

Finnish Lessons



What can the world
learn from educational
change in Finland?

the
series on
school reform

Pasi Sahlberg

Foreword by Andy Hargreaves
Series Foreword by Ann Lieberman

How Finland remains immune to the Global Educational Reform Movement?

Pasi SAHLBERG, PhD

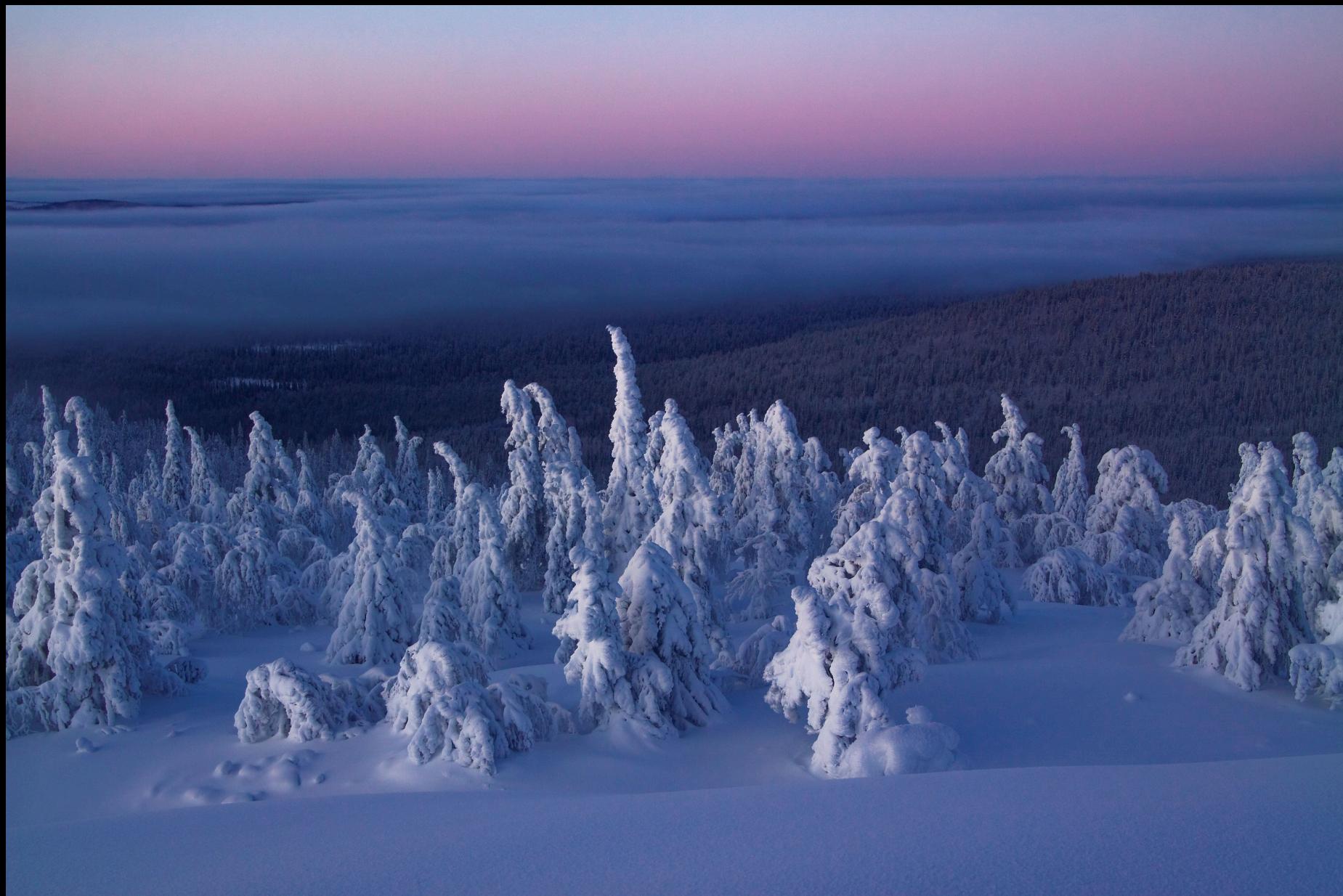
Director General
CIMO/Ministry of Education
Helsinki FINLAND

University of Melbourne
Graduate School of Education
Dean's Lecture Series

Theatre Q230, Level 2, 234 Queensberry
Street, Melbourne, AUSTRALIA
25th September 2012

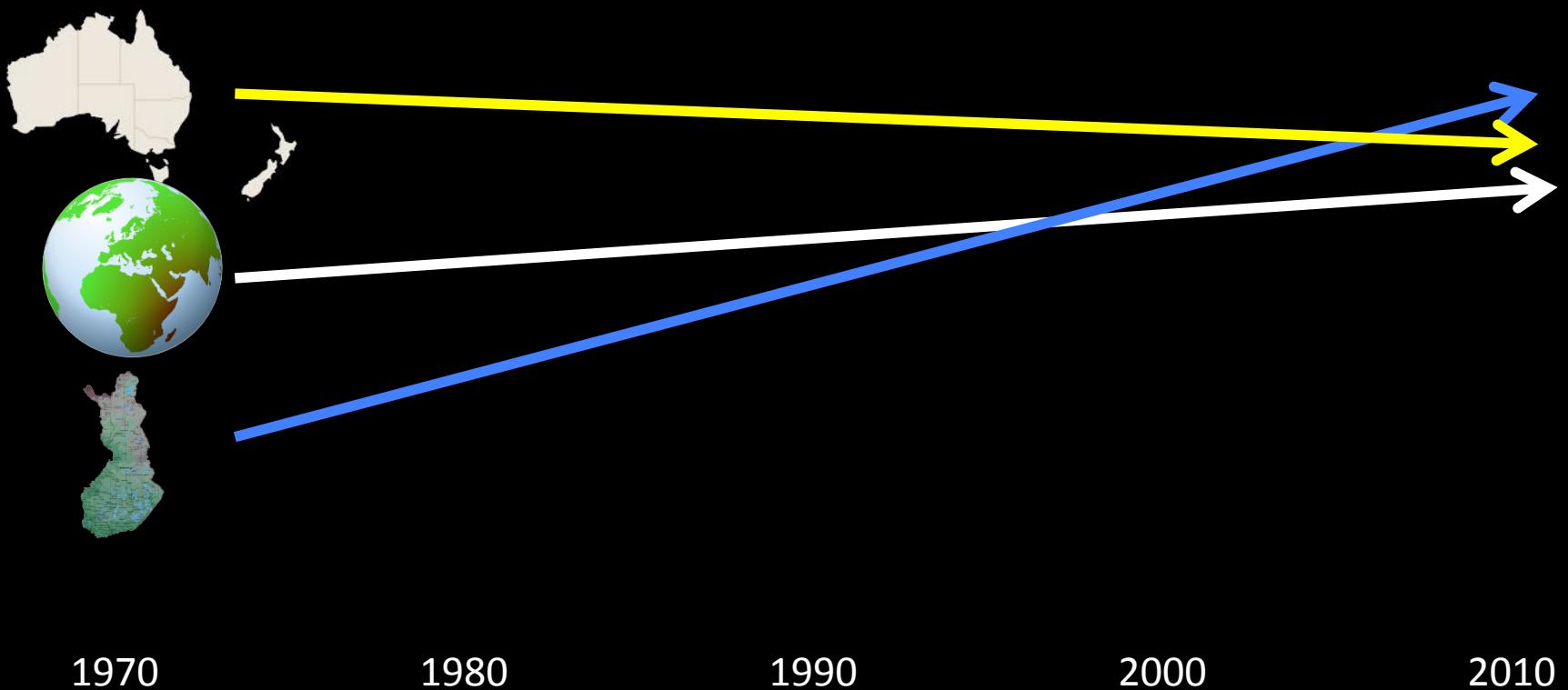
pasisahlberg.com

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Three facts to know

(1) Finland has not always been a high performer



Three facts to know

(2) Finland has never aimed to be a top performer



Three facts to know

(3) Finland does well in many other areas too

Economic competitiveness

Finland #3
United States #7

Corruption Perception Index

Finland #2
United States #24

Global Equity Index

Finland #2
United States #48

Income Inequality Rate (10%)

Finland 5.6
United States 15.9

Technological Advancement

Finland #3
United States #5

Global Innovation Index

Finland #4
United States #10

Child Poverty Rate

Finland 4%
United States 22%

Prosperity

Finland #1
United States #9

Least Failed State

Finland #1
United States #19

The UN Happiness Index

Finland #2
United States #11

Child Health and Wellbeing

Finland #3
United States #20

Similar policies and reforms?

or

Different policies and reforms?

Global **E**ducational **R**eform **M**ovement

COMPETITION

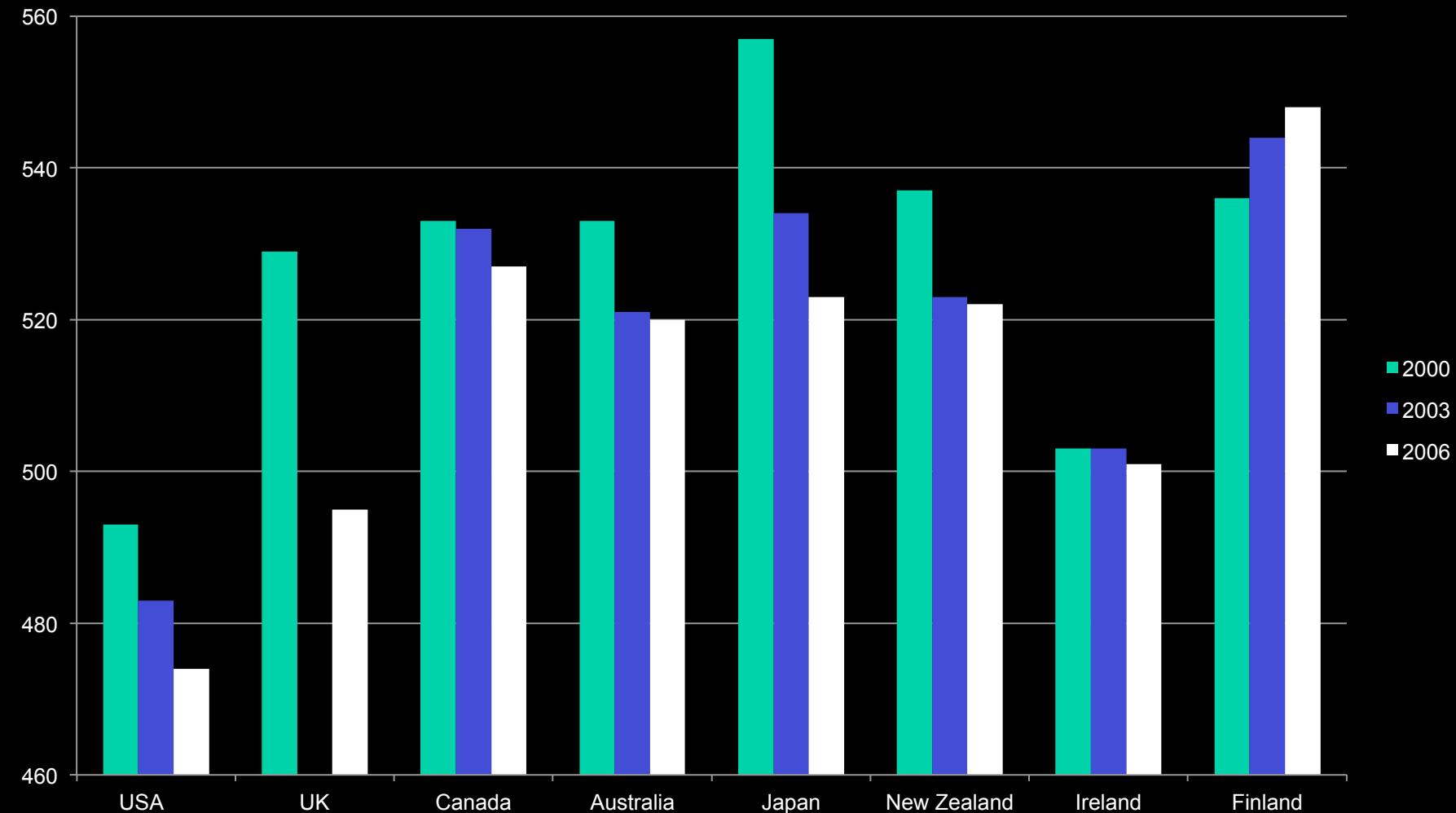
STANDARDIZATION

SCHOOL CHOICE

TEST-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY

Has **GERM** succeeded?

National averages of 15-year-old students learning outcomes in mathematics 2000-06



Global Educational Reform Movement

GERM

COMPETITION

STANDARDISATION

SCHOOL CHOICE

TEST-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY

The Finnish Way

COLLABORATION

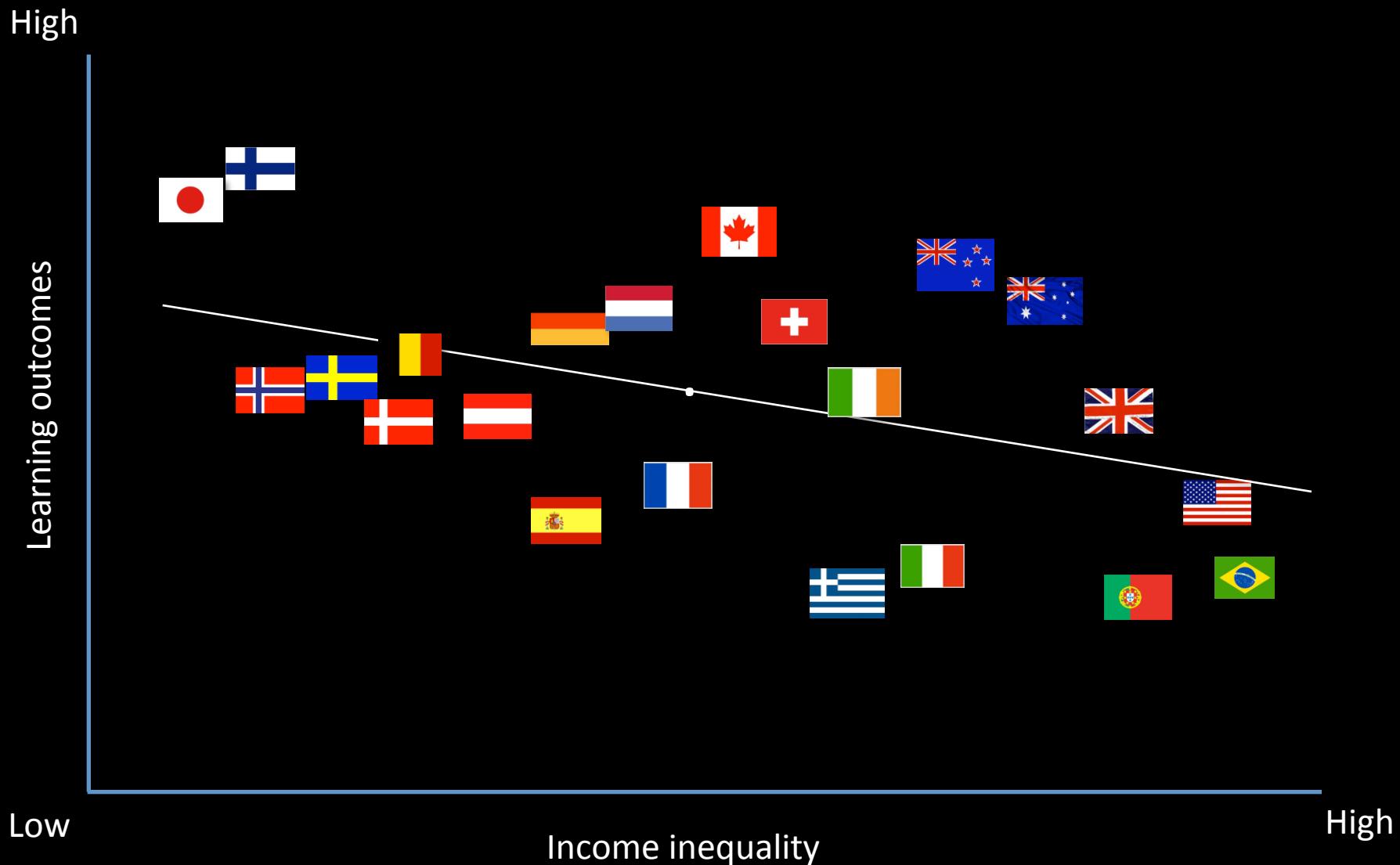
PERSONALISATION

EQUITY

TRUST-BASED PROFESSIONALISM

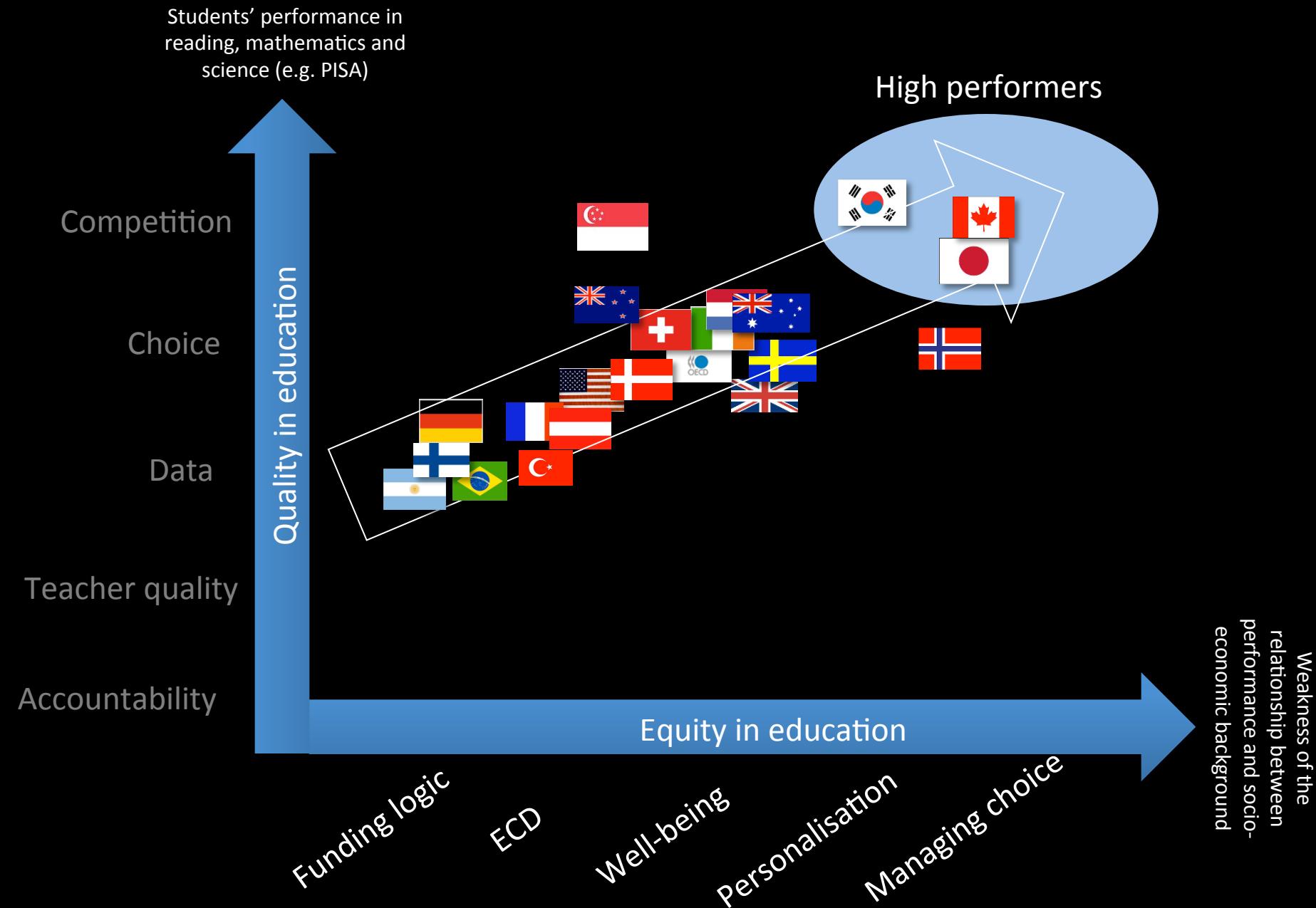
Three Key Education Policy Principles

Learning and inequality



*Wilkinson & Pickett, 2009
OECD, 2010*

Key Policy #1: Good School for All



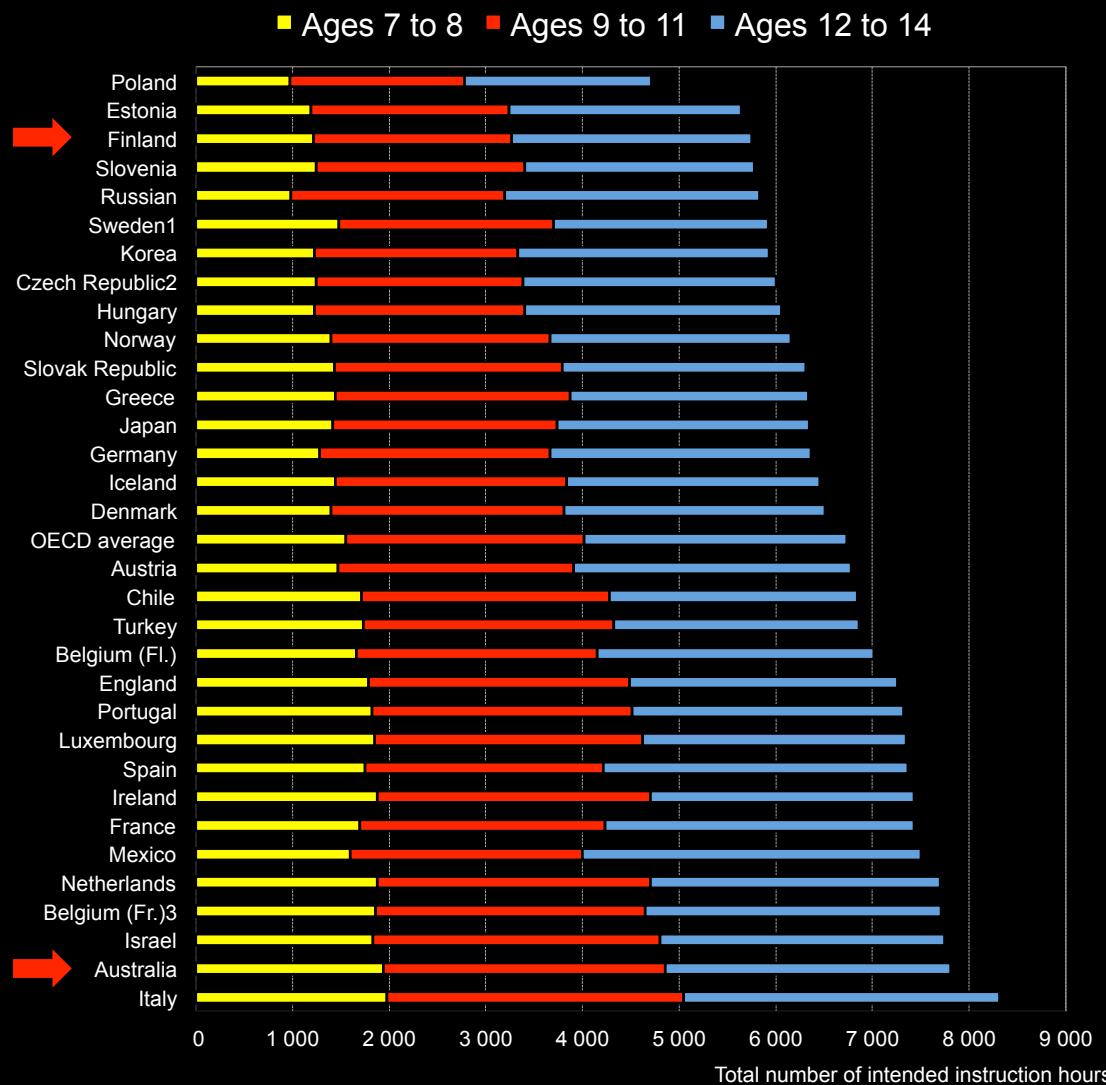
Key Policy #2: Less is more

Less classroom time



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Less classroom time



Key Policy #2: Less is more

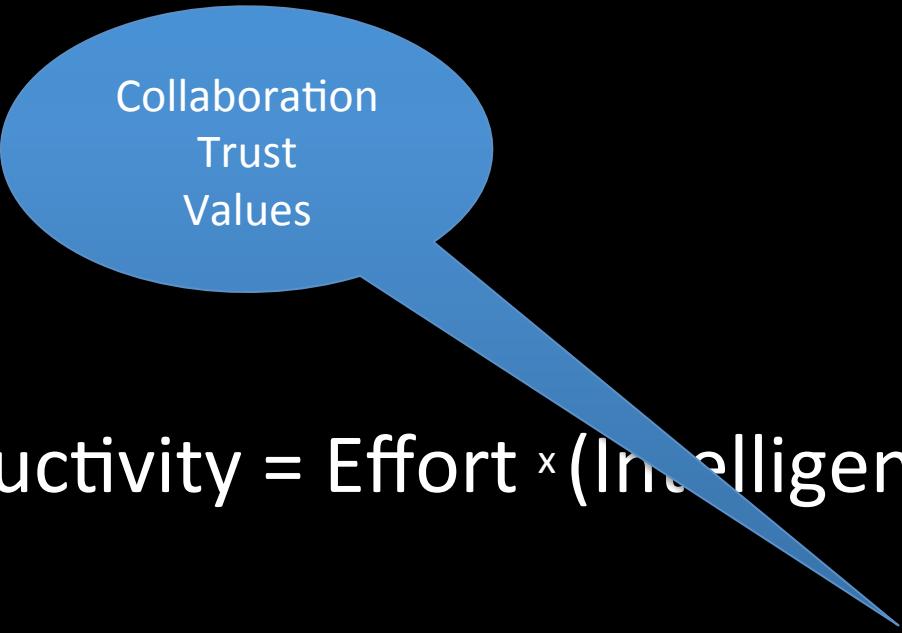


“Less homework,
more play”

“The key to success in any field is a matter of practicing a specific task for a total of around 10,000 hours”

Malcolm Gladwell: “Outliers”

Key Policy #2: Less is more



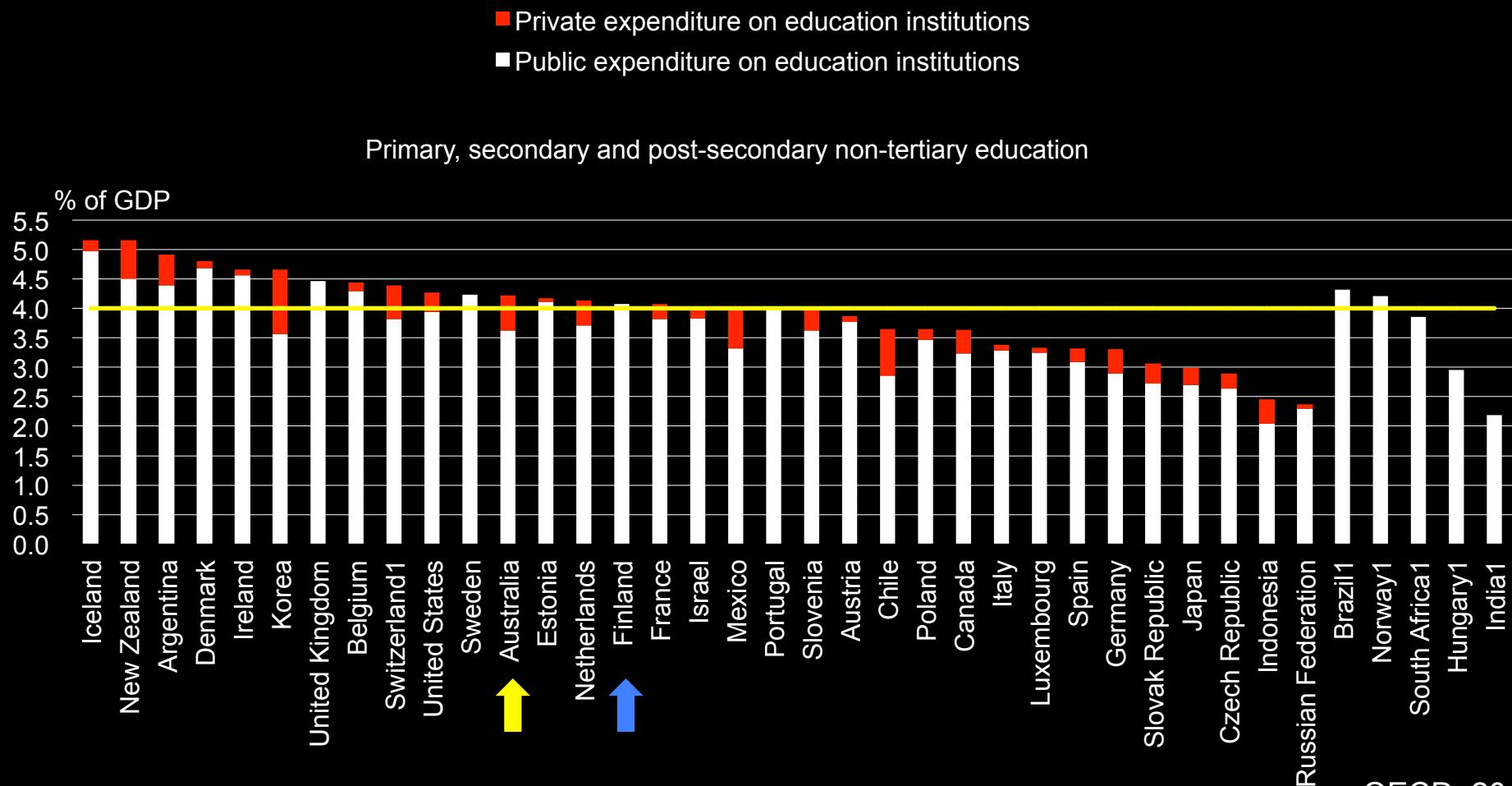
Collaboration
Trust
Values

Productivity = Effort \times (Intelligence + Culture)

$$P = E \times (I + C)$$

Key Policy #2: Less is more

Expenditure on education institutions as a percentage of GDP
From public and private sources, by level of education and source of funds



Key Policy #3: Teacher and Leader Professionalism



Applicants



Accepted

Applicants and accepted to primary teacher education in the University of Helsinki in 2012

Key Policy #3: Teacher and Leader Professionalism



“The key to success in any field is, to a large extent, a matter of practicing a specific task for a total of around 10,000 hours”

Malcolm Gladwell: “Outliers”

*How Finland has remained
immune to GERM?*

Finnish Lesson #1:

“More collaboration, less competition.”

Finnish Lesson #2:

*“Trust-based
responsibility before test-
based accountability.”*

Finnish Lesson #3:

“Invest in professionalism, avoid bureaucracy.”

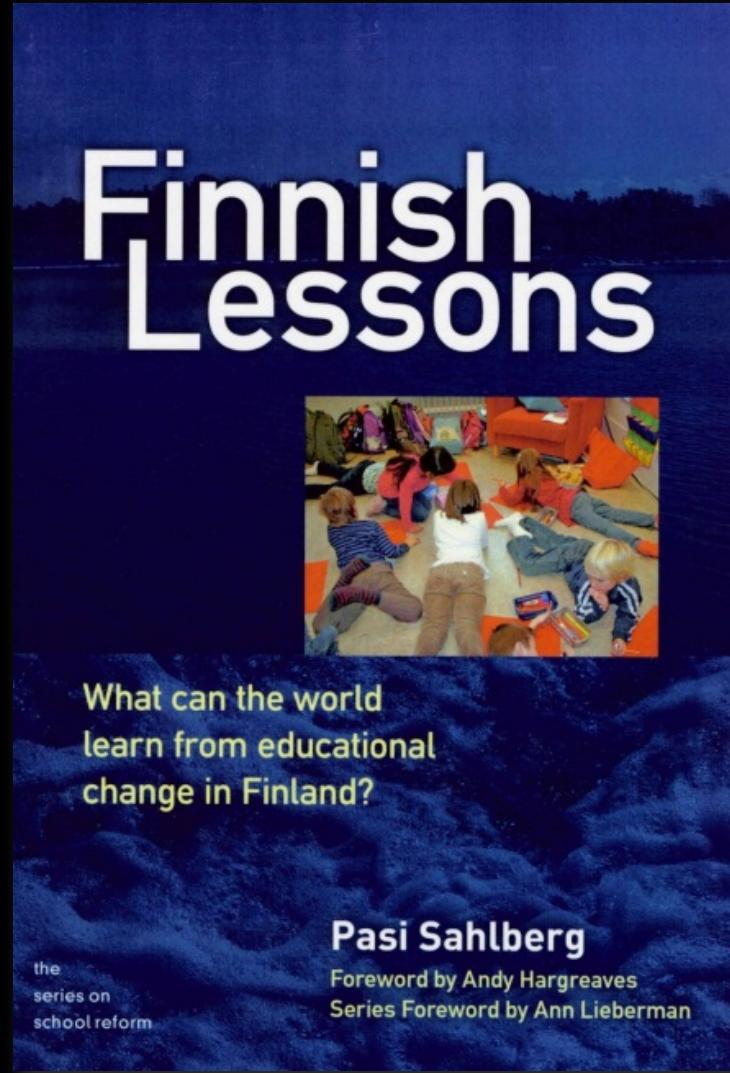
Finnish Lesson #4:

*“Enhance equity by
managing choice.”*

Finnish Lesson #5:

“Better gender equality.”

Thank you!



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