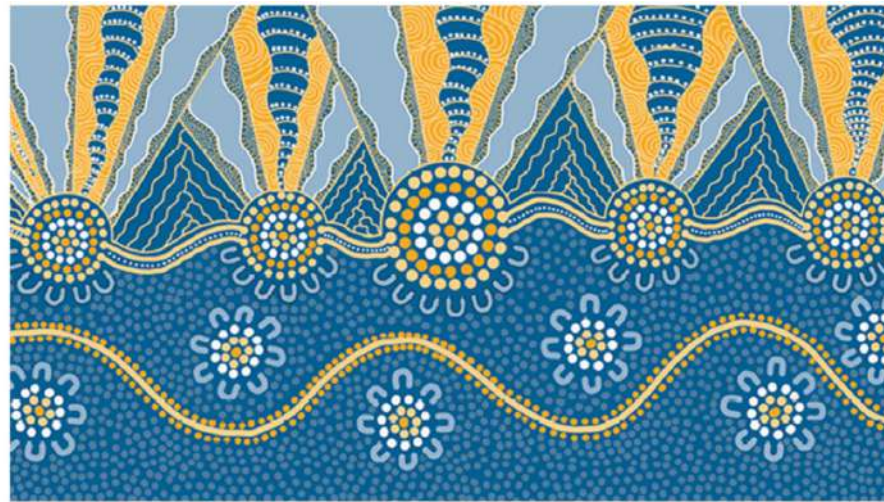




2023 WAPPA
CONFERENCE

30 August –
1 September
Crown Perth

Benang djinanginy. Dandjoo kaadadjiny.
Looking to tomorrow. Learning together.



A NATION AT HOPE

Pasi Sahlberg

31 August 2023

40 years ago:

A Nation at Risk

The Imperative for Educational Reform



A Report to the Nation and the Secretary of Education

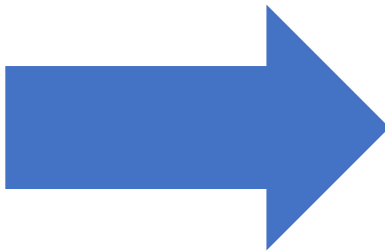
“The educational foundations of our society are presently being eroded by a rising tide of mediocrity that threatens our very future as a Nation and a people.”

A Nation at Risk

The Imperative for Educational Reform



A Report to the Nation and the Secretary of Education



G.E.R.M.

Standards-based curricula

Test-based accountability

Best practice addiction

Teacher effectiveness

Literacy & Numeracy

A Nation at Risk

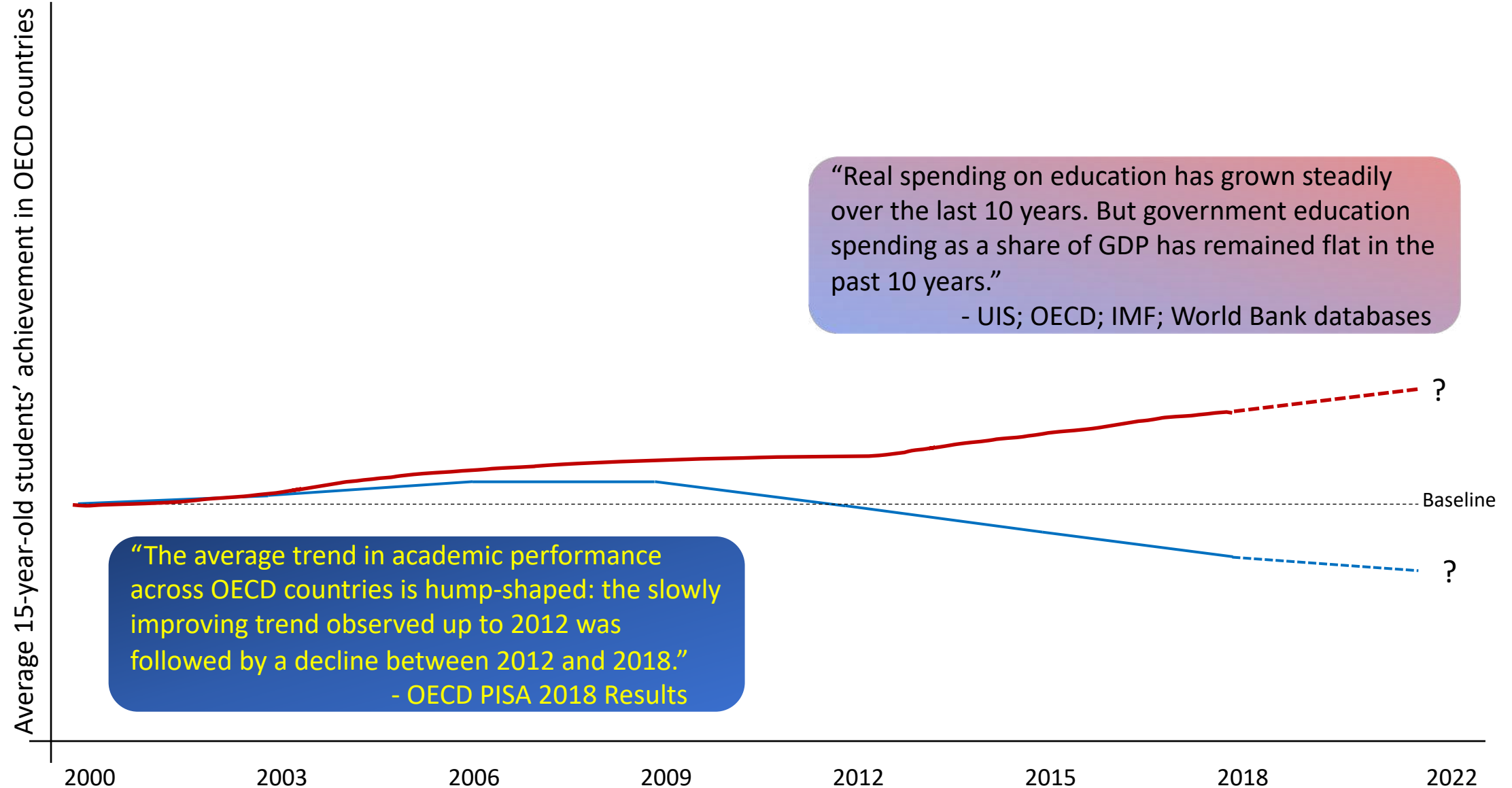
The Imperative for Educational Reform



A Report to the Nation and the Secretary of Education

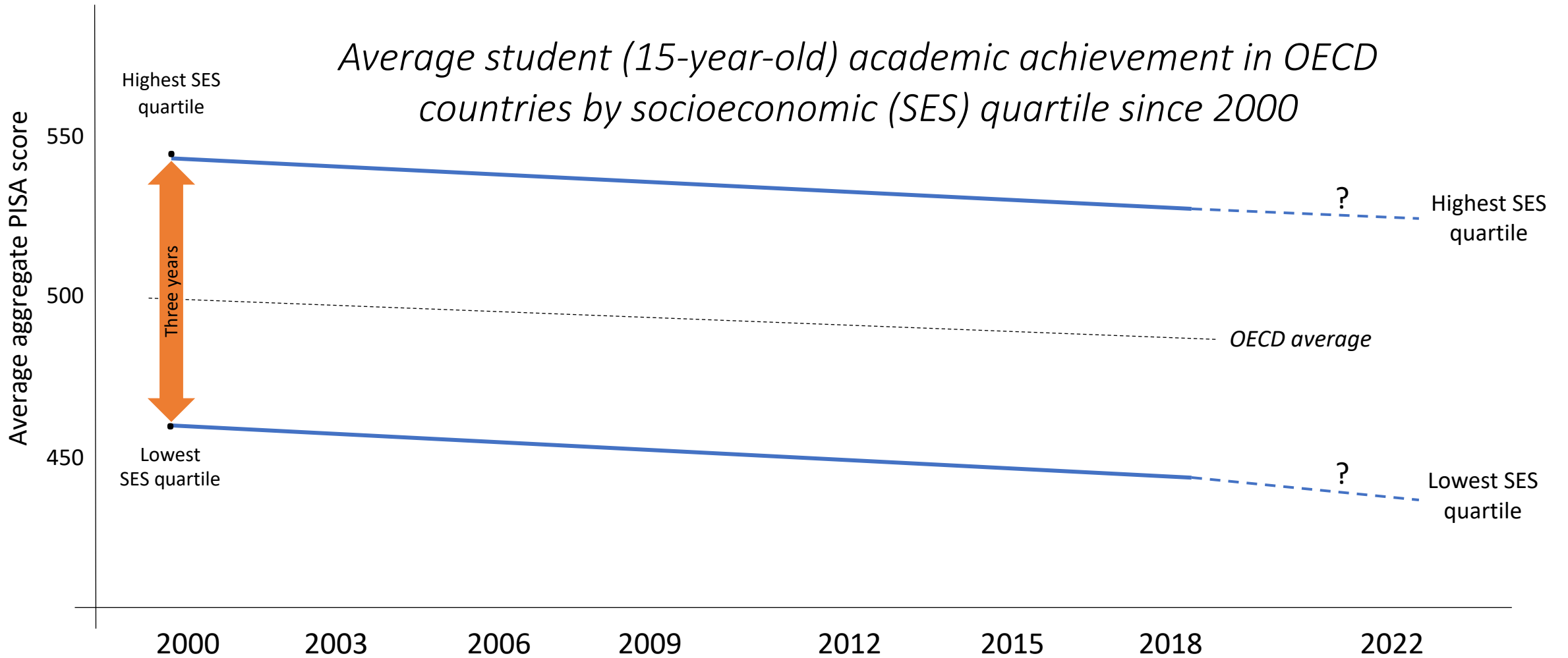
The education reforms that followed did not properly address the root causes of the poor state of education and failed to accept that schools alone won't solve the nation's educational problems.

The state of school education around the world



The state of school education around the world

Average student (15-year-old) academic achievement in OECD countries by socioeconomic (SES) quartile since 2000



The state of school education around the world



“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.”

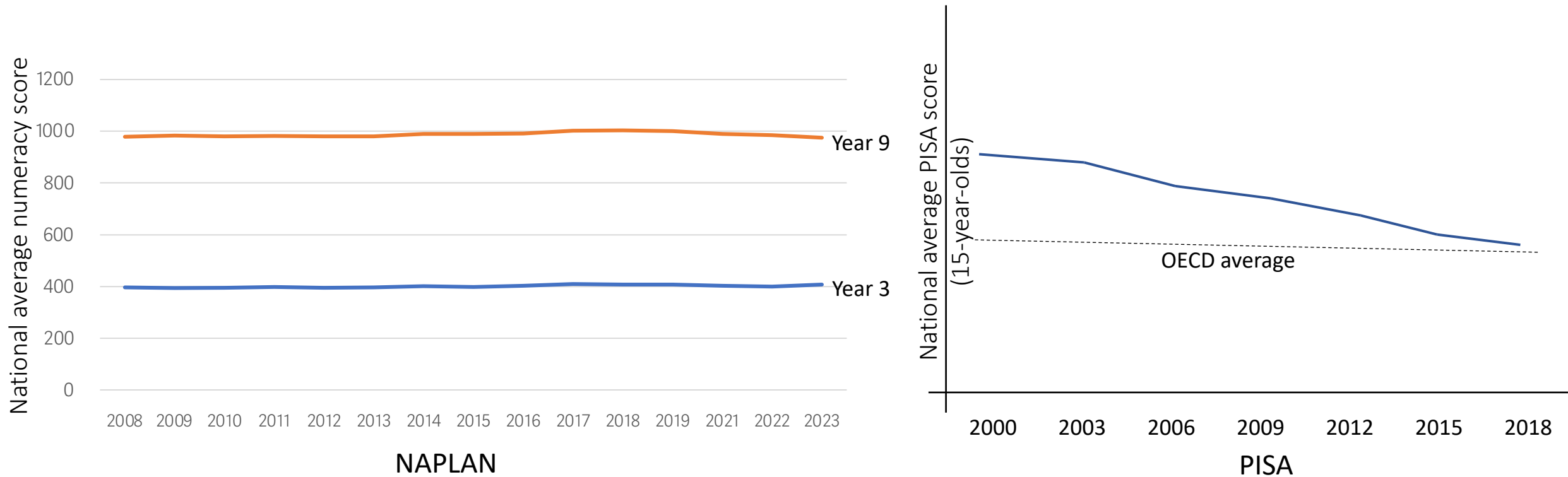
– World Bank Human Development Report 2018



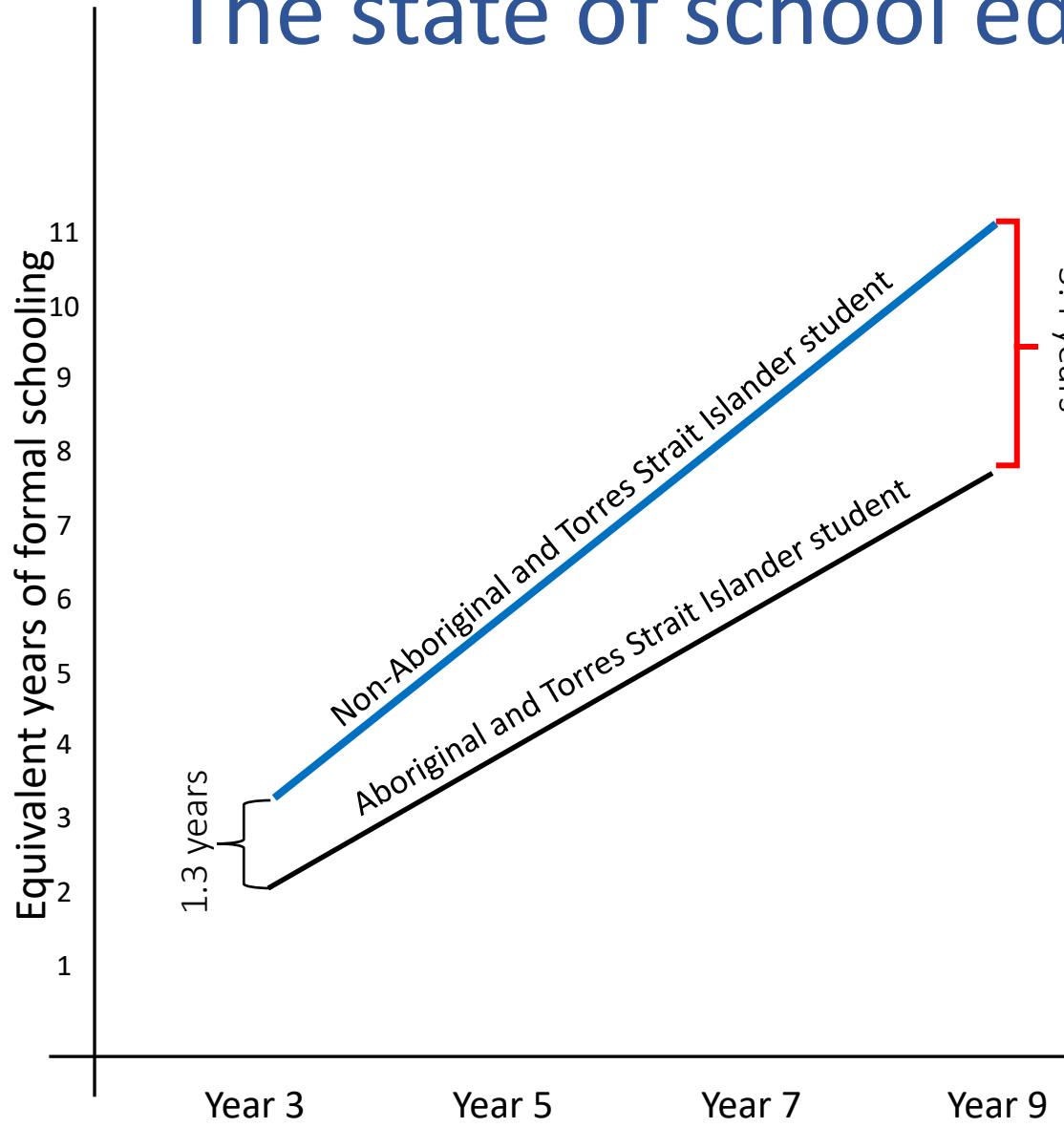
Crisis!

The state of school education here

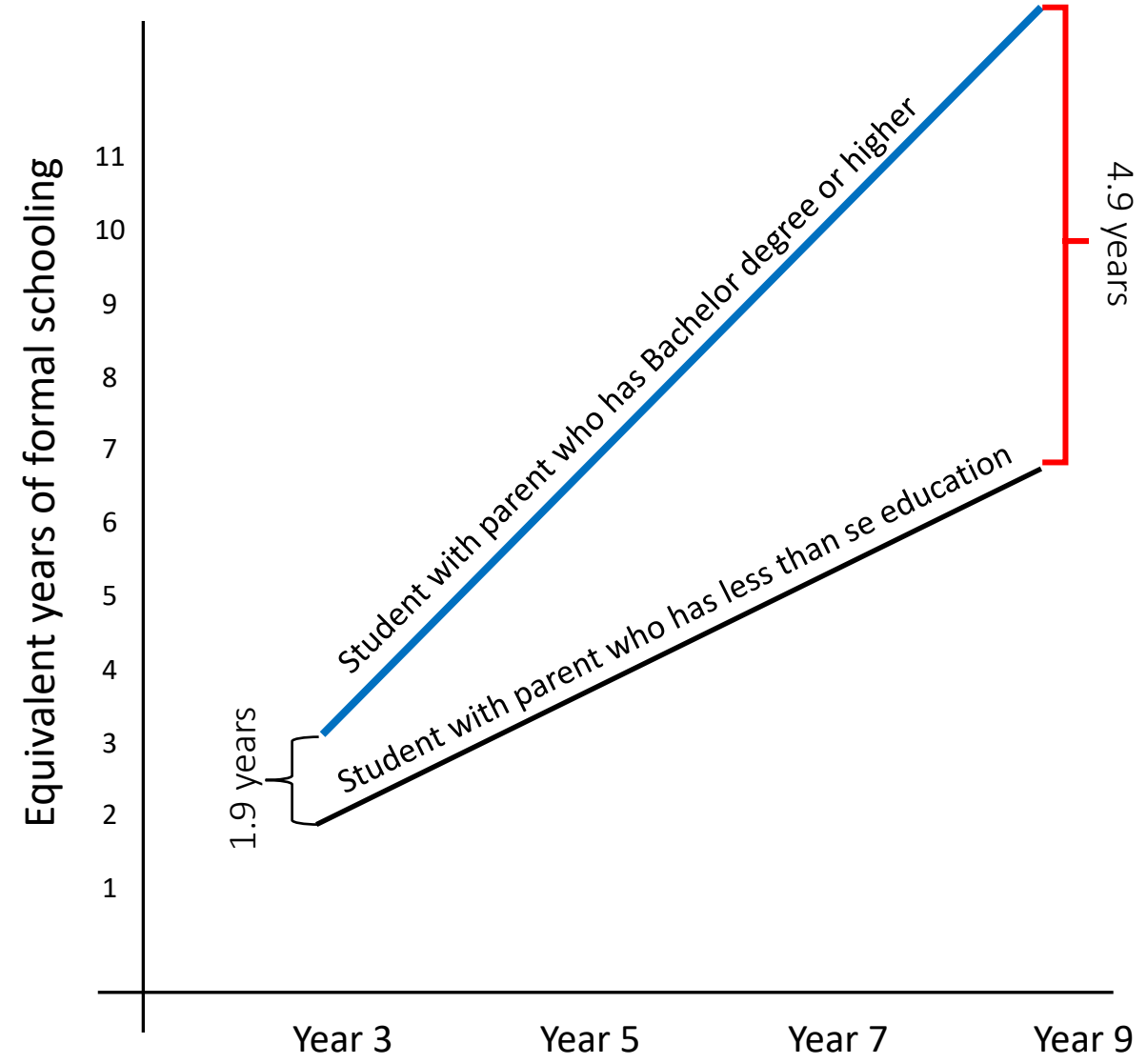
Student academic achievement in Australia in the 21st century



The state of school education here



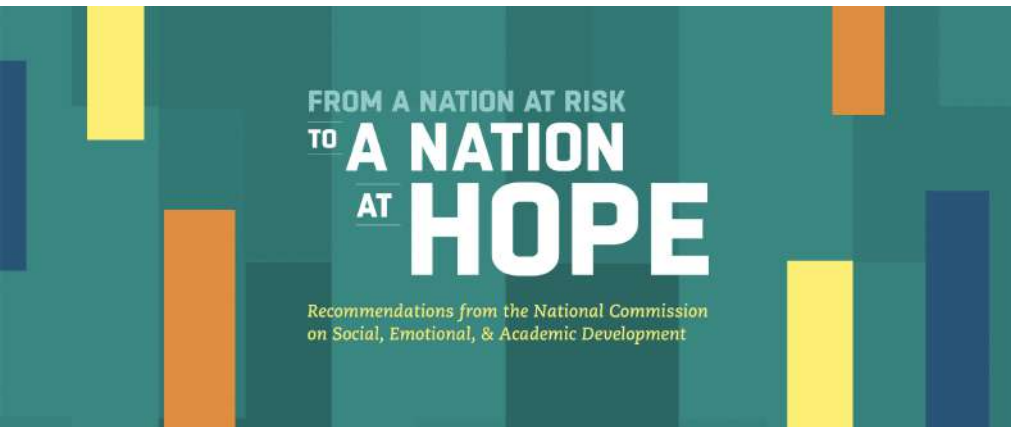
Year level achievement at school according to NAPLAN



Year level achievement at school according to NAPLAN

*“Australia has a good education system,
but it can be better and fairer.”*

- Education Minister Jason Clare on ABC Radio on 23rd Aug 2023



Create a shared vision that broadens the definition of student success towards **whole child** development.

Redesign educational settings and practices to build healthy **relationships** for support and safety of all children.

Teach students social, emotional, and cognitive skills for stronger **engagement** and agency in whole school practice.

Leverage child support services through **partnerships** in the community to better address the whole child.

Invest in building **trust** and social capital in schools and in the community – schools change at the speed of trust.

Which way ahead?

LEAD THE CHANGE

1

RELATIONSHIPS

A. PARENTS AS PARTNERS

Department of Social Services:
“Research in Australia and overseas has shown that greater parental involvement in children’s learning and educational activities leads to better outcomes not only for the child, but for their families and communities as well.”

B. TEACHER LOOPING

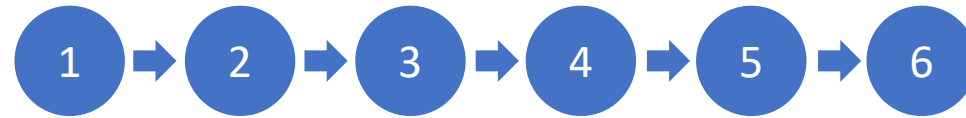
Looping is an old worldwide practice in which whole class is taught by the same teacher in two or more sequential years in school. Research shows that looping is linked to

- (1) healthier relationships,
- (2) improved student performance,
- (3) better teacher job satisfaction.

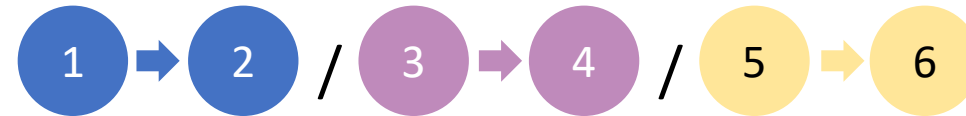
LEAD THE CHANGE

1 RELATIONSHIPS

One 6-year loop:

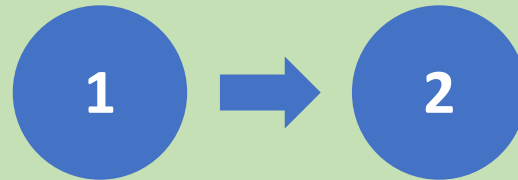


Three 2-year loops:

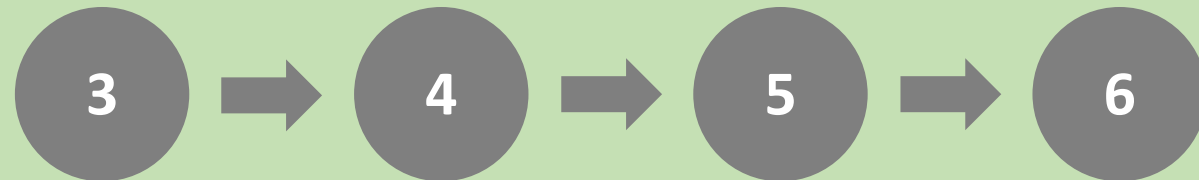


The Finnish Model

One 2-year loop:



One 4-year loop:



LEAD THE CHANGE

2

WHOLE CHILD

A. HEALTH AS A SKILL

MCRI (2023):

“Health and well-being are essential competencies for children to learn well and be well. Children with skills and competencies in wellbeing and health have been shown to have greater overall mental health and wellbeing even for children struggling with mental health and wellbeing.”

B. FREE SCHOOL LUNCH

Brookings Institute (2021):

“Schoolwide free-meal programs fuel better classroom outcomes for students.”

Universal free school lunches in:
India, Brazil, Sweden, Estonia,
Finland, Scotland, California,
Colorado, Maine, Vermont,...,
WA (?)

LEAD THE CHANGE

2

WHOLE CHILD



The secret weapon behind
the Finnish education system

LEAD THE CHANGE

3

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

A. MORE CHILDREN'S INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY

GRAY et al. (2023):

“A primary cause of the rise in mental disorders is a decline over decades in opportunities for children and teens to play, roam, and engage in other activities independent of direct oversight and control by adults.”

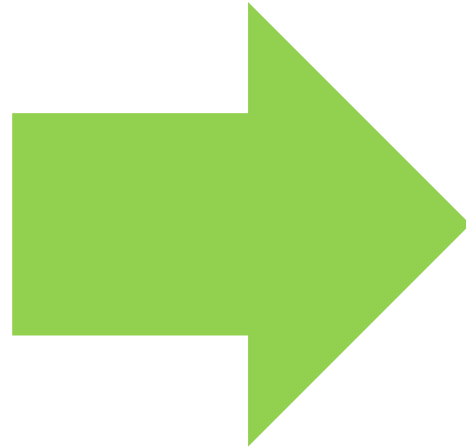
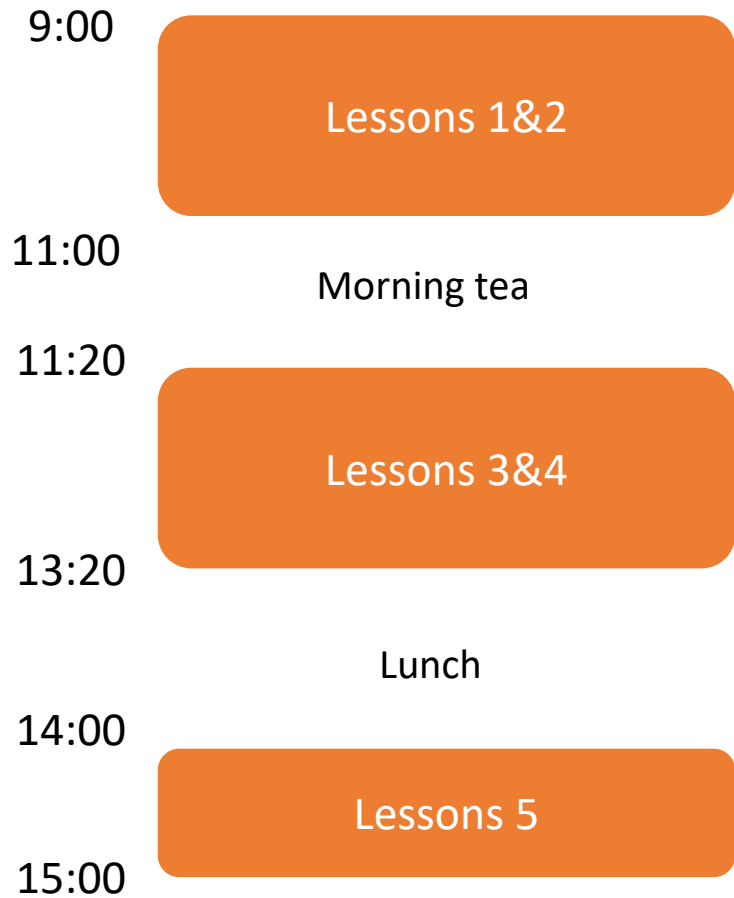
B. RESCHEDULE SCHOOLDAY

Child development studies suggest that the period of time for which a child typically can maintain focus and attention on a given task in primary school ranges from about 10 mins to 30 mins. After that, most children need a break to recharge.

LEAD THE CHANGE

3

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



LEAD THE CHANGE

4

THE POWER OF MUSIC

A. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH PLYING MUSIC

GUHN et al. (2020):

“Those who took several years of instrumental music class had higher scores in math and science in grade 10 and higher English scores in Grade 12 exams and were one year ahead of their peers.”

B. WELLBEING THROUGH MUSIC EDUCATION

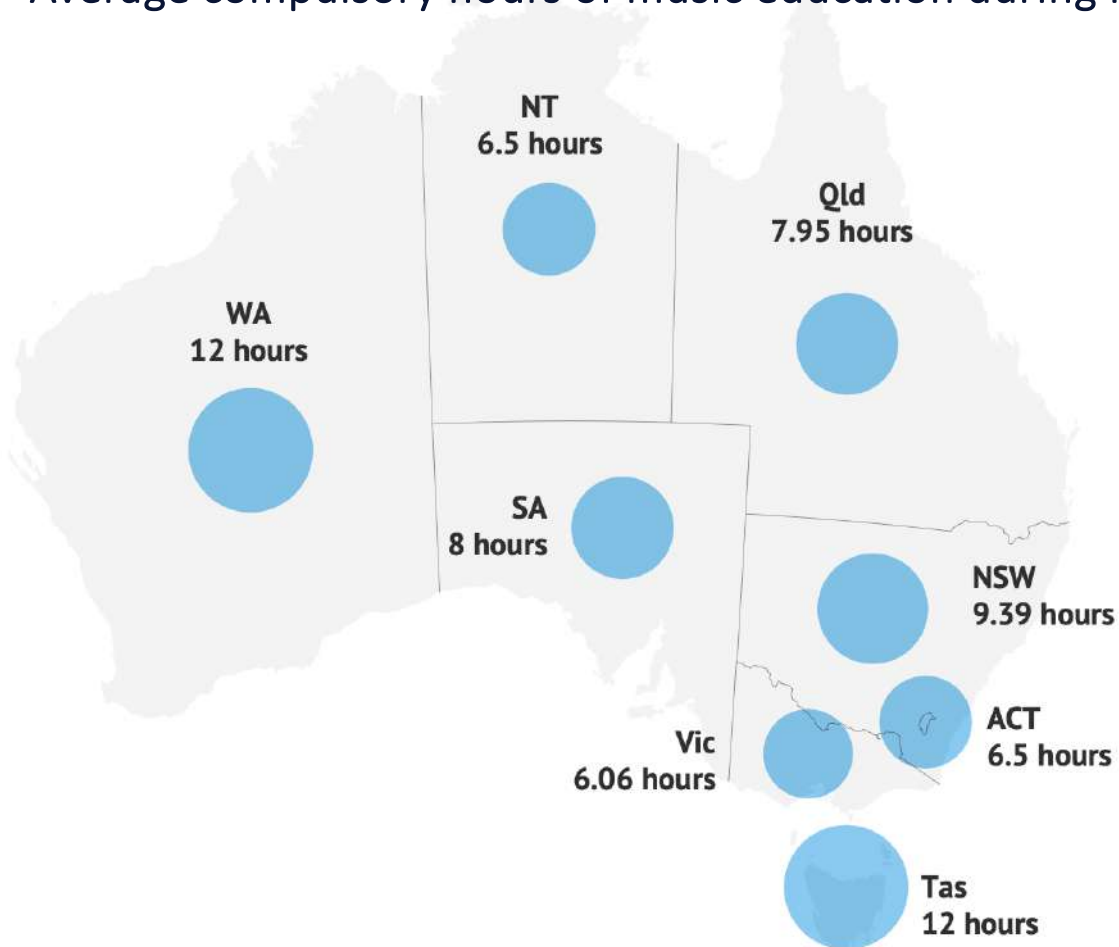
SCIENCE DAILY (2023):

Research on the impact of music education shows that for adolescents, the benefits appear to extend beyond a surge in neural connections in their brains. It actually boosts their wellbeing, too.

LEAD THE CHANGE

4 THE POWER OF MUSIC

Average compulsory hours of music education during ITA



Vision:
“Every primary school a music school.”

If not now, when?

If not you, who?

Thank you!