

EDUCATION REIMAGINED:

Four ideas for the future we could start now

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ABOUT THIS KEYNOTE

My intention is to establish a common understanding of the state of education today so that we'd be able to reimagine education for the future. Lessons from other countries can be helpful. This presentation suggests four 'moon shot' ideas that could be considered in reimagining education. In every crisis there are new opportunities. We should utilize them right now.

Part 1: Is the global learning crisis real?

Part 2: Lessons from a faraway country

Part 3: Four steps to the future

Part 1: Is the global learning crisis real?

Pre-pandemic education



260 million children, adolescents and youth are not at school and only three quarters of 15-year-olds in middle income countries attend school, and just half of them achieve the basic level of proficiency required. – Global Education Monitoring Report 2020



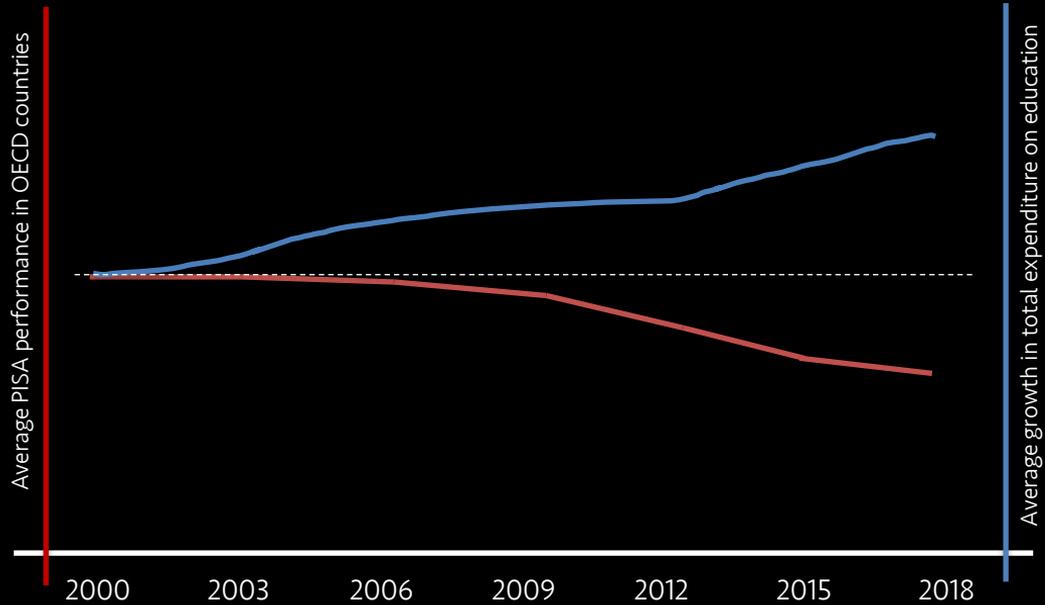
The performance differences across the OECD countries between the most socio-economically advantaged and disadvantaged students is equivalent to over 3 years of schooling. –PISA 2018



There is a global learning crisis that amplifies educational inequalities that severely hobbles the disadvantaged youth who most need the boost that a good education can offer. – World Bank Human Development Report 2018

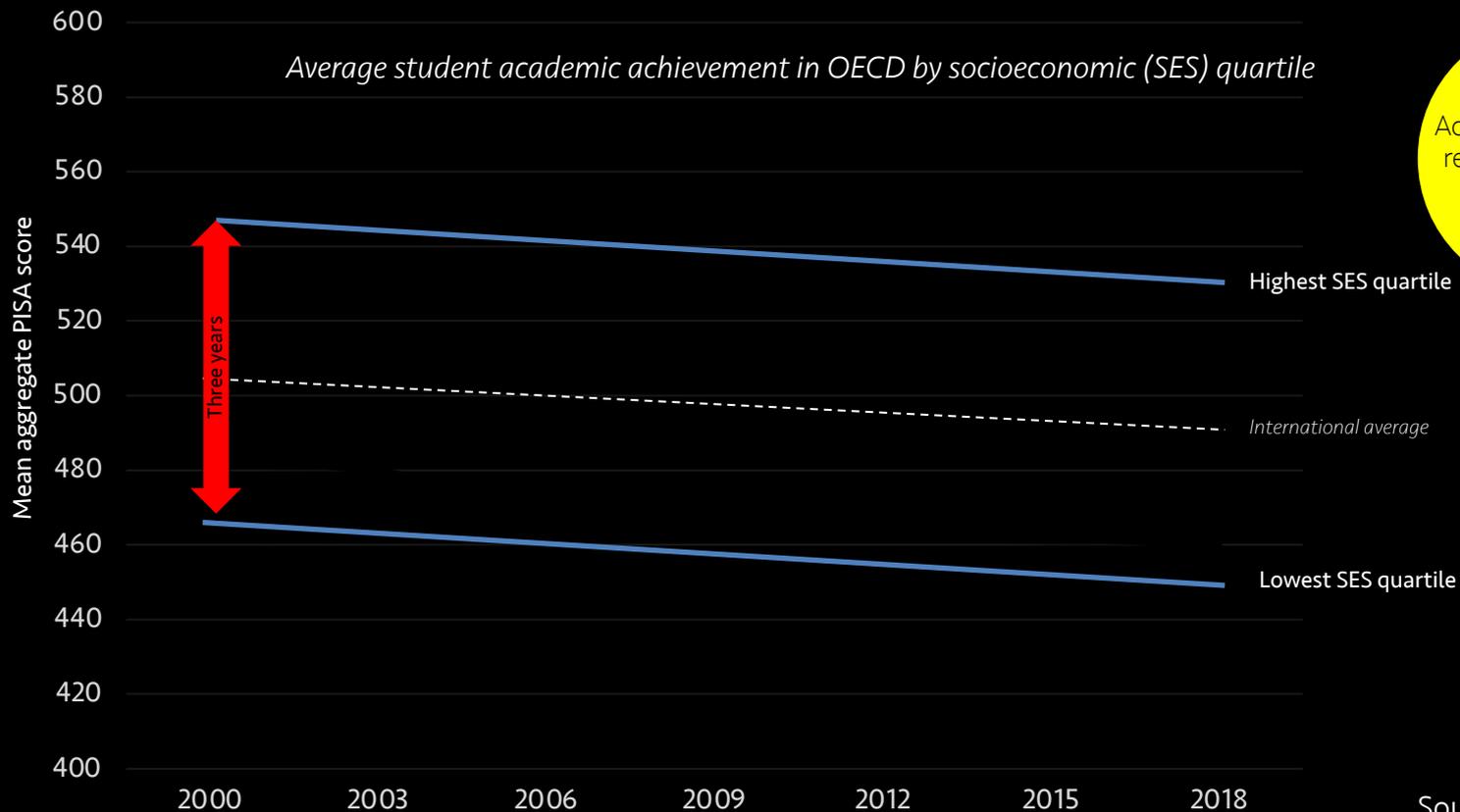
Crisis!

Challenge 1: Student learning vs. education spending



Source: OECD database (2020)

Challenge 2: Growing inequalities



OECD

Achievement gap has remained large over time

Conclusion:

Reimagined education must aim at fixing existing inequalities and build stronger connection between learning and wellbeing.

Part 2: Lessons from a faraway country

Two Education Paradigms

POLICY PRIORITY

1. Competition and choice

2. Standardization

3. Academic excellence

4. Test-based accountability

5. De-professionalization



POLICY PRIORITY

Collaboration & Success for all

Creativity & flexibility

Whole-child development

Trust-based responsibility

Professionalism



Two Education Paradigms



Four things you didn't know...

1. Finnish children have much less instruction time
2. Teaching is a dream job among young Finns
3. All formal education is free of charge
4. Finnish education success is built on American ideas

Source: Finnish Lessons 3.0 (2021)

See: The Best School in the World https://issuu.com/suomen-rakennustaiteen-museo/docs/bestschoolintheworld_book



Conclusion 2:

You can't be like Finland, but you can learn from it.

Part 3: Four steps to the future

The Future plan

1. *Learning – Wellbeing* nexus

Good health is a precondition to successful education. Similarly, wellbeing is a skill that promotes good learning. Education and health as core public services need to be more closely integrated and made available to everyone in all schools.

The Future plan

2. School as a community of changemakers

Evidence around the world suggests that when teachers collaborate, everybody benefits. Similarly, when students build and cultivate positive relationships at school, they do better emotionally and educationally. School could be a place for lifelong relationships, cooperative learning and collaborative professionalism.

The Future plan

3. Towards student-led schools

Young people have much more capacity than we give them credit for. We should give them more responsibilities to initiate, design, and lead their own learning and growth. The future school could be more than today led by students in collaboration with educators for the benefit of entire community.

The Future plan

4. Utilize the power of play

Over 80% of parents believe that children are under pressure to grow up too quickly, and 90% think their kids today spend less time playing than they did when they were their kids' age. School could be a learning environment that enables curiosity, imagination and creativity and makes the most of the multiple benefits of play.

Conclusion 3:

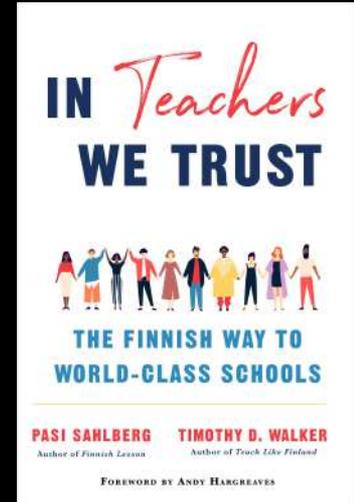
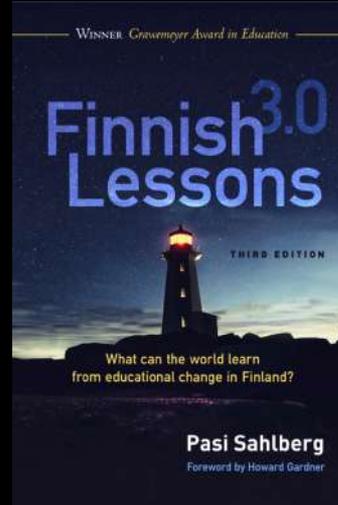
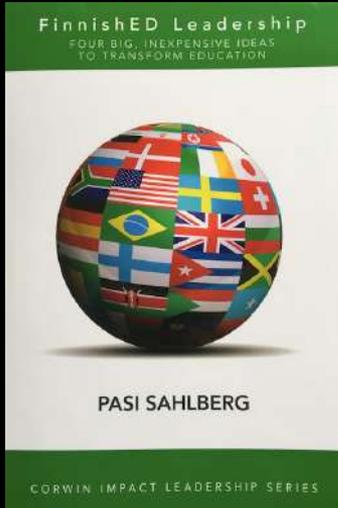
We can start right now by moving...

... from 'learning loss' to 'learning gains'

... from narrow intelligence to whole child development

... from reboot to recovery to better schools for every child

THANK YOU!



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