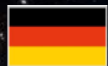


# How did Finland become the leader in equitable education: What can Australia learn?

Positive Schools Conference, Melbourne, VIC,  
AUSTRALIA

1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

 [pasi\\_sahlberg](#)



# PISA

Programme for International Student Assessment

2000		2003		2006	
Reading literacy		Mathematics		Science	
1.	Finland 546	1.	Finland 544	1.	Finland 563
2.	Canada 534	2.	South Korea 542	2.	Canada 534
3.	New Zealand 529	3.	Netherlands 528	3.	Japan 531
4.	Australia 527	4.	Japan 527	4.	New Zealand 530
5.	Ireland 527	5.	Canada 532	5.	Australia 527
6.	South Korea 525	6.	Belgium 529	6.	Netherlands 525
7.	United Kingdom 523	7.	Switzerland 527	7.	South Korea 522
8.	Japan 522	8.	Australia 524	8.	Germany 516
9.	Sweden 516	9.	New Zealand 523	9.	United Kingdom 515
10.	Austria 507	10.	Czech Republic 516	10.	Czech Republic 513
11.	Belgium 507	11.	Iceland 515	11.	Switzerland 512
12.	Iceland 507	12.	Denmark 514	12.	Austria 511
13.	Norway 505	13.	France 511	13.	Belgium 510
14.	France 505	14.	Sweden 503	14.	Ireland 508
15.	United States 504	15.	Austria 506	15.	Hungary 504
16.	Denmark 497	16.	Germany 503	16.	Sweden 503
17.	Switzerland 494	17.	Ireland 503	17.	Poland 498
18.	Spain 493	18.	Slovakia 498	18.	Denmark 496
19.	Czech Republic 492	19.	Norway 495	19.	France 495
20.	Italy 487	20.	Luxembourg 493	20.	Iceland 491
21.	Germany 484	21.	Poland 490	21.	United States 489
22.	Hungary 480	22.	Hungary 490	22.	Slovakia 488
23.	Poland 479	23.	Spain 485	23.	Spain 488
24.	Greece 474	24.	United States 483	24.	Norway 487
25.	Portugal 470	25.	Italy 466	25.	Luxembourg 486

What did we learn?



**DANGER**

**WRONG WAY**

**TURN BACK**

COMPETITION

STANDARDISATION

TEST-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY

DE-PROFESSIONALISATION

MARKETISATION

What do Finnish schools do?

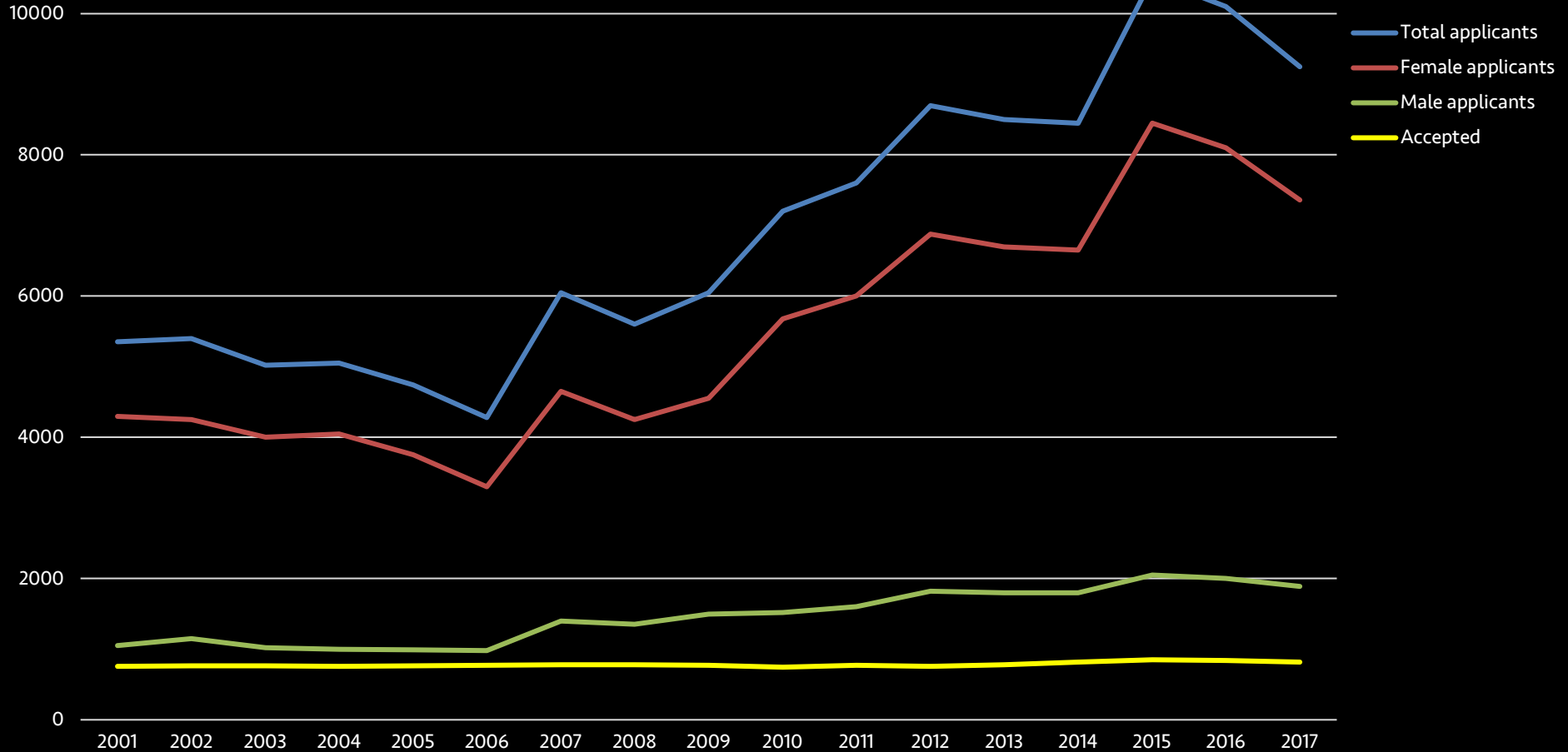


Select and prepare teachers well

Fact or myth?

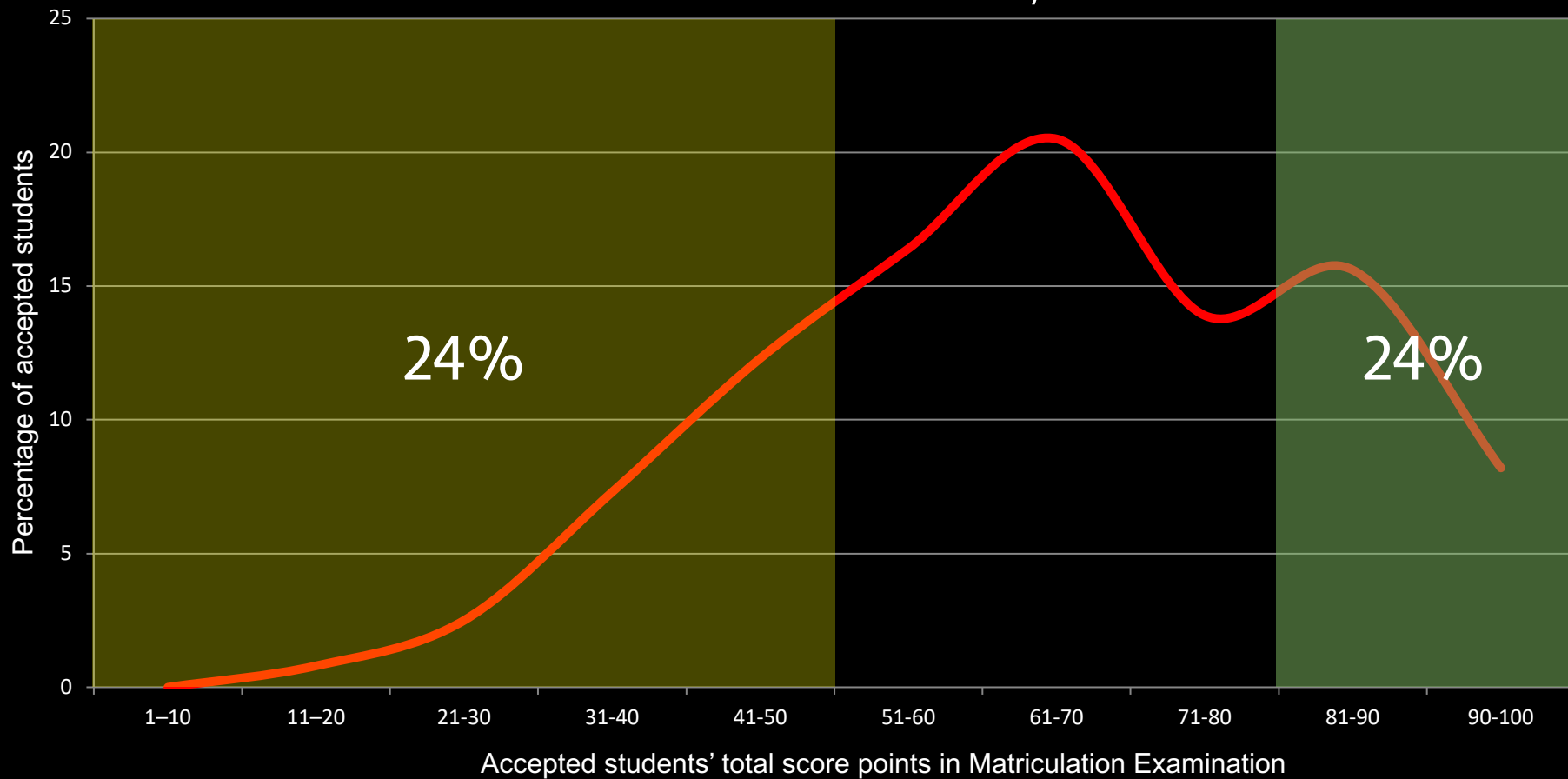
“The quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of it’s teachers.”

# Applicants to primary school teacher education programmes in Finland 2001-2017





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

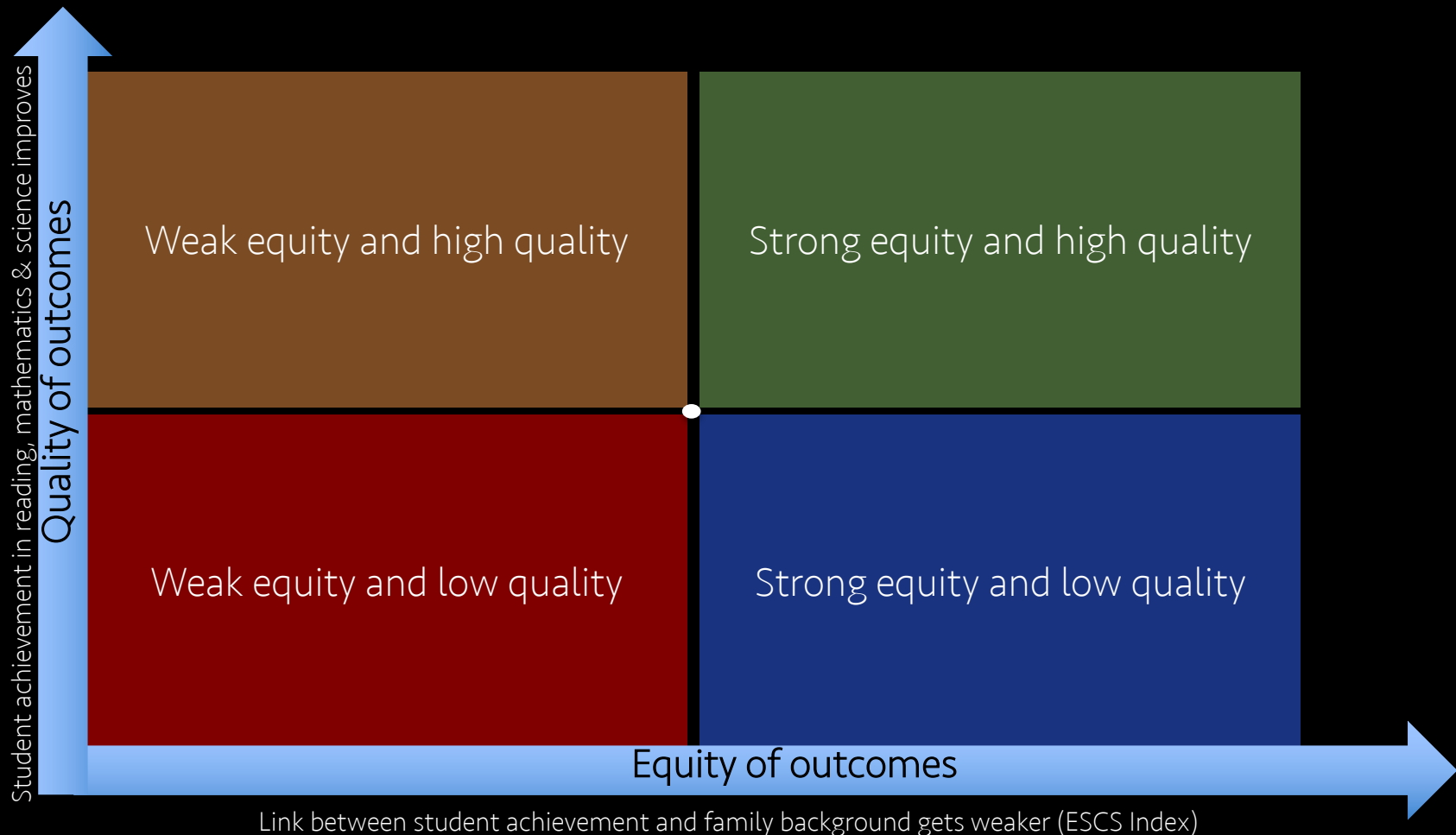


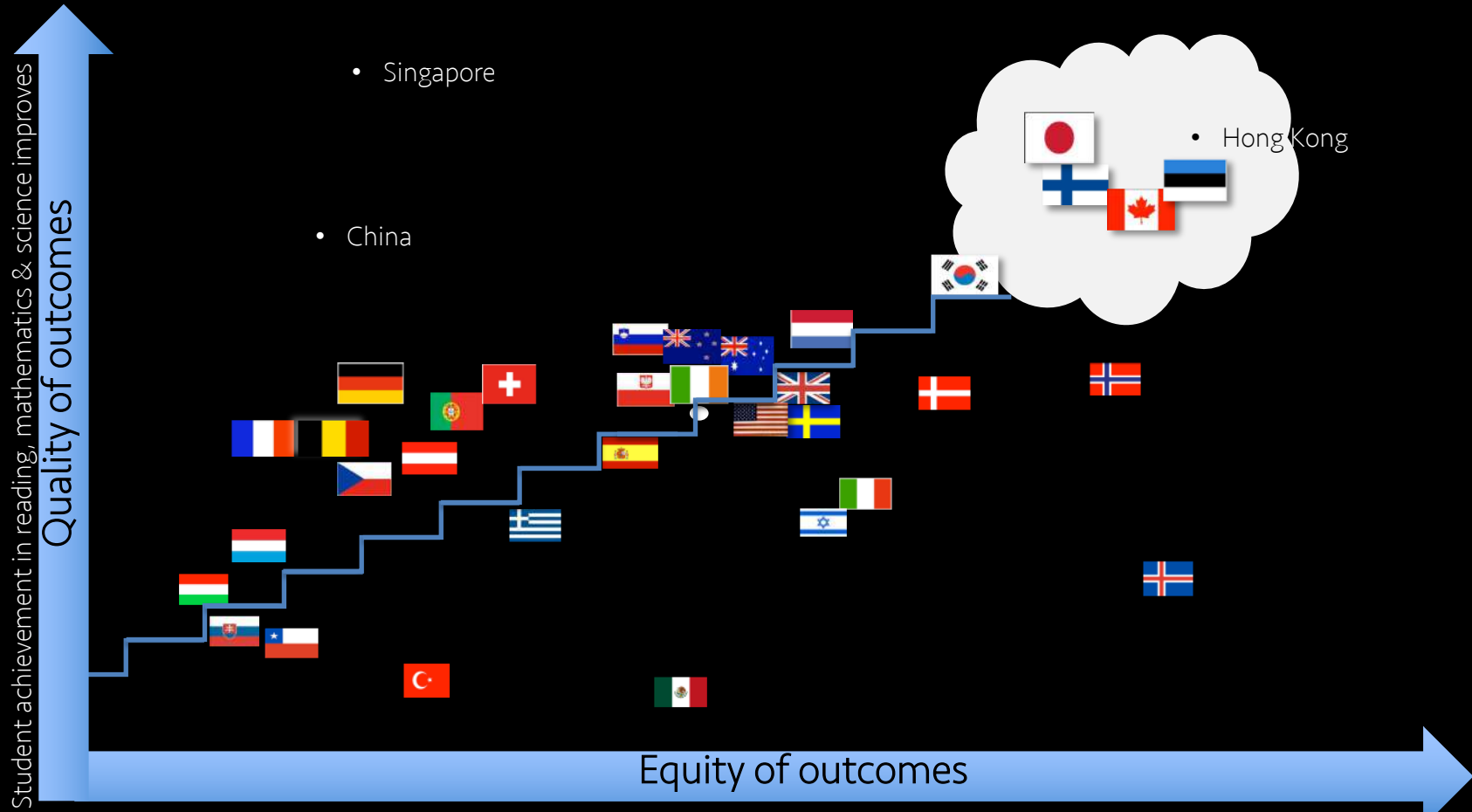


## Excellence through investing in equity

“**Equity** in schooling means ensuring that differences in educational outcomes are not the result of differences in wealth, income, power or possessions.”

- *The Gonski Review Report (2011)*





Link between student achievement and family background gets weaker (ESCS Index)

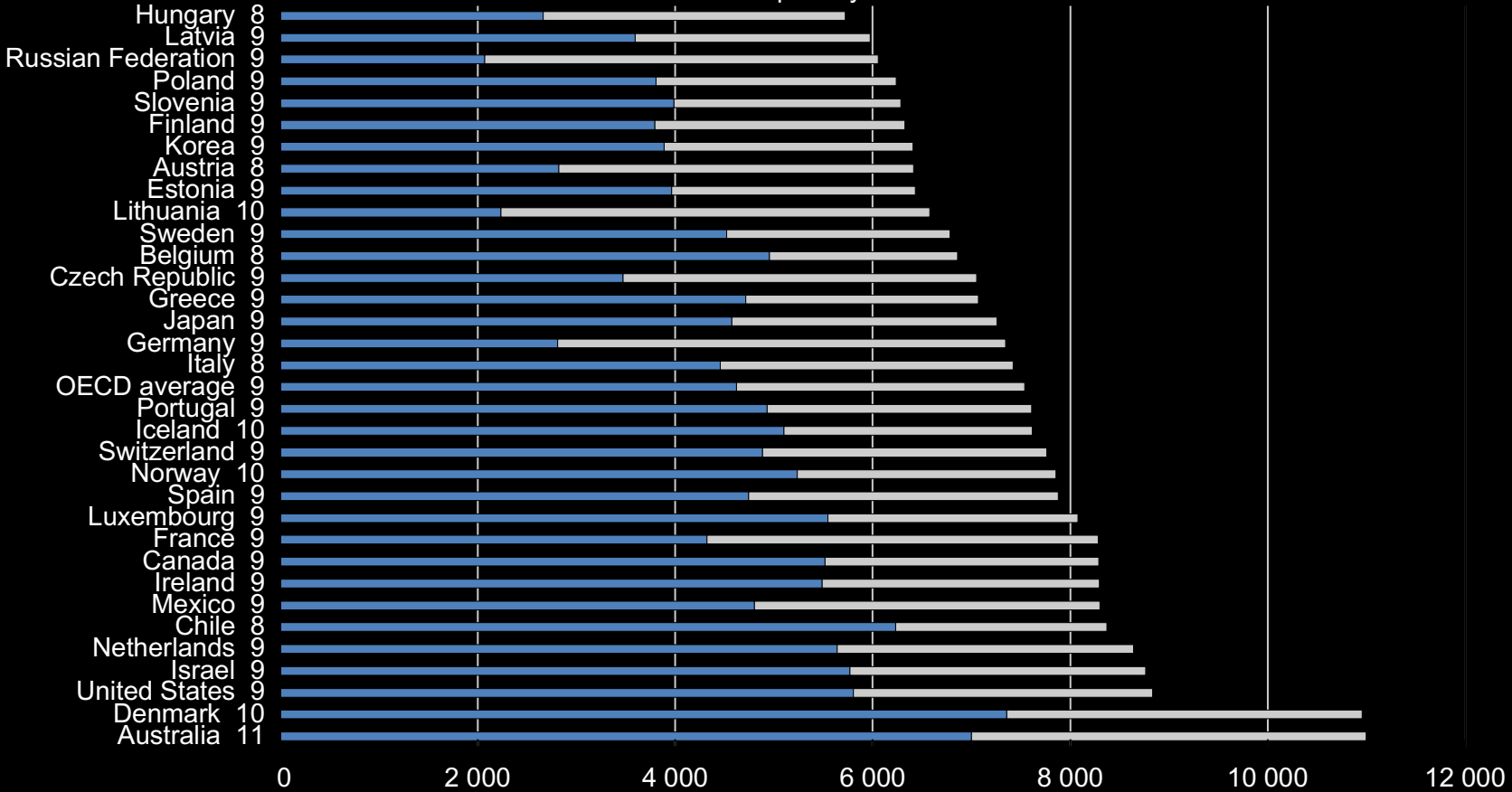


# Learning and wellbeing through play

Duration of primary and lower secondary education, in years

■ Primary ■ Lower secondary

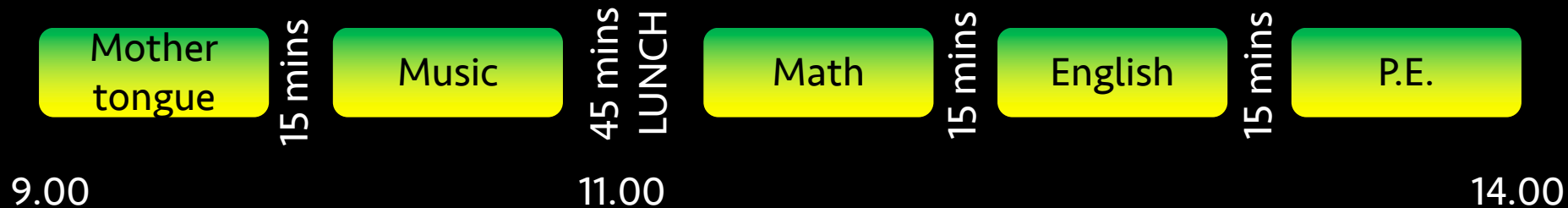
Total number of compulsory instruction hours





# Learning and wellbeing through play

## Typical 5<sup>th</sup> grade school day



Three big ideas for Australia

The main challenge in Australian schools is not the teachers and the children.

The challenge is the system that doesn't support collective cultures that would build wellbeing and empower schools to do what they could.





Balance excellence and equity

A Fair and needs-based funding

B Focus more on wellbeing & whole child

C Trust in schools' ability to decide what works



Reconsider how to measure success

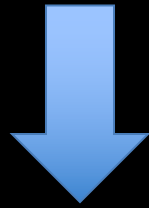
Don't ask: How good is your school?

Ask: How is our school good?



Rebalance the role of evidence and values

Evidence-based education



Value-based education

THANK YOU!

 [pasi\\_sahlberg](#)