

FINNISH LESSONS

Almost everything you need to know about Finland's schools

1st December 2021

 [pasi_sahlberg](#)

Part 1: Facts and myths about Finland's schools

Part 2: Changing times, changing schools

Part 3: Conversation

Part 1: Facts and myths about Finland's schools

FACT OR MYTH?

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

MYTH!

"The conclusion that family background is far more important than people realized has remained a solid empirical finding for 50 years."

- Stephen Morgan (2016)



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

- Two questions emerged:
1. Why some countries struggle?
 2. What is driving high performance?

Facts

Trust in school

Academic teacher
education

Inclusive public
education

The Finnish Model

“An Alternate Universe”

Universal early
childhood

Equity as a key
policy driver

Fake news

News > World > Europe

 INDEPENDENT

Finland schools: Subjects scrapped and replaced with 'topics' as country reforms its education system

With Finland radically reforming the way its children are taught, Richard Garner visits Helsinki to find out if the teachers approve

Richard Garner | Friday 20 March 2015 |  4 comments

   329K shares

 Like Click to follow The Independent



"False stories that appear to be news, spread on the internet or using other media, usually created to influence political views or as a joke." – Cambridge Dictionary

Facts and myths about Finnish schools

Posi Sahlberg

SEMINAR SERIES 290

Centre for Strategic Education (CSE) is the business name for JARVI ABN 33 004 055 666

290

NOV 2015

Fake news



Facts and myths about Finnish schools

Pasi Sahlberg

SEMINAR SERIES 290

Centre for Strategic Education (CSE) is the business name for IMTEV ABN 33 054 055 554

290 NOV 2014

Fake news

Only the best and the brightest
can become teachers.



Facts and myths about Finnish schools

Pasi Sahlberg

SEMINAR SERIES 290

Centre for Strategic Education (CSE) is the business name for IAPTV ABn 20 004 052 556

290

NOV
2018

Every school designs
its own curriculum

Every student has
special educational
needs

Every student gets
free healthy lunch

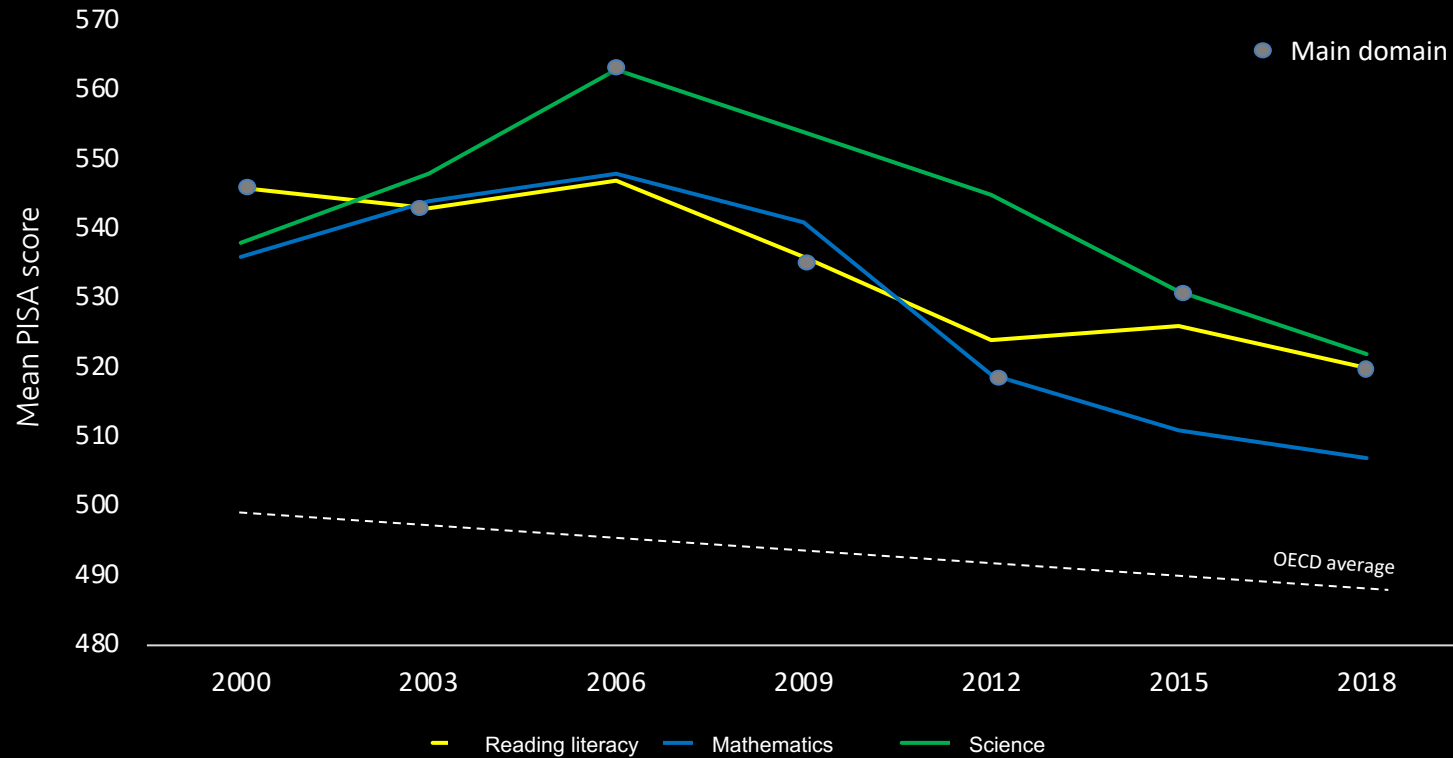
**Five things you
didn't know!**

Every high school is
fully personalised

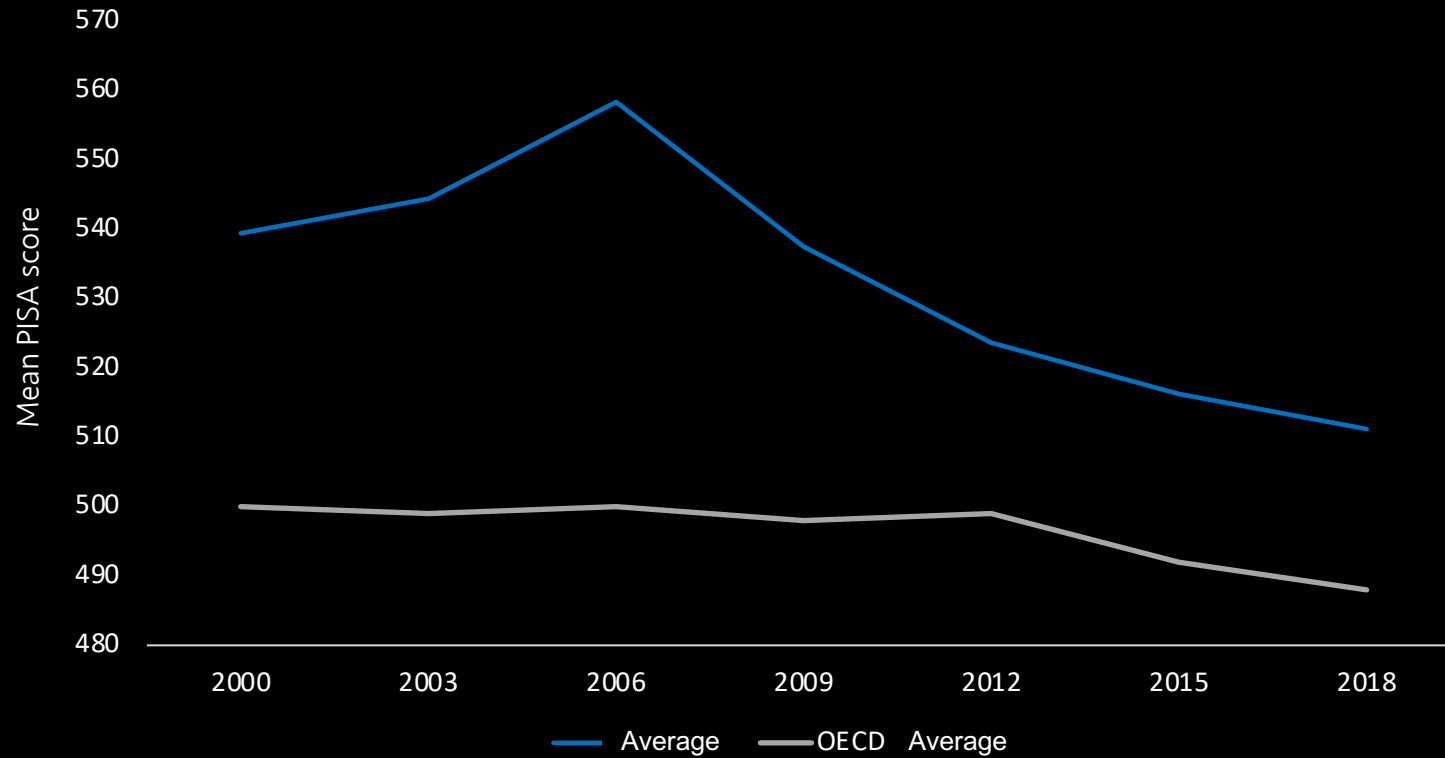
Every student has
voice and agency

Part 2: Changing times, changing schools

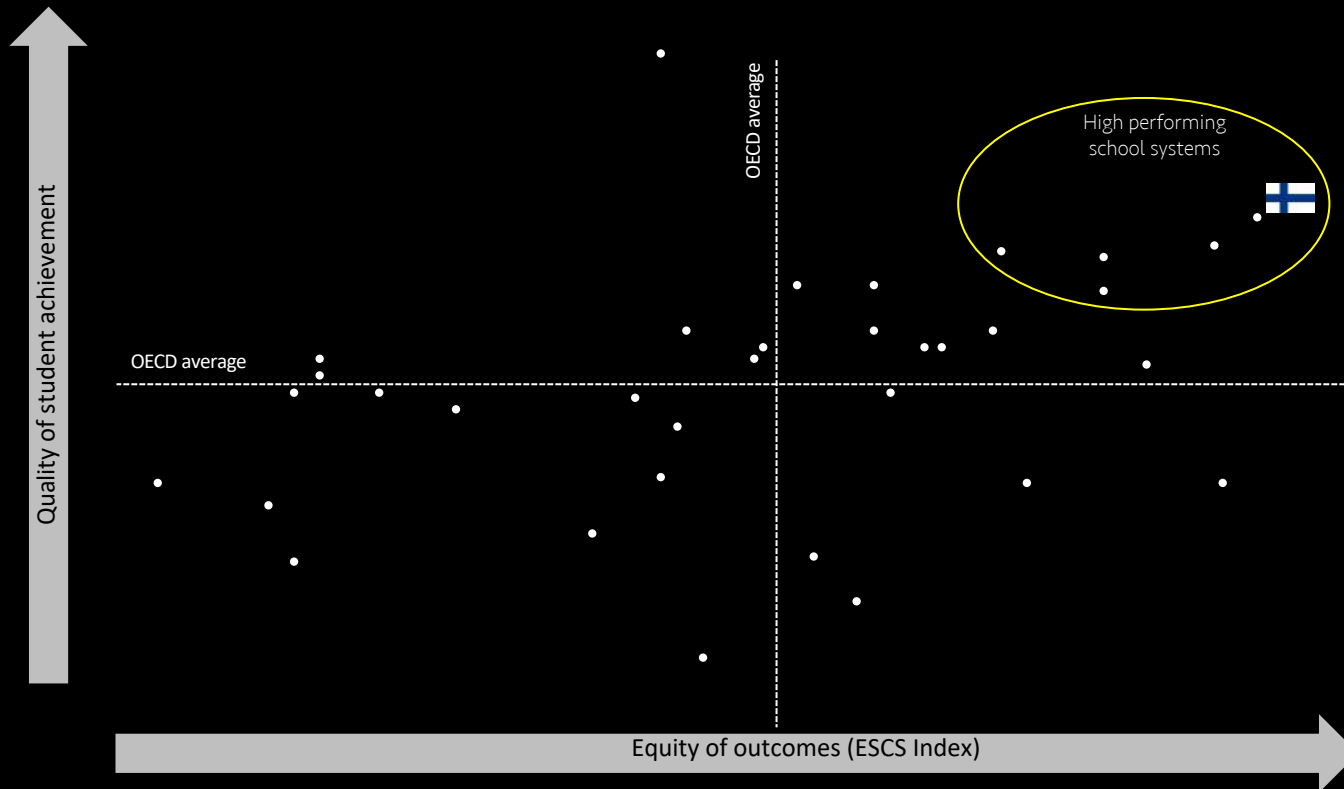
Finland's school performance 2000-2018



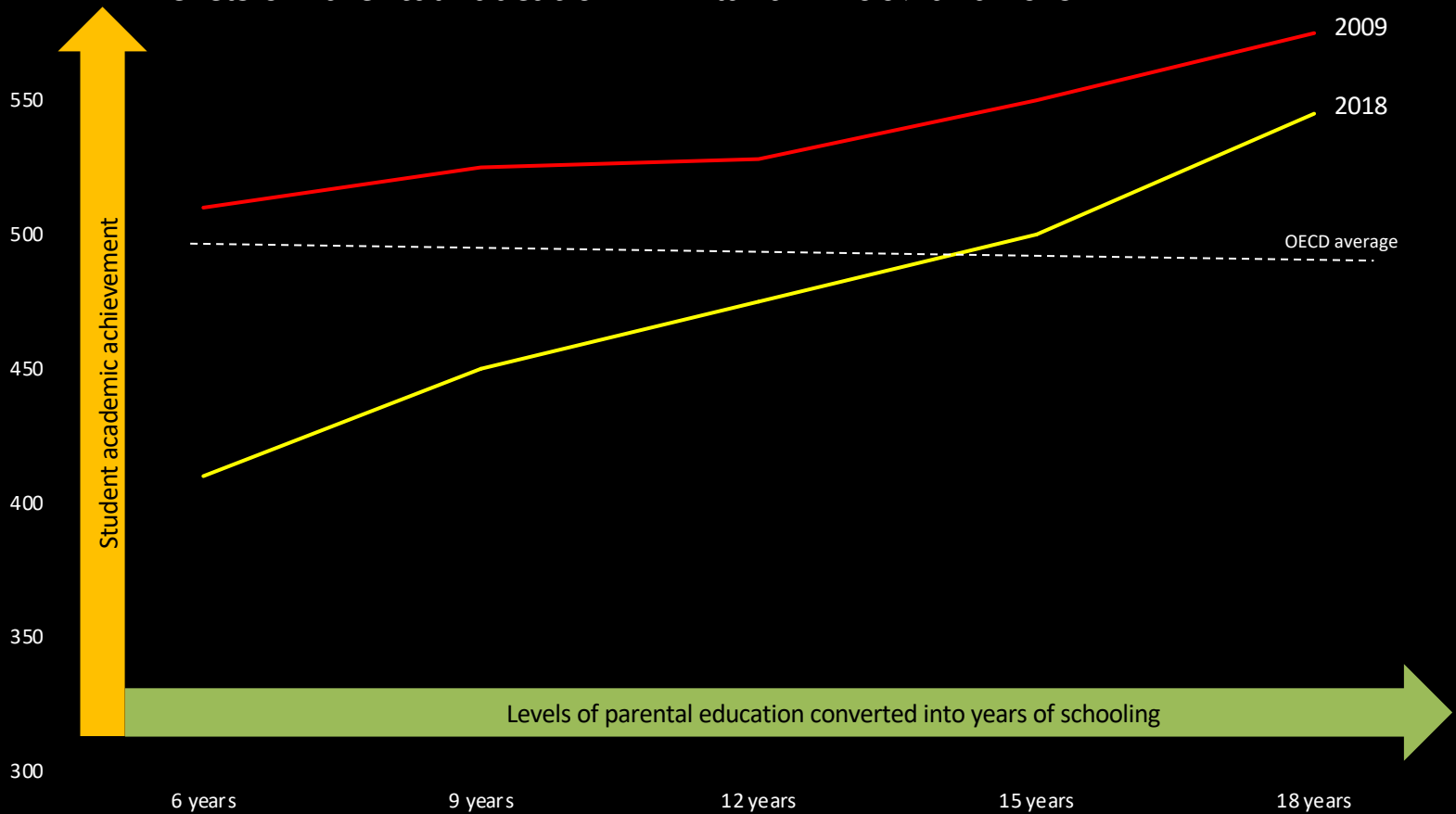
Finland's school performance 2000-2018



Education systems performance in OECD (2009-2018)



Average National PISA Score in reading, mathematics and science vis-a-vis Levels of Parental Education in Finland in 2009 and 2018



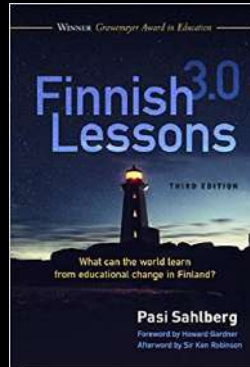
Source: Finnish Lessons 3.0 (2021)

Fixing Finnish education: A self-improving system?

1. How to address growing social/economic inequalities?
2. What to do with digital lifestyle?
3. How to get boys back to learning?

Part 3: Conversation

THANK YOU!



Download this presentation from Twitter (@pasi_sahlberg) or from www.pasisahlberg.com