


Finnish*ED* Leadership:

Three ideas to improve your school

ACSP Conference
Hunter Valley – NSW, AUSTRALIA 📍 24th and 25th May

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Urban legends about Finnish schools

1

Scrapping subjects



INDEPENDENT

News > World > Europe

Finland schools: Subjects scrapped and replaced with 'topics' as country reforms its education system

With Finland radically reforming the way its schools are run, we find out if the teachers approve

Richard Garner | Friday, 12 October 2018

The Washington Post

Sections

Answer Sheet

No, Finland isn't ditching traditional school subjects. Here's what's really happening.

By Pasi Sahlberg ⁵

Most Read

- 1 'It is my intent that you never see the sun rise': A judge's harsh words for convicted killer
- 2 Trump picks billionaire Betsy DeVos as school voucher advocate, as education secretary
- 3 'I'm very proud of you': Obama congratulates 6-year-old who wrote to him about adopting Syrian boy

2

Homework



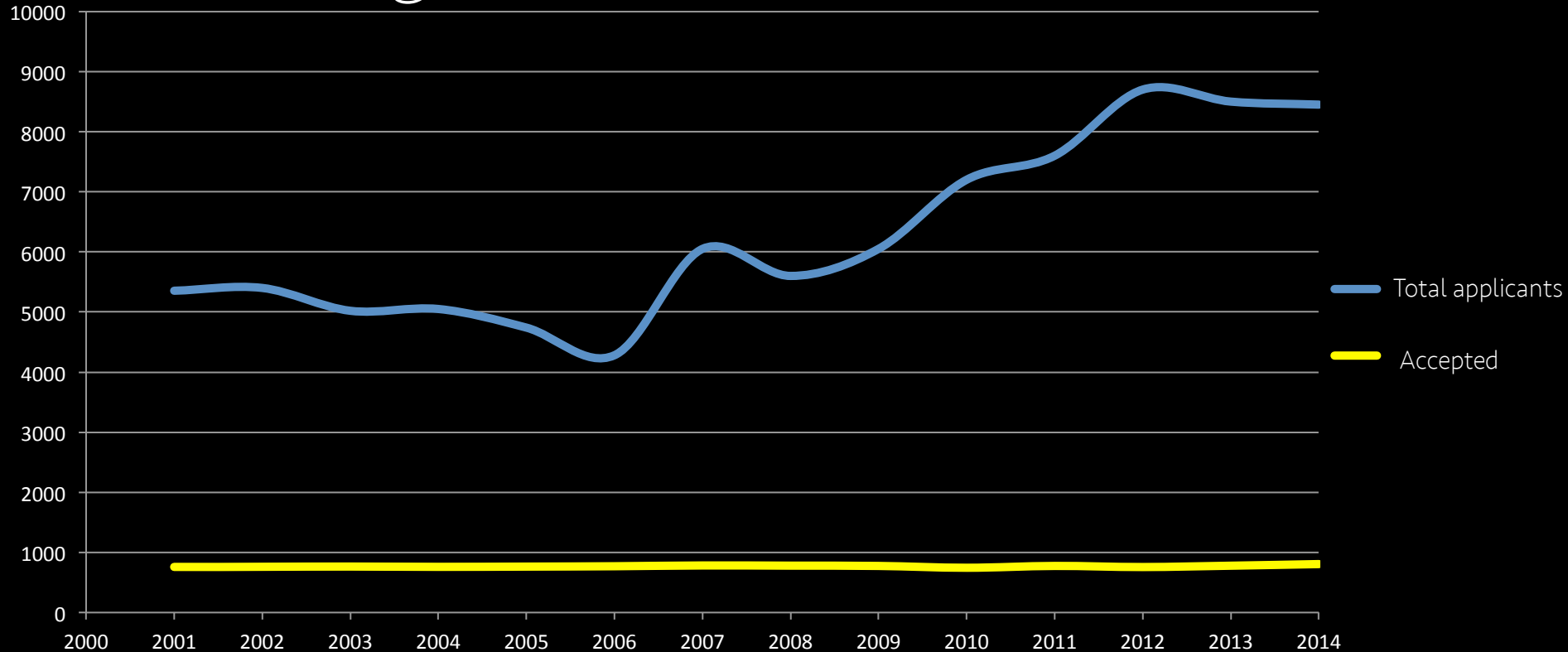
3

The Best and the Brightest to Teach

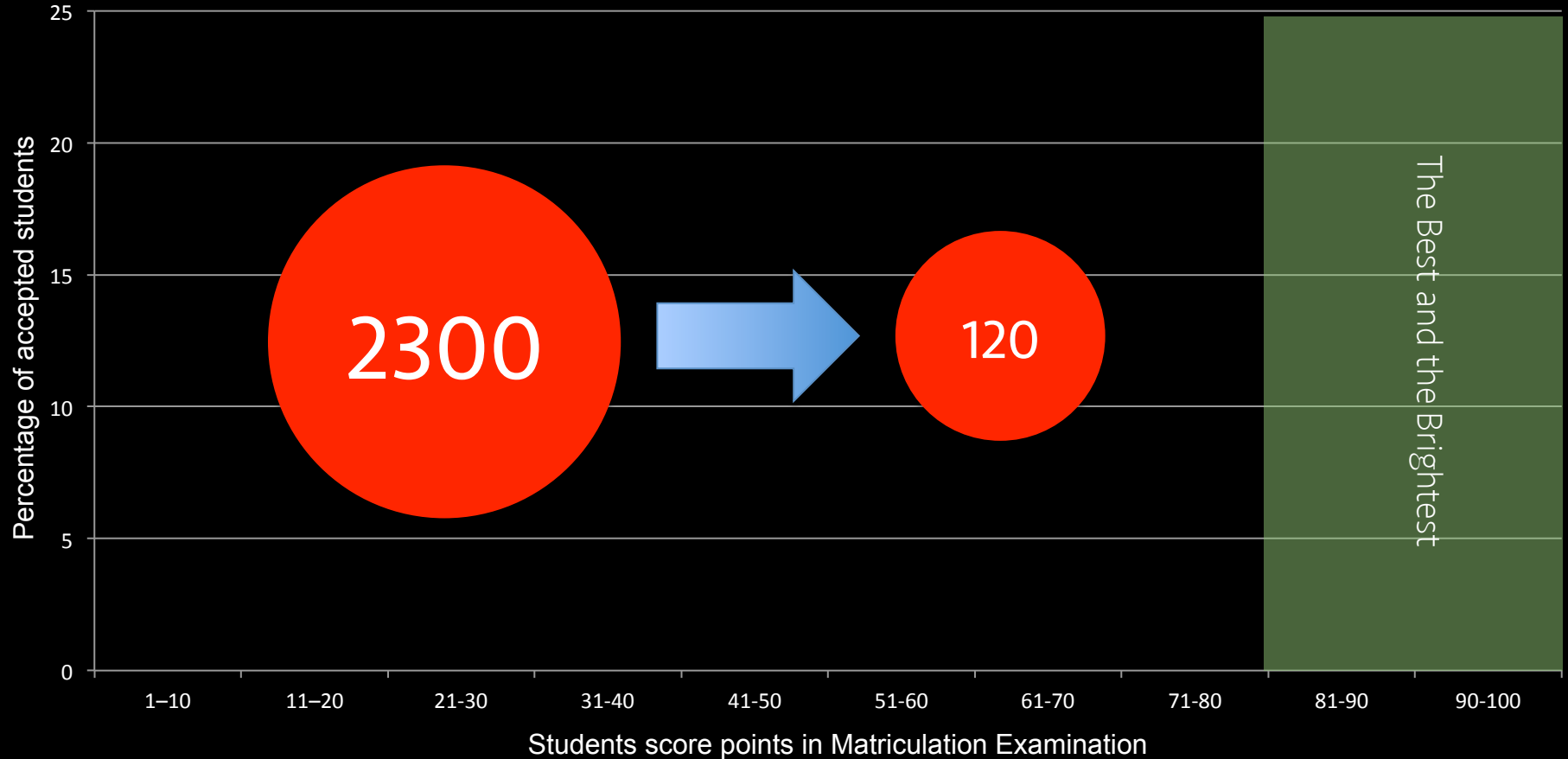
Politico, Nov 15, 2013:

UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU ... FOR THE U.S. TEACHING CORPS: Well, maybe not Uncle Sam, exactly — but definitely Arne Duncan. The secretary of education is planning a publicity blitz aimed at recruiting “the best & brightest to the profession,” as he recently tweeted. Public service

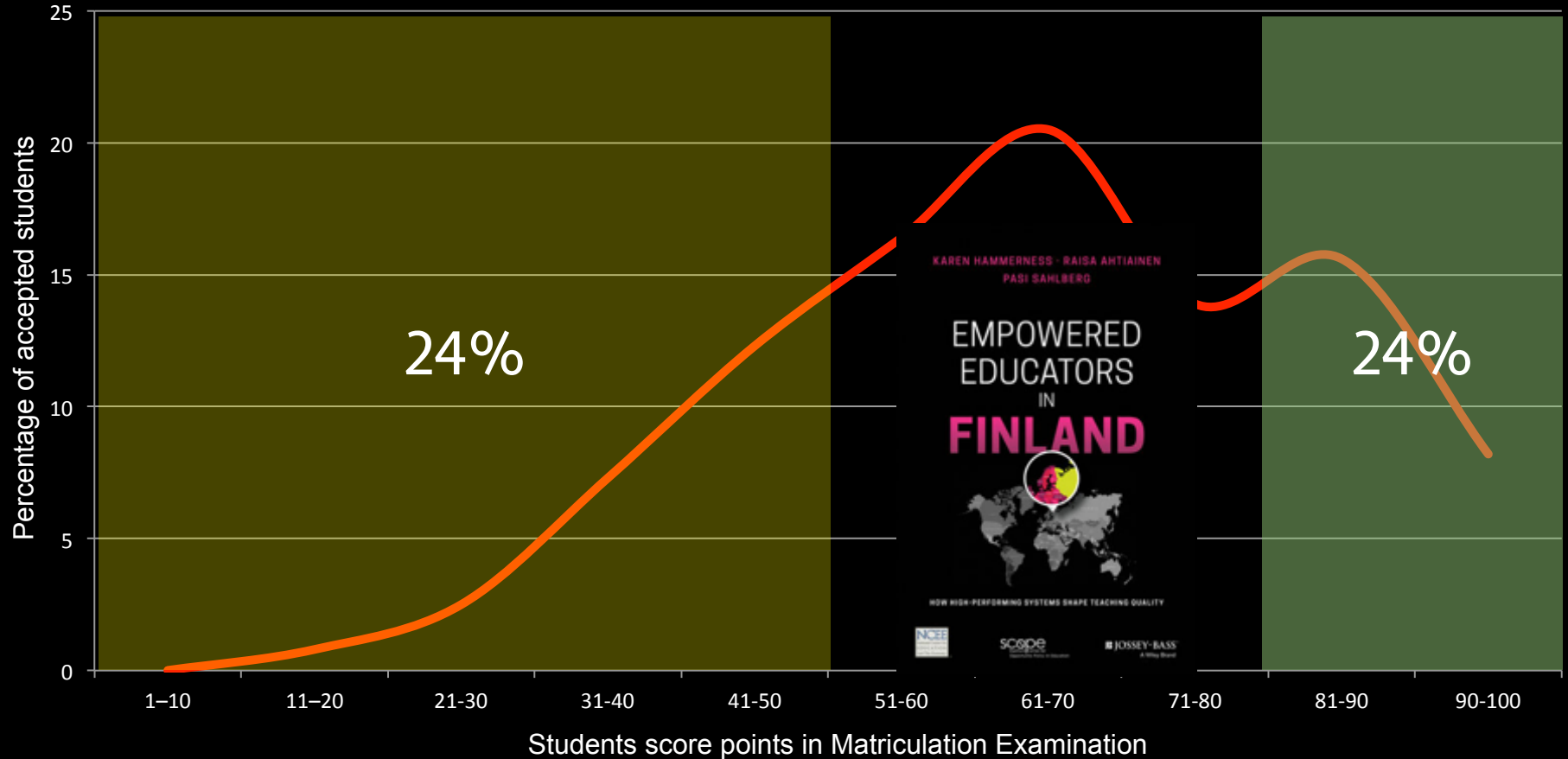
Applicants to Primary School Teacher Education Programs in Finland, 2001-2014



Academic Profile of Accepted Students: Primary School Teacher Education, University of Helsinki in 2014



Academic Profile of Accepted Students: Primary School Teacher Education, University of Helsinki in 2014



THREE IDEAS THAT IMPROVE SCHOOLS

1 Invest in equity

The Argument:

“The highest performing school systems are those that combine excellence and equity.”

What to do?

Put resources where they are most needed

Cultivate wellbeing of students and teachers

Intervene early with those who have special needs

2 Let the children play

The Argument:

“There is no better way to enhance learning than to run and play in fresh air after or prior to a lesson that requires cognitive attention and deeper thinking.”

What to do?

Guarantee recess or break for all

Have clear rules for using digital devices in school

Teach children good old social games

3

Small Data

The Argument:

“Tiny clues found in school can uncover important trends about learning and improving your school.”

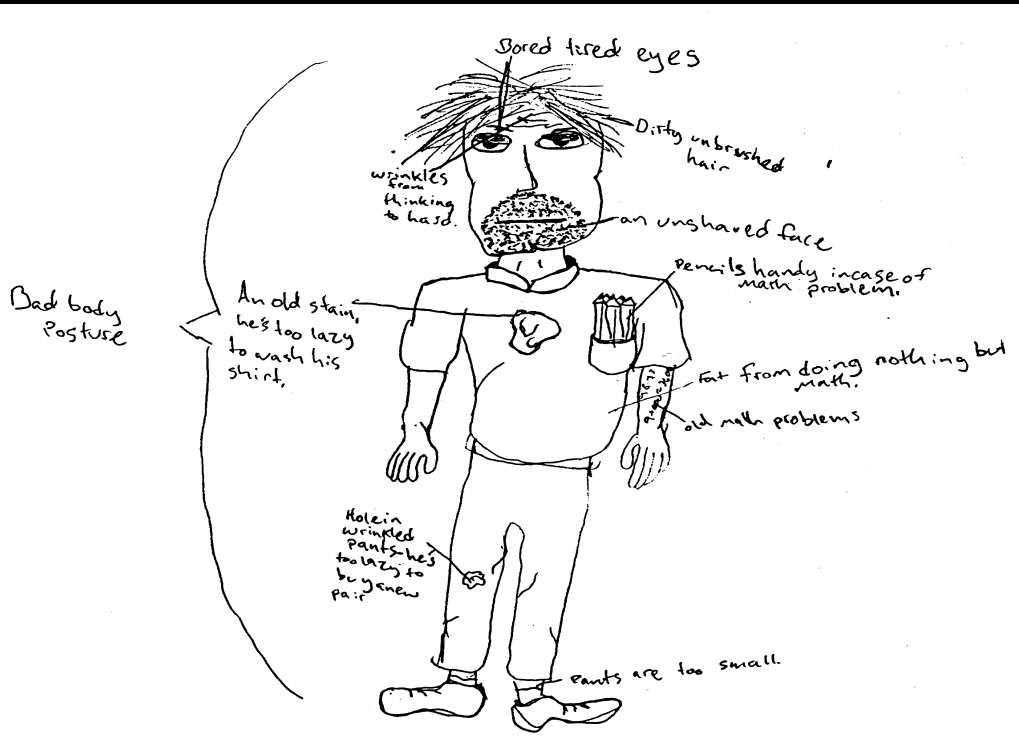
BIG DATA

Big volume
Processed by machines
Show correlations
Schools as objects
Algorithms & Analytics
Predict the future

small data

Small volume
Handled by humans
Reveal causations
School as subjects
Collective human judgment
Understand the present

Understanding students' beliefs



Usually fat male

Unstylish

No friends - except other mathematicians

No romantic relationships or social life

Wrinkles in their forehead from thinking so hard

Very short tempers.

What to do?

Use more authentic assessments

Be part of teaching and learning in your school

Get good data by combining big and small data

CONCLUSION

“If you don't lead with small data, you'll be led by big data.”

THANK YOU!

FinnishED Leadership
FOUR IDEAS TO IMPROVE SCHOOLS



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