

Making our schools better: From test-based accountability to trust-based responsibility

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Fake news about Finland

1st

MYTH



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 children are taught, British parents can find out if the teachers approve

Richard Garner | Friday 20 March 2015 | 4 comments



329K

The Washington Post

Sections

Answer Sheet

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

By Pasi Sahlberg, March 26, 2015

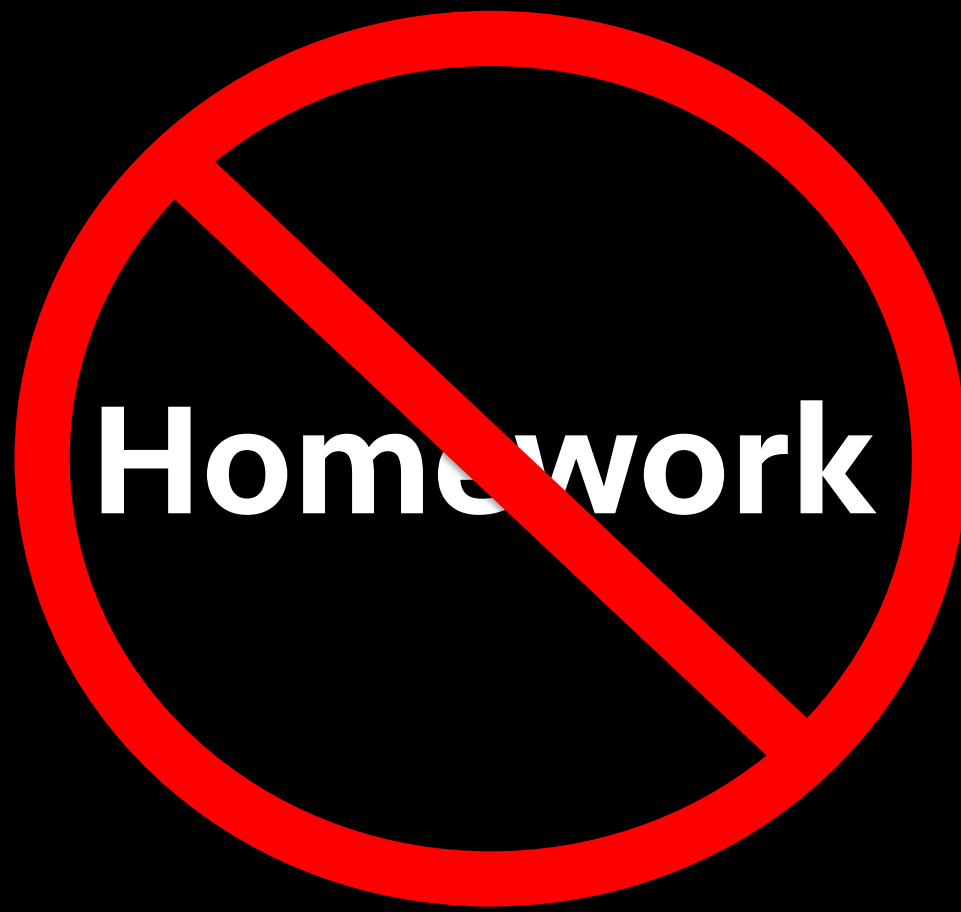


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2nd

MYTH



Homework

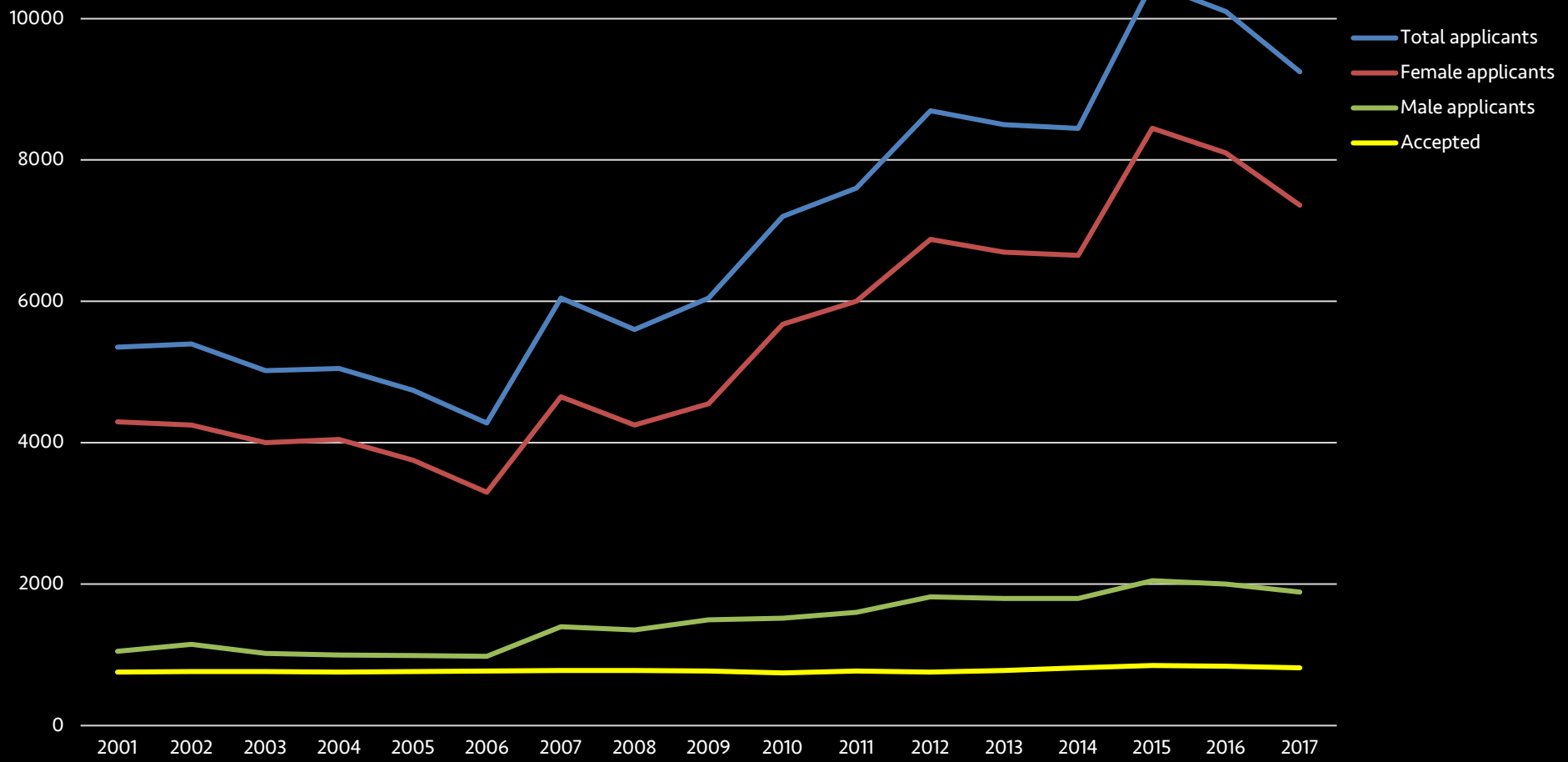
3rd

MYTH

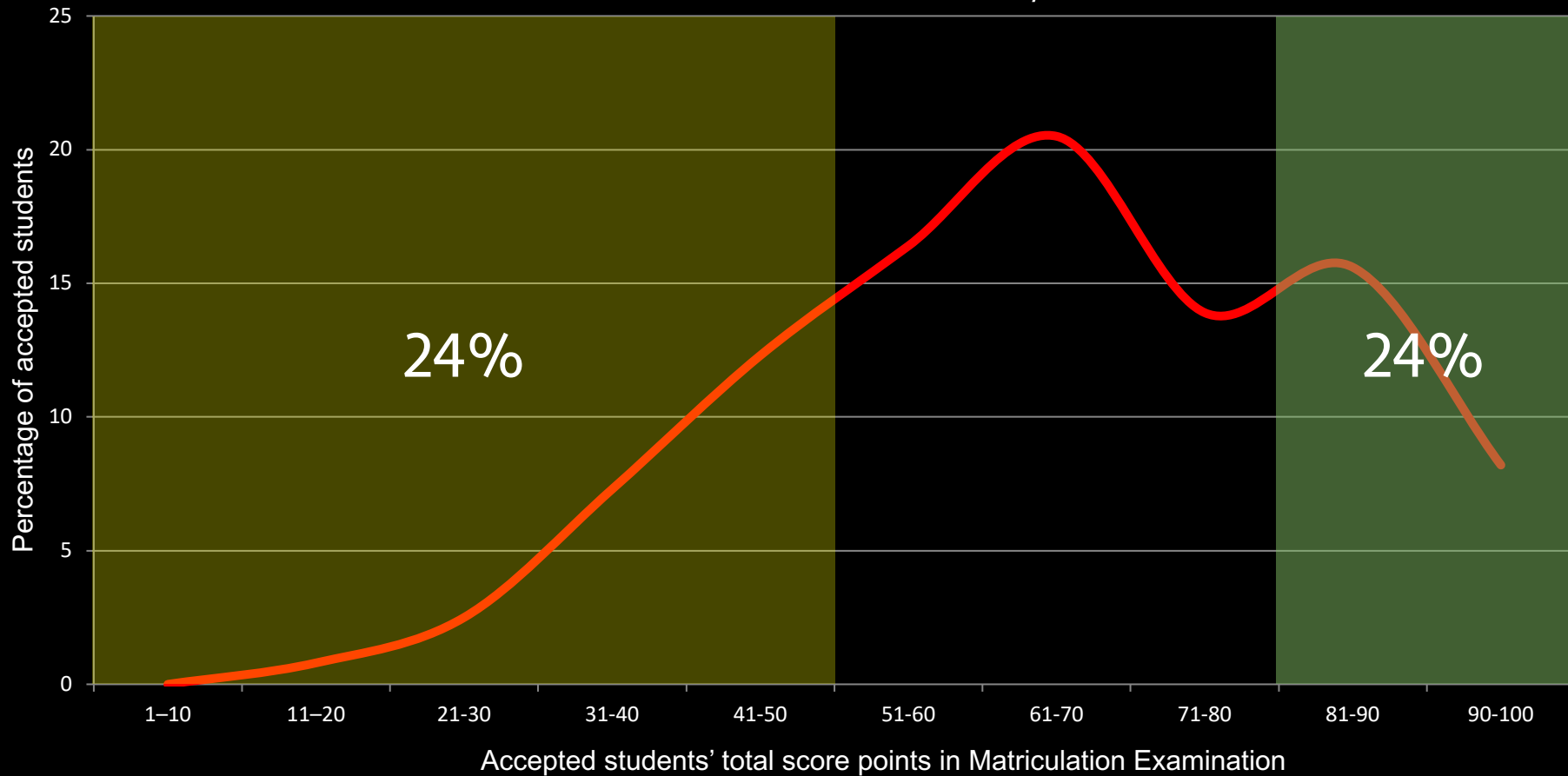
“We need to attract the best and brightest to join the profession. Teachers are the key in today’s knowledge economy, where a good education is an essential foundation for every child’s future success.”

- Andreas Schleicher, the OECD Director of Education and Skills

Applicants to primary school teacher education programmes in Finland



Academic profile of accepted primary school teacher education students in the University of Helsinki in 2014



Why teaching is a wanted job?

Independent, collaborative value-based profession

Advanced academic preparation and degree

Secure employment and progressive salary scheme

How to make our schools better?

Human capital paradigm:

Search talented individuals, make them work hard, invest in their knowledge and skills, and replace them when they become spent.

- Odden, A. (2011). *Strategic Management of Human Capital in Education*

Social capital paradigm:

Invest in patterns of interaction among teachers and between teachers and principals that are focused on student learning.

- *Leana, C. (2011). The Missing Link in School Reform*

Decisional capital paradigm:

Improve teachers' and principals' skills to make good judgements when faced with incomplete or conflicting evidence in new situation.

- Shirley, D. (2017). *The New Imperatives of Educational Change*



Hargreaves, A. & Fullan, M. (2012). Professional Capital

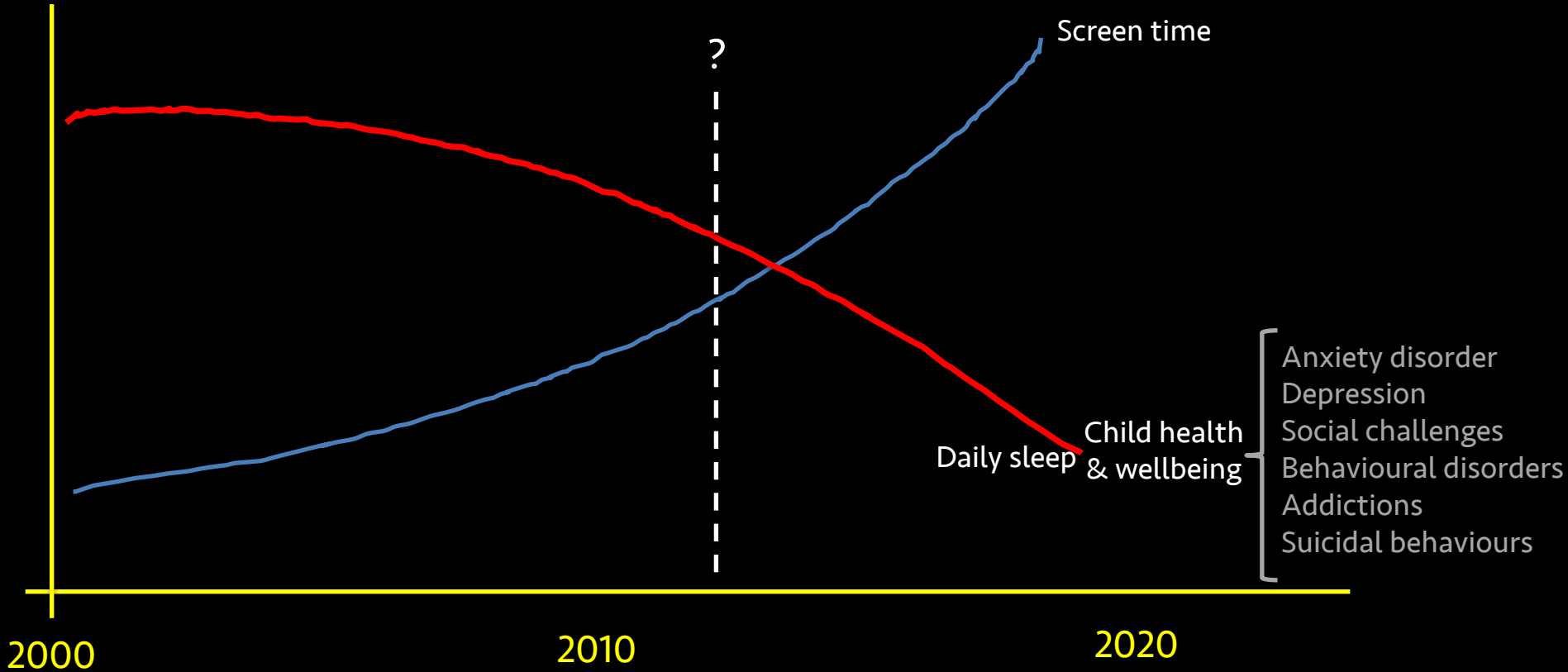
Three emerging drivers



1

From excellence for some to
equity & wellbeing for all

Children's wellbeing and learning



Growing Up Digital

(Alberta Teachers Association &

Harvard Medical School)

DISCONNECTING

Alberta teachers have observed dramatic changes in their student populations over the past three to five years.

EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES



of teachers say that the number of students with emotional challenges has increased.



of teachers say that the number of students with social challenges has increased.

85%

of teachers say that the number of students who need behaviour support has increased.



“ Is a student's increasing online presence decreasing real-world satisfaction and positive peer-to-peer interaction? ”

— Elementary school teacher

MOOD DISORDERS

3 out of 4 teachers say that the number of students with cognitive challenges has increased.



STUDENT CHALLENGES

ANXIETY DISORDER **85%**

DEPRESSION **73%**

What does it look like?

Equity as a driver in education policy and curriculum

Healthy lunch and learning support in all schools

Wellbeing and health as skills

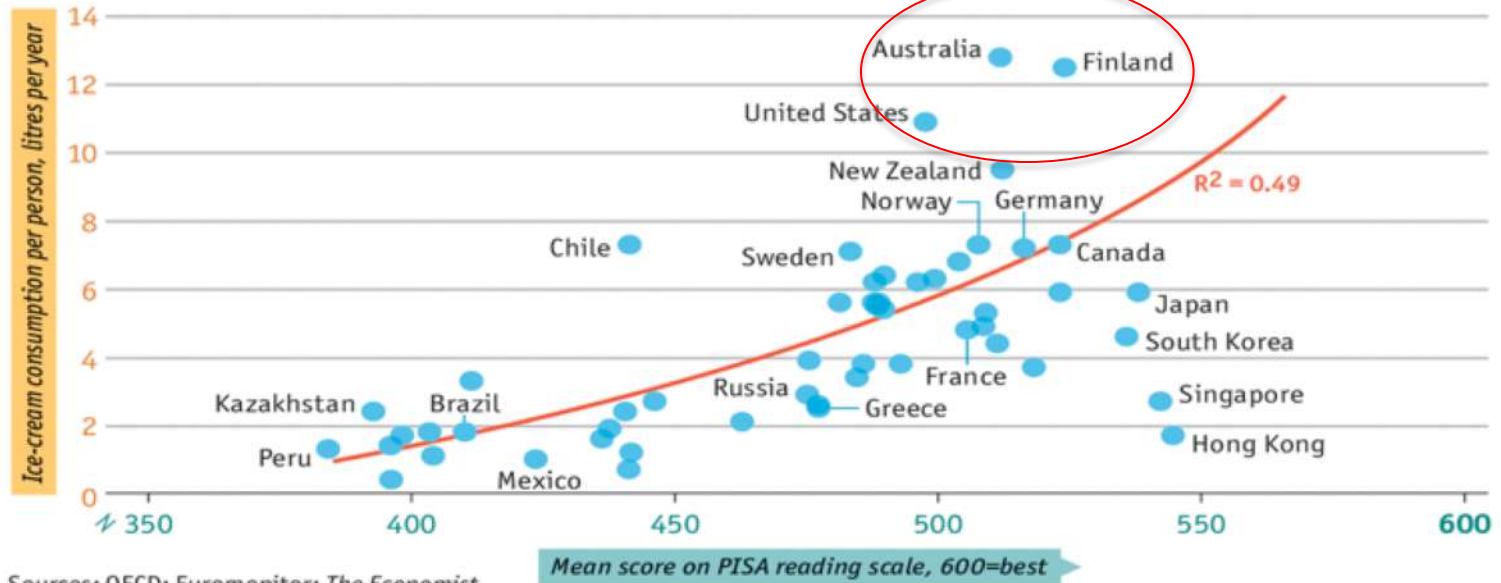


2

From evidence-based reforms to
value-based improvement.

Ice-cream consumption and PISA educational performance scores

2012



Sources: OECD; Euromonitor; *The Economist*

Economist.com

“Any knowledge about the relationships between actions and consequences in education can only ever provide us with possibilities, never certainties.” - Gert Biesta (2010)

What does it look like?

“School-led curriculum system”

Logic: Schools design their own curriculum, including values, missions and dream

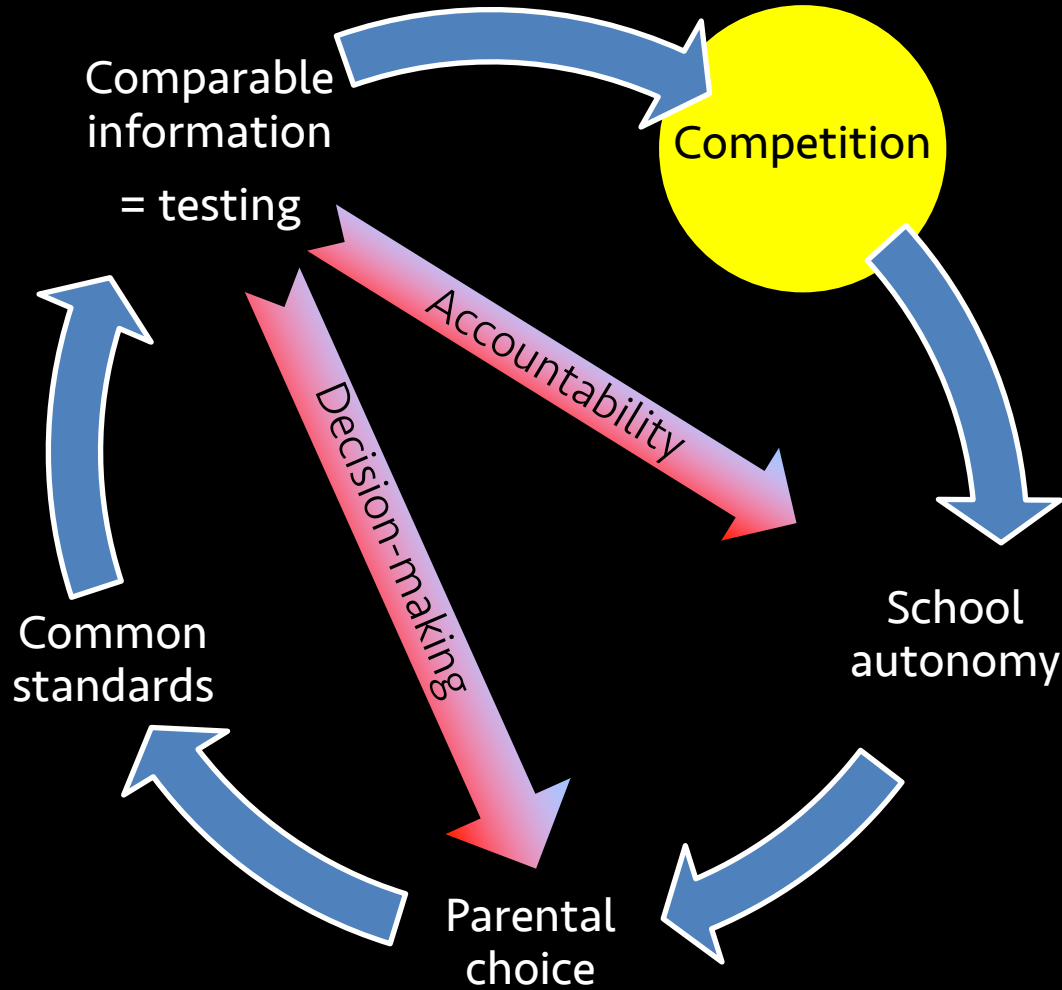
Theory of action: Build on children’s needs and schools’ strengths

Affects: Enhanced collaborative professionalism and teacher/school leadership

3

From test-based accountability to
trust-based responsibility

G.E.R.M.



What does it look like?

Strengthen education system as public good

Trust teachers' collective professional judgement

From census-based to sample-based assessments

THANK YOU!

 [pasi_sahlberg](#)