



Equity: What it means and why it matters?

Leading for Educational Change

Cabramatta, NSW
23rd October 2018

 [pasi_sahlberg](#)

A short history of equity in education

What do we mean by equity?

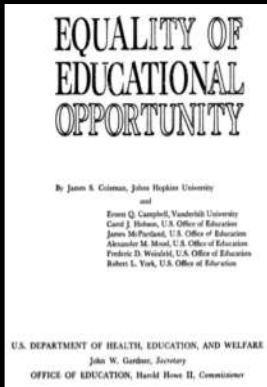
Lessons from the world

What to do next?

A short history of equity in education

EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS: "Schools matter"

- Strong administrative leadership
- High expectations
- An orderly atmosphere
- Basic skills acquisition as the school's primary purpose
- Capacity to divert school energy and resources to advance the school's basic purpose
- Frequent monitoring of pupil progress



OECD-PISA



1970

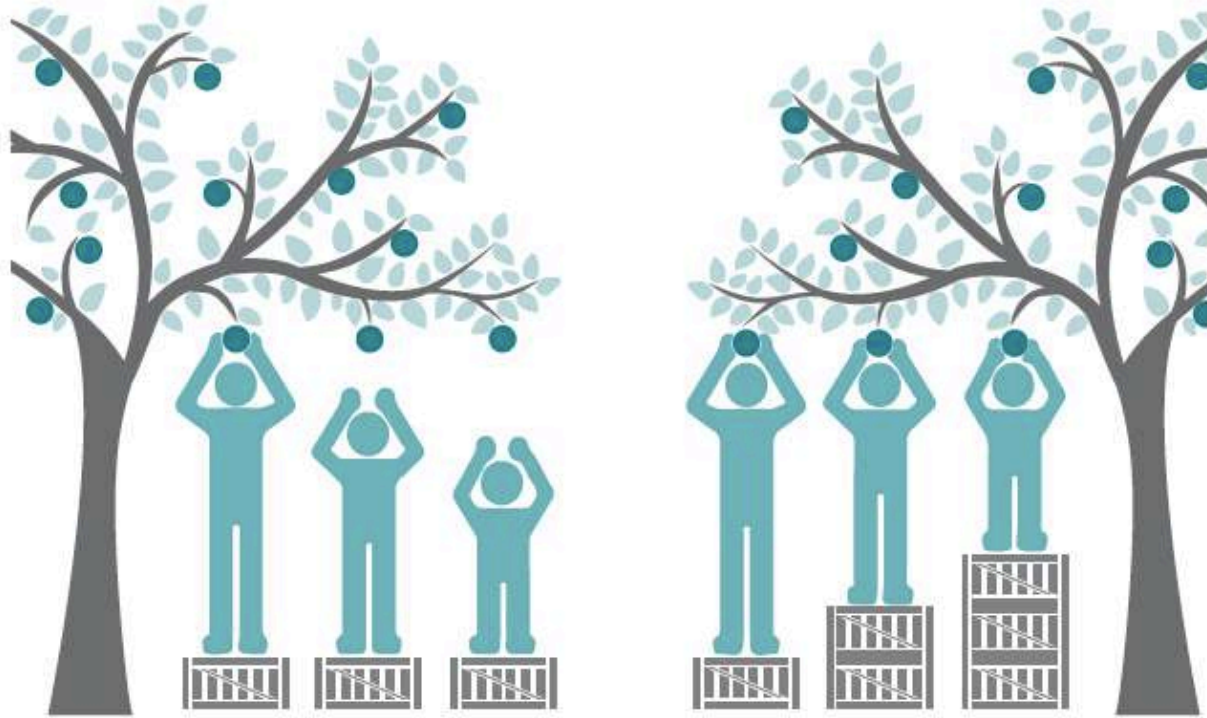
1980

1990

2000

2010

What is equity in education?



Equality doesn't mean **Equity**

What is equity in education?

Equity in education has two dimensions: Equity as **inclusion** means ensuring that all students reach at least a basic minimum level of skills. Equity as **fairness** implies that personal or socio-economic circumstances, such as gender, ethnic origin or family background are not obstacles to educational success.

- OECD (2011)

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

- Review of Funding for Schooling (2011)

Equity in education is the means to achieving **equality**. It intends to provide the best opportunities for all students to achieve their full potential and act to address instances of disadvantage which restrict educational achievement.

- UNESCO (2015)

What have we learned?

Some indicators of equity in education

Resilient students

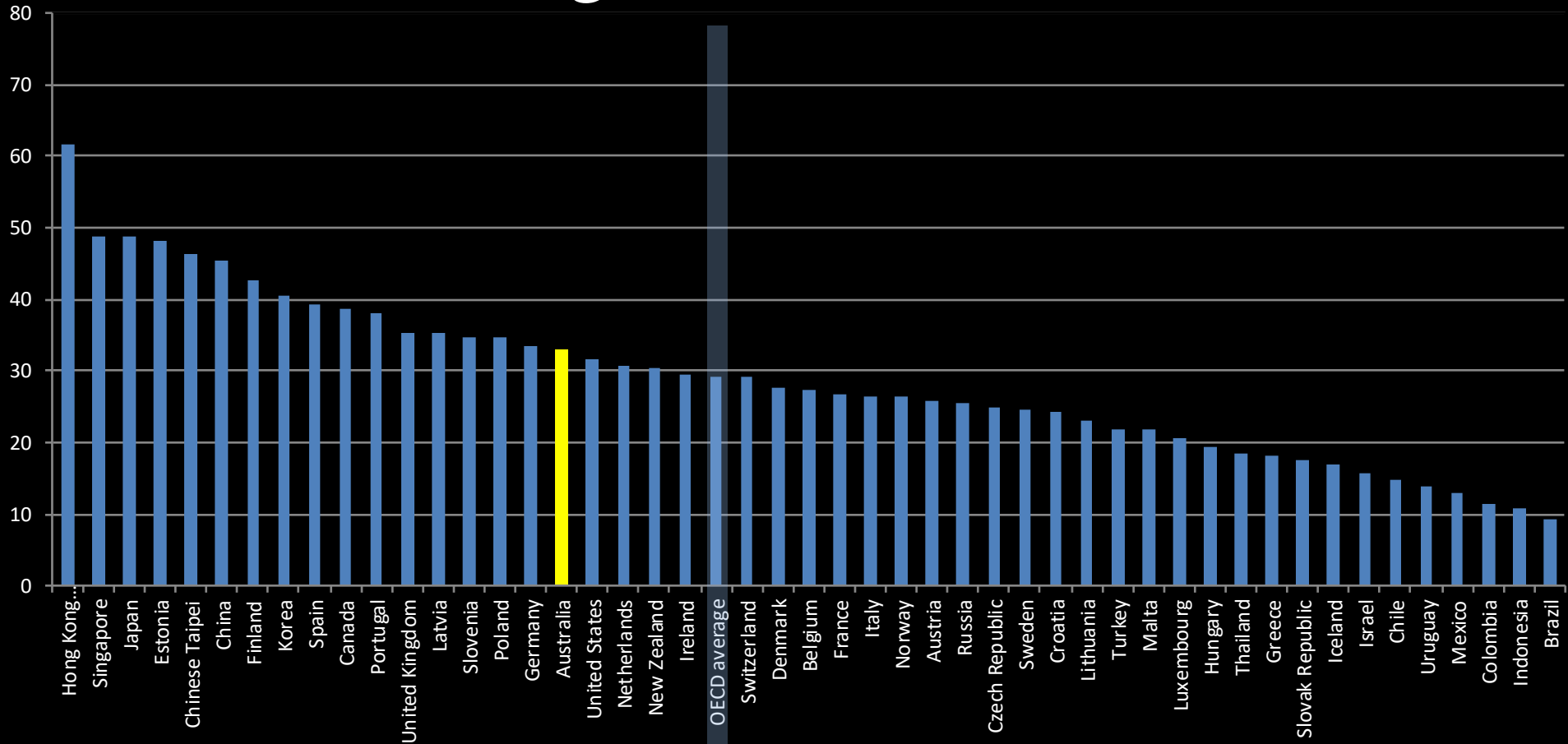
Girls vs. Boys

Resource allocation

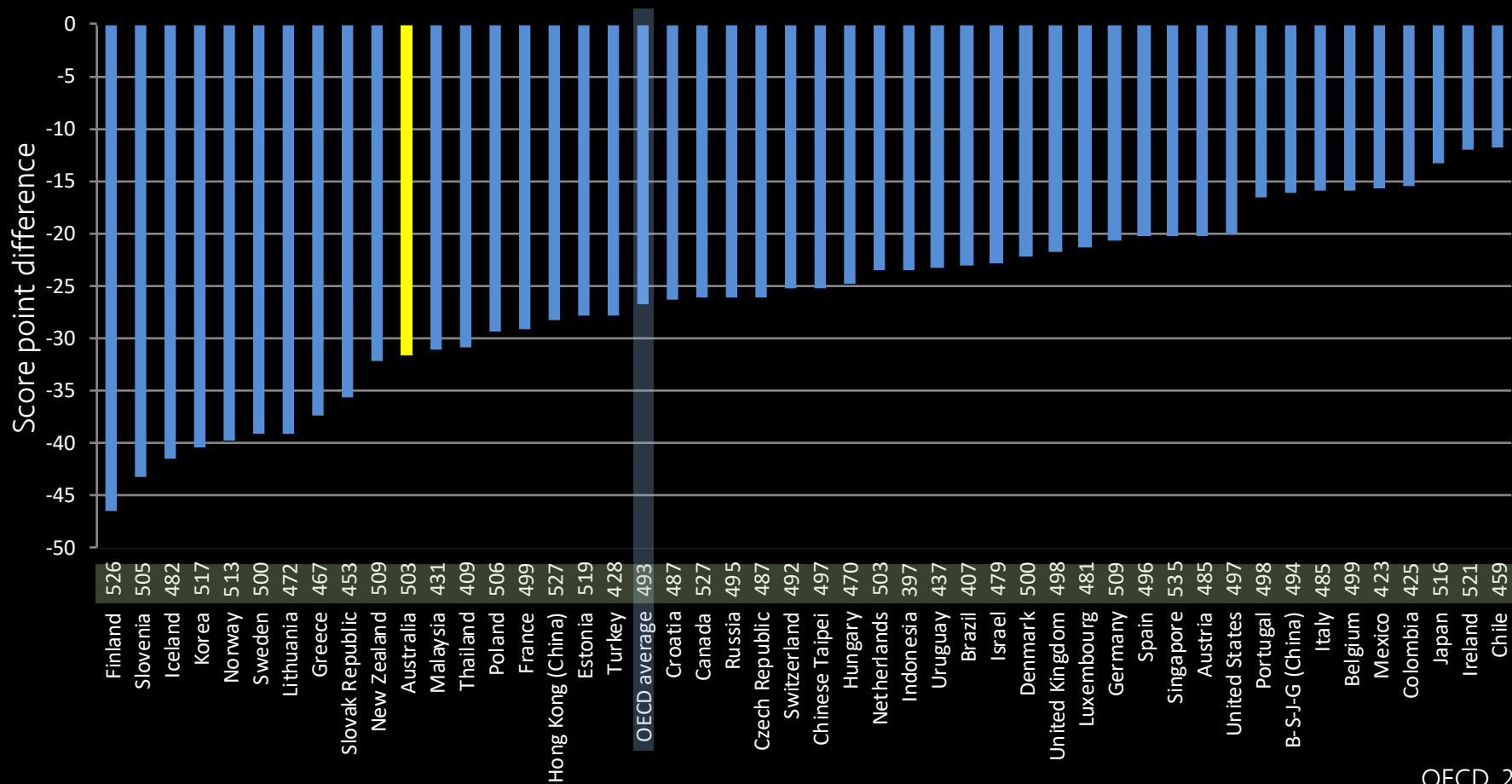
Variability between and within schools

Achievement vs. Socio-economic status

Percentage of resilient students

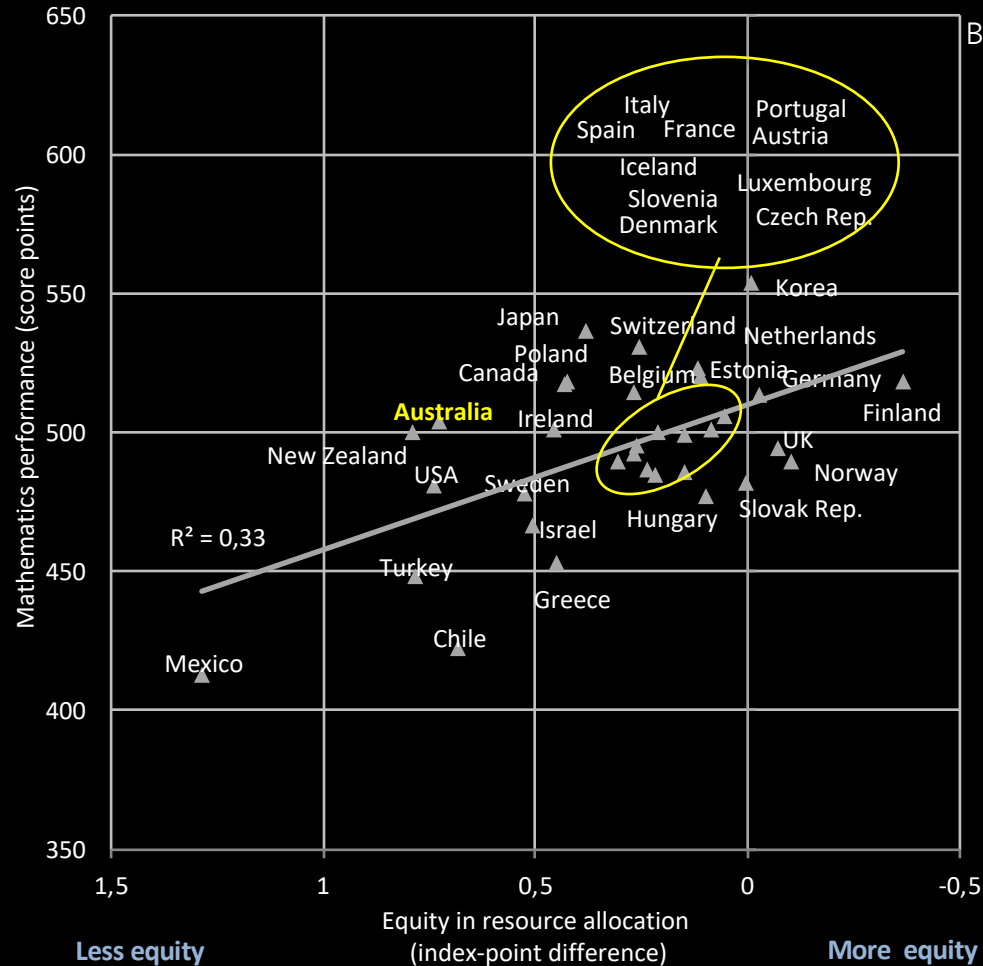


Girls vs. boys: Reading performance

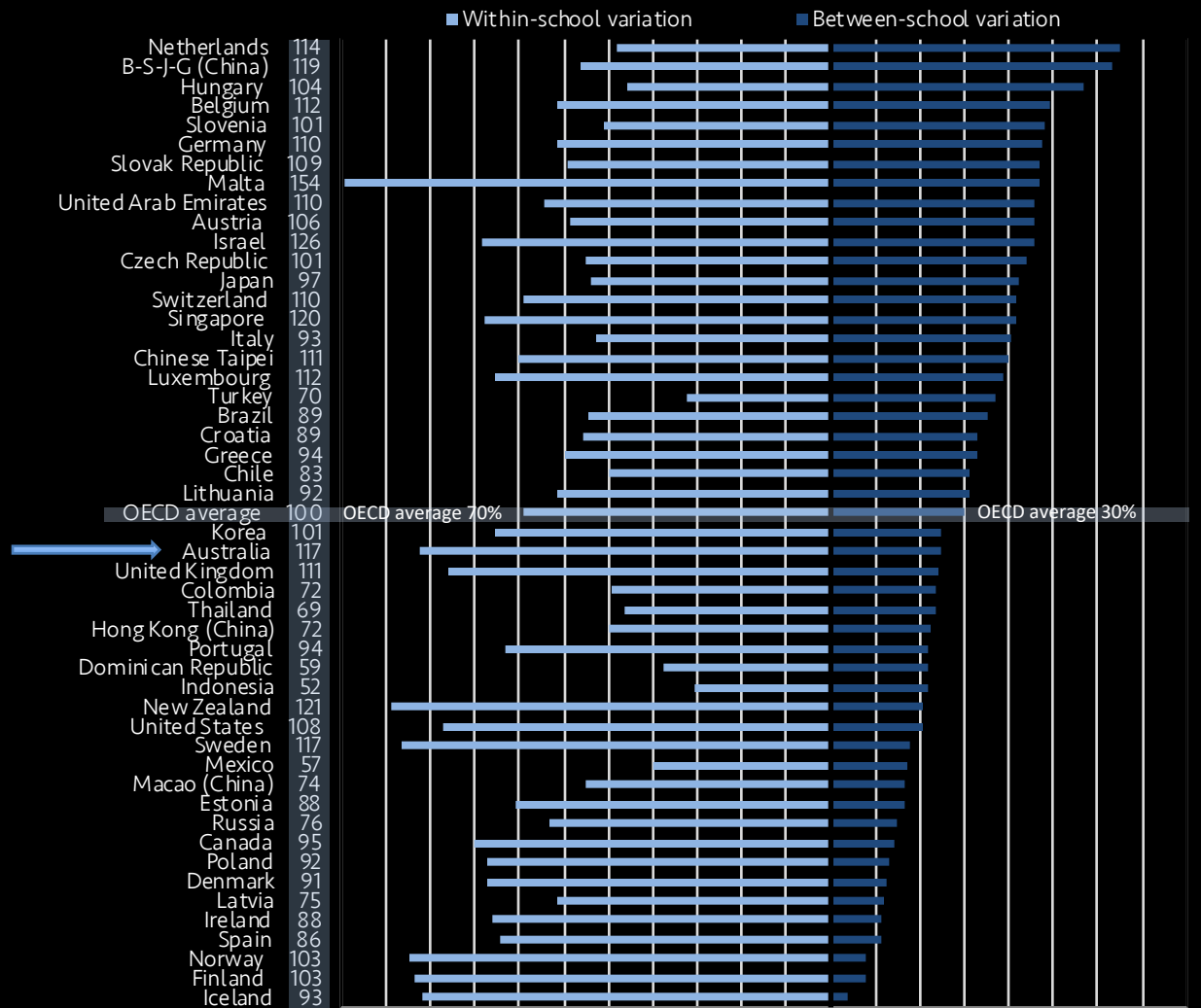


Allocation of educational resources vs. mathematics performance

Equity in resource allocation refers to the difference in the index of quality of schools' educational resources between socio-economically advantaged and disadvantaged school.



Variation in science performance within and between schools

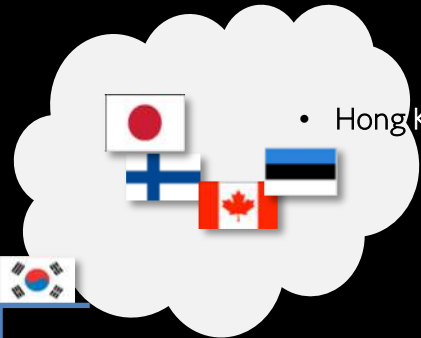


Equity vs. quality of educational outcomes

Student achievement in reading, mathematics and science (PISA)

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- Singapore
- China



EQUITY OF OUTCOMES

Weakness of the relationship between student achievement and family background (ESCS Index)

Lesson 1:

“School choice advocates often argue that the introduction of market mechanisms in education allows equal access to high quality schooling for all...However evidence does not support these perceptions, as choice and associated market mechanisms can enhance segregation.” –OECD, 2012

Lesson 2:

“There is no consistent evidence that private schools deliver better learning outcomes than public schools. Numerous risks, such as the exclusion of disadvantaged or less able or desirable students, social segregation, exploitation of families for profit and the undermining of public education.” –World Bank, 2017

What can you do?

1

Build the sense of
shared responsibility

Strengthen common understanding of equity

Make time available for professional collaboration

Make equity a driver to school improvement

2

Invest in well-being

Strengthen the whole-child approach

Secure healthy nutrition for all

Let the children play

3

Empower students

“We can, whenever and wherever we choose, successfully teach all children whose schooling is of interest to us. We already know more than we need to do that. Whether or not we do it must finally depend on how we feel about the fact that we haven’t so far.”

-Ron Edmonds in 1979



Thank you!

