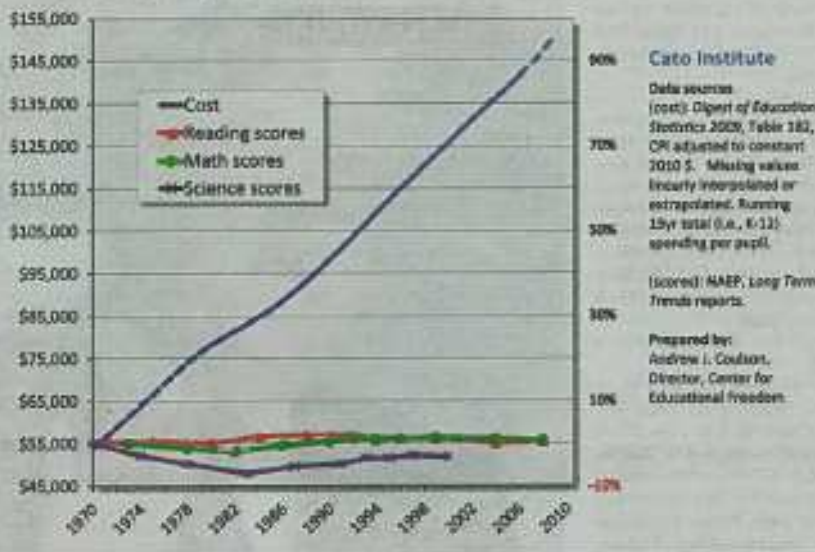


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# Education spending isn't working

Inflation-Adjusted Cost of a Complete K-12 Public Education, and Percent Change in Achievement of 17-Year-Olds, since 1970



SOURCE: THE CATO INSTITUTE

**Explanation:** The chart above, prepared by the Cato Institute's Andrew Coulson, tracks the cost of sending a student all the way through the K-12 system — the total cost per pupil of each graduating class from 1970 to the present. As the chart shows, while state, local and government per-pupil education spending has almost tripled since 1970, taxpayers are getting no return on their increased investment. End of high school achievement scores in math and reading have stagnated, while science scores have slightly declined.