

Testimony of Dr. Ben Scafidi

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and

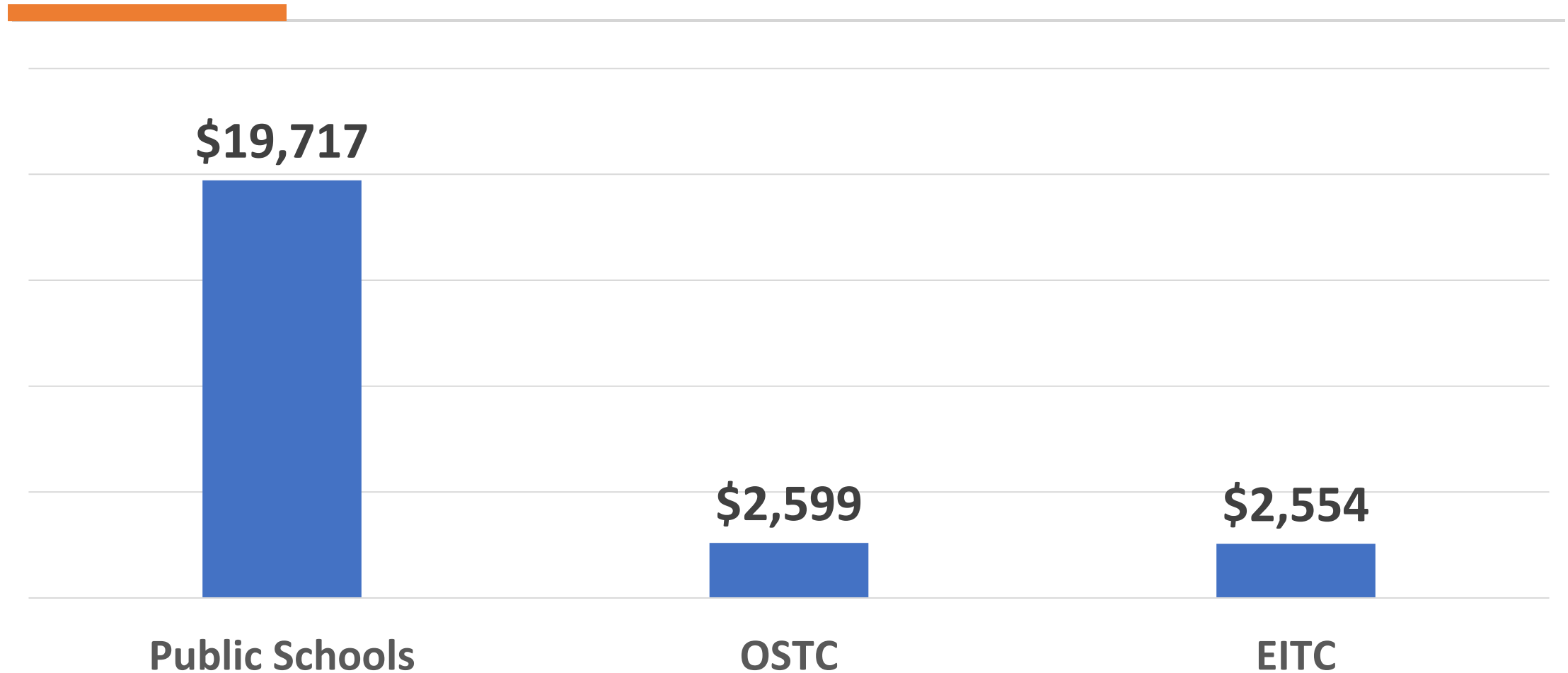
Friedman Fellow, EdChoice

Any views expressed in this testimony are Ben Scafidi's alone and do not necessarily represent the views of KSU or EdChoice.

Total Taxpayer Cost Per Student, 2020-21

Some will tell you the shorter bars are the fiscal problem

Source: dced.pa.gov and education.pa.gov



Claim: We Cannot Let Parents Have Choice Because it **Steals Money from Public Schools**

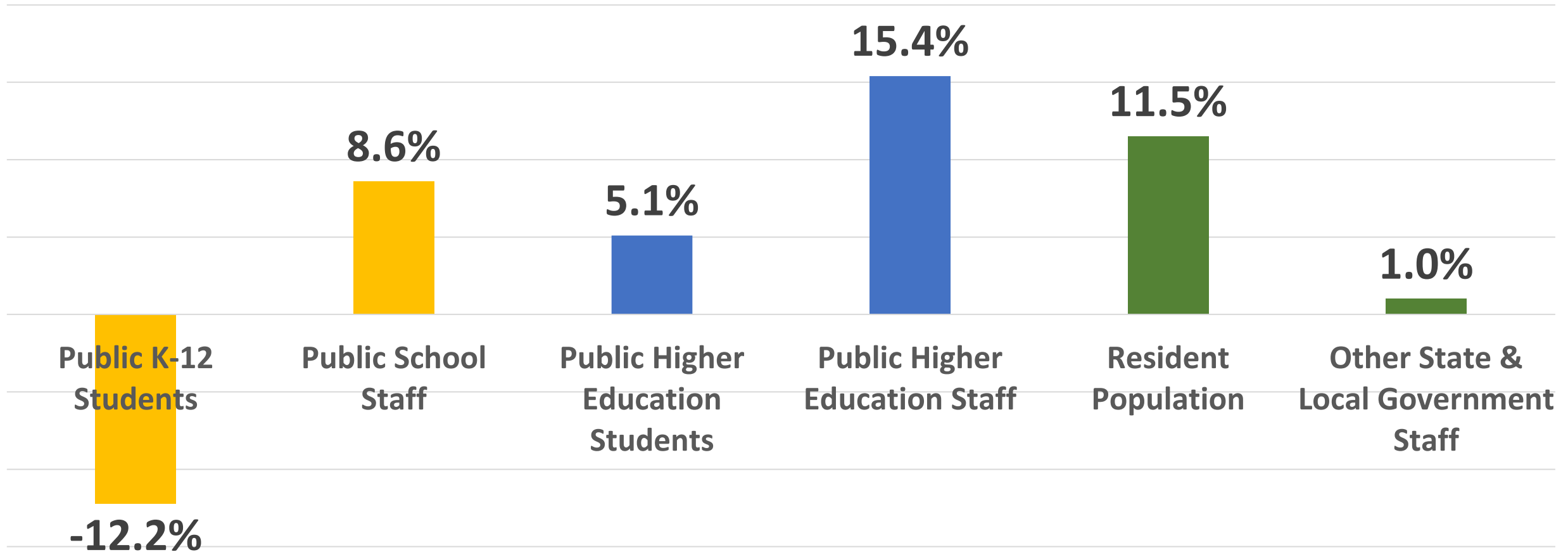


Reality – public school students have more resources available to them when some students leave

- **Public schools receive funding from federal, state, and local taxpayers**
- **Pennsylvania public school districts retain most federal funds, most state funds, and can choose to retain all local funds when they experience net enrollment declines. Consequently, they can provide more resources for students who remain in district public schools.**
- **I know of no other enterprise where this is the case—when students leave universities typically all funds follow the student.**

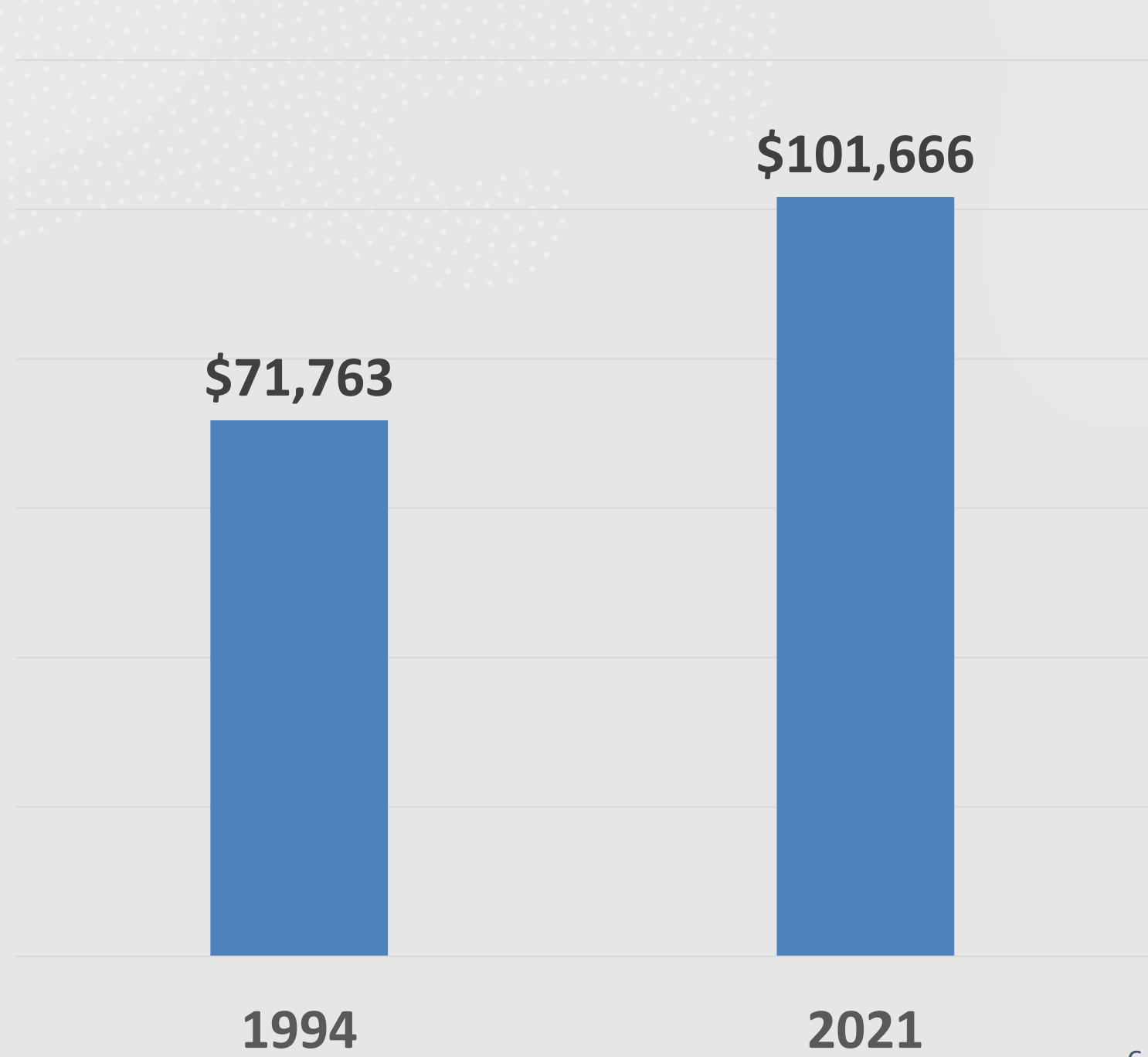
Change in FTE Students, Staff, and Population 1993 to 2022

(source: US Census Bureau and US Department of Education, NCES)



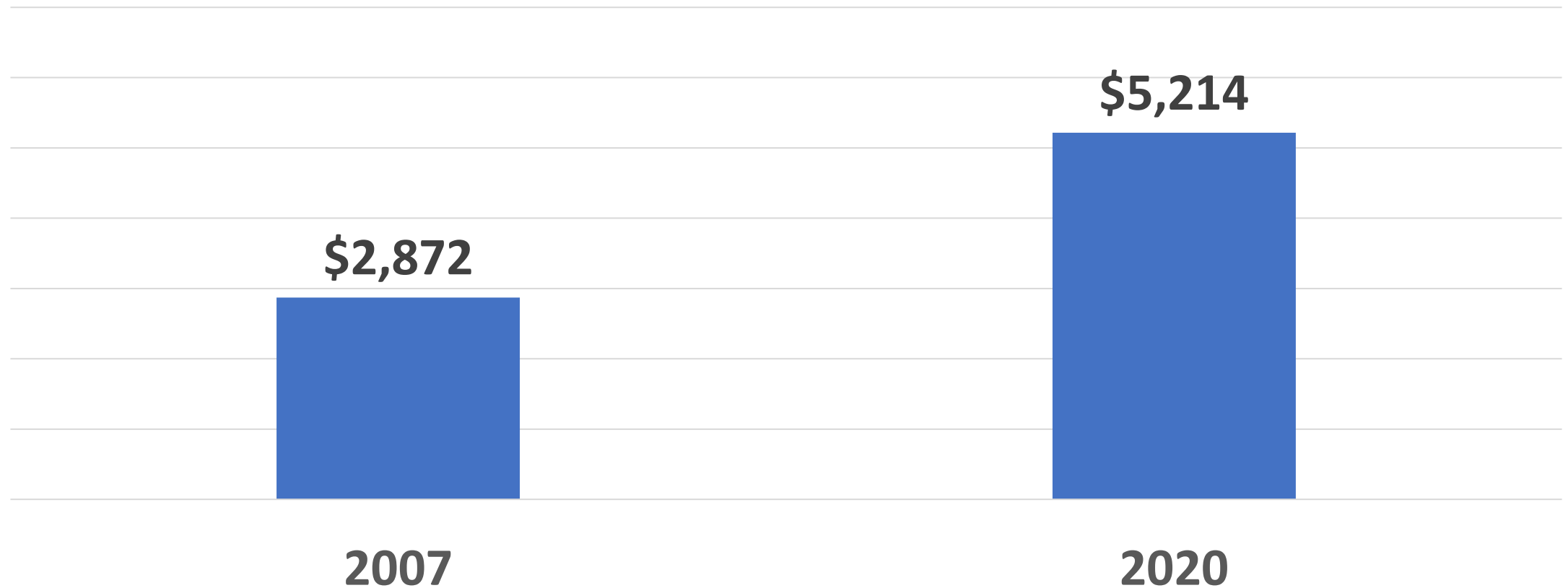
**Real (inflation-adjusted)
Compensation Per FTE
Employee Increased 42%
in Pennsylvania Public
School Districts between
1994 and 2021**

(Source US Census Bureau, FRED)



Unspent End-of-Year “Other” Fund Balances Per Student in Pennsylvania Public School Districts

(Source: US Census Bureau & FRED; Notes: Unspent fund balances earmarked for capital or debt service are excluded, and the 2007 figure is adjusted for inflation to 2020 dollars)



Effects of Choice Programs on the Test Scores of Students Who Remain in Public Schools

<https://www.edchoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/123s-of-School-Choice-WEB-07-10-23.pdf>

26 studies find that there are modest positive effects

2 find modest negative effects

1 study finds no discernable effect

Study	City/State	Finding
Greene (2001)	Florida	POSITIVE
Greene & Winters (2004)	Florida	POSITIVE
West & Peterson (2005)	Florida	POSITIVE
Figlio & Rouse (2006)	Florida	POSITIVE
Rouse et al (2007)	Florida	POSITIVE
Forster (2008)	Florida	POSITIVE
Winters & Greene (2011)	Florida	POSITIVE
Figlio & Hart (2011)	Florida	POSITIVE
Chakrabarti (2013)	Florida	POSITIVE
Hammons (2002)	Maine	POSITIVE
Hammons (2002)	Vermont	POSITIVE
Forster (2008)	Ohio	POSITIVE
Carr (2011)	Ohio	POSITIVE
Figlio (2016)	Ohio	POSITIVE
Lavertu & Gregg (2022)	Ohio	POSITIVE
Egalite (2014)	Indiana	POSITIVE
Jacob & Dougherty (2014)	Indiana	POSITIVE
Hoxby (2001)	Milwaukee	POSITIVE
Greene & Forster (2002)	Milwaukee	POSITIVE
Carnoy et al (2007)	Milwaukee	POSITIVE
Chakrabarti (2008)	Milwaukee	POSITIVE
Greene & Marsh (2009)	Milwaukee	POSITIVE
Mader (2010)	Milwaukee	POSITIVE
Egalite (2014)	Louisiana	POSITIVE
Greene & Forster (2002)	San Antonio	POSITIVE
Gray, Merrifield, & Adzima (2014)	San Antonio	POSITIVE
Greene & Winters (2006)	Washington D.C.	NONE
Bowen & Trivitt (2014)	Florida	NEGATIVE
Conbolat (2021)	Indiana	NEGATIVE