

# RETHINKING EDUCATION

**Lessons from the Finnish model**

ClaroTec Education Conference

Dominican Republic

17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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# PISA

Program 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 538	3.	Japan 531
4.	Australia 528	4.	Japan 534	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



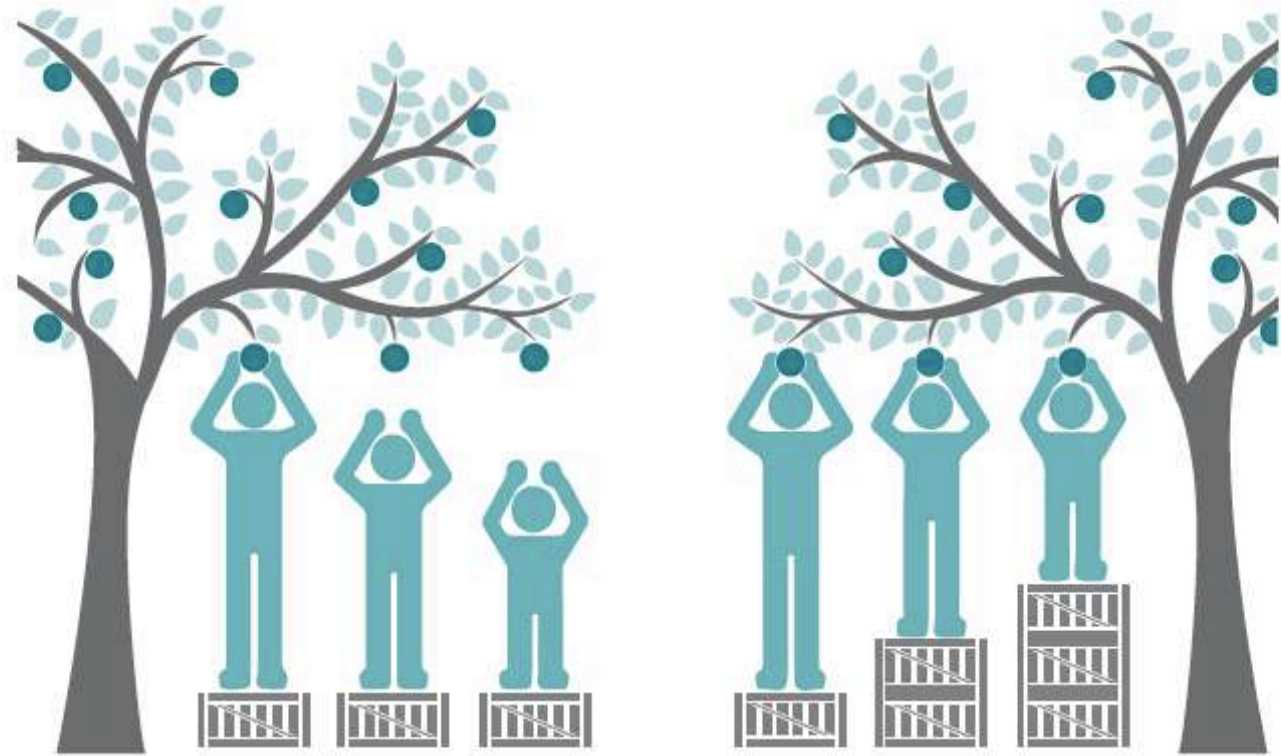
## LESSONS FOR BUILDING WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION SYSTEMS

Why some systems don't get better?	Why some systems are performing better?
Competition	
Standardization	
Test-based accountability	
De-professionalism	
School choice	

## LESSONS FOR BUILDING WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION SYSTEMS

Why some systems don't get better?	Why some systems are performing better?
Competition	Collaboration
Standardization	Flexibility
Test-based accountability	Trust-based responsibility
De-professionalism	Professionalism
School choice	Equity

# WHAT IS EQUITY IN EDUCATION?



**Equality** doesn't mean **Equity**



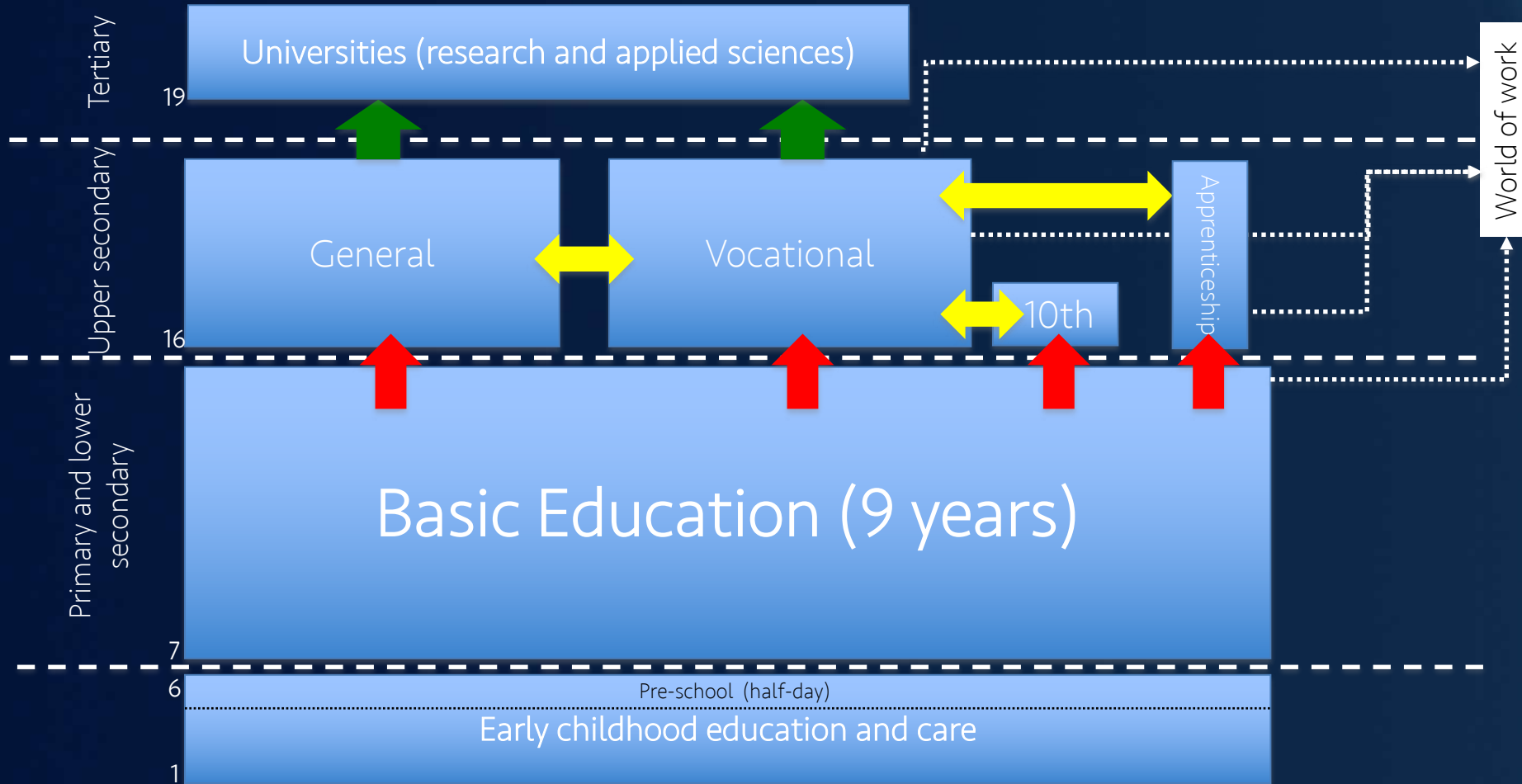
# Quality and equity of education



# Lessons from the Finnish Model



# Education system in Finland (2020)







# Lesson #1: Build collaboration

1. Avoid education policies that lead to unhealthy competition
2. Make time for teacher collaboration in schools
3. Encourage teaching that includes cooperative learning



## **Lesson #2: Engage schools in curriculum work**

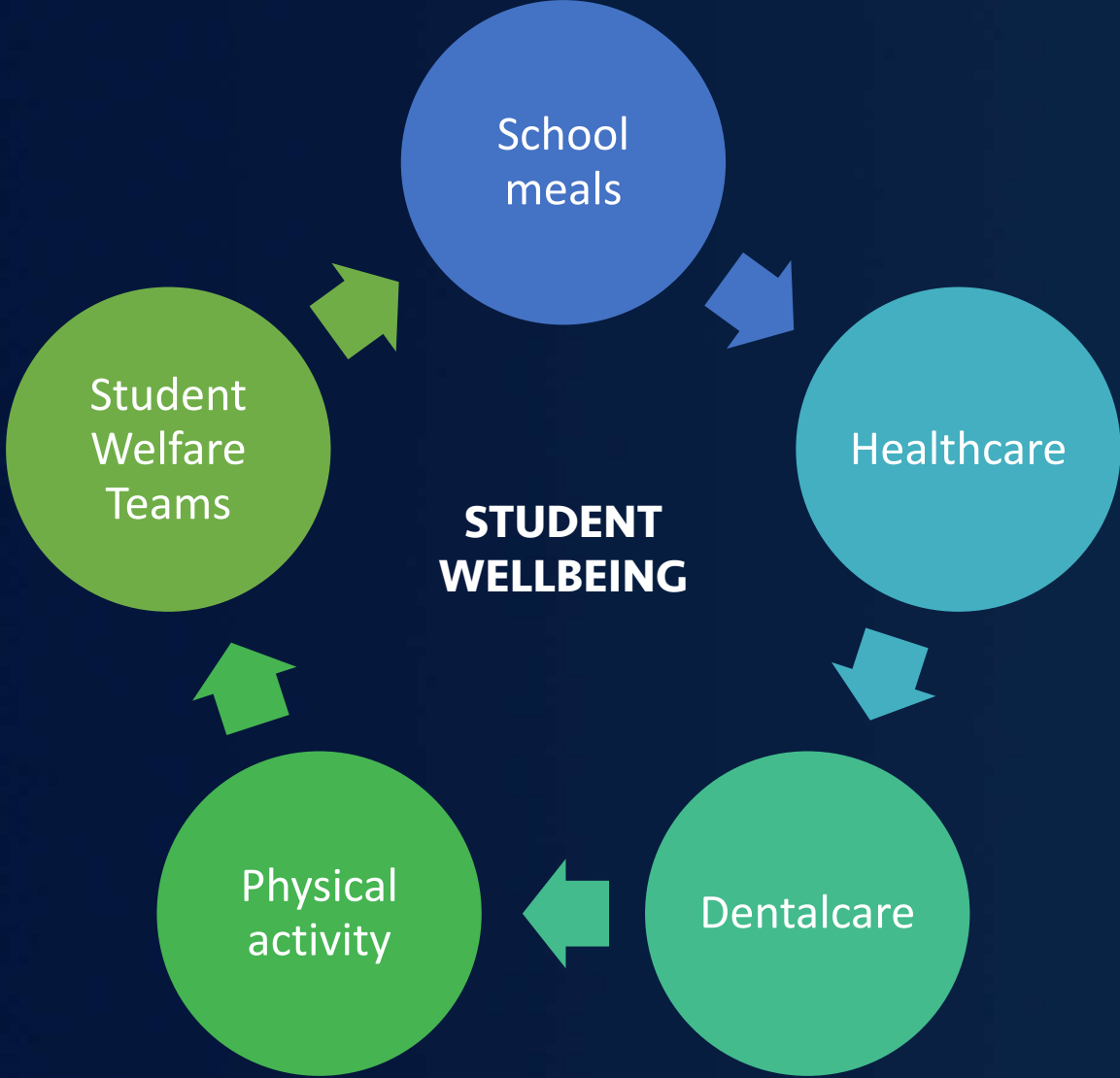
1. Avoid top-down curriculum reforms
2. Empower teachers through local curriculum planning
3. Give students voice in their own learning at school



## **Lesson #3: Invest in equity of education**

1. Allocate resources to schools based on their real needs
2. Redesign education for children with special needs
3. Include health and well-being as part of school education

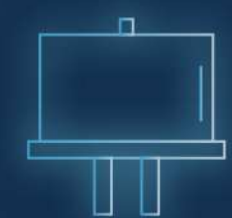
# Systemic approach to student wellbeing in Finnish schools



# A Hidden Lesson



**Professionalism helps to  
distinguish facts from myths**

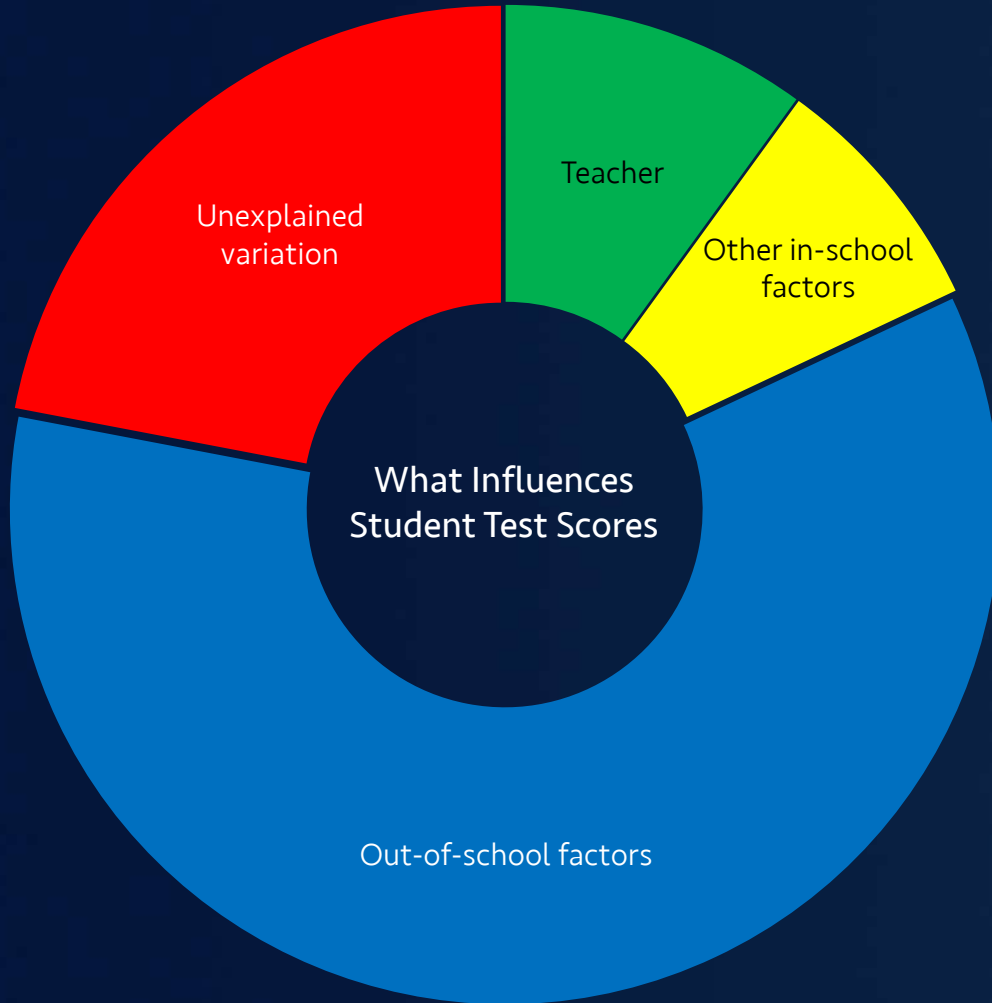


# Professionalism helps to distinguish facts from myths

Is this true or not?

*“The most important single factor in improving quality of education is teachers.”*





“Finnish educators have understood that the majority of opportunities for improving quality of education outcomes are found in the system-level conditions.”



**What can you do?**



1

Make sure you have a shared vision for education.



2

Rethink intelligence.

*“Ask not how good is John at school, ask how is John good at school”*



3

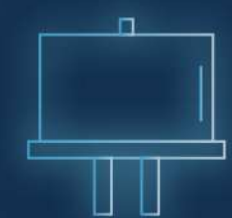
Prioritize well-being in school education.



4

Let the children play.

*“Play is the cheapest and easiest way to help children to learn communication, problem-solving, negotiation and empathy.”*

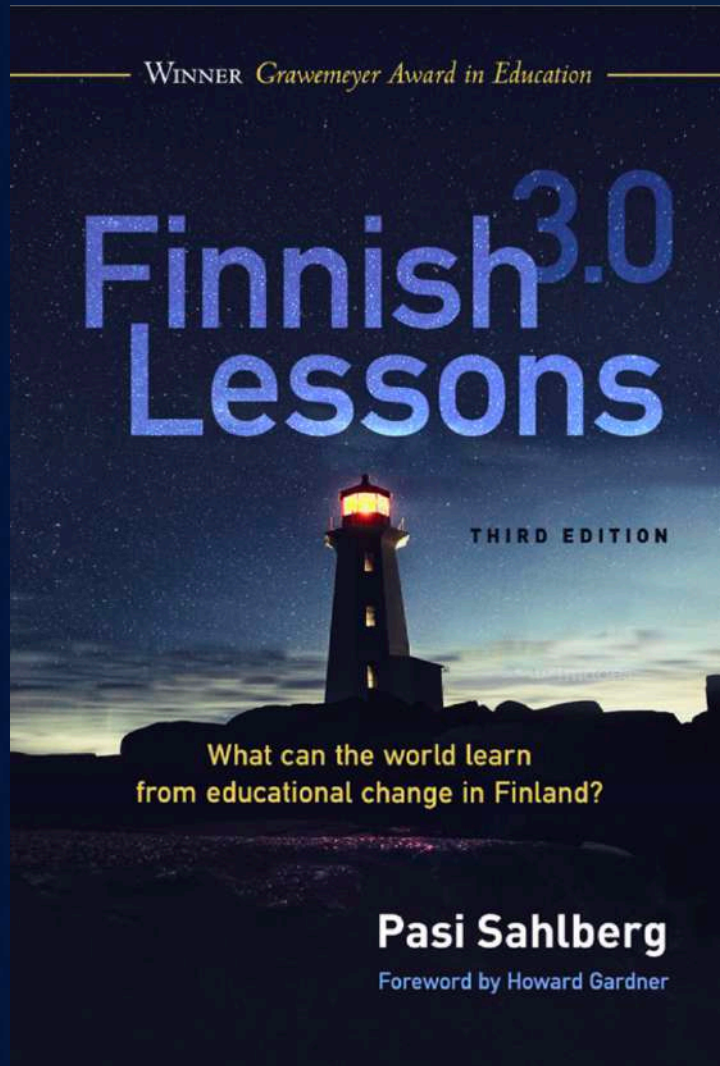


5

Don't imitate, create your own Finland.



# Thank you!



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