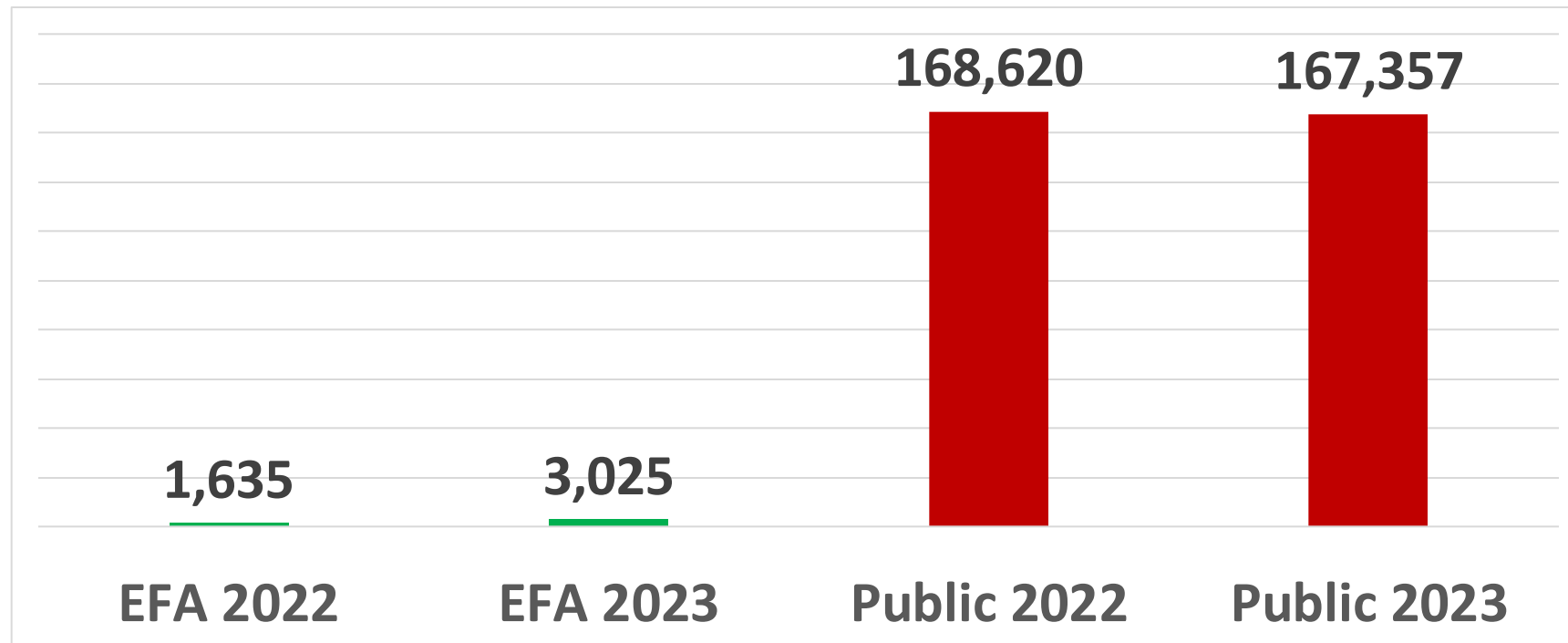
**Parents Cannot Have Choice Because it Will  
Lead to a **Mass Exodus From Public Schools****

**Reality: If they want to make this claim, then that is the best argument for giving parents choice in K-12 education!!!**

**New Hampshire offered all families earning less than 300 percent of the federal poverty line taxpayer-funded Education Freedom Accounts. There was no mass exodus from public schools, and this experience is typical.**

# Usage of Education Freedom Accounts (EFAs) in New Hampshire

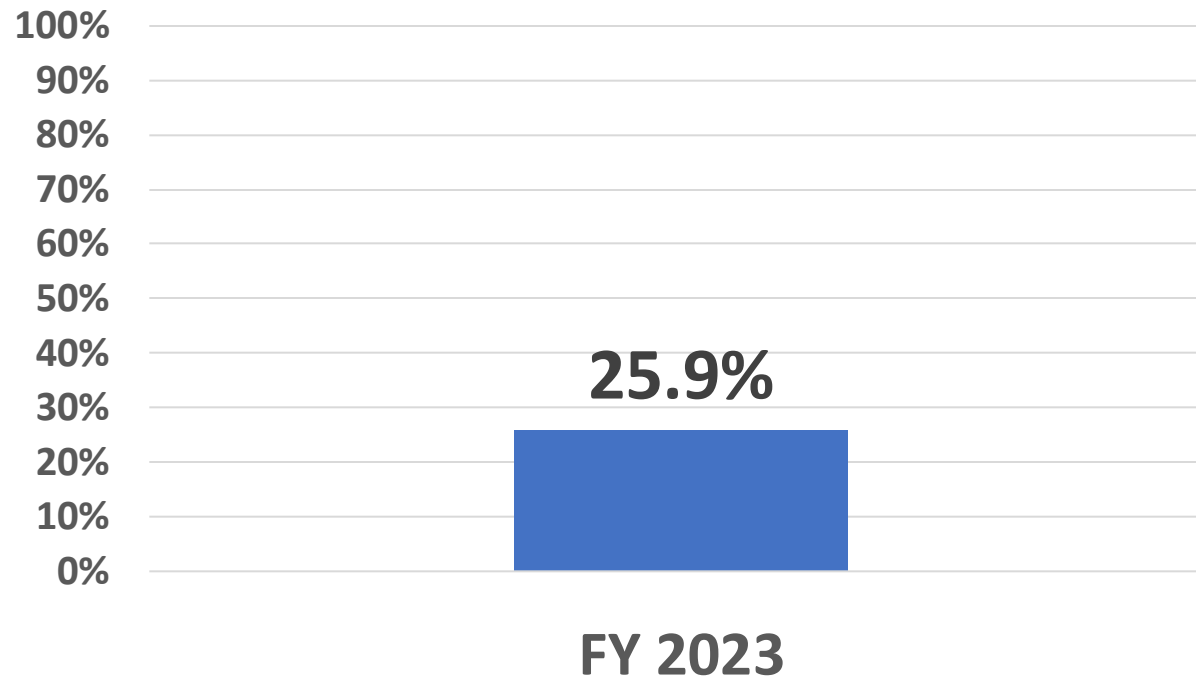
- All students in the state who live in households earning less than 300 percent of the federal poverty line were eligible for state funded EFAs—these are education savings accounts (**it is 350% now**)
- “All” includes students currently in private schools or homeschool settings





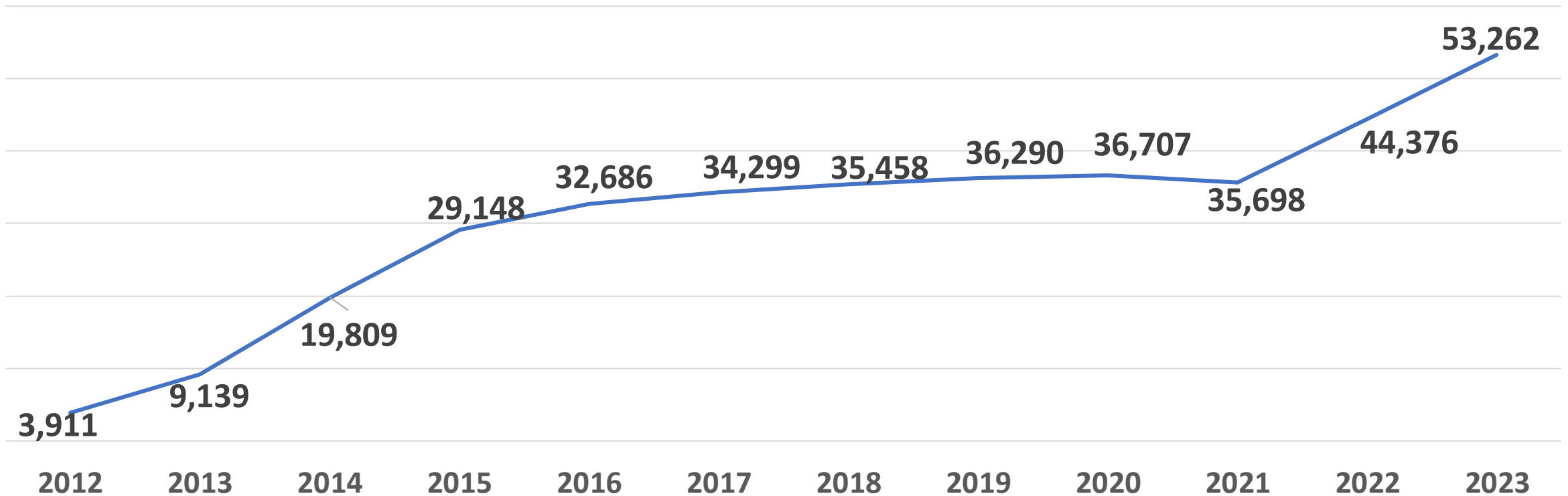
# What Percent of Pre-existing Private and Homeschool Students in New Hampshire Use an Education Freedom Account?

- The figure below is a slight overestimate, relative to the truth—because I count all new first graders as non-switchers, but some of them would have enrolled in public schools if EFAs were not available



**Over time, more students will access choice, but it will not be a mass exodus (Indiana Choice Scholarship Program)**

## Number of Scholarship Students in Indiana



**When “they” say stuff that is not true, call them on it.**

Contact your EdChoice state person and he or she will get you the information or the expert you need.

The EdChoice website has a wealth of information as well.