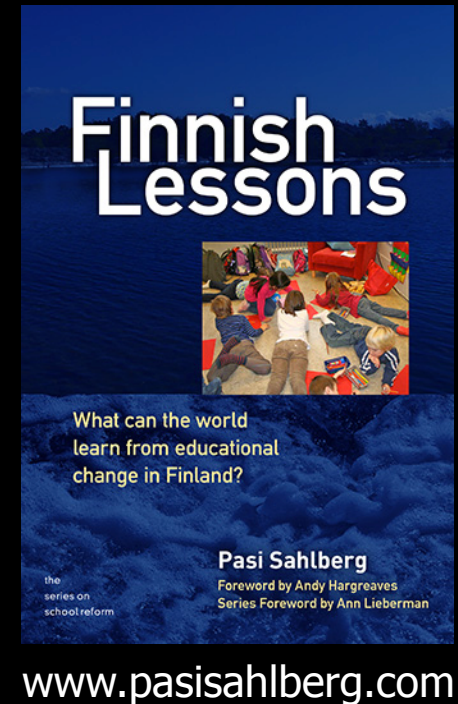


# UnFinnished Business: Education Policy Lessons from Finland

Pasi Sahlberg, PhD  
Director General  
CIMO (Ministry of Education)  
Helsinki

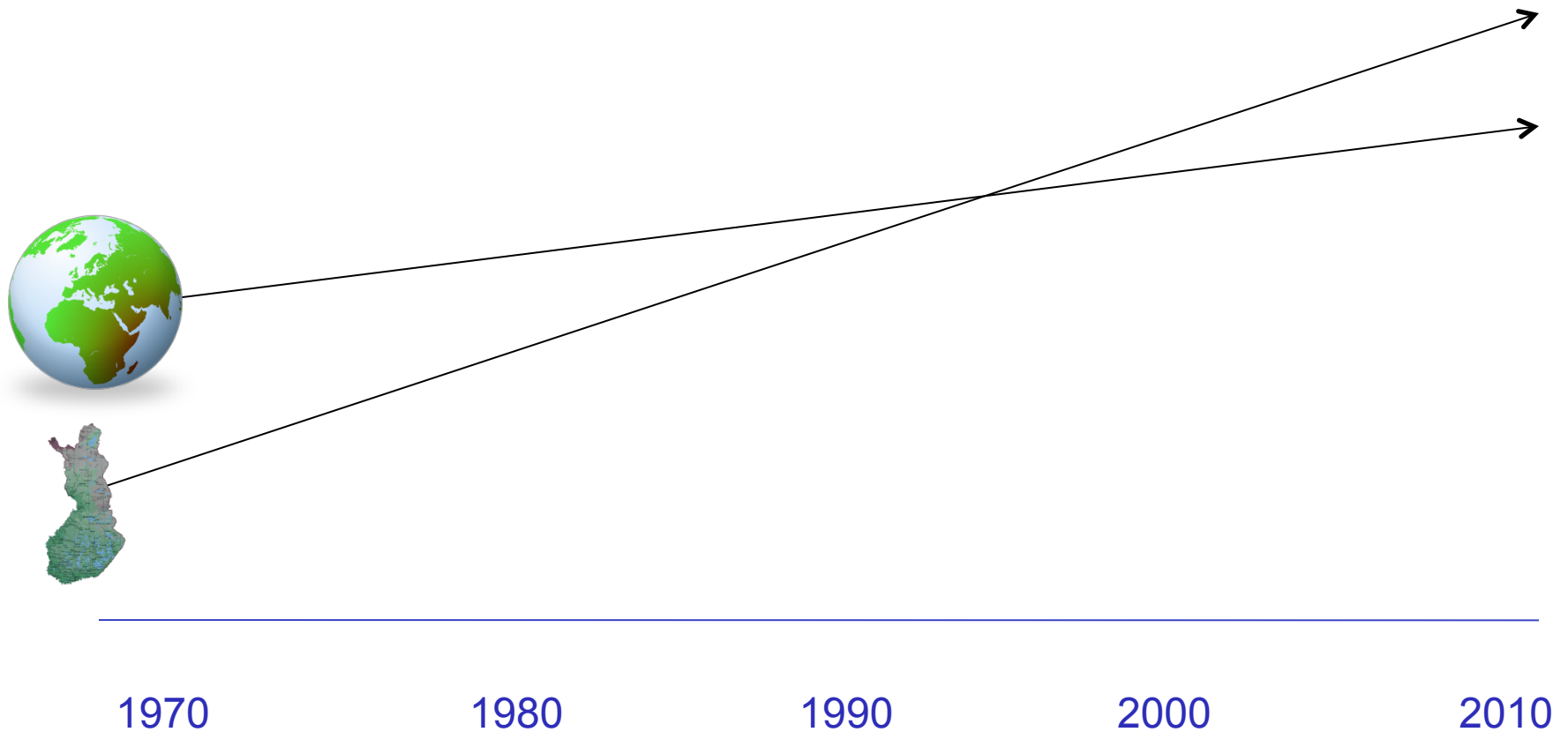


# FINLAND



# Education system performance over time in Finland and developed nations

Learning, Participation, Equity, and Efficiency

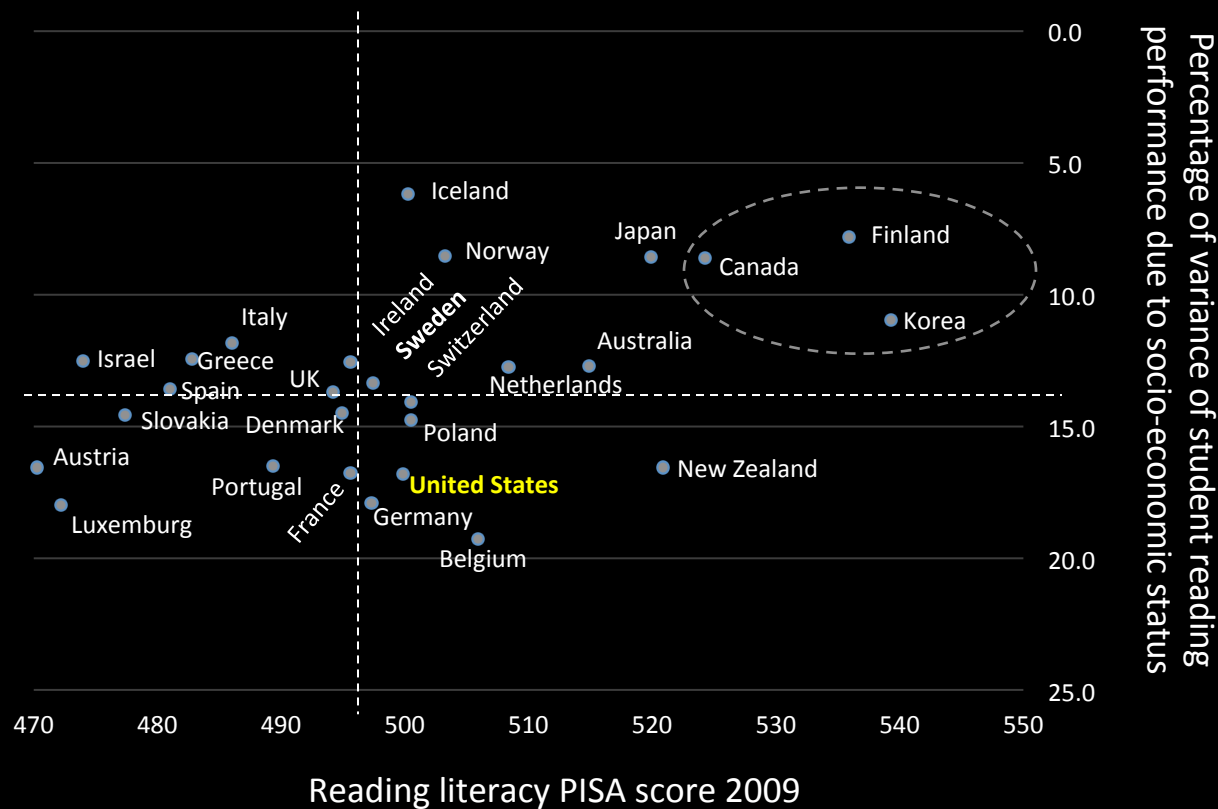


# Policy Paradoxes

Paradox #1:

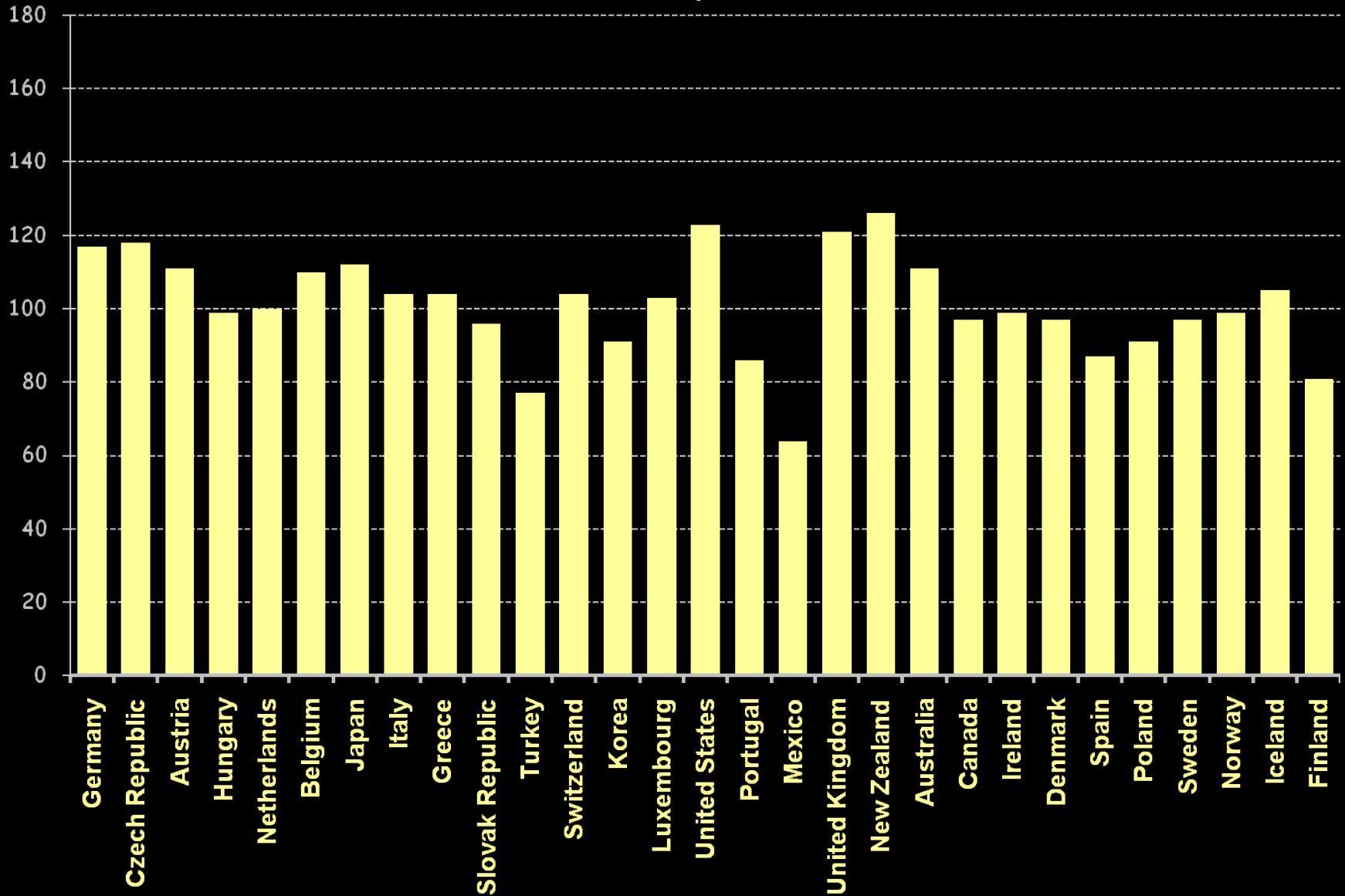
**Excellence through Equity**

# Percentage of variance of student reading performance due to socio-economic status



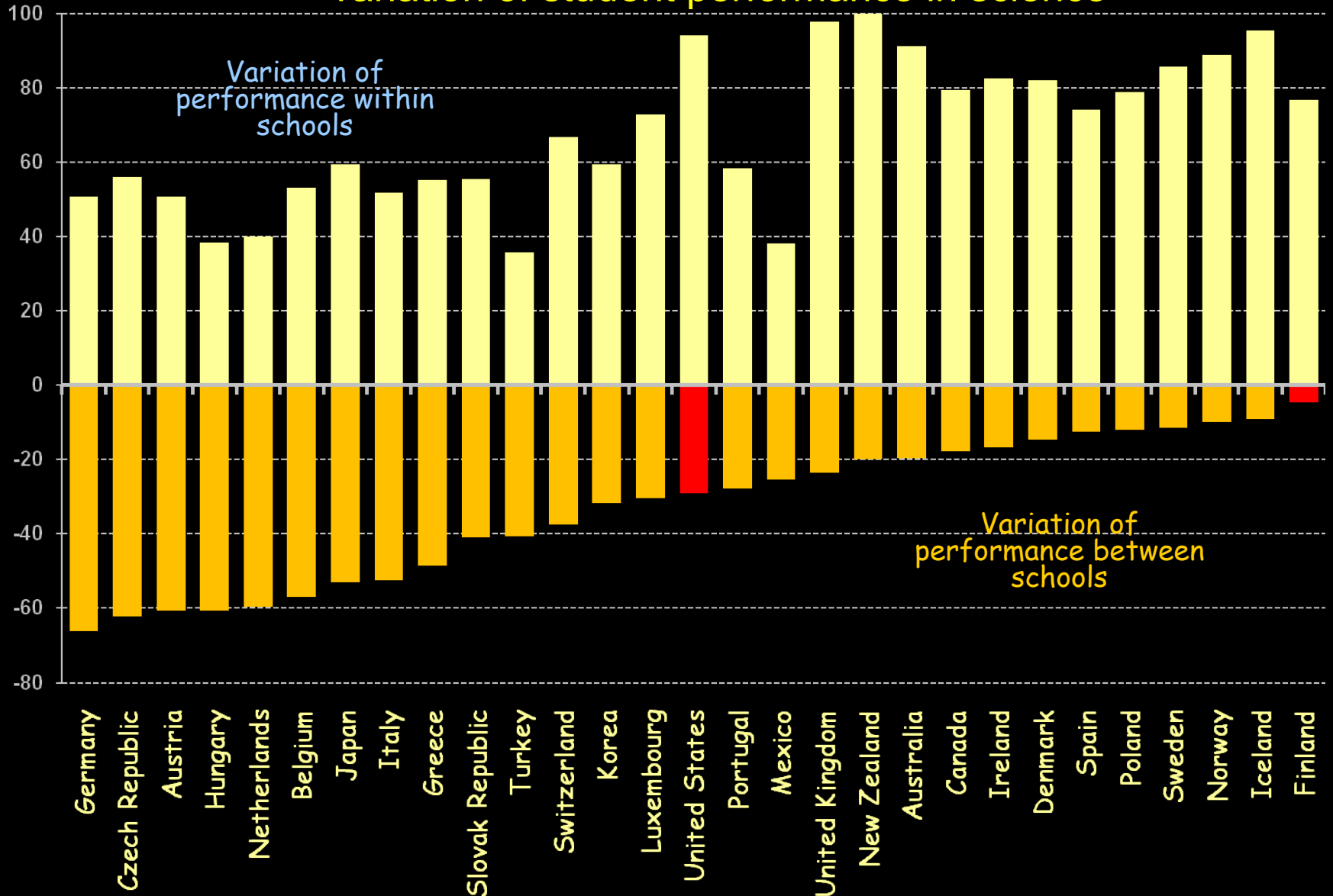
# Equity in education

## variation of student performance in science



# Equity in education

## variation of student performance in science

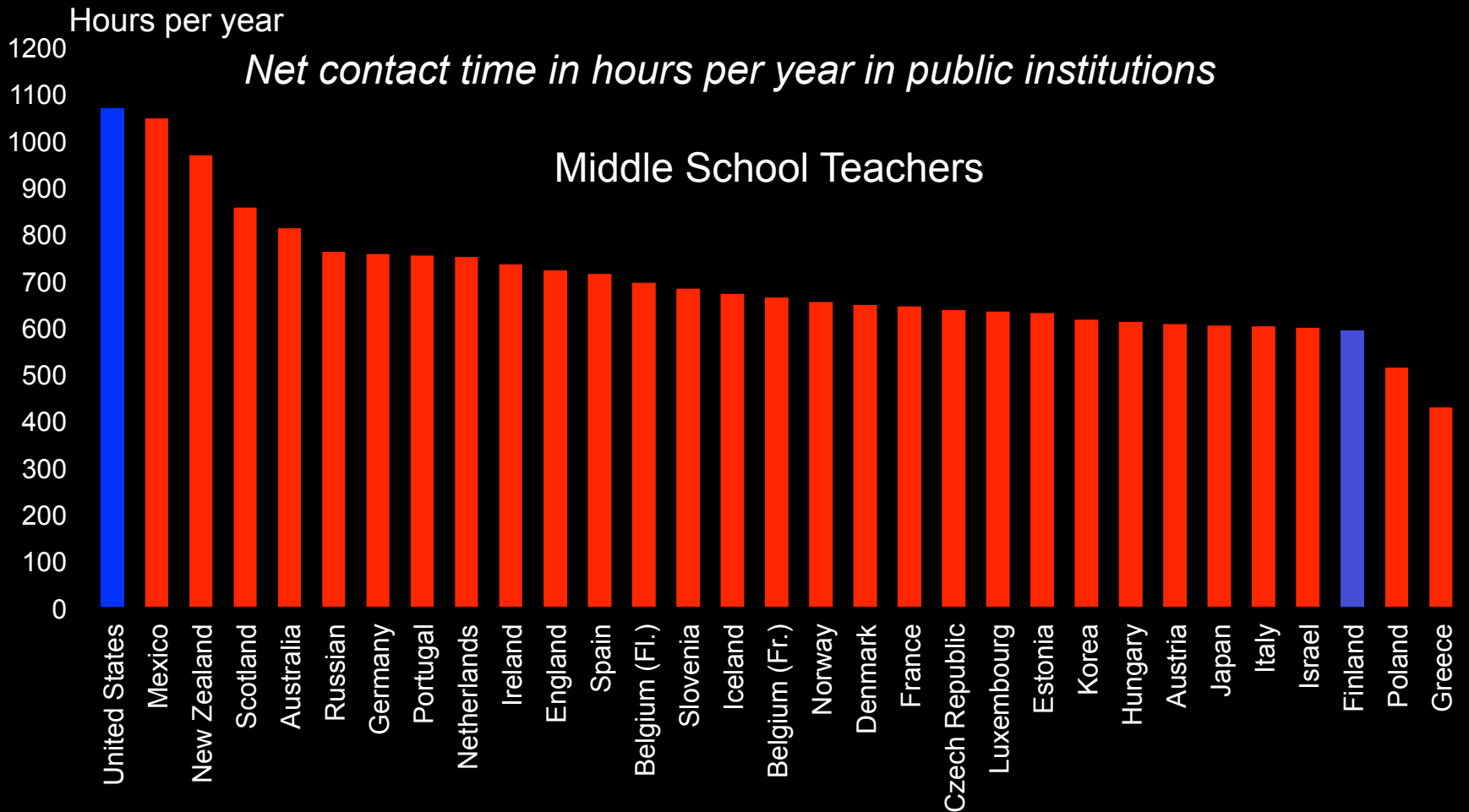




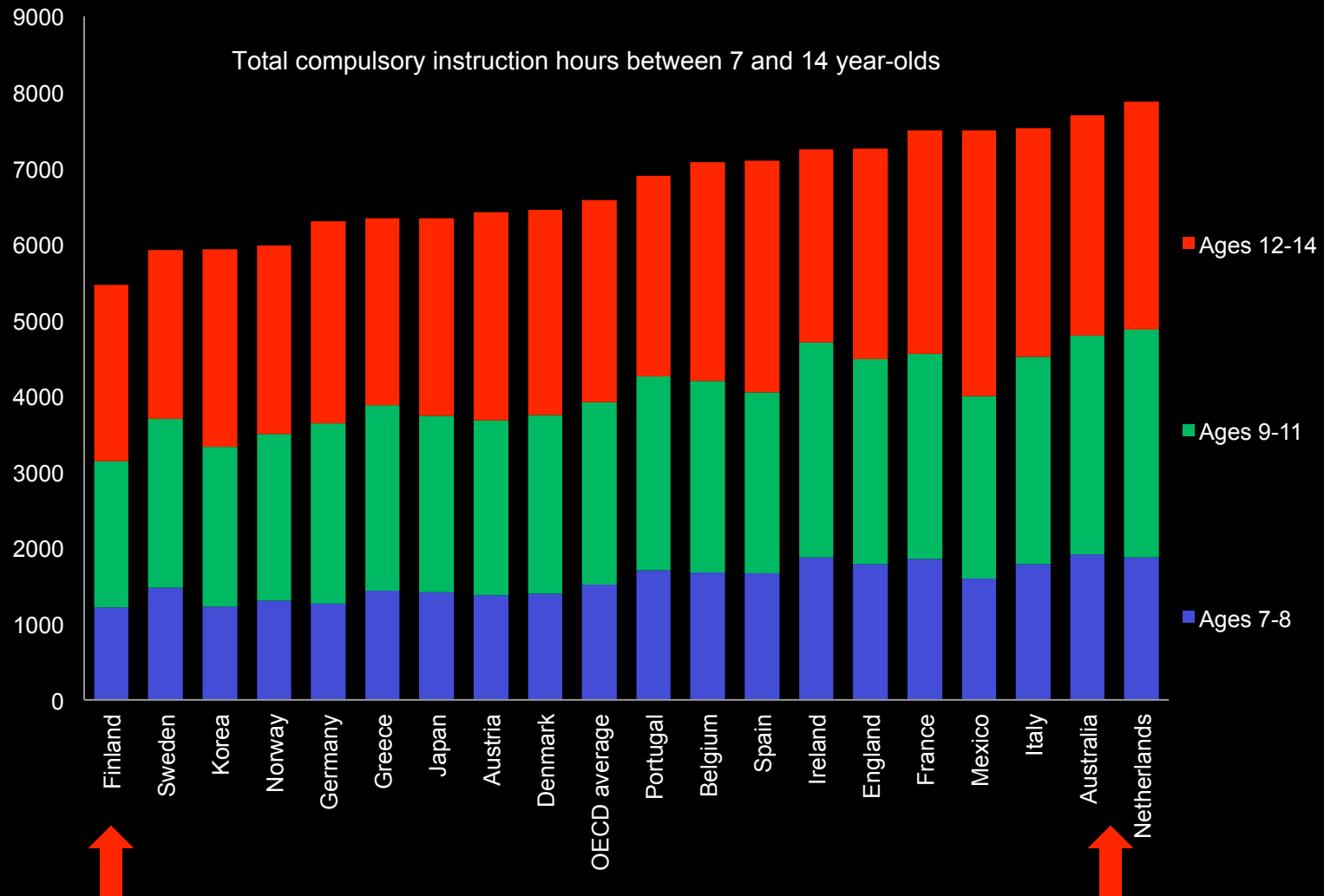
Paradox #2:

**Less is More**

# Finnish teachers teach less...

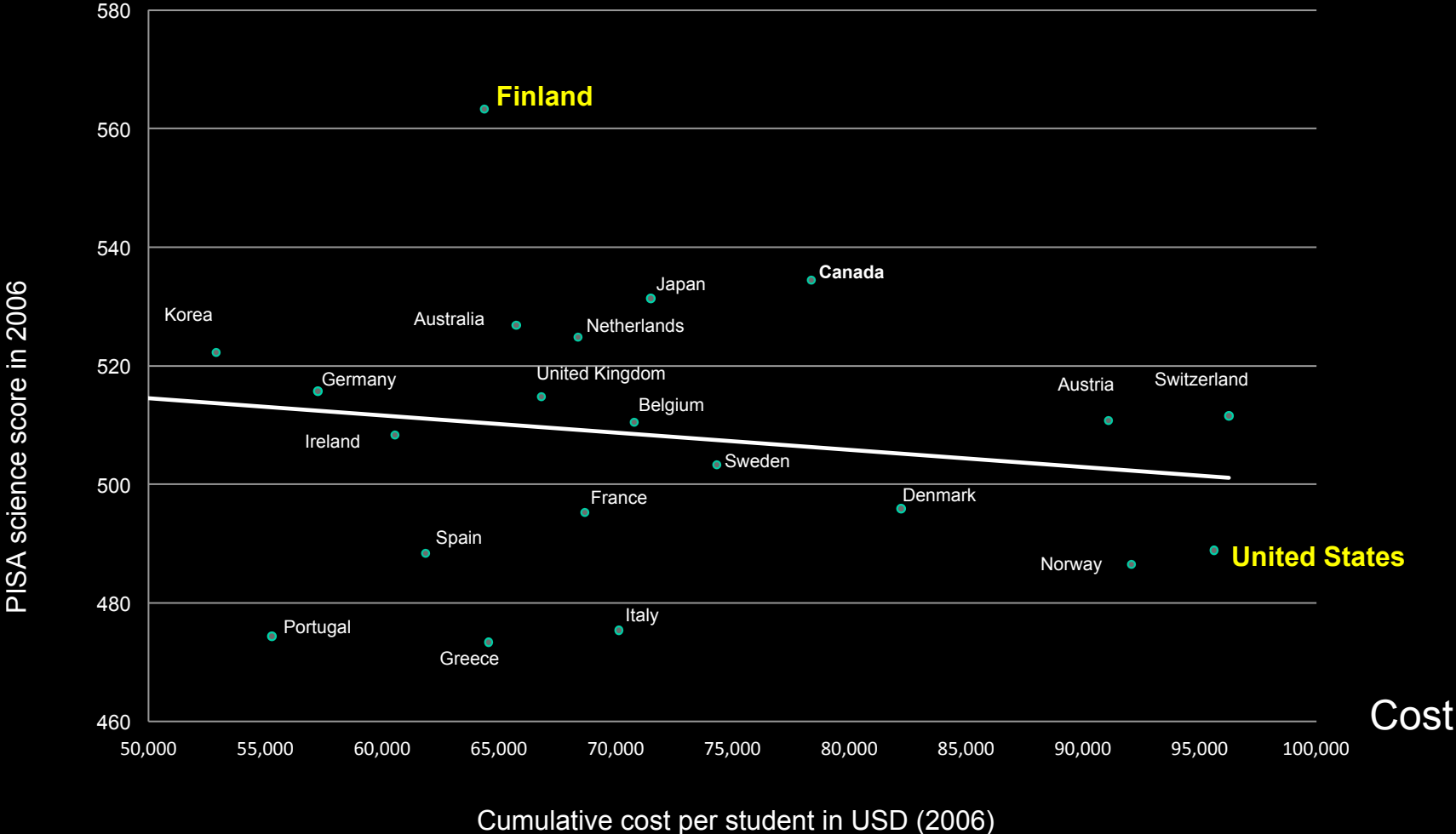


# Finnish pupils study less ... ... in and out of school



# More money, less learning

## Learning

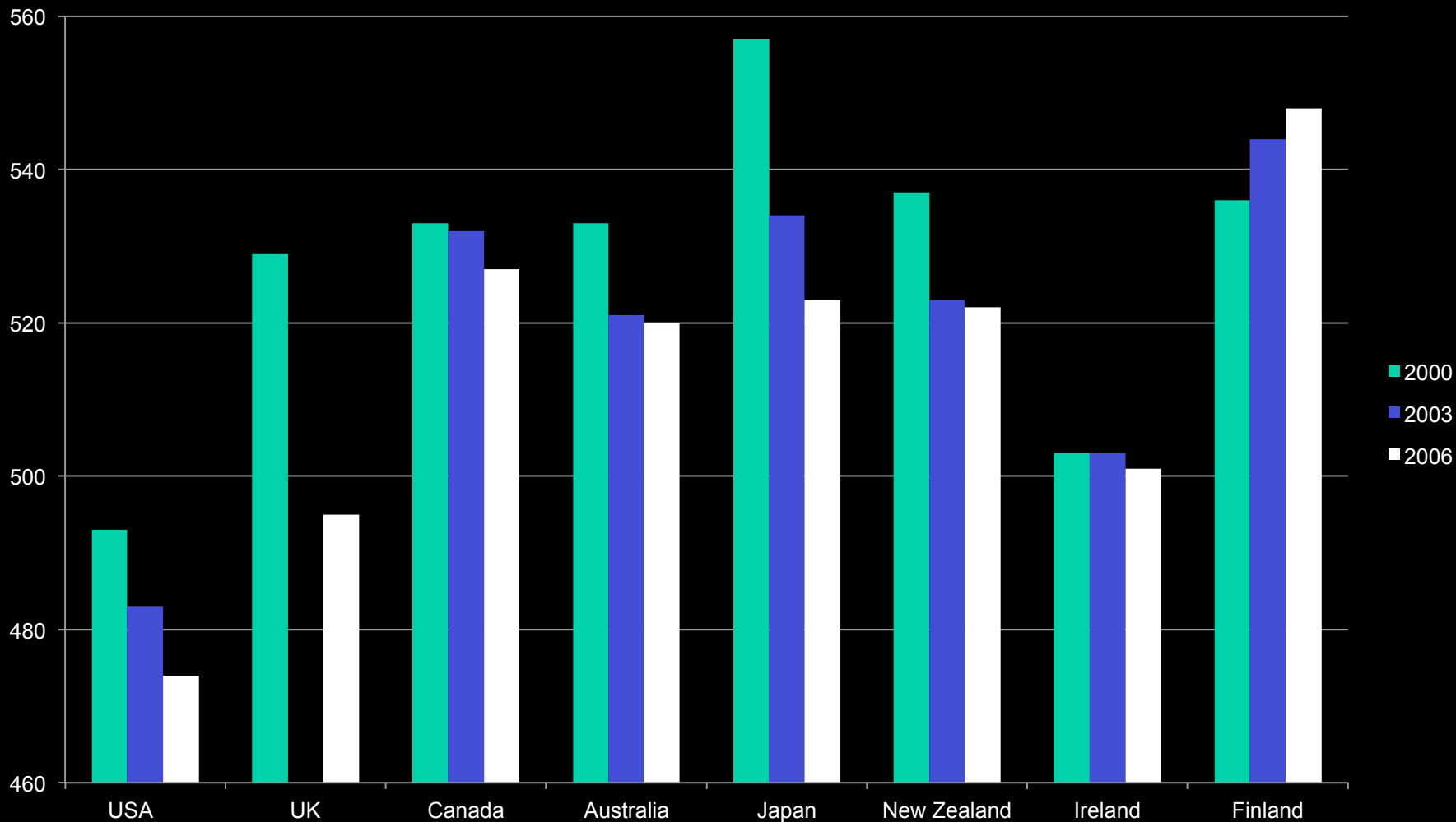


# Paradox #3:

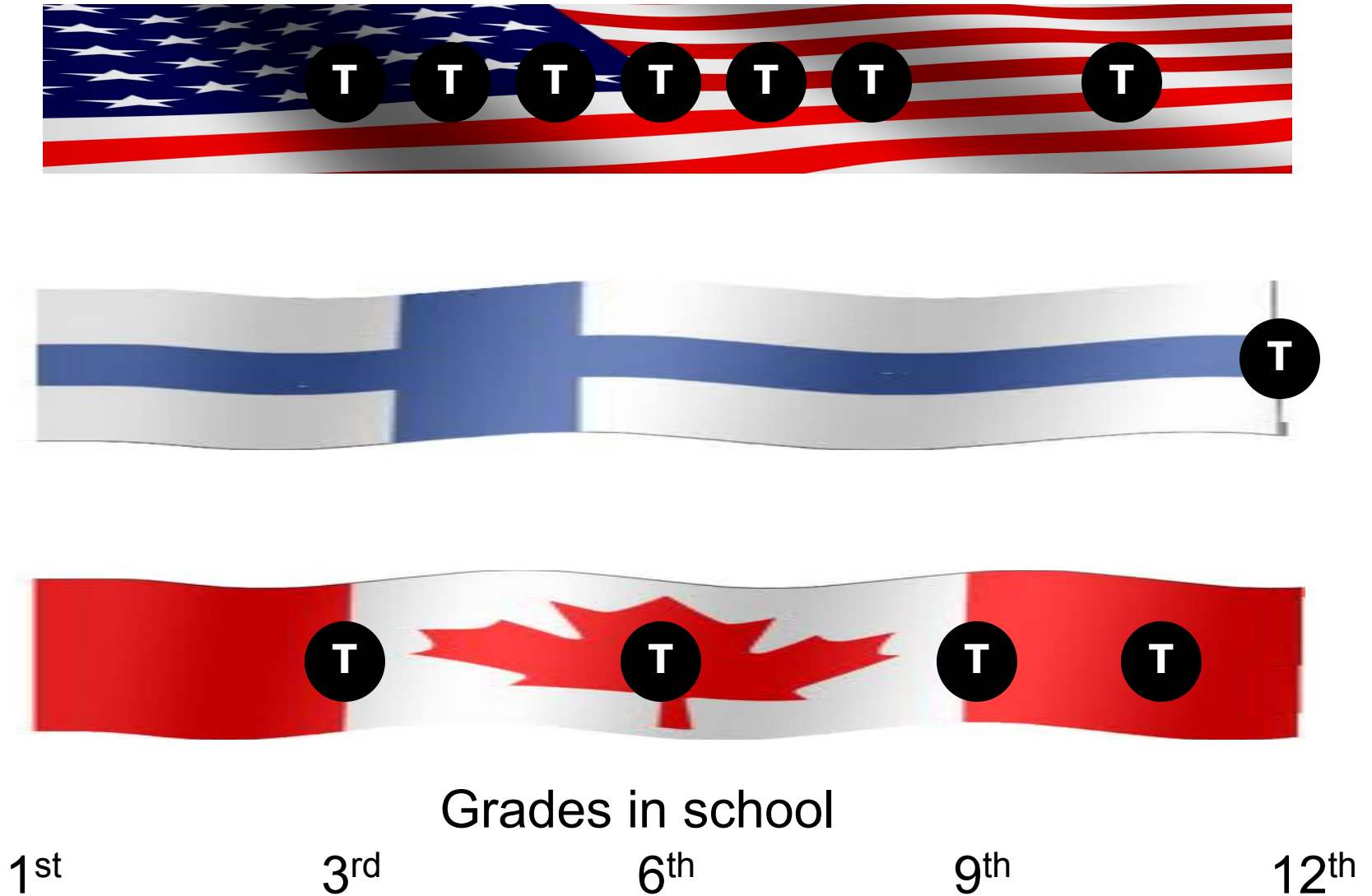
## **Test Less, Learn More**

# Finnish Students are Tested Less

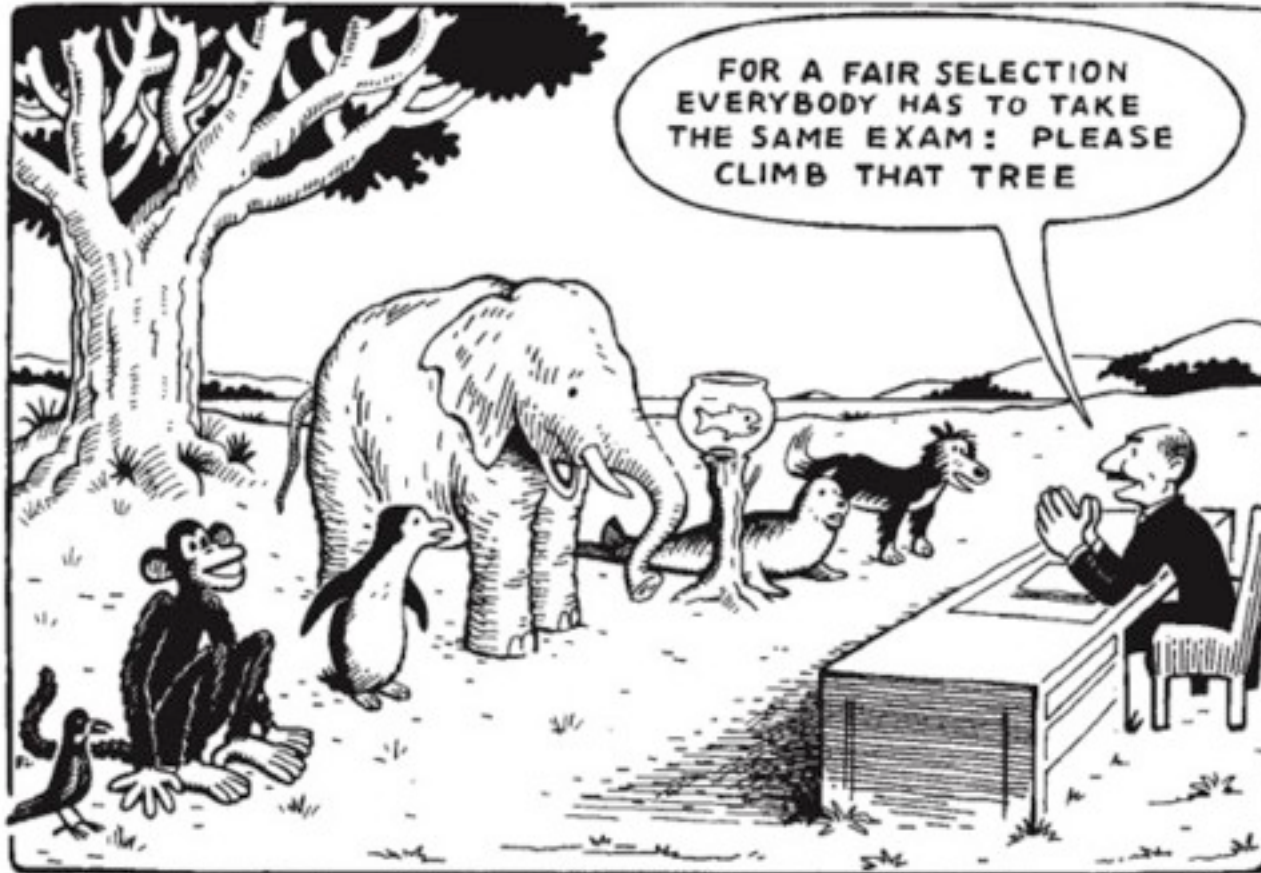
National averages of 15-year-old students learning outcomes in mathematics 2000-06



# Standardized tests in three education systems



# Standardization





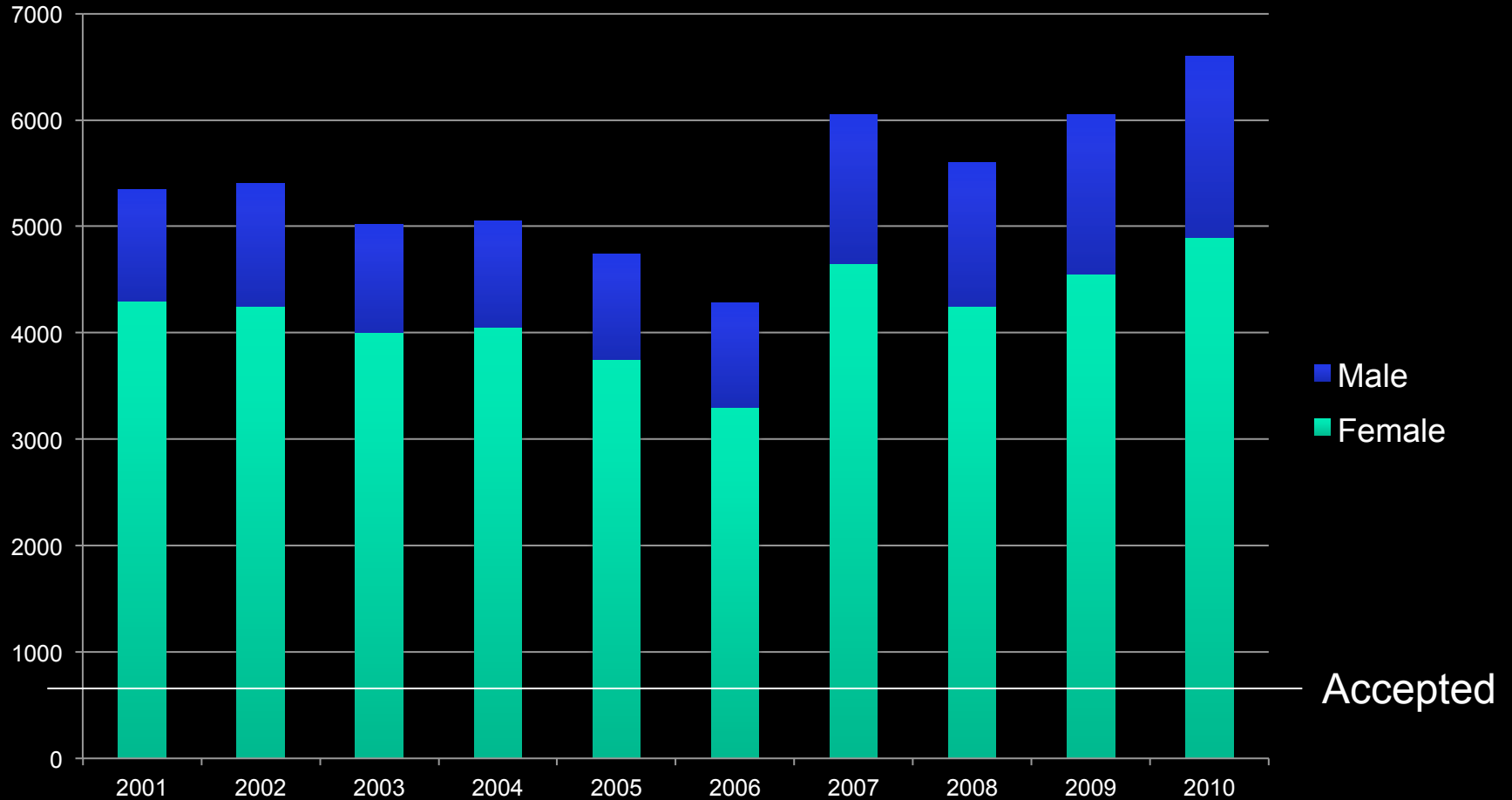
Paradox #4:

**Teaching is A Dream Job**

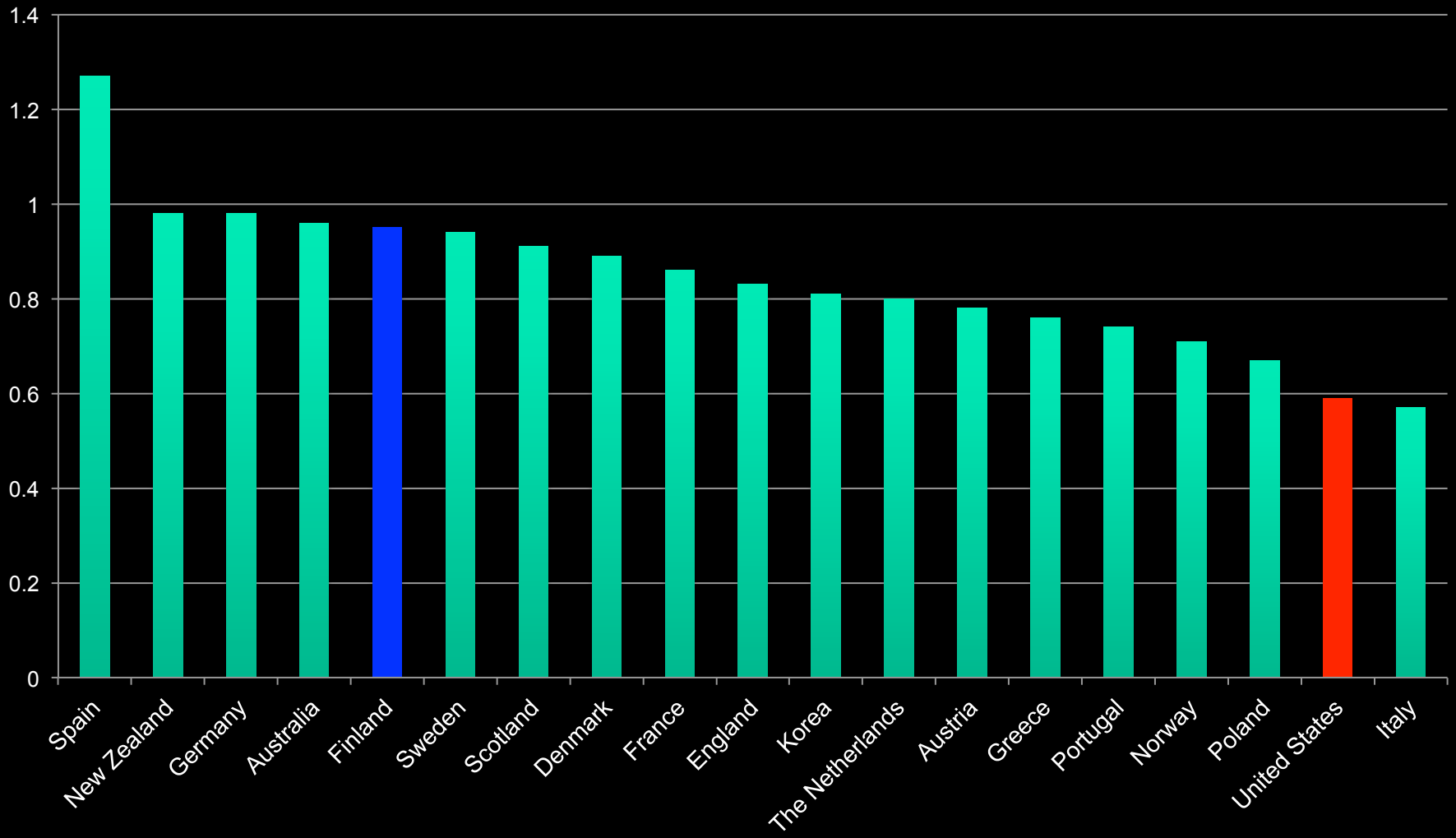
# Applicants to primary school teacher education



# Applicants to primary school teacher education



# Teacher salaries relative to workers with college degree



# UnFinnished Business

Global  
Educational  
Reform  
Movement

Finnish  
Way

Academic



Holistic

Global  
Educational  
Reform  
Movement

Finnish  
Way

Standardization

Personalization

Global  
Educational  
Reform  
Movement

Finnish  
Way

Competition

Team work



Global  
Educational  
Reform  
Movement

Finnish  
Way

~~Choice~~

Equal opportunity

Global  
Educational  
Reform  
Movement

Finnish  
Way

Accountability

Trust

# Meaning of Finnish Lessons

- 1 Teacher Policy: Professionalization
- 2 Accountability Policy: Trust-based responsibility
- 3 Testing Policy: Purposeful assessment

“One thing I never want to see happen is schools that are just teaching to the test because then you’re not learning about the world, you’re not learning about different cultures, you’re not learning about science, you’re not learning about math.”

“All you’re learning about is how to fill out a little bubble on an exam and little tricks that you need to do in order to take a test and that’s not going to make education interesting.”



28 march 2011

# Finnish Lessons



What can the world  
learn from educational  
change in Finland?

**Pasi Sahlberg**

Foreword by Andy Hargreaves  
Series Foreword by Ann Lieberman

the  
series on  
school reform

*"The story of Finland's extraordinary educational reforms is one that should inform policymakers and educators around the world."*

—Linda Darling-Hammond, Stanford University

*"A terrific synthesis by a native Finn, a teacher, a researcher and a policy analyst all rolled up into one excellent writer."*

—David Berliner, Arizona State University

*"This book is a wake-up call for the U.S. It is the antidote to the NCLB paralysis."*

—Henry M. Levin, Teachers College, Columbia University

**Kiitos!**

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