



QUEENSTOWN

CONFERENCE
11-13 September 2023

AOTEAROA KI TE WHAI AO!

Aotearoa and Beyond!

Equity and Excellence in Education: *Two sides of the same coin*

Pasi Sahlberg

12/09/2023

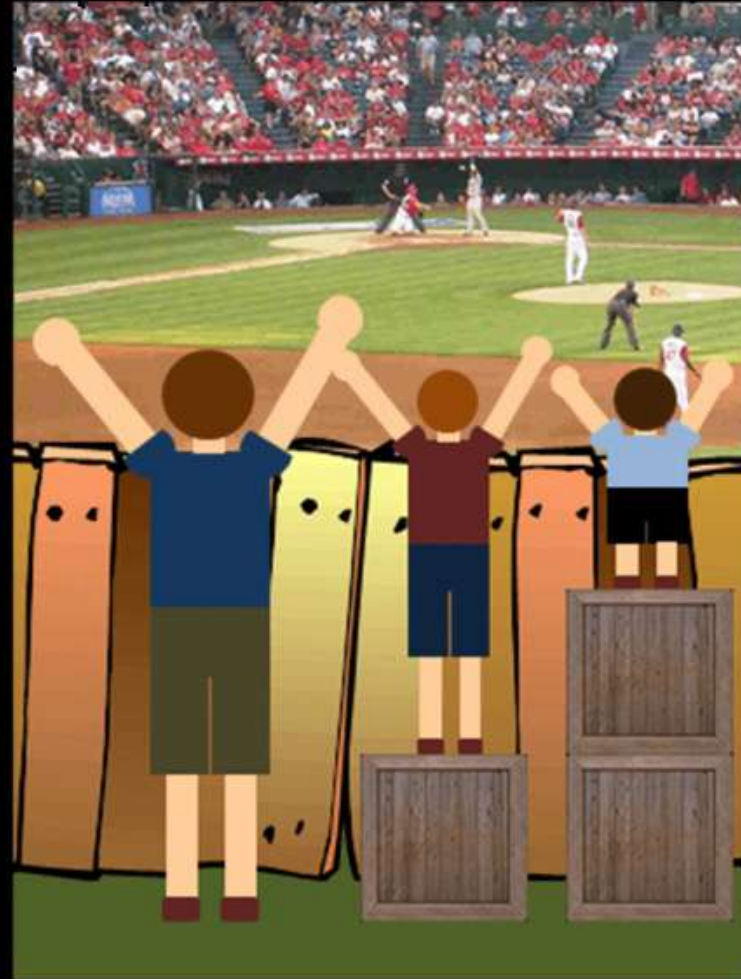
1. Equity & Excellence

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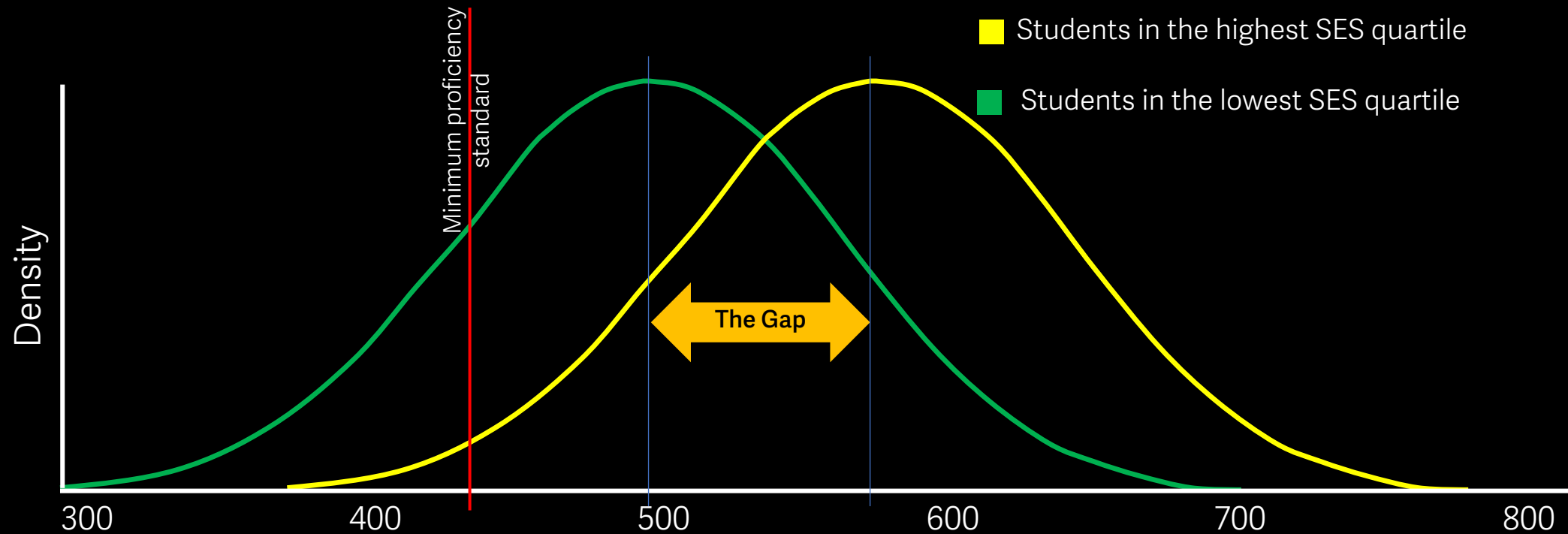
Equality



Equity

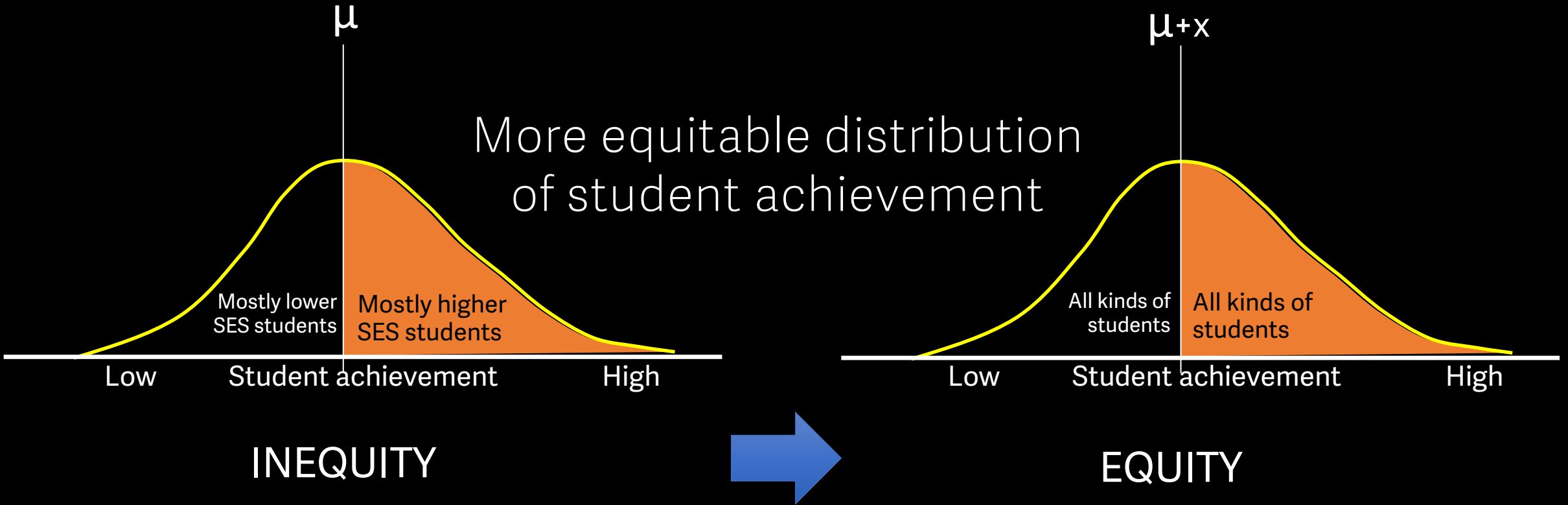


1. Equity & Excellence



More equitable distribution of student achievement

1. Equity & Excellence



1. Equity & Excellence

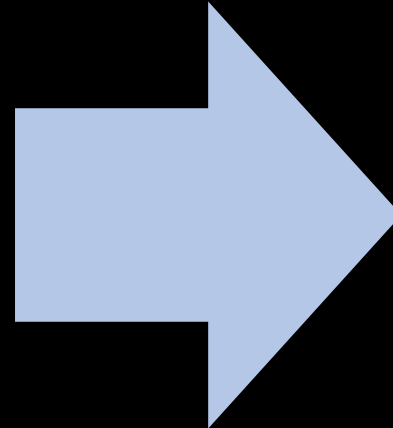
INDIVIDUAL GOAL:

All children receive an adequate level of education that enables them to fully participate in society in a way of their own choosing.

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SOCIAL GOAL:

Children from different social groups achieve similar average education outcomes and similar distribution of these outcomes.



Equity means that all students receive an adequate education, and that their learning outcomes and how they are distributed for different social groups are similar.

1. Equity & **Excellence**

Excellence in education is a multi-faceted concept that seeks to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to succeed academically, personally, and professionally, while also contributing positively to society.

- Chat GPT, Sept 2023

2. Lead the Change

TWO GOOD EQUITY BOOSTERS

1. SCHOOL LUNCH FOR HEALTH & LEARNING

Brookings Institute (2021):
“Schoolwide free-meal programs fuel better classroom outcomes for students.”

Universal free school lunches served in:
India, Brazil, Sweden, Estonia, Finland, Scotland, California, Colorado, Maine, Vermont,..., and soon in NZ!



The secret weapon behind
the Finnish education system

TWO GOOD EQUITY BOOSTERS

2. MUSIC IN EVERY PRIMARY SCHOOL


PRINCIPLES:

Music is integrated in whole school

$\frac{3}{4}$ of teachers are confident about using music as part of teaching and learning

Music is purposefully built in the curriculum with common learning goals

Music has the same status as other arts and academic subjects



Dream:
“Every primary school a music school.”

THOUGHTS?

BETTER RELATIONSHIPS

Research on the role of student-teacher relationships in schools has highlighted numerous findings that underscore their importance.

- A** Emotional and social development
- B** Motivation, engagement and academic achievement
- C** Reduced at-risk behaviours

BETTER RELATIONSHIPS



“Looping” is an old practice (since 1913) in which whole class is taught by the same teacher in two or more sequential years in school.

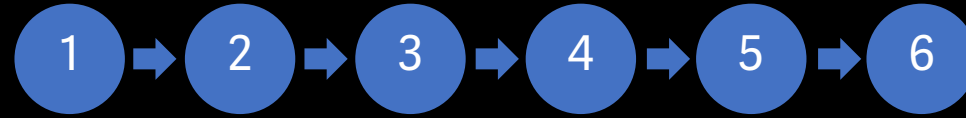
It is currently practiced, for example, in

- Finland
- Germany
- Japan
- The United States

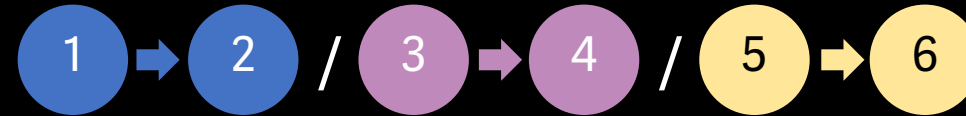
and in Montessori and Waldorf schools around the world.

BETTER RELATIONSHIPS

One 6-year loop:

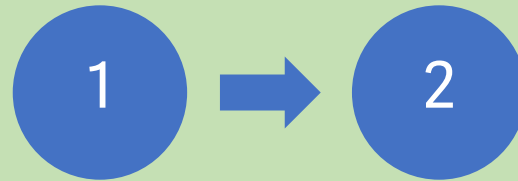


Three 2-year loops:

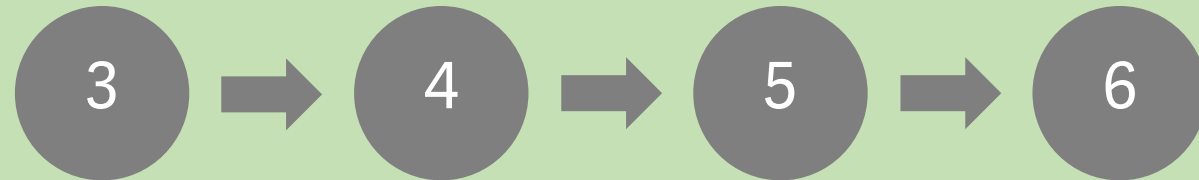


The Finnish Model

One 2-year loop:



One 4-year loop:



BETTER RELATIONSHIPS

The Attleboro (MA) long-term 'Looping' experiment showed the power of enhanced relationships in primary and junior high schools, such as:

- *Student attendance increased from 92% to 97%;*
- *Retention rates decreased by more than 43%;*
- *Suspensions declined significantly; and*
- *Staff attendance improved markedly.*

STRONGER ENGAGEMENT

Attention span is shorter than we think

Studies round the world suggest that the duration for which a child can actively pay attention to a given task in school ranges from about 10 to 25 mins in primary school to about 30 to 45 mins in high school.

After that, most students' engagement in learning declines.

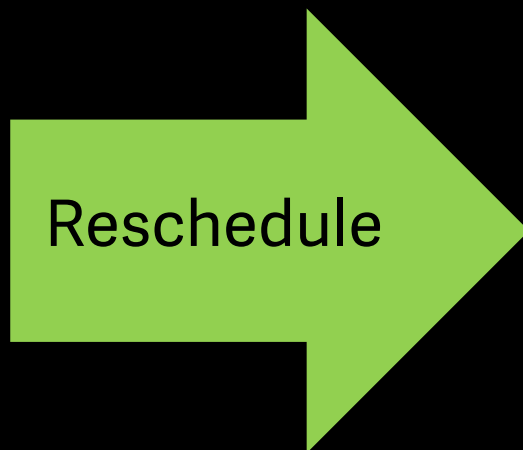
Declining Children's Independent Mobility

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." – Gray et al. (2023)



Restructure school day for more active engagement

STRONGER ENGAGEMENT



THOUGHTS?

A QUIZ

YES

NO

- | | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Indian government serves 120 million school lunches daily through its <i>Midday Meal Scheme</i> . | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | Looping is a Finnish innovation to enhance equity of public education. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Typical teenager today has a shorter attention span than a goldfish. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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