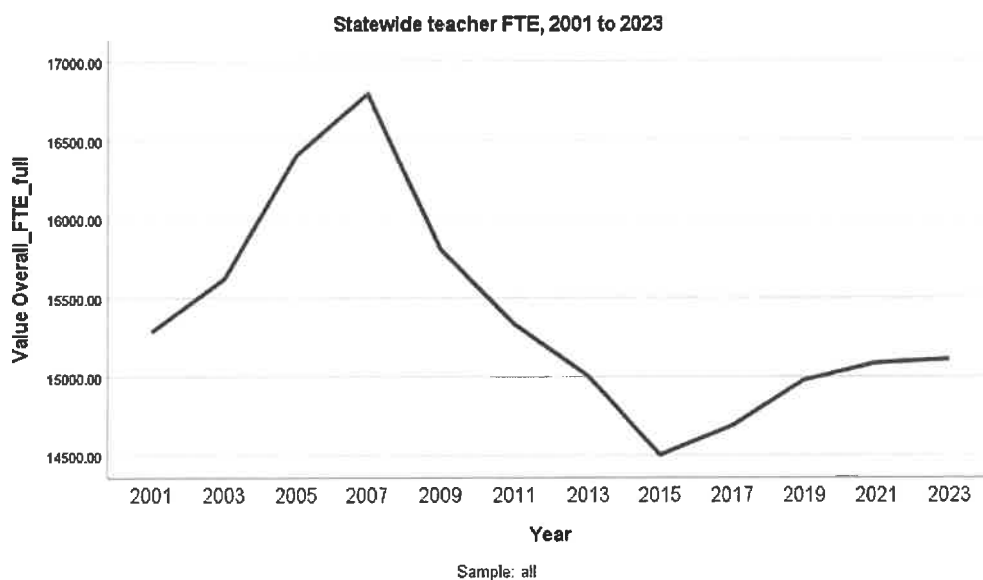
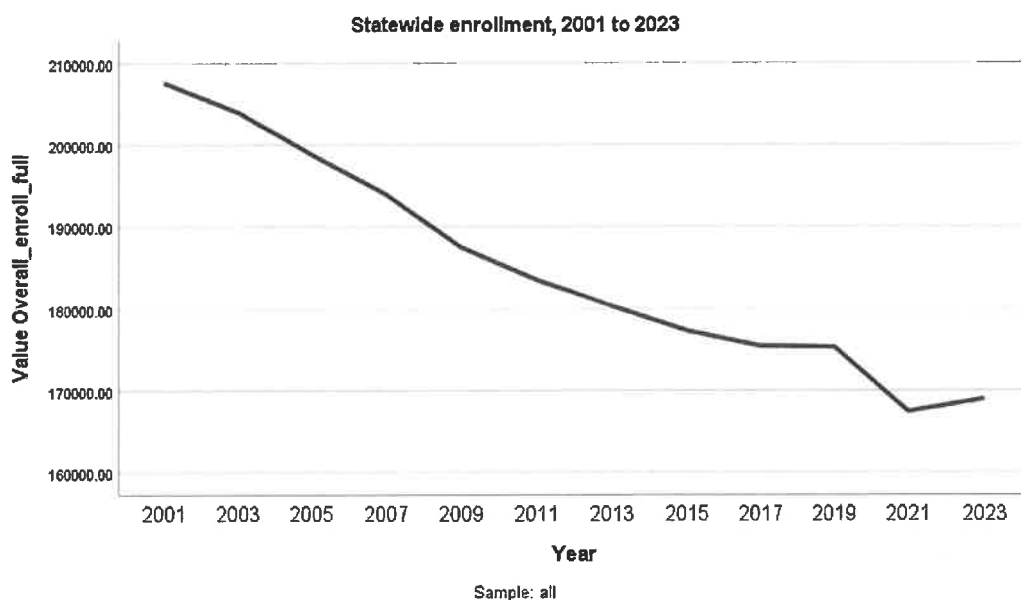


20 Year Education Trends in Maine

Students and Staff



Student enrollments declined 19% (from 207,606 to 168,937) between 2001 and 2023. The total number of teachers fluctuated over this time period, ending 1.2% lower in 2023 (from 15,294.9 to 15,109.7 full-time equivalents). All categories of teachers are included in this total (classroom teachers, special education, literacy specialists, gifted and talented, Multilingual Learner teachers).¹

¹ Data source: National Center on Education Statistics, Common Core of Data

Regular Instruction Staff Ratios by County, FY2024

	Number of regular public schools (# Small & Isolated)	Students per Classroom Teacher		Students per Ed Tech
		All schools	Excl Small & Isolated	
Androscoggin	37 (1)	15.3	(15.3)	112.2
Aroostook	35 (10)	15.1	(16.1)	65.5
Cumberland	82 (4)	14.0	(14.1)	94.9
Franklin	13 (5)	15.5	(16.3)	123.9
Hancock	33 (11)	11.2	(11.7)	117.5
Kennebec	43 (0)	14.2	(14.2)	73.1
Knox	22 (4)	12.1	(12.7)	78.0
Lincoln	16 (2)	11.3	(11.5)	65.3
Oxford	30 (4)	14.0	(14.2)	109.9
Penobscot	71 (9)	14.3	(14.4)	103.9
Piscataquis	5 (1)	13.1	(13.9)	49.0
Sagadahoc	18 (2)	13.6	(13.7)	239.7
Somerset	24 (6)	13.5	(13.8)	101.6
Waldo	19 (3)	12.7	(13.4)	142.3
Washington	29 (11)	12.4	(12.9)	49.9
York	61 (0)	14.1	(14.1)	107.7

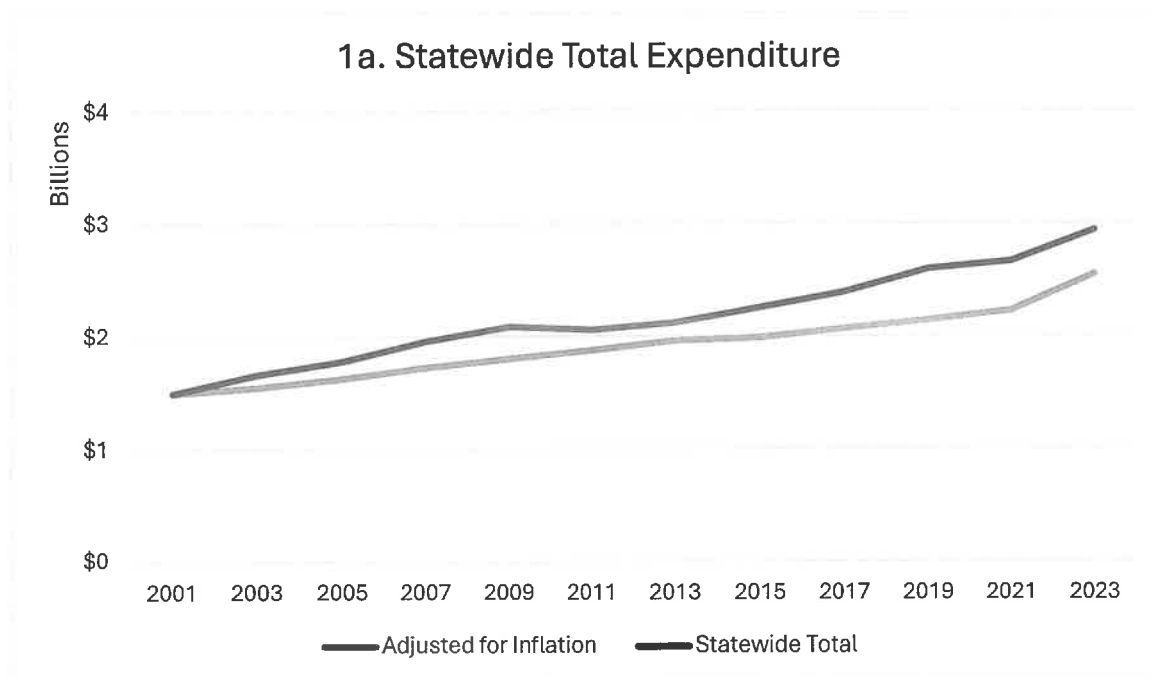
In FY 2024, Maine had:

11,866	Classroom teachers
2,105	Special Education teachers
205	Title I teachers and 135 Literacy specialists
265	Multilingual Learner teachers
149	Gifted & Talented teachers
1,917	Educational Technicians (general education)
4,956	Educational Technicians (special education)

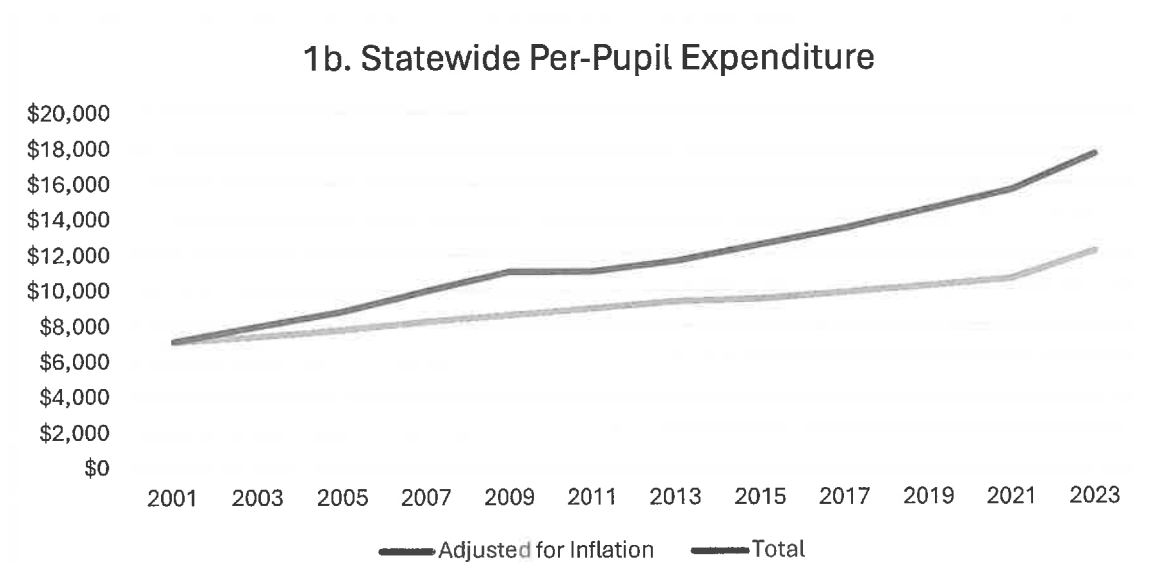
Full-time Equivalent (FTE) totals. Includes Special Education staff at special purpose private schools.

Public School Spending Over Time (General Fund)

Total Expenditures



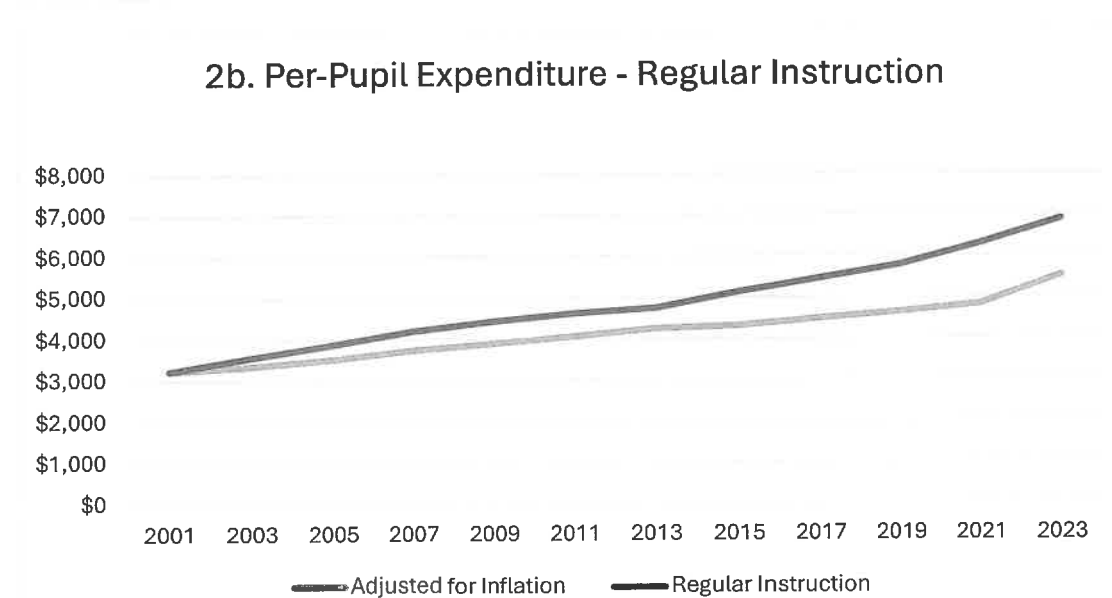
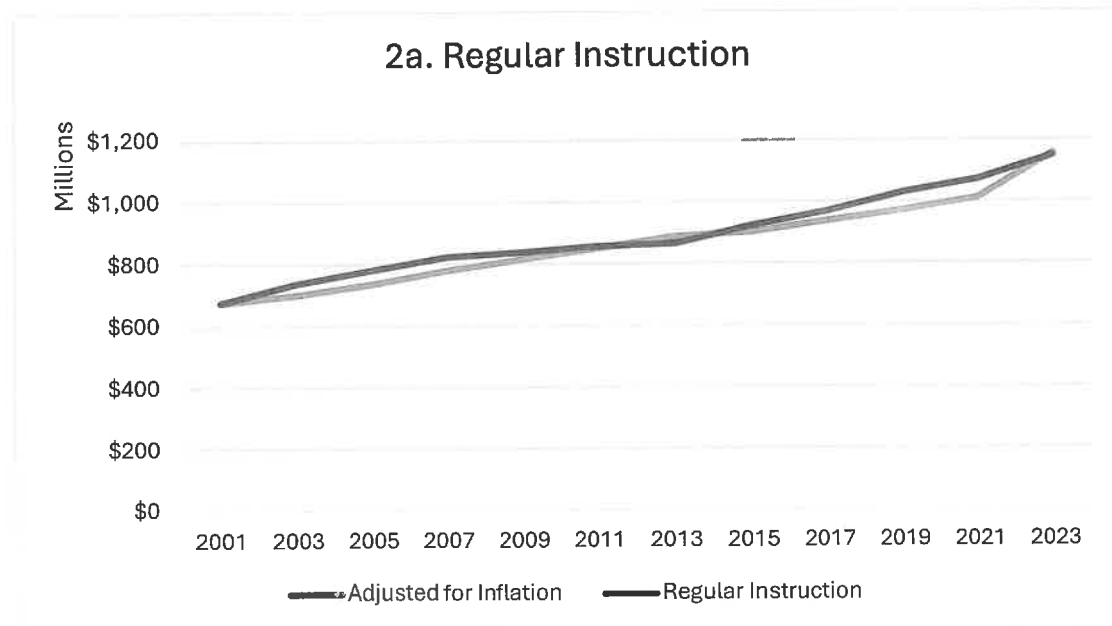
Total spending has increased more than inflation in the past 20 years (since FY2001).



Per-pupil spending has increased even more due to the decline in students.

Regular Instruction

“Activities that provide students [...] with learning experiences to prepare them for further education and training for responsibilities as citizens, family members, and workers.”² Includes Alternative education, pre-K, Multilingual Learner and Gifted and Talented program spending in addition to traditional classroom instruction.³

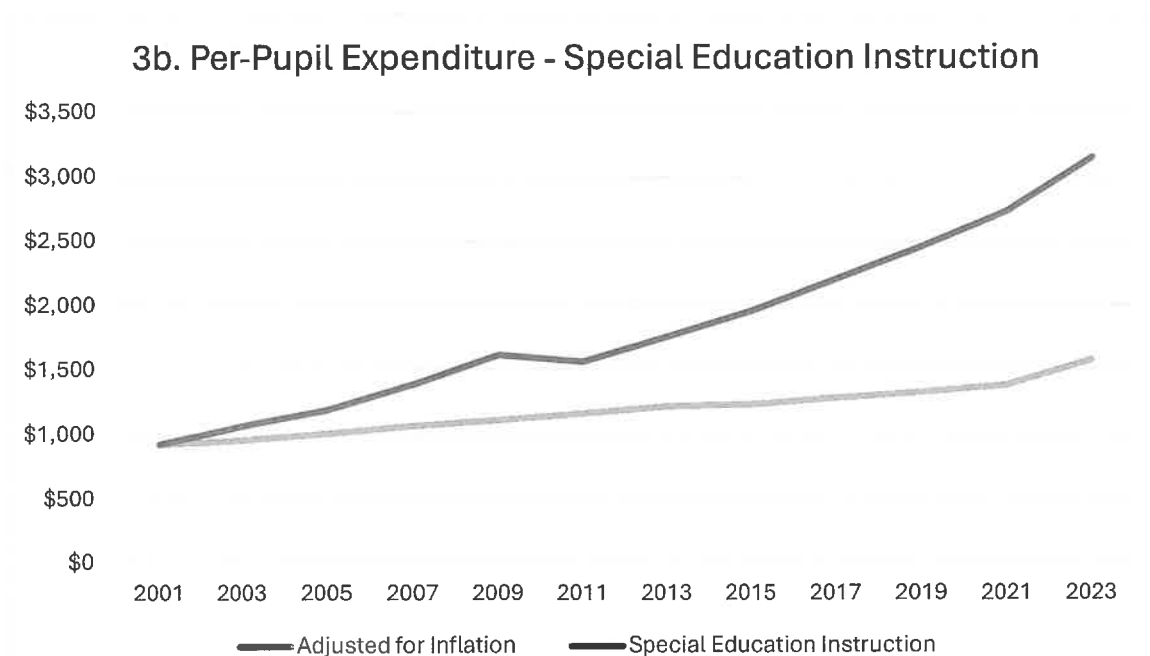
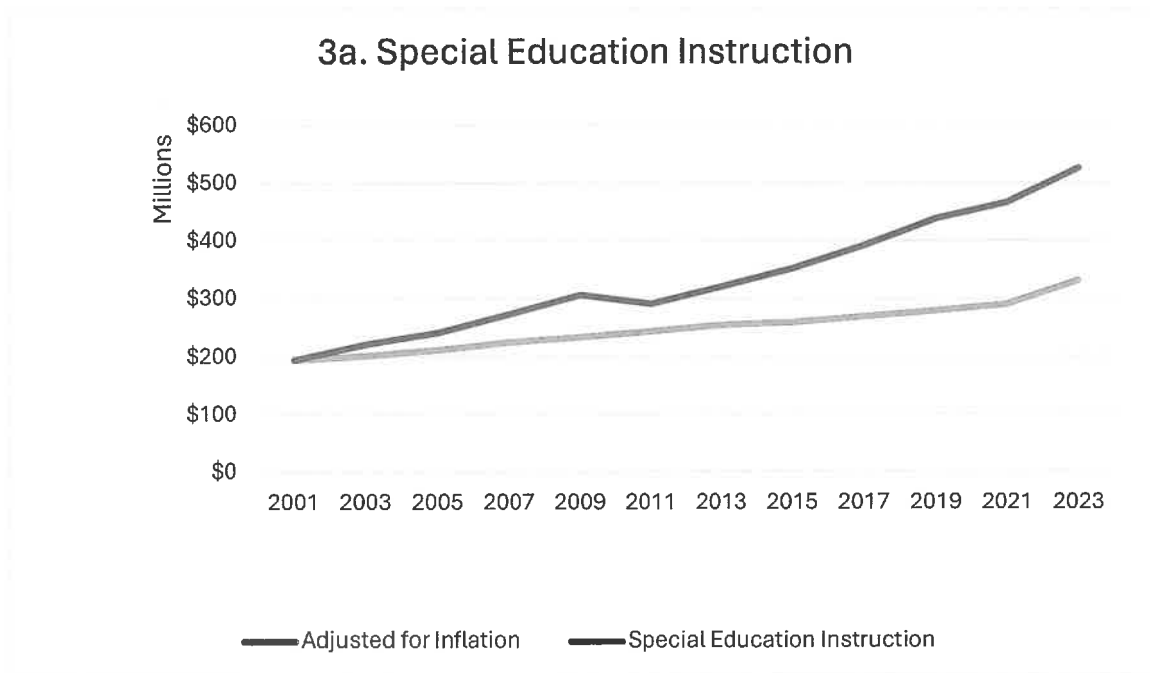


² Cost category definitions in quotations from the Maine School Financial Accounting Handbook (2024)

³ Source: Budget Category Template (<https://www.maine.gov/doe/funding/reports/expenditures>)

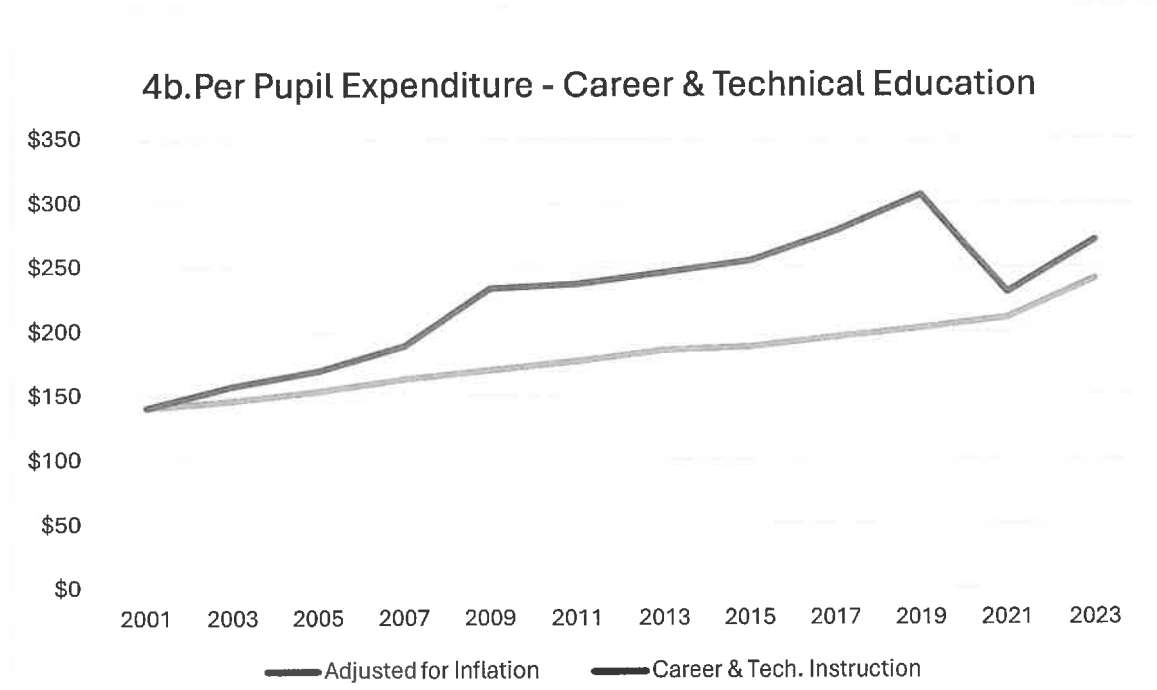
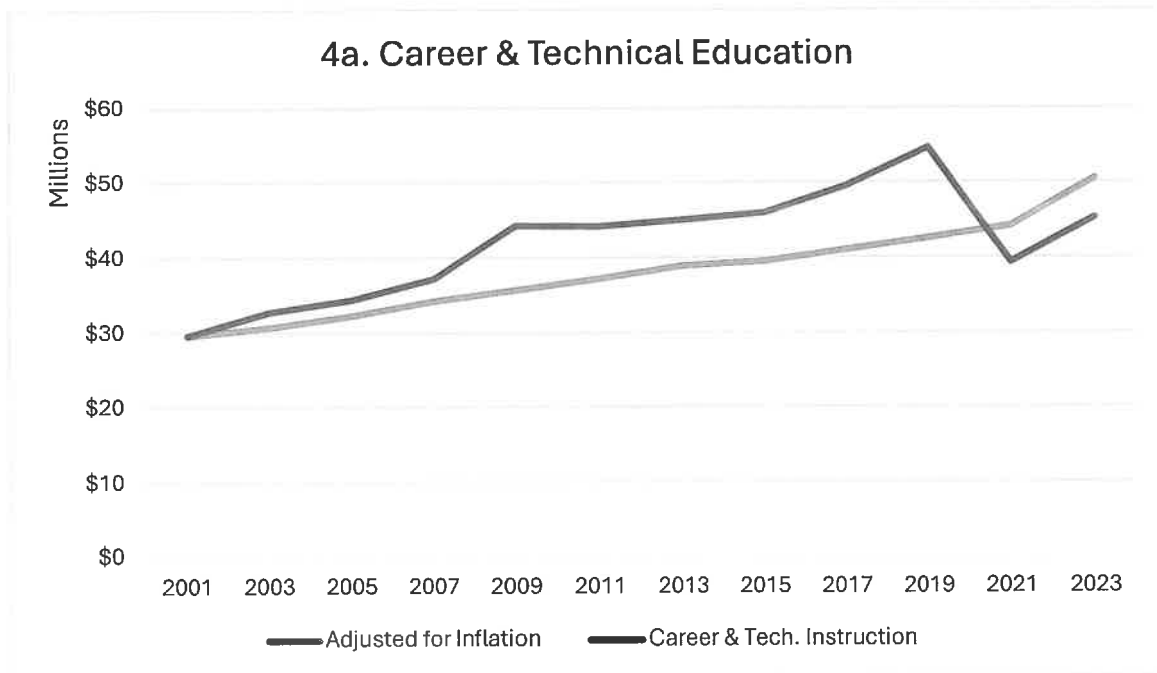
Special Education

“Special Programs include activities for elementary and secondary students receiving services outside the realm of regular programs [...] related to conditions of intellectual disability, orthopedic impairment, emotional disturbance, developmental delay, specific learning disabilities, multiple disabilities, hearing impairment, other health impairments, visual impairments including blindness, autism, deaf-blindness, traumatic brain injury and speech or language impairments.” Includes program and administrative costs.



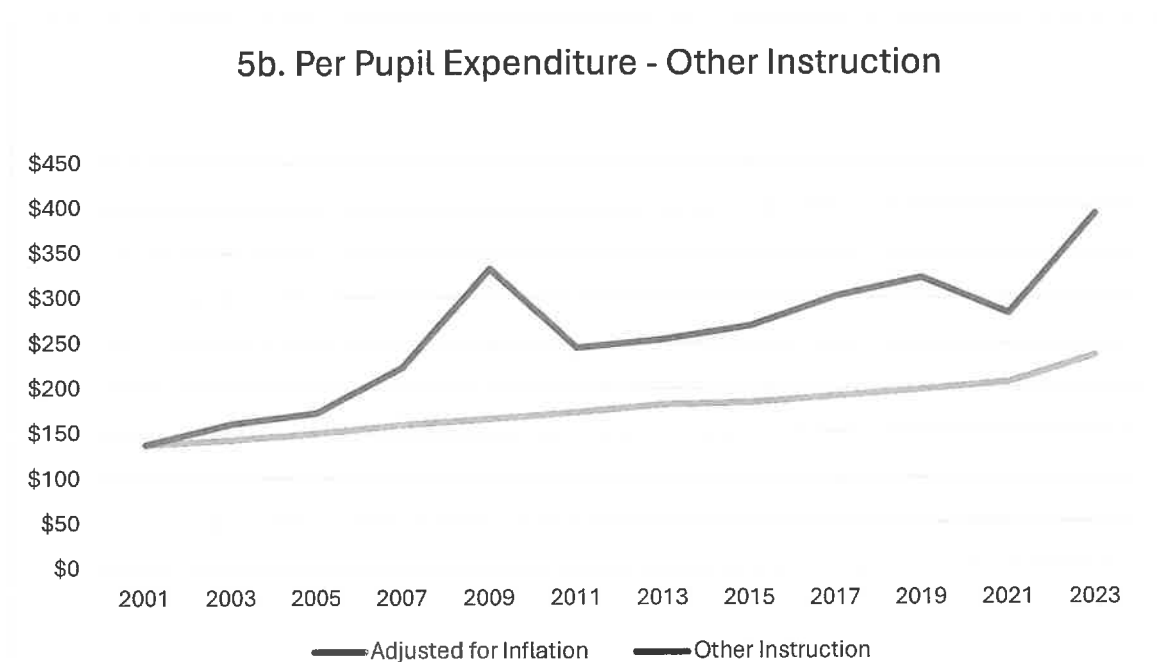
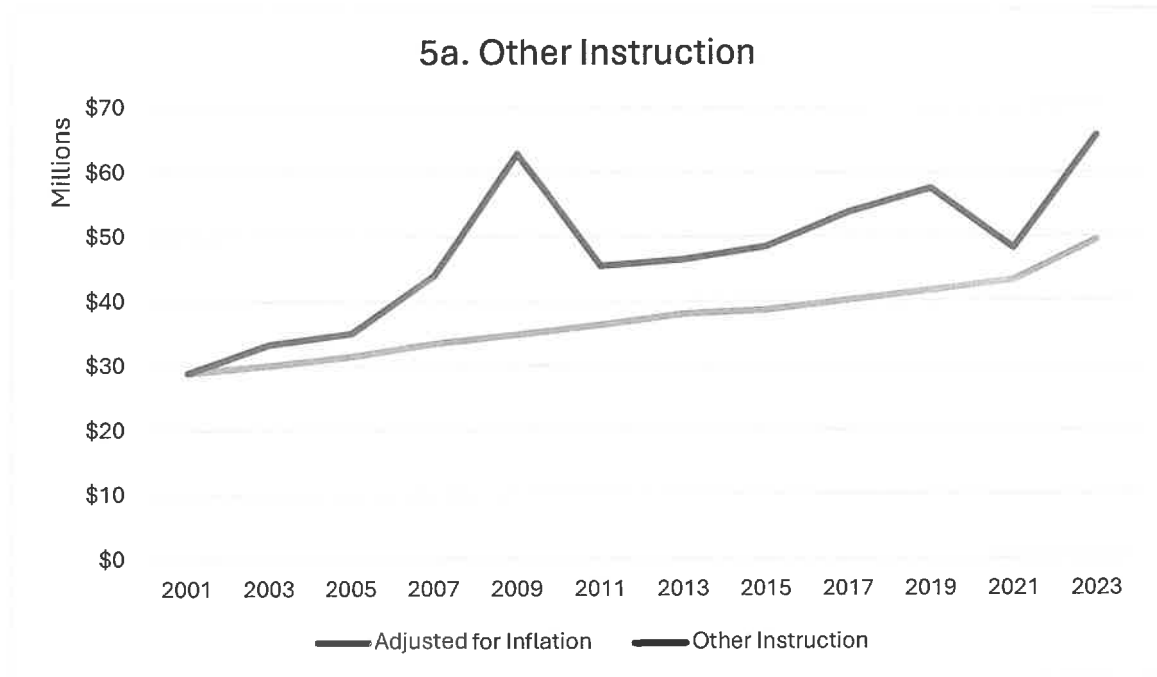
Career & Technical Education

“Activities delivered through traditional comprehensive and career and technical high schools that prepare students to meet challenging academic standards as well as industry skill standards while preparing students for broad-based careers and further education beyond high school.”



Other Instruction

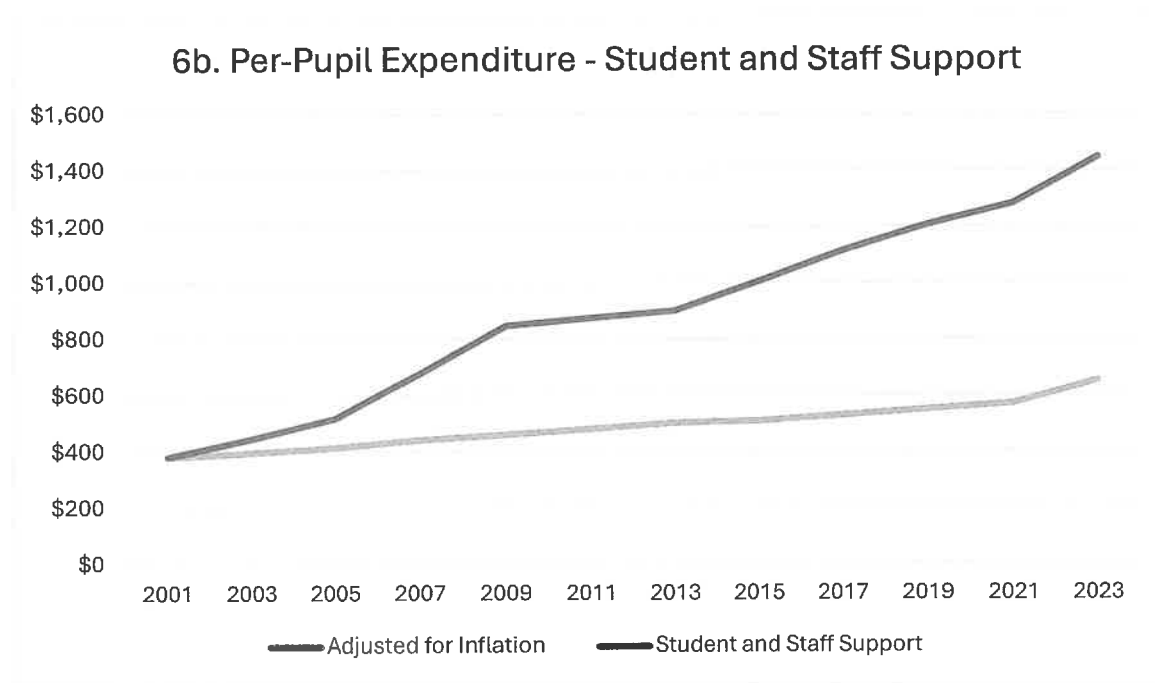
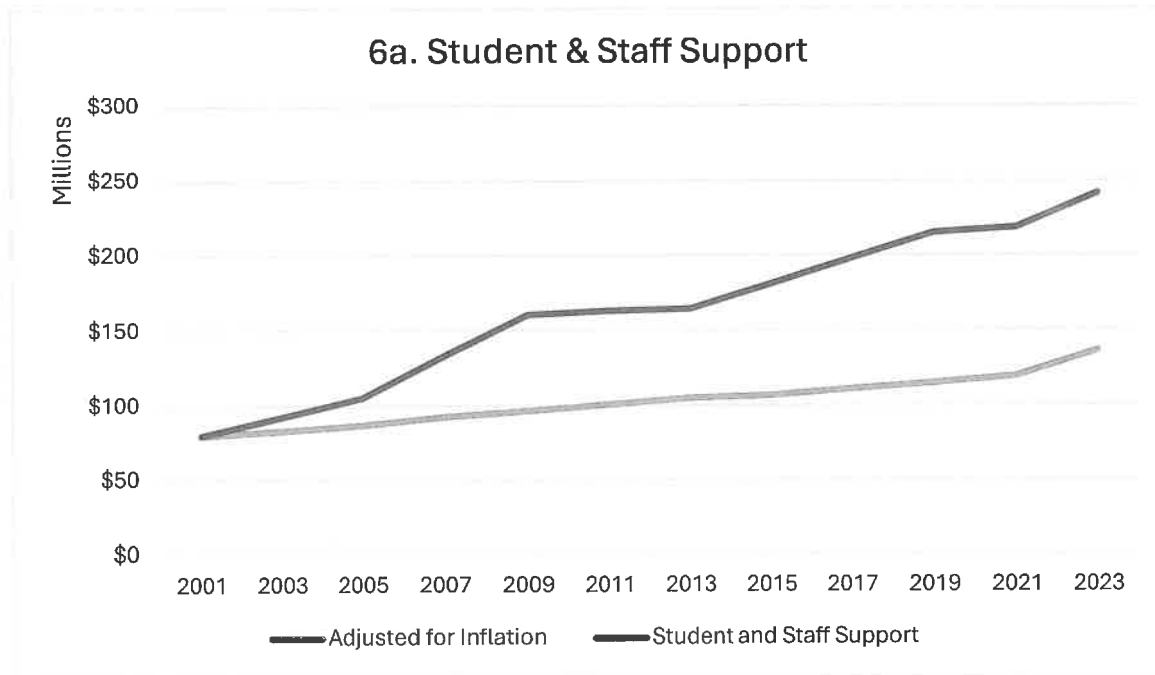
Includes Co-curricular, Extra-curricular, summer school, and post-secondary enrollment spending.



Student & Staff Support

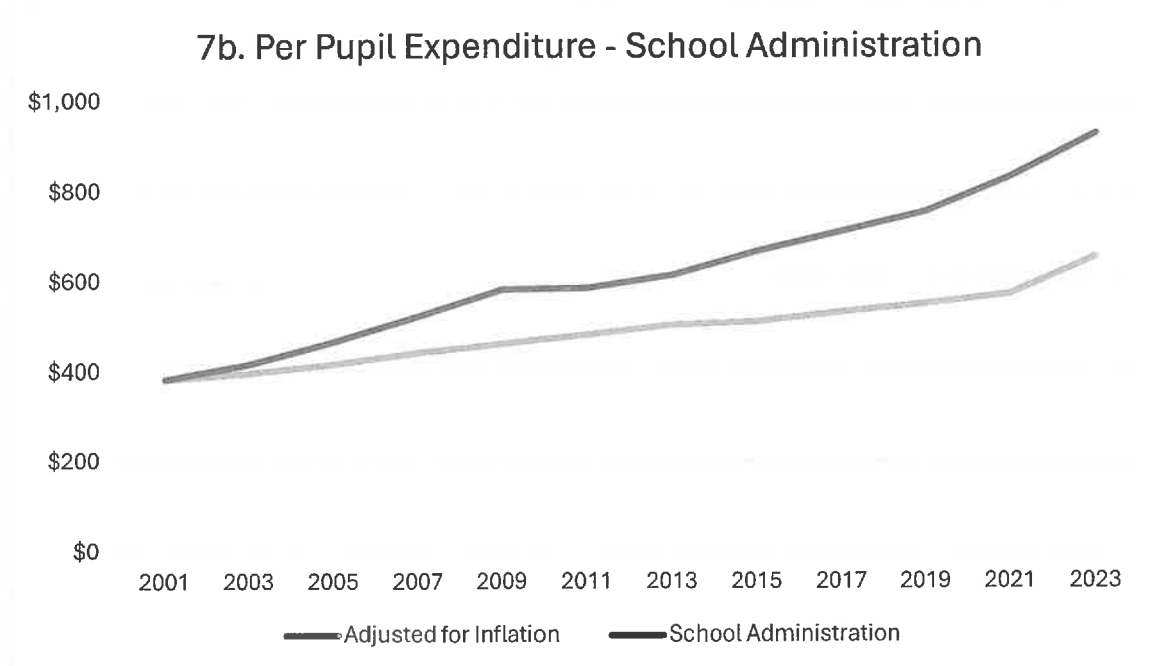
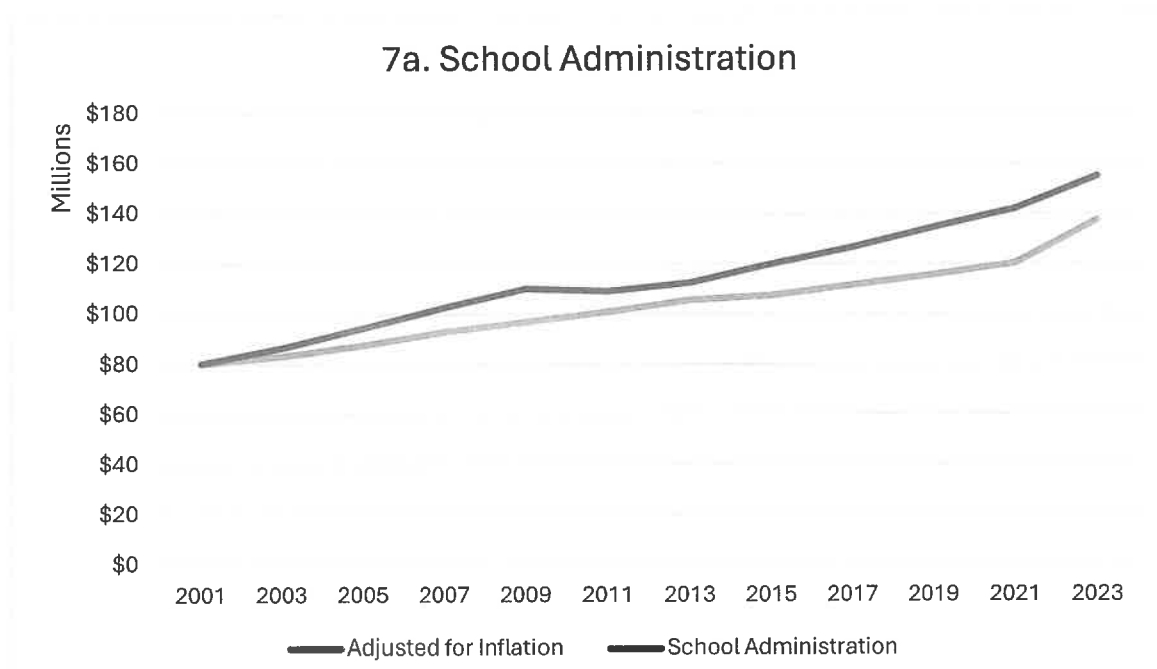
Student support: Guidance, Health, Instructional technology, and Other student services

Staff support: Improvement of instruction, Instructional staff training (professional development), Library services, Student assessment



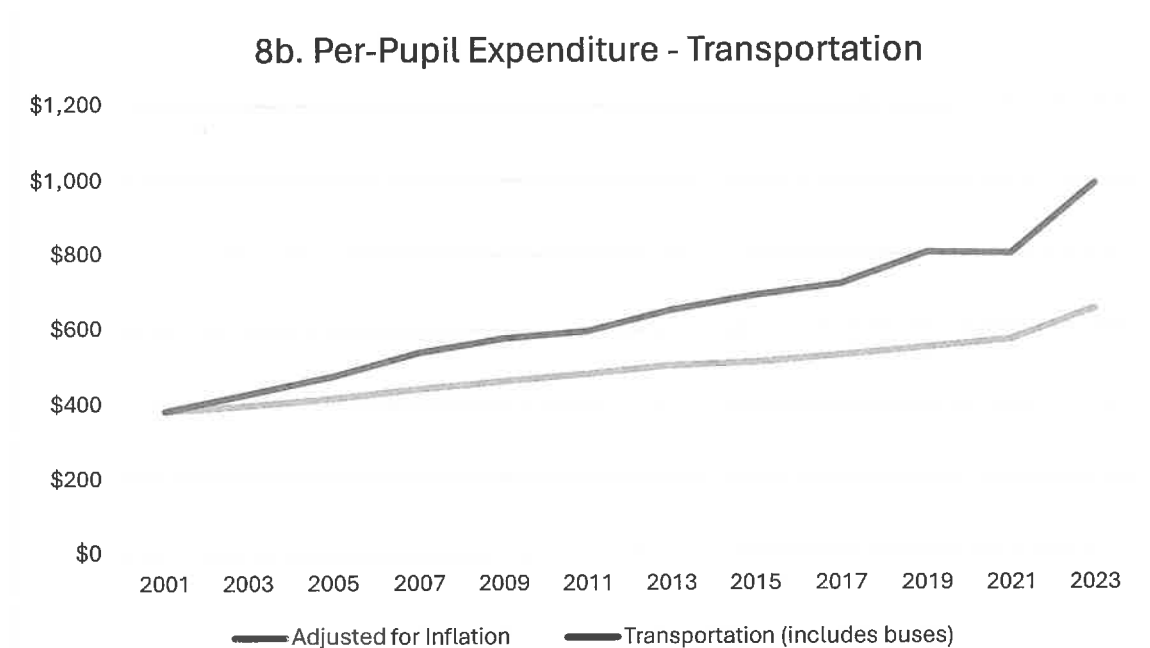
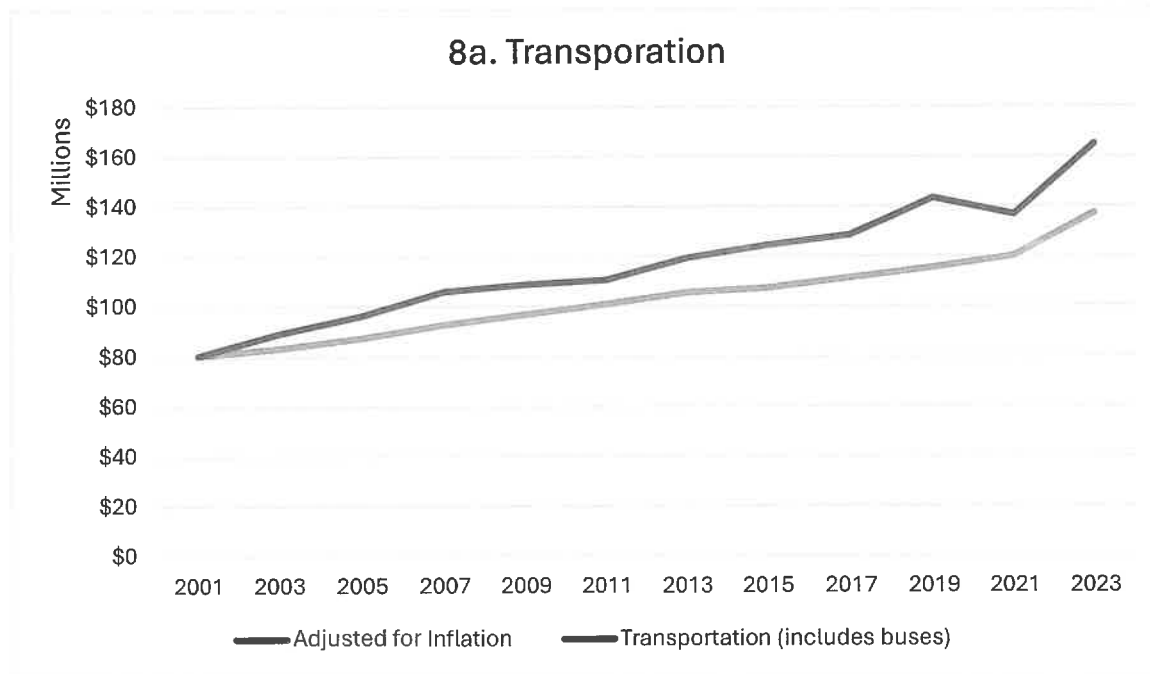
School Administration

“Activities concerned with overall administrative responsibility for a school.”



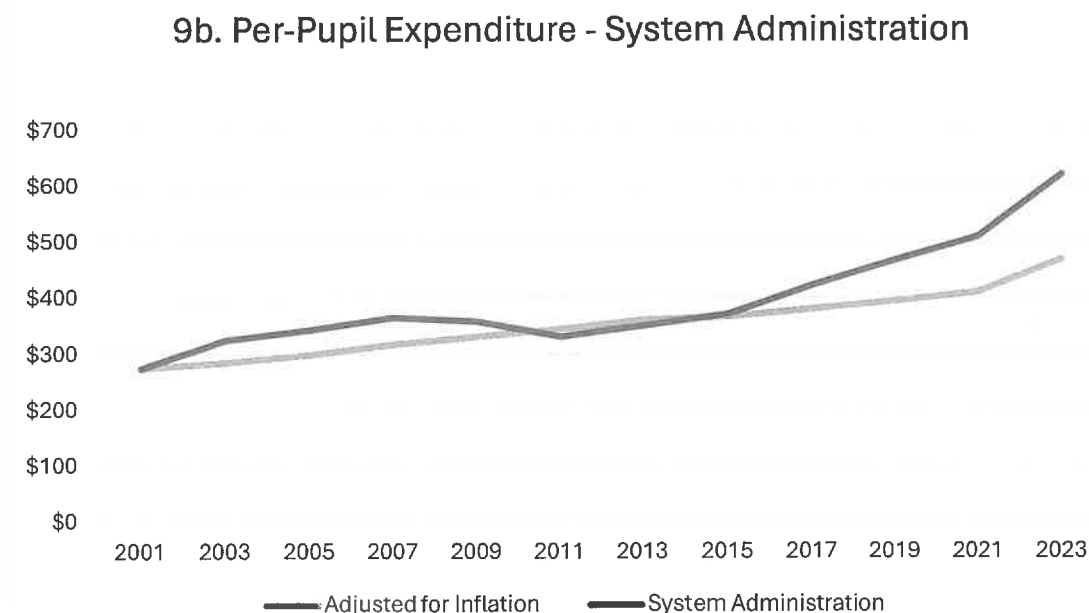
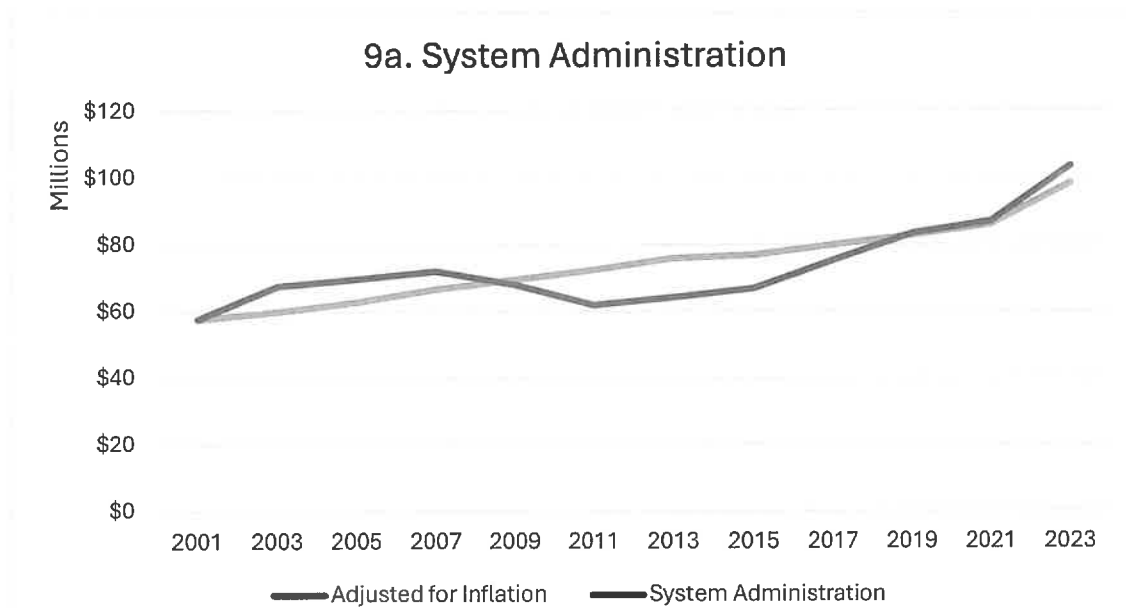
Transportation

"Activities concerned with conveying students to and from school, as provided by state and federal Law. This includes trips between home and school, and trips to school activities."



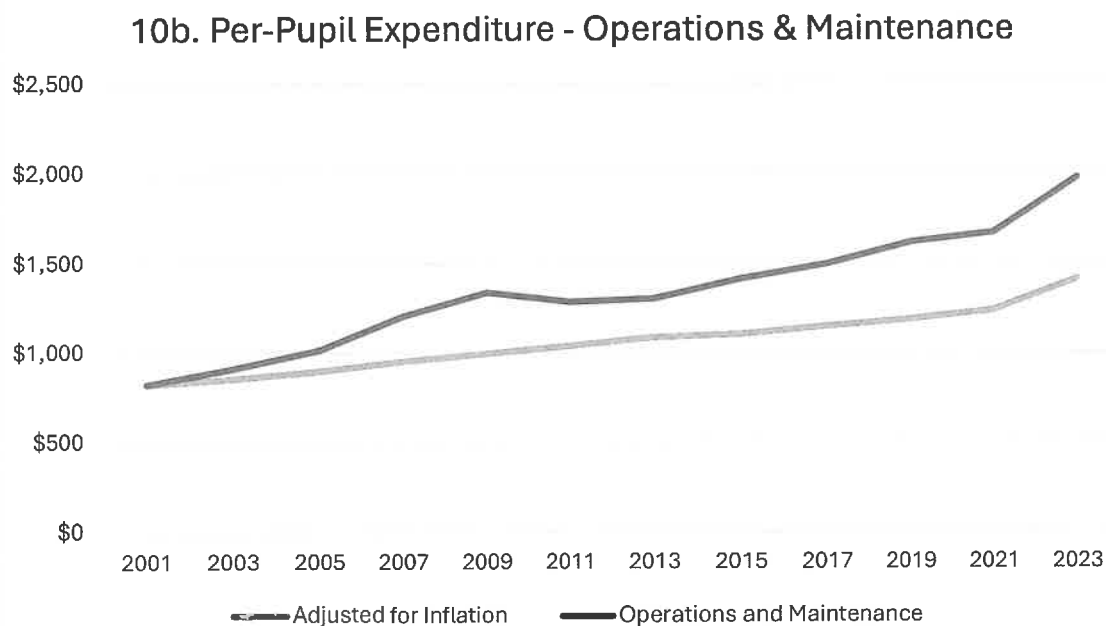
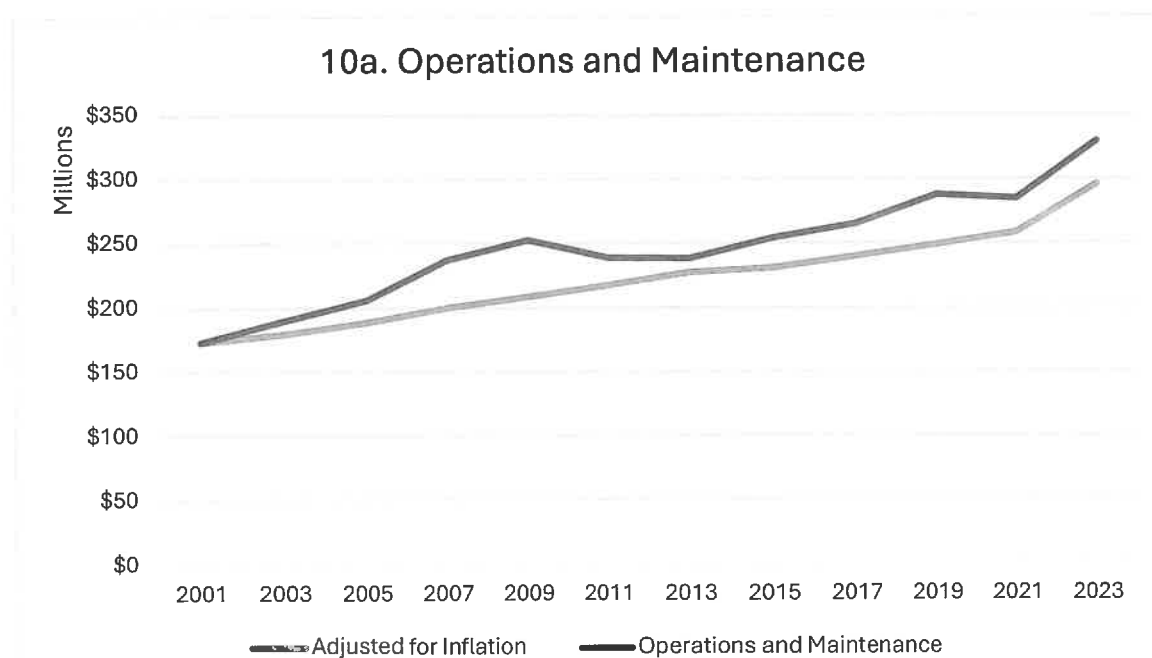
System Administration

Includes general administration (“Activities concerned with establishing and administering policy in connection with operating the school administrative unit” and Central Services (“Activities that support other administrative and instructional functions, including fiscal services, human resources, planning, and administrative information technology”))



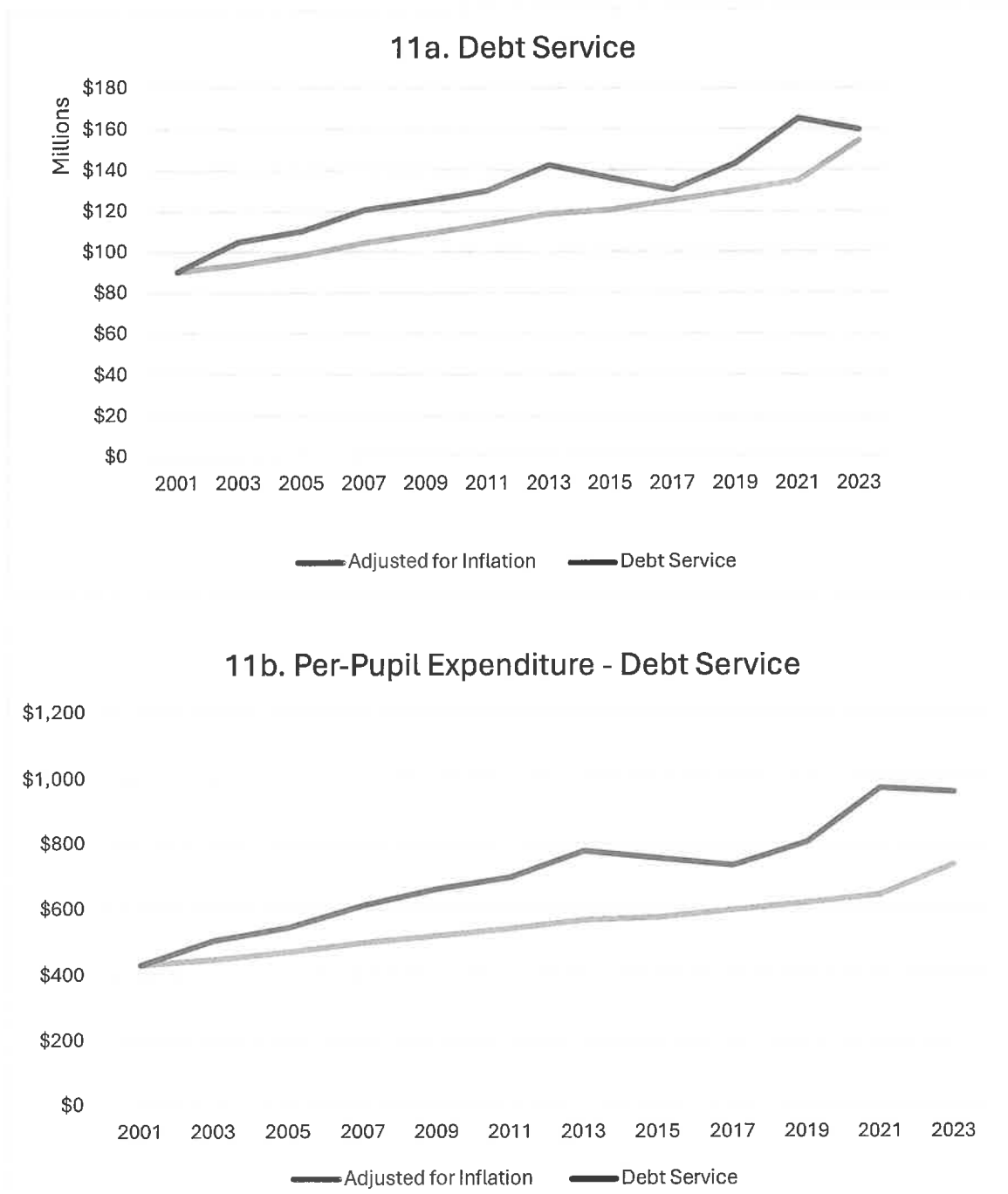
Operations and Maintenance

“Activities concerned with keeping the physical plant open, comfortable, and safe for use, and keeping the grounds, buildings, and equipment in effective working condition and state of repair. This includes the activities of maintaining safety in buildings, on the grounds, and in the vicinity of schools.” Also includes property insurance.

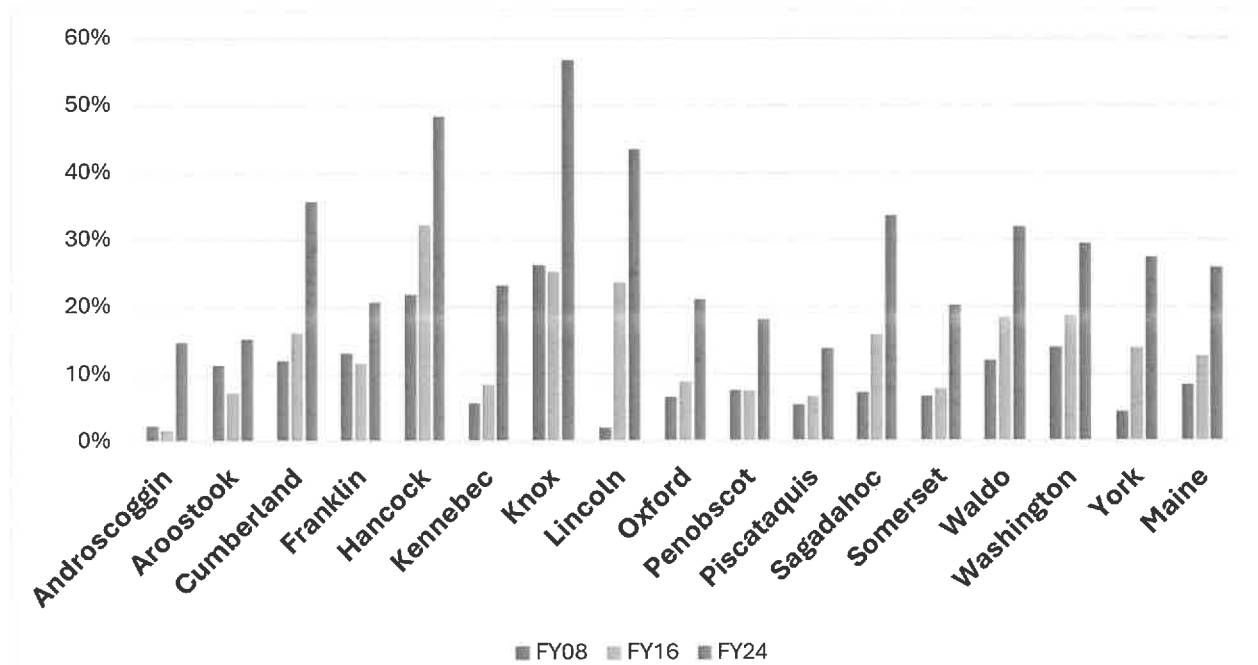


Debt Service

“Activities related to servicing the long-term debt of the school administrative unit, including payments of both principal and interest. [...] bond interest payments, retirement of bonded debt (including current and advance refunding’s), capital lease payments, and other long-term notes.” Long term = greater than one year.



Spending Above EPS by County, FY08 to FY24



- School budgets are increasingly higher than the EPS model amount.
- In FY2024, the sum of all EPS allocations (i.e. 279 form amounts) was \$2.34B
- School budgets included at least an additional \$604M (26% over EPS)
- Spending above EPS is paid through local taxes