



MacKillop
Family
Services

The MacKillop
Institute



MacKillop
Seasons

Lead the Way Conference 2025

11–12 August | Melbourne | Rydges

Strengthening Wellbeing and Safety
through Collaboration



Lead the way toward the future we need

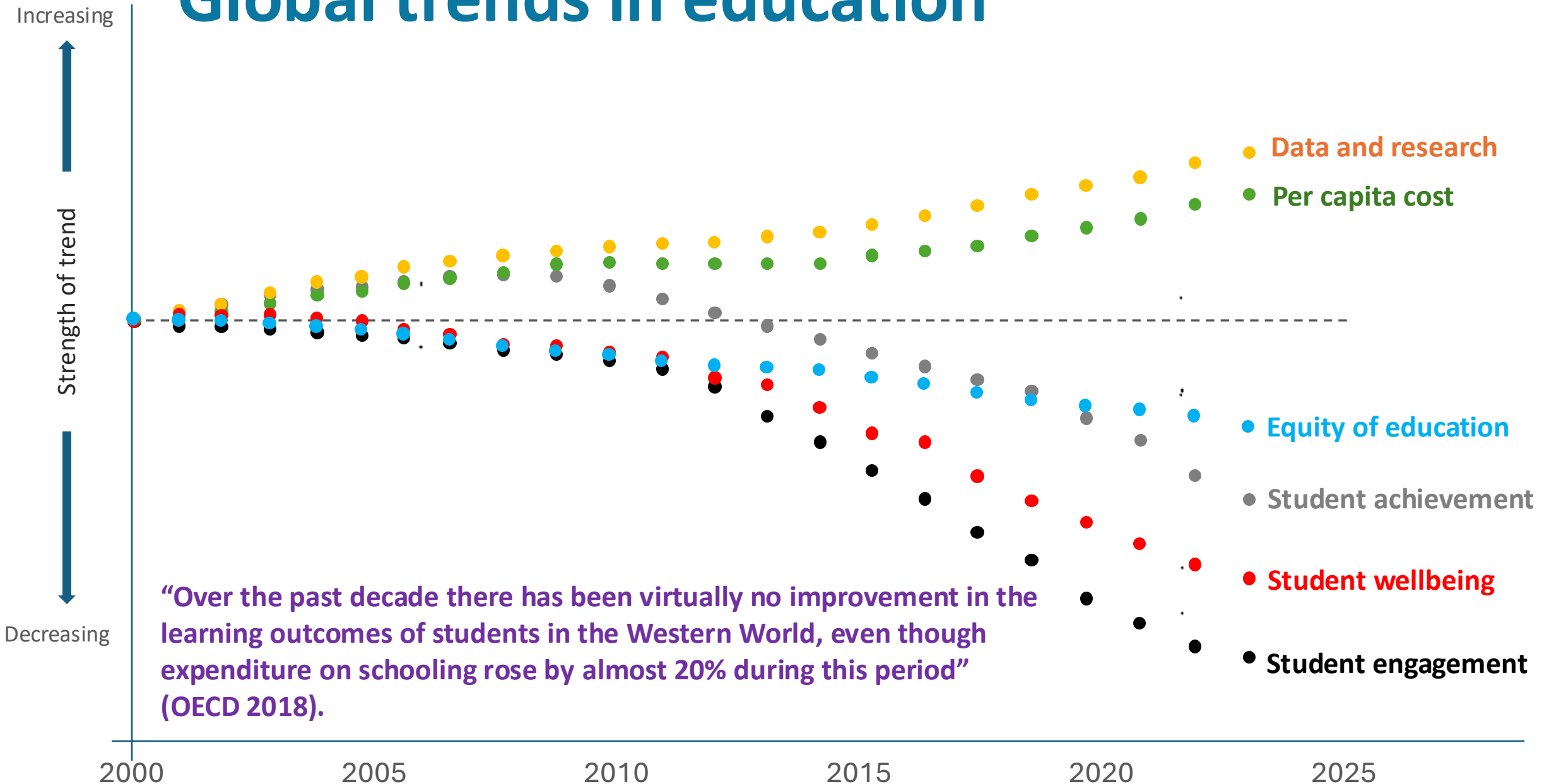
Pasi Sahlberg
11 August 2025



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Global trends in education

Global trends in education





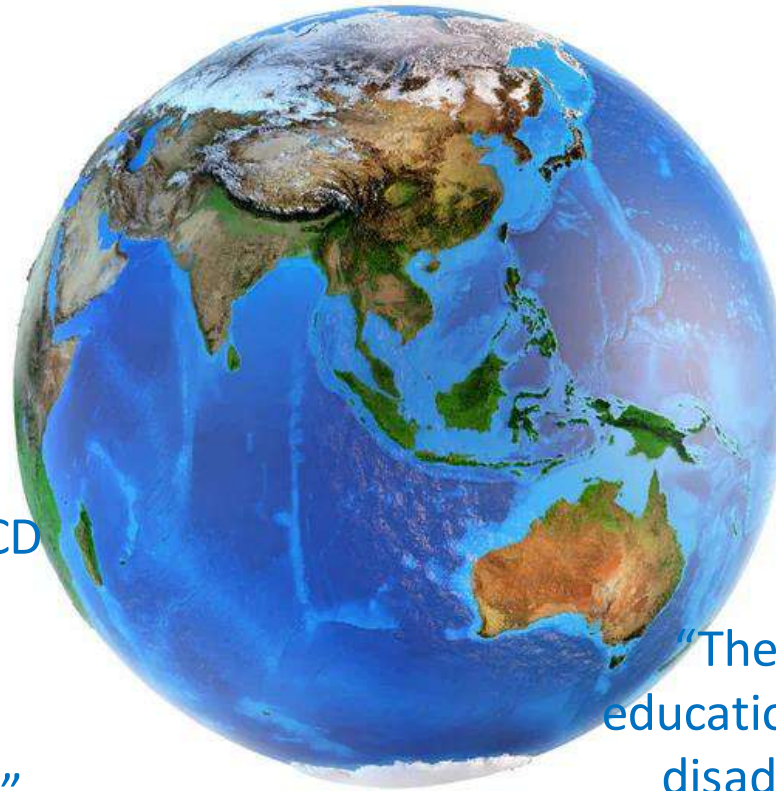
“260 million children, adolescents and youth are **not at school** – just half of them achieve the basic level of proficiency required.”

– Global Education Monitoring Report 2020



“**The achievement gaps** across the OECD countries between the most socio-economically advantaged and disadvantaged 15-year-old students is equivalent to over 3 years of schooling.”

– PISA 2018



THE WORLD BANK

“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.”

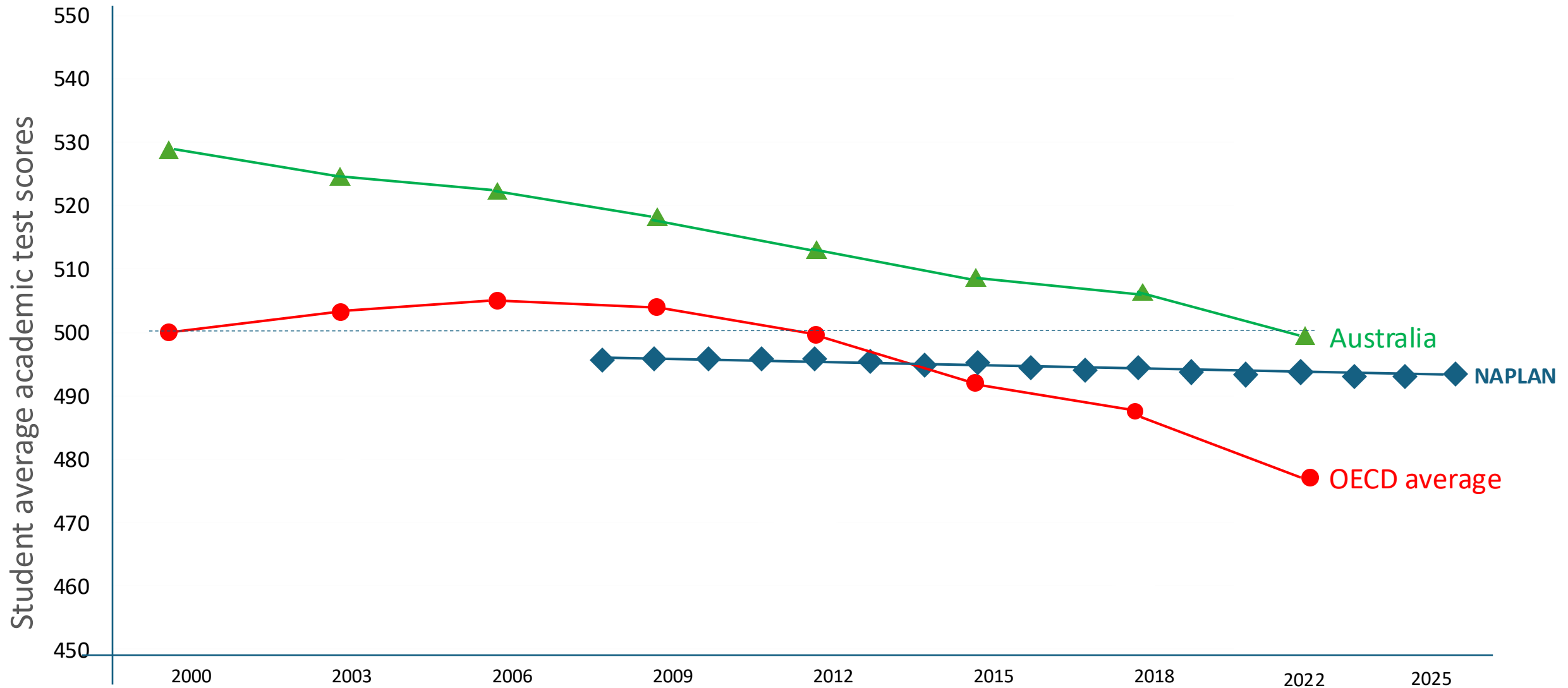
– Human Development Report 2018



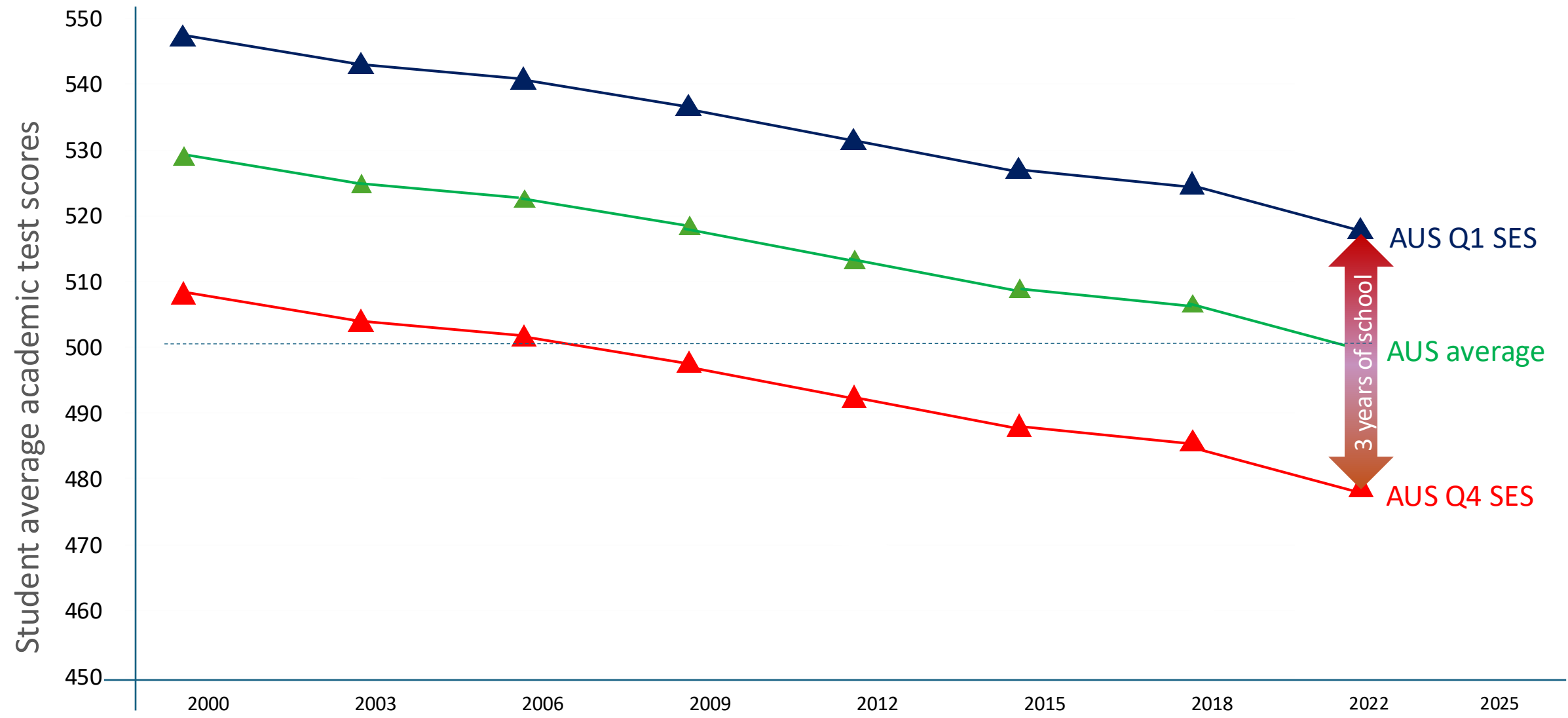
“Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results.”

Australian schools

Student achievement in Australia

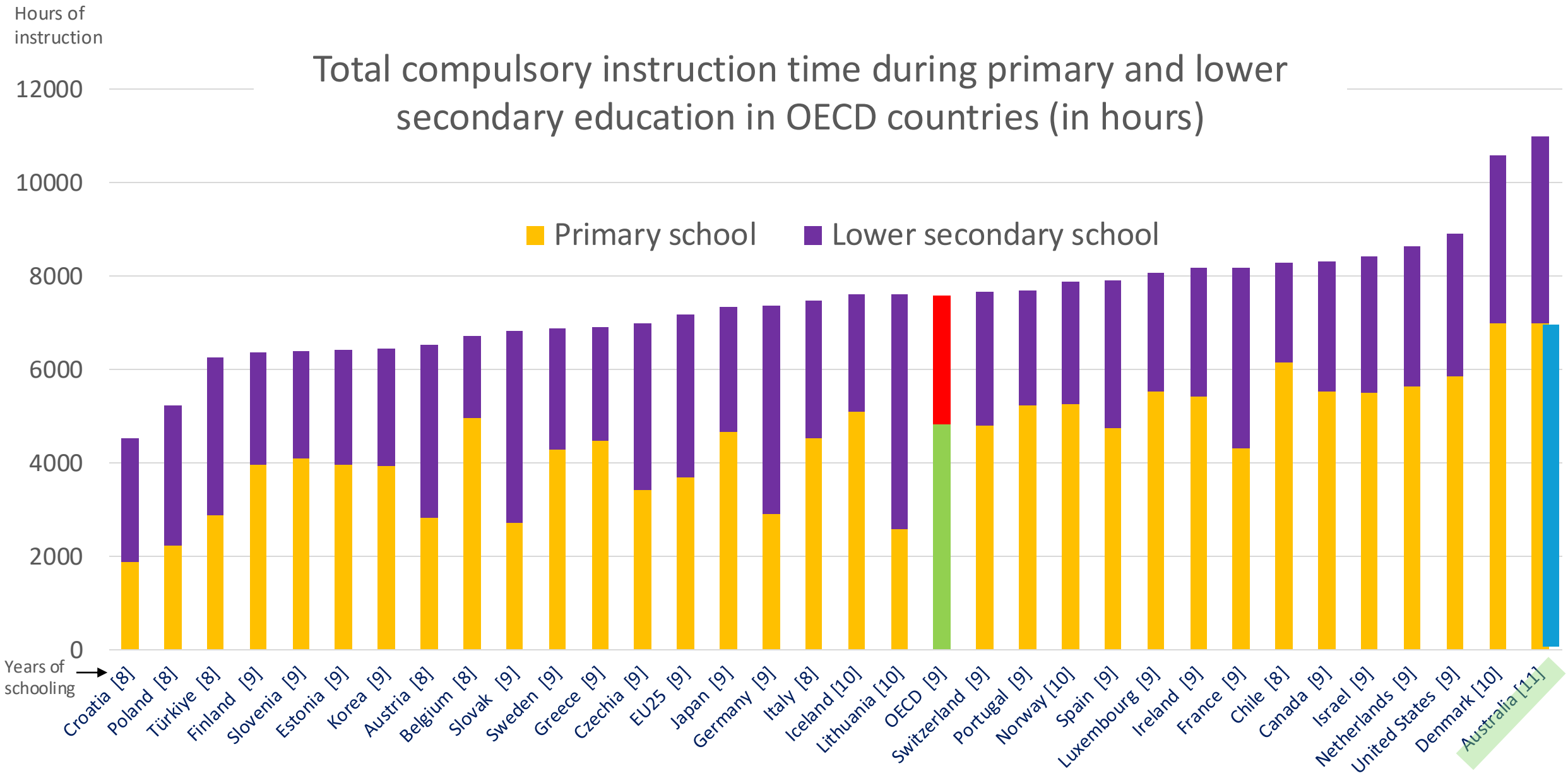


Student achievement in Australia

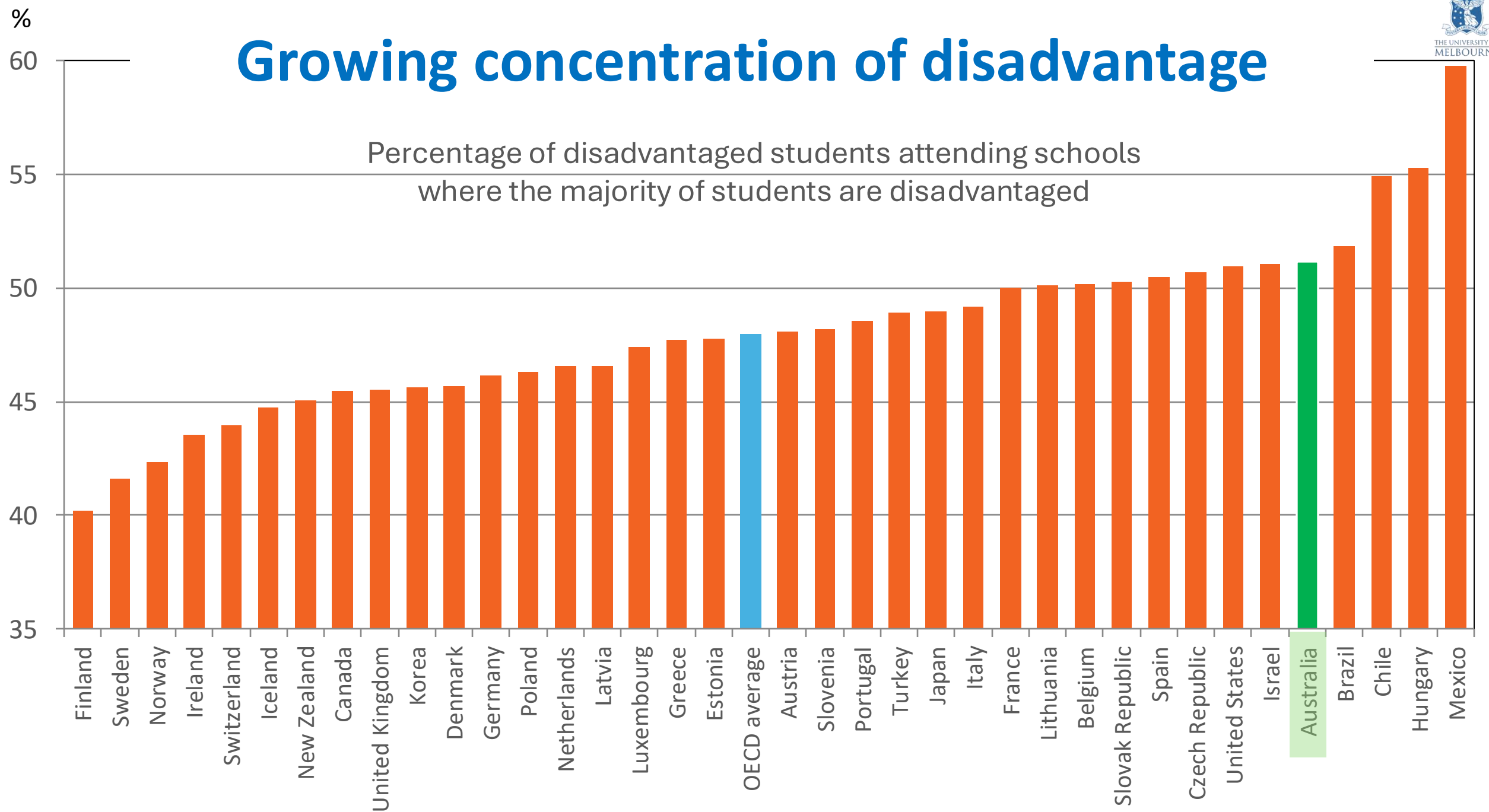


Excessive instruction time

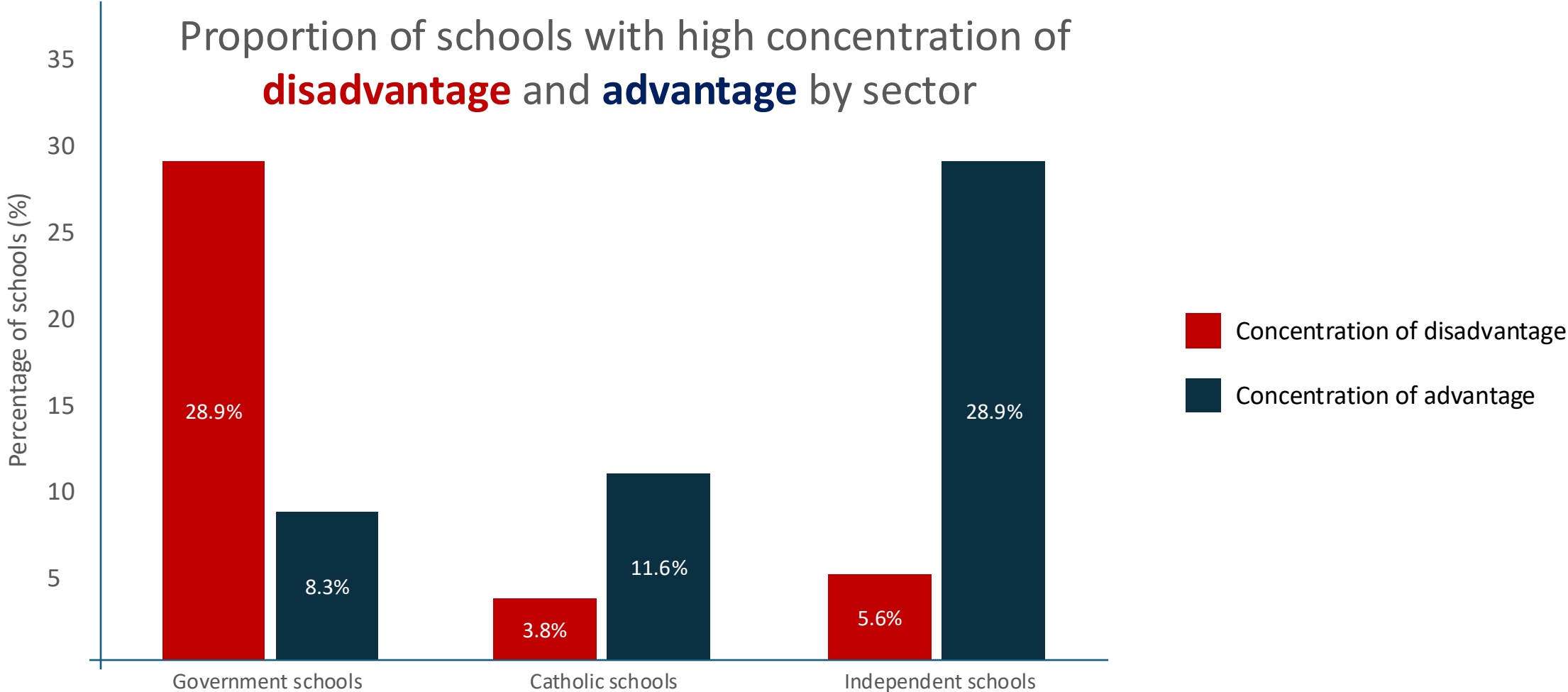
Total compulsory instruction time during primary and lower secondary education in OECD countries (in hours)



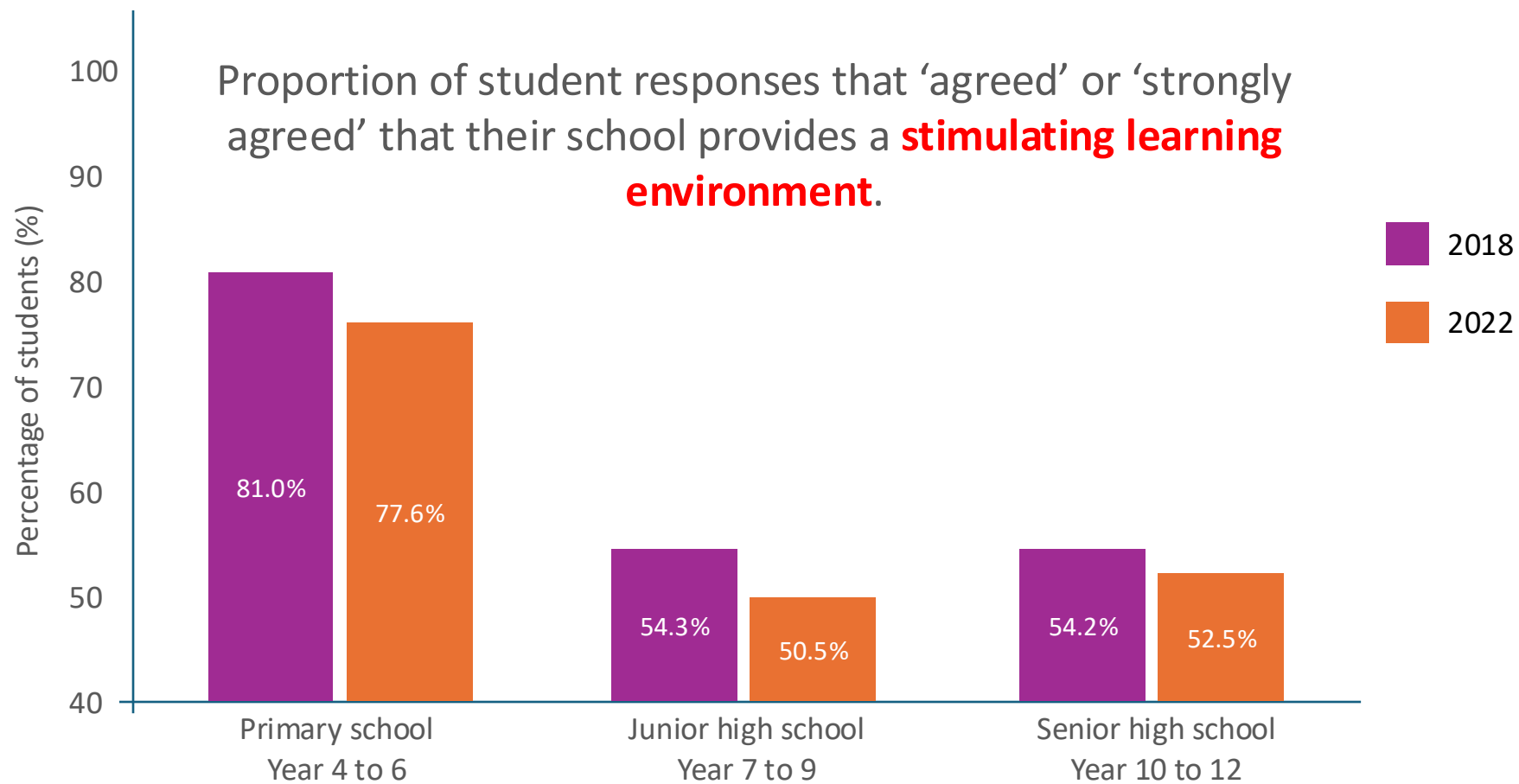
Growing concentration of disadvantage



Growing concentration of disadvantage

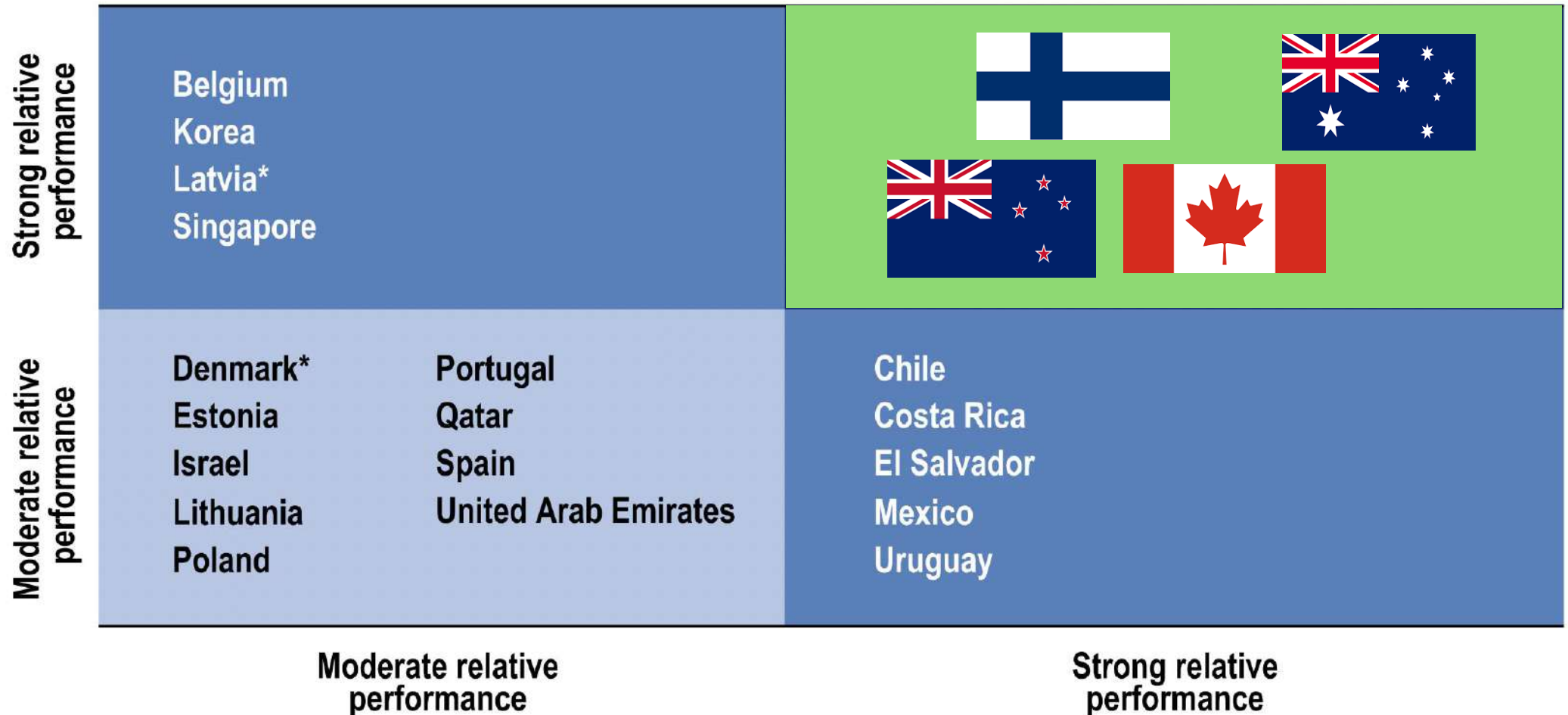


Declining curiosity



Creative thinkers in 2022

Relative strength in creative thinking
given **READING** performance



Relative strength in creative thinking given **MATHEMATICS** performance

Lead the way

The Three Megatrends Shaping Education



Climate Change & Environmental Pressures

Preparing students
for a planet in crisis



Technological Transformation & Digitalisation

Teaching in the
age of AI



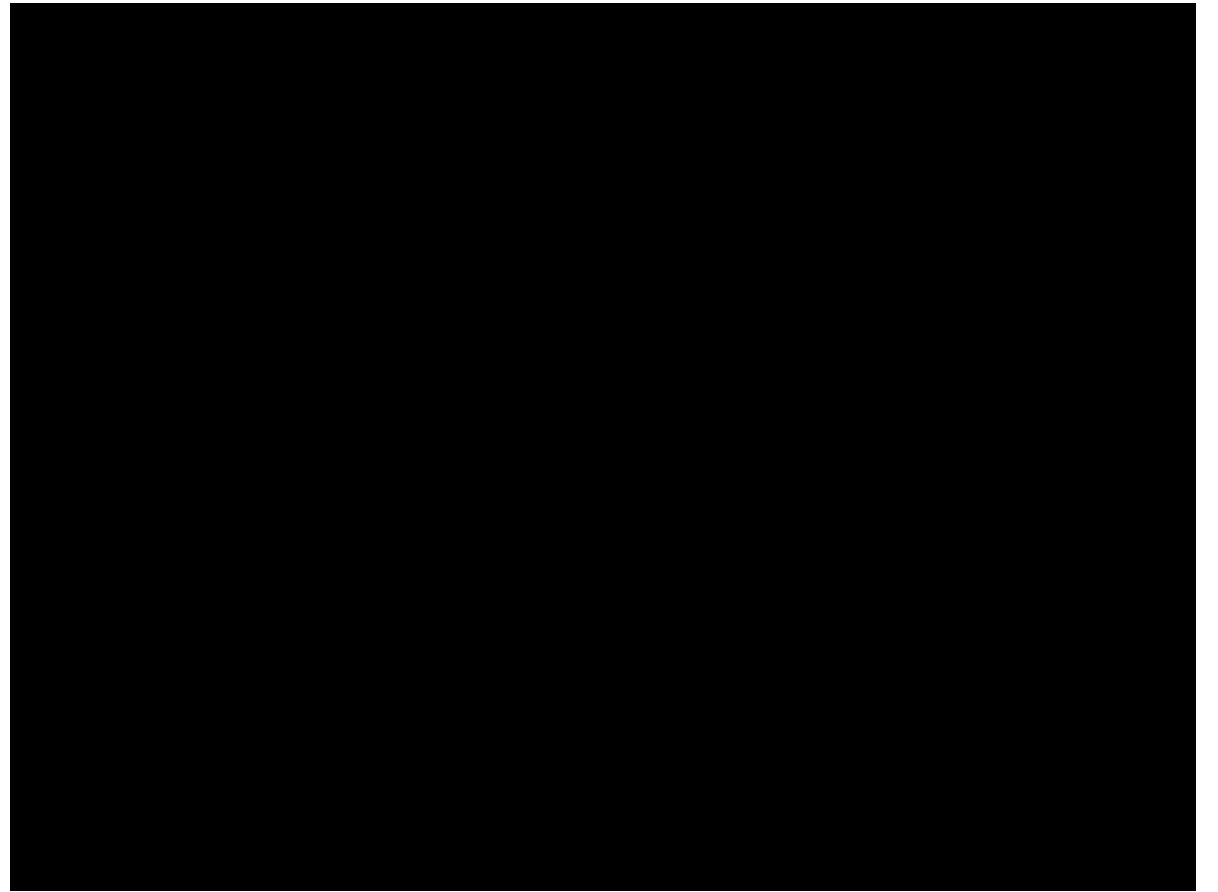
Demographic Shifts & Social Change

Learning in a more
diverse, ageing, and
urban world

**“We can’t keep doing
the same thing and
expect different
results.”**



What next?



**Do you want to lead or to
follow?**



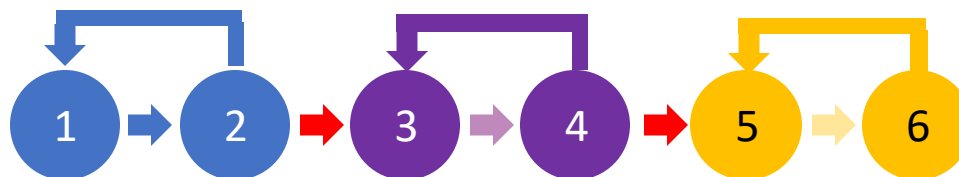
Cultivate positive relationships.



Teacher looping

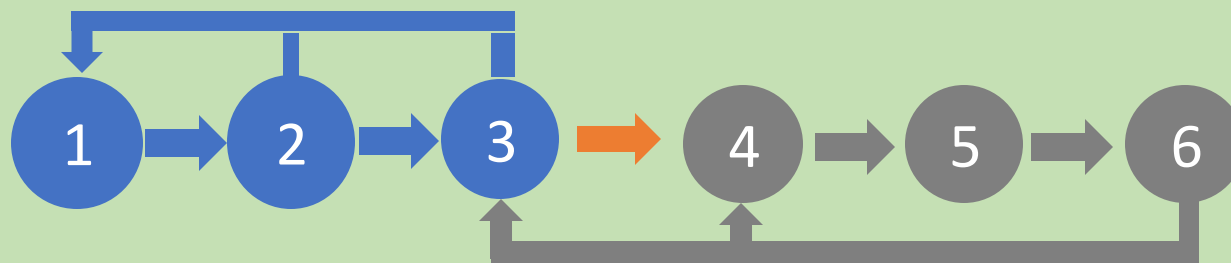
Primary school

Three 2-year loops:



The Finnish Model

Two 3-year loops:

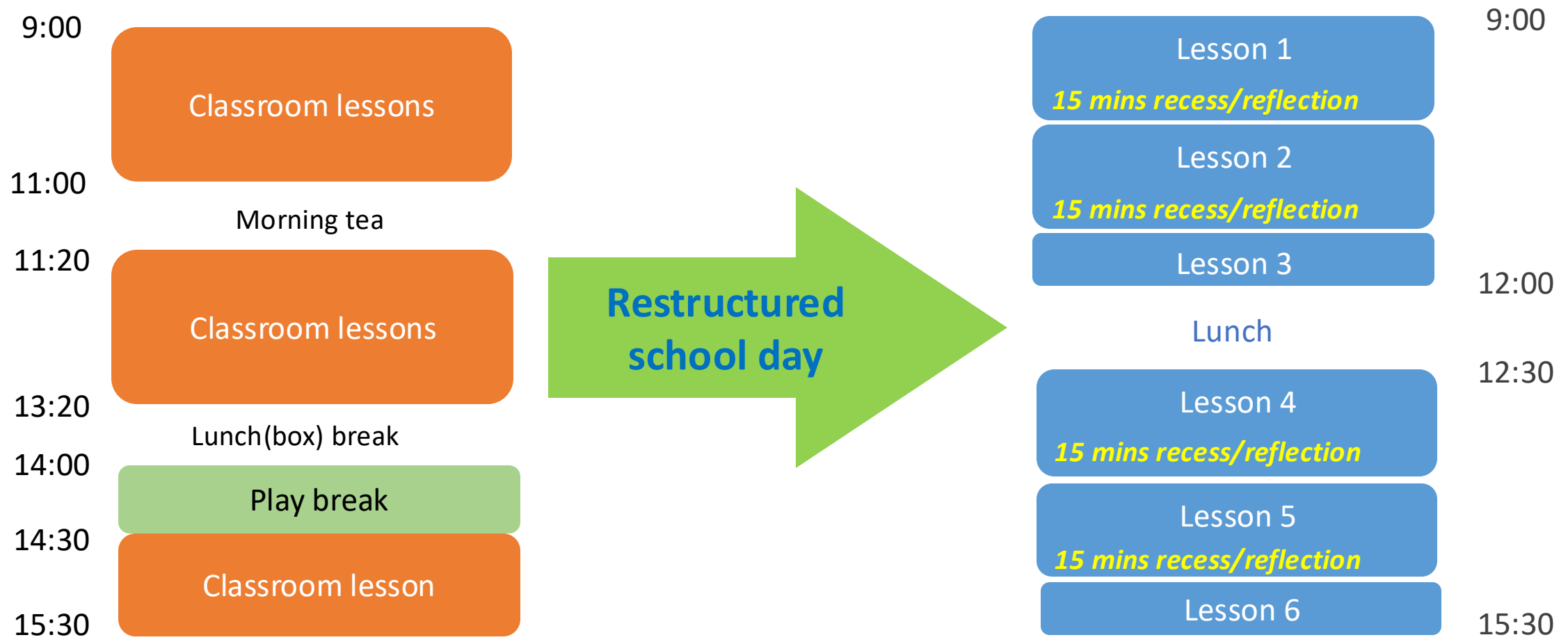




Learning through wellbeing.



Time to play





Build cultures of curiosity.



Curious schools...

Wonder “What if...”

Teach kids to identify
and solve real
problems



Use data as
a mirror

Build student
agency



Thank you!

