

# *The Finnish Paradox*

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# MOST EFFICIENT EDUCATION SYSTEMS

EFFICIENCY  
SCORES

PISA RANK  
(2012 Maths)

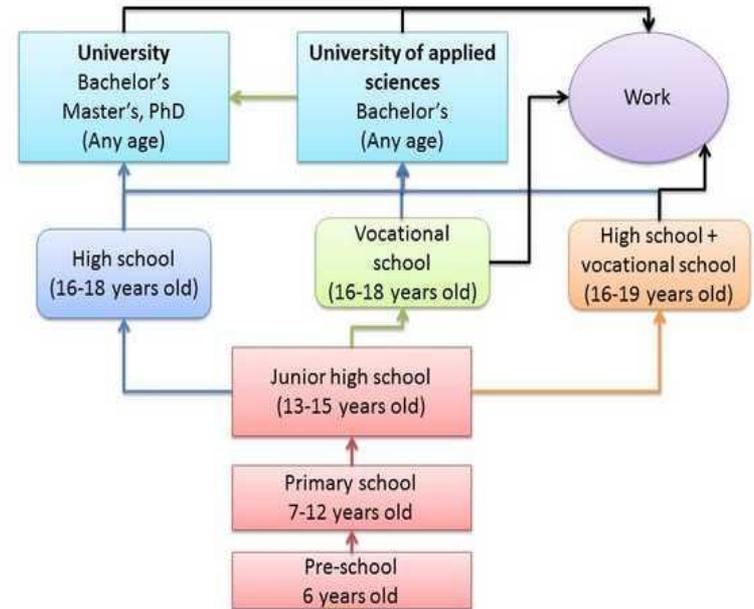
Source: GEMS Education Solutions

1	FINLAND		87,8	5
2	KOREA		86,7	1
3	CZECH REPUBLIC		84,4	14
4	HUNGARY		84,1	24
5	JAPAN		83,9	2
6	NEW ZEALAND		83,3	12
7	SLOVENIA		83,3	10
8	AUSTRALIA		81,2	9
9	SWEDEN		80,6	23
10	ICELAND		79,4	17

Comparison Internationally- 2014

# Overview of the Finnish Schooling System

- Teaching is a highly respected, well-paid profession
- There are no school inspections or teacher evaluations
- The school system is highly centralised and most schools are publicly funded
- School days are short and the summer break is 10 weeks
- Children are assessed by their teachers. The only nationwide exam is for those who continue studying to 18
- Average school size is 195 pupils; average class size is 19 pupils
- Little to no homework, at most 4-6 hours a week for secondary school students.



## Top scorers in Pisa 2015

Average scores for science, reading and mathematics

Science		Reading		Maths	
<b>Singapore</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>Singapore</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>Singapore</b>	<b>564</b>
Japan	538	Hong Kong	527	Hong Kong	548
Estonia	534	Canada	527	Macau	544
Taiwan	532	Finland	526	Taiwan	542
Finland	531	Ireland	521	Japan	532
Macau	529	Estonia	519	China	531
Canada	528	South Korea	517	South Korea	524
Vietnam	525	Japan	516	Switzerland	521
Hong Kong	523	Norway	513	Estonia	520
China	518	New Zealand	509	Canada	516
Britain	509	Britain	498	Britain	492
US	496	US	497	US	470

NOTE: Chinese students from Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu and Guangzhou took part in the Pisa 2015 test.

Source: PISA 2015, OECD  
STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

Comparison Internationally- 2015

# PBL System

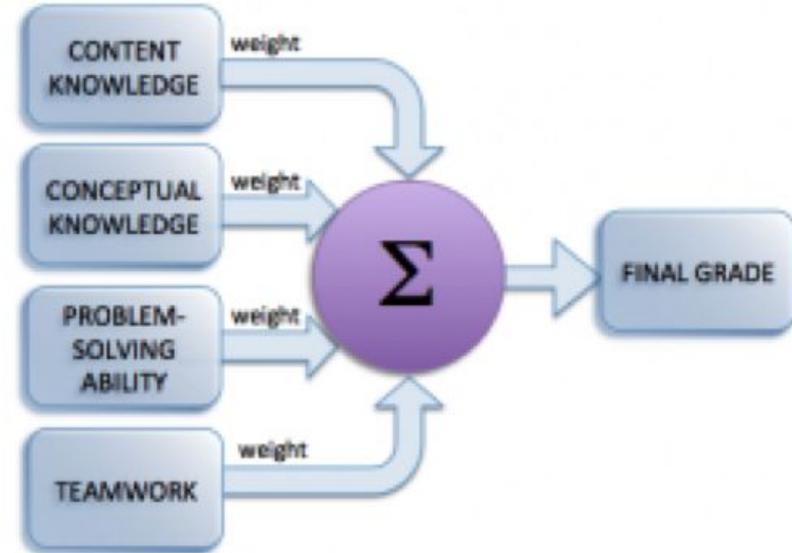
“In August 2016 it became compulsory for every Finnish school to teach in a more collaborative way”

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## Phenomena Based Learning

- First invented by Tamblyn and Barrows in 1960
- Learner-driven self-identified goals and outcomes
- Students do independent, self-directed study before returning to larger group
- Learning is done in small groups of 8–10 people, with a tutor to facilitate discussion

- Trigger materials such as paper-based clinical scenarios, lab data, photographs, articles or videos or patients (real or simulated) can be used
- Based on principles of adult learning theory



# Advantages

- Fosters student-centred learning
- Upholds lifelong learning
- Prominence on comprehension not facts
- In-depth learning and constructivist approach
- Augments self-learning
- Better understanding and adeptness
- Reinforces interpersonal skills and teamwork
- Encourages a self-motivated attitude
- Enriches the teacher-student relationship
- Uses active learning

# Disadvantages

- Time-consuming
- Traditional assumptions of the students
- Disparities in teaching styles and technological knowledge of teachers
- Lack of focus on basics and foundation
- Active learning is less effective early on
- Difficult to evaluate students
- Demands of implementing
- Can increase disparities between levels of students

# Current Results

- Finland has dropped in PISA standings
- There is a split between opinions: some teachers feel it is not helping, and some feel it is a more life skill useful way of teaching
- 30% more students are not going into further learning

*My Thoughts*

# References

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