

# Keilor – St Albans Network Conference

Torquay – 17 June 2024

**“From the Big Picture to Leading Your School”**

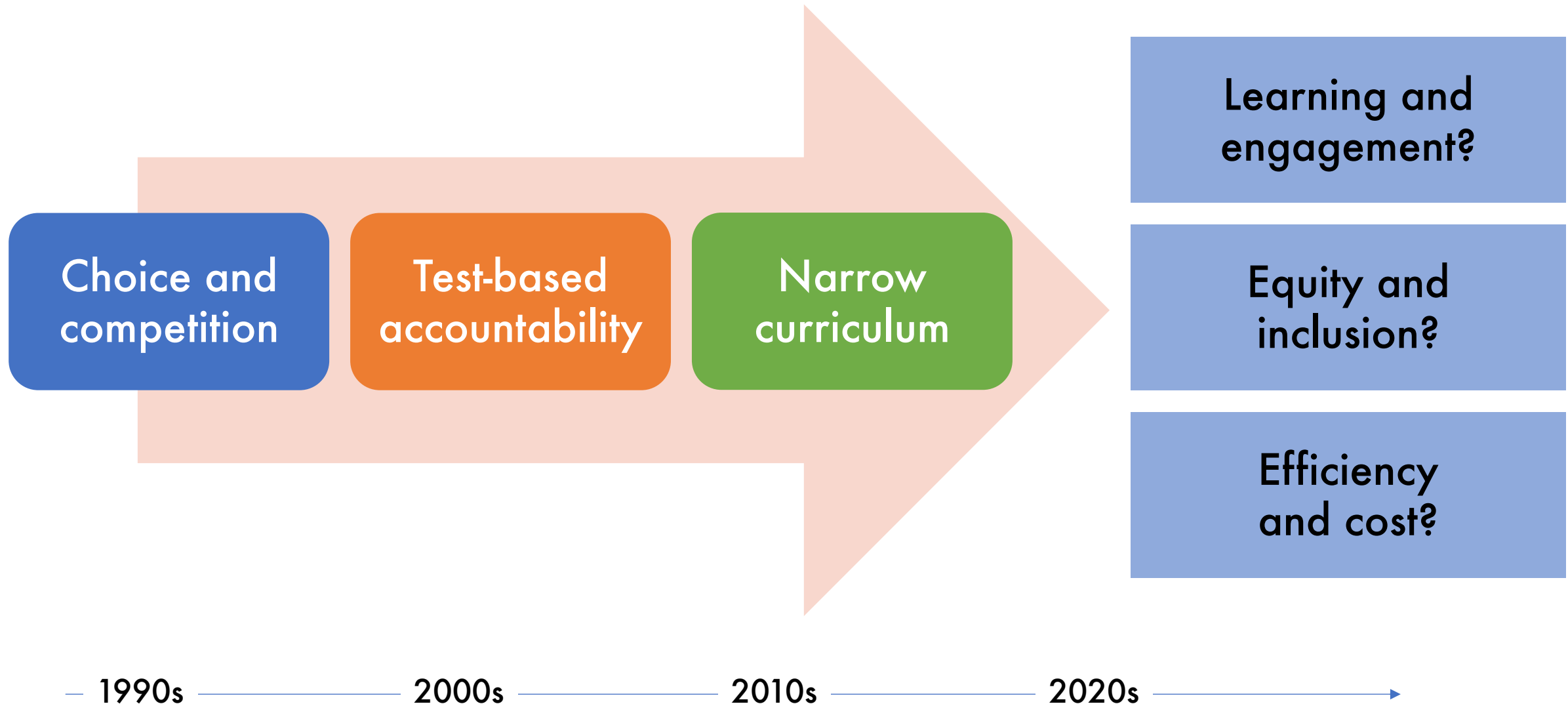
Pasi Sahlberg



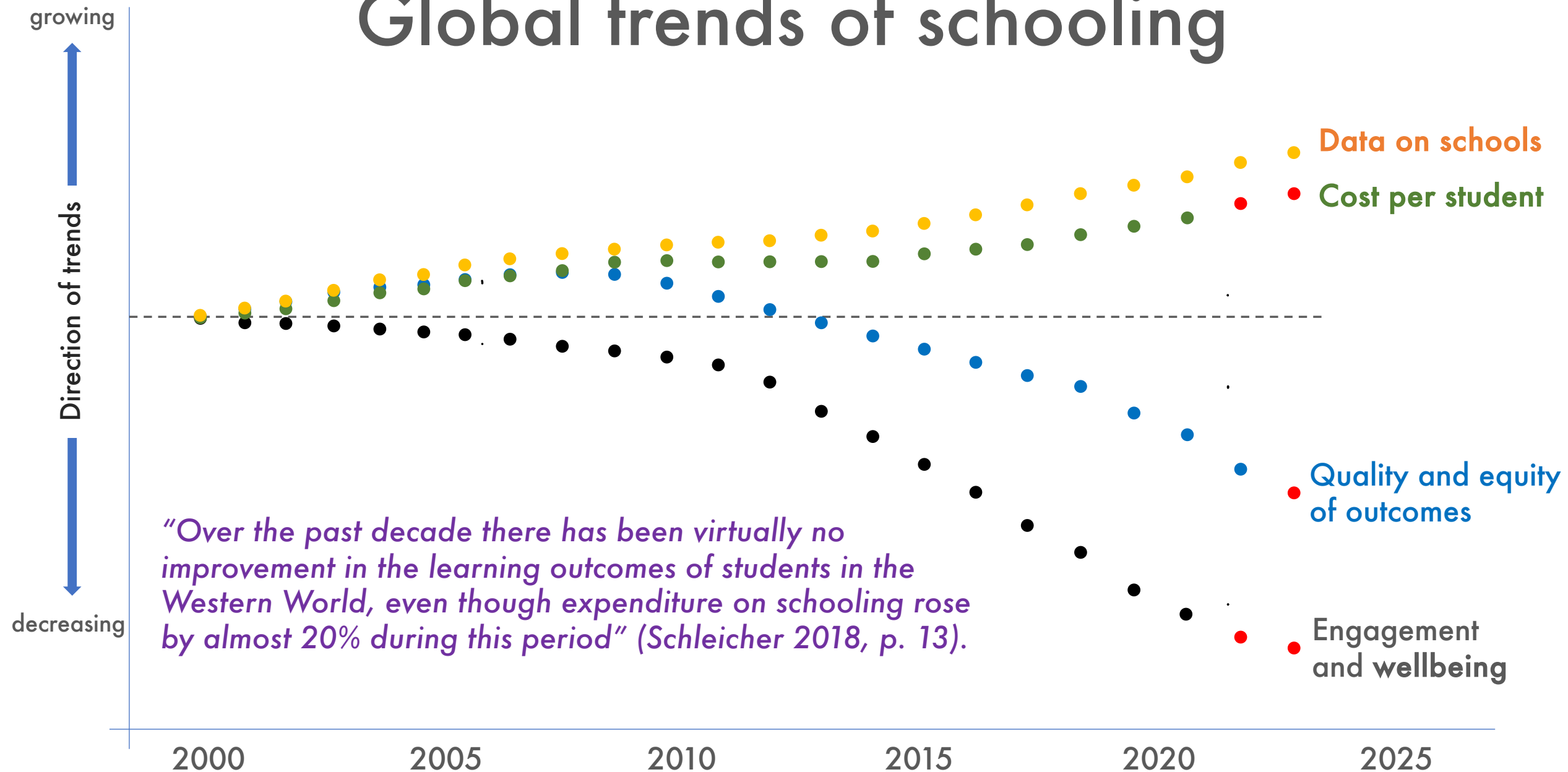
## **Part 1:**

# **The Big Picture of School Education**

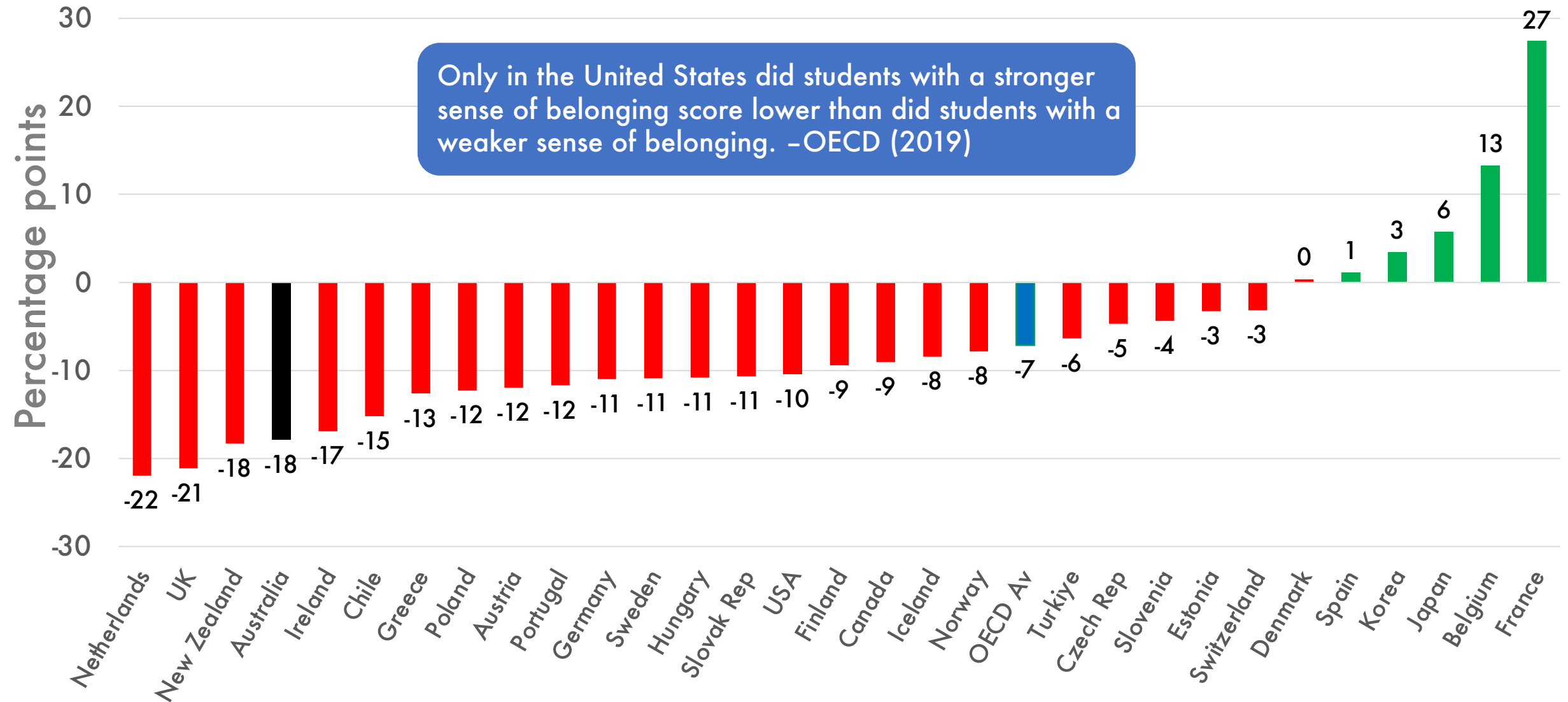
# Global education reform movement: Germ



# Global trends of schooling



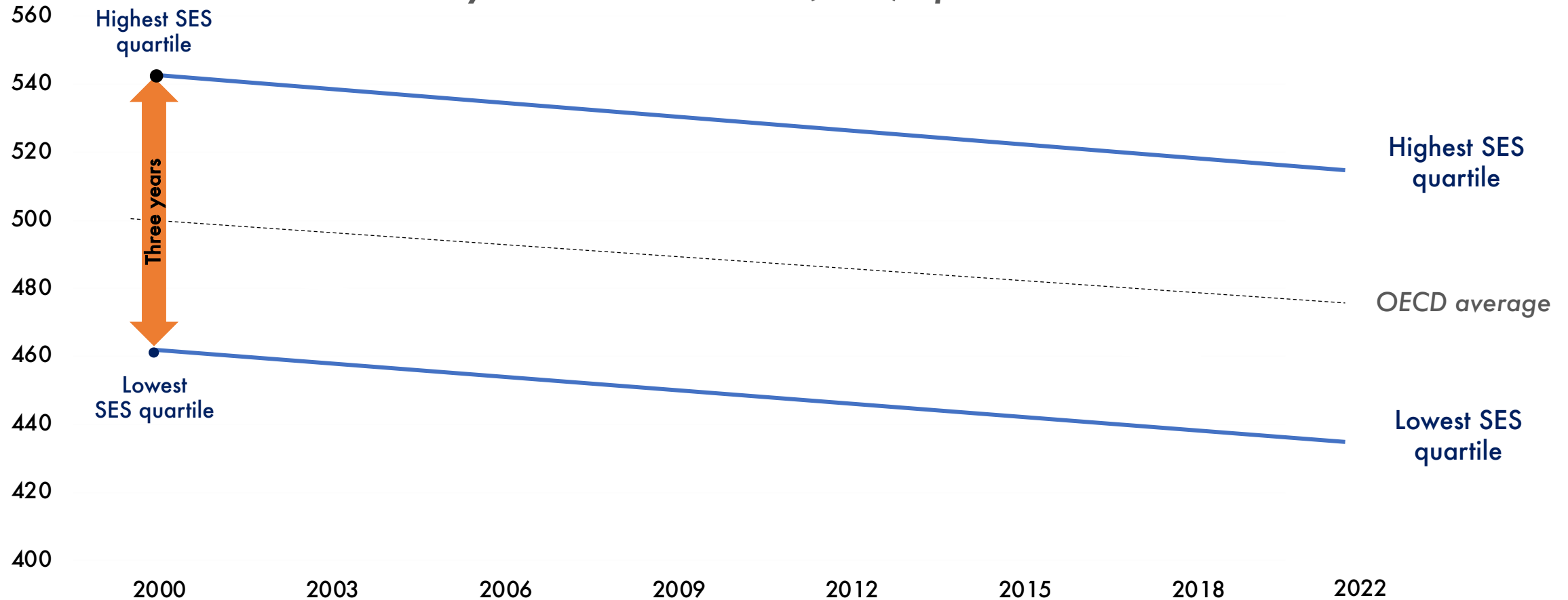
# Students' "sense of belonging" in school: Change since 2003



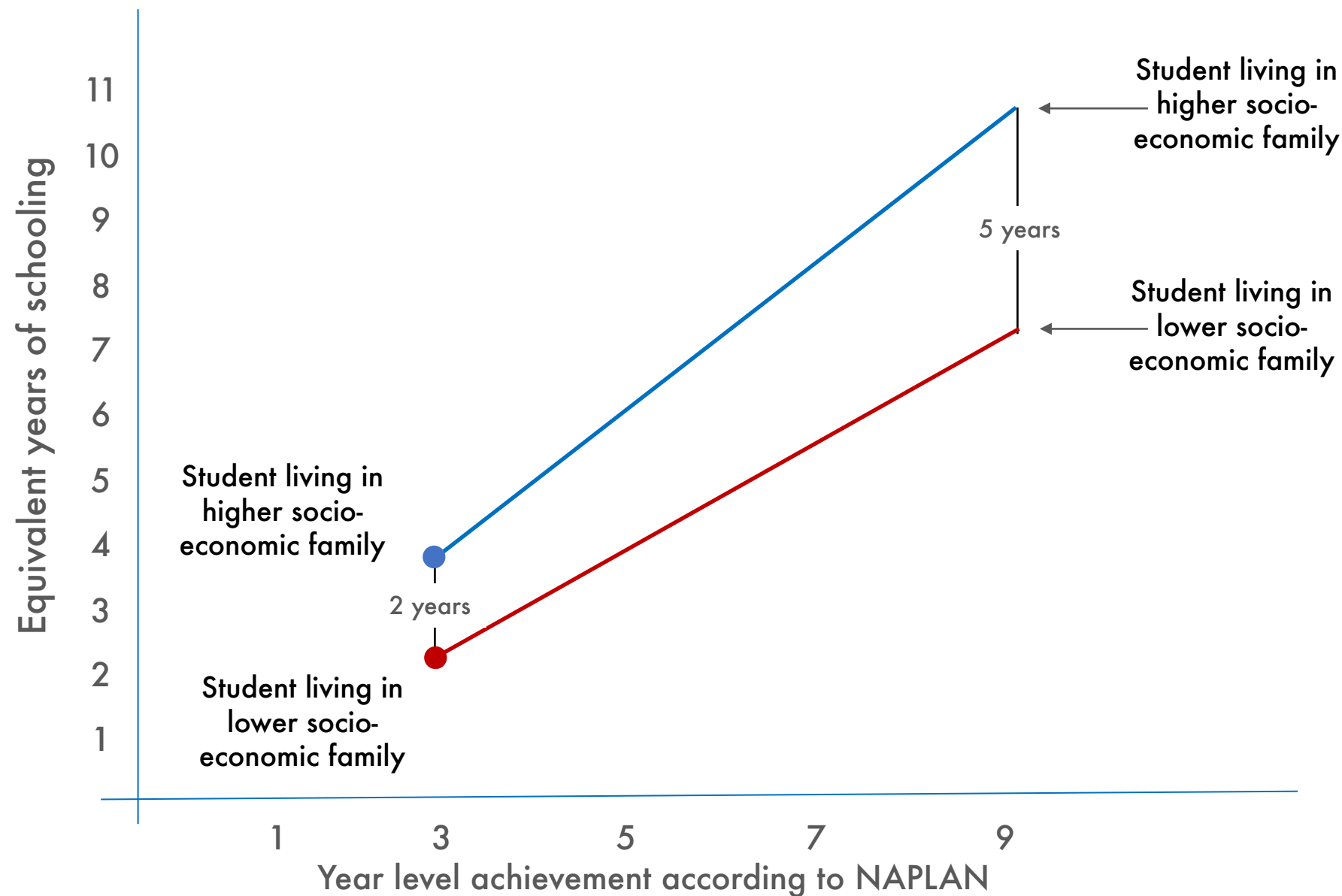
# Achievement gaps since 2000

*Average student academic achievement in OECD countries by socioeconomic (SES) quartile since 2000*

Average OECD region PISA score (Reading/Math/Science)



# Does schooling level the playing field?





260 million children, adolescents and youth are **not at school** and 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 students is equivalent to over 3 years of schooling.

– OECD 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.

– World Bank Human Development Report 2018



**We can't improve education using  
the same kind of thinking that has led  
us to the current situation!**

## **Part 2:**

**Australian schools – Good different**

We have a world-class school education  
– *but not for everyone!*

# The Australian Way: Systemless

Proportion of students attending...

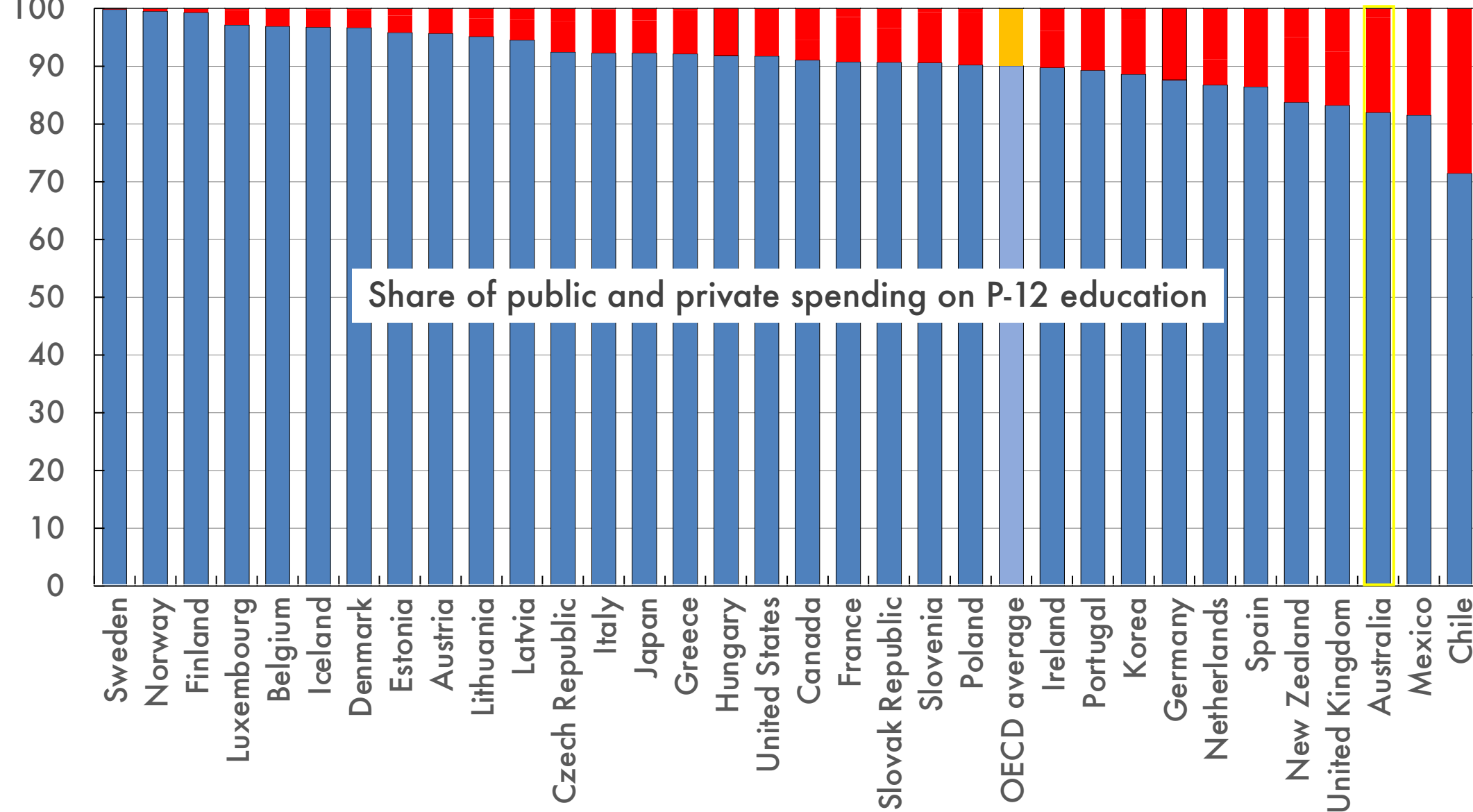
- Private schools
- Government schools



# The Australian Way: Unfair funding

Percentage

100

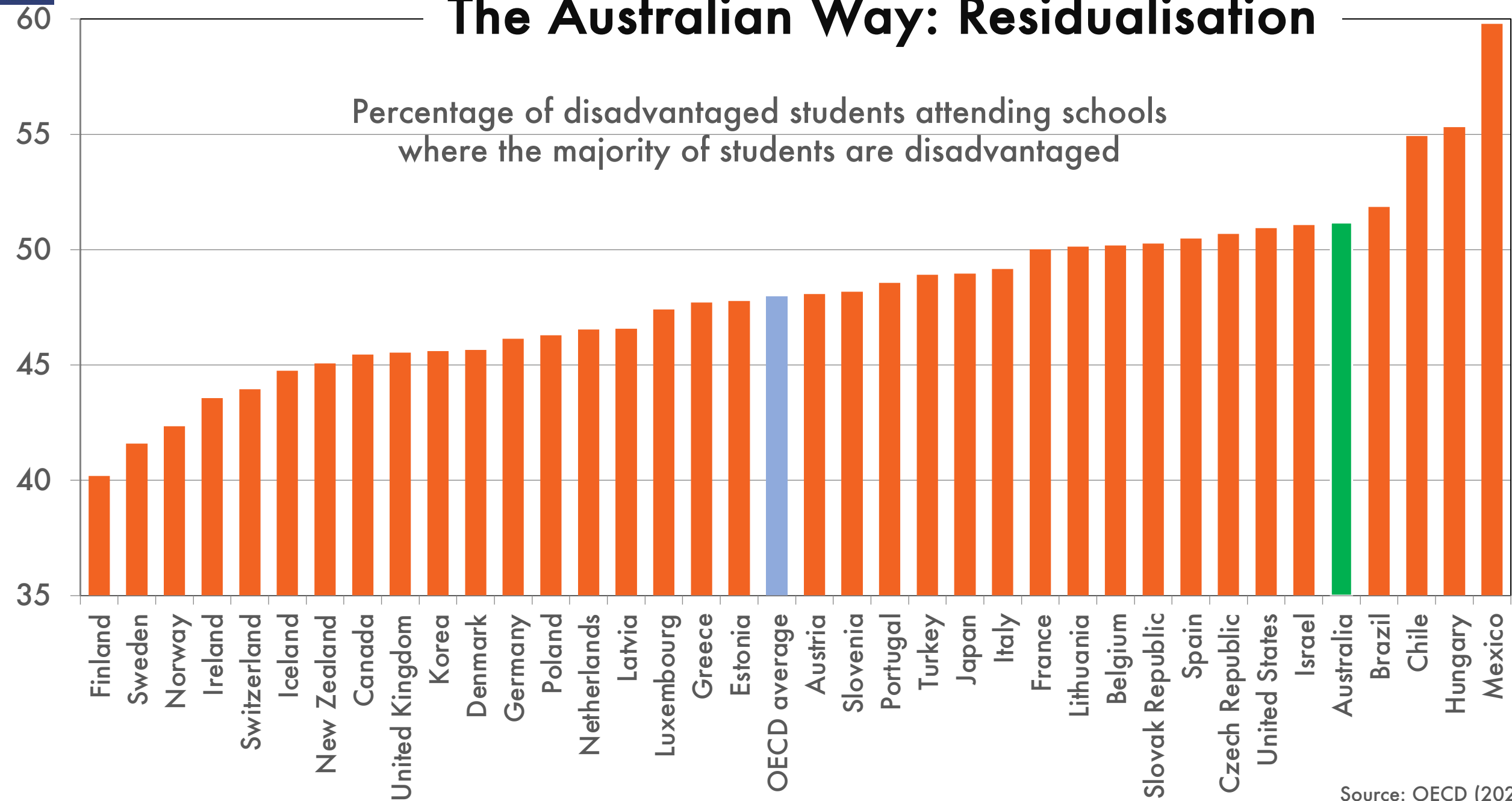


Private spending on P-12 schools (2020)

Public spending on P-12 schools (2020)

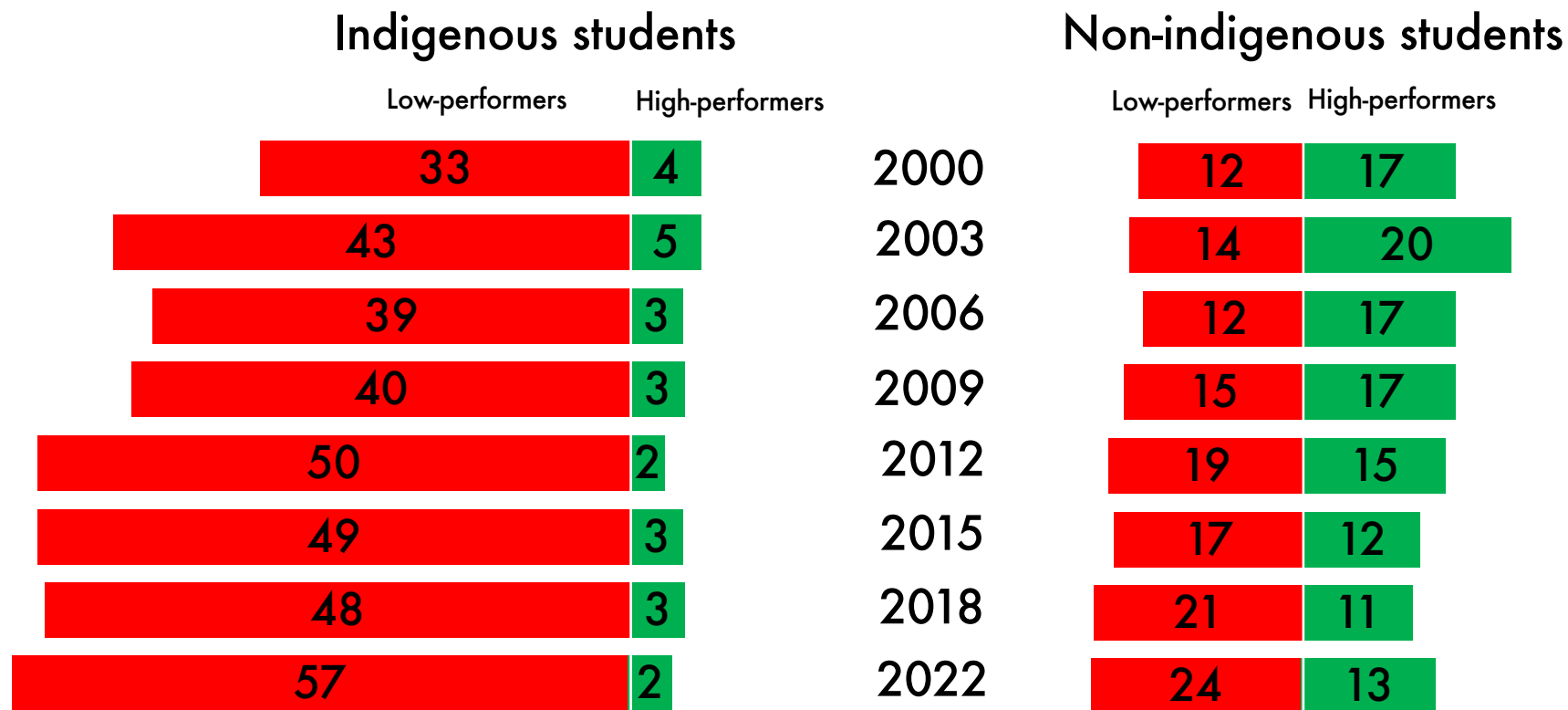
# The Australian Way: Residualisation

Percentage of disadvantaged students attending schools  
where the majority of students are disadvantaged



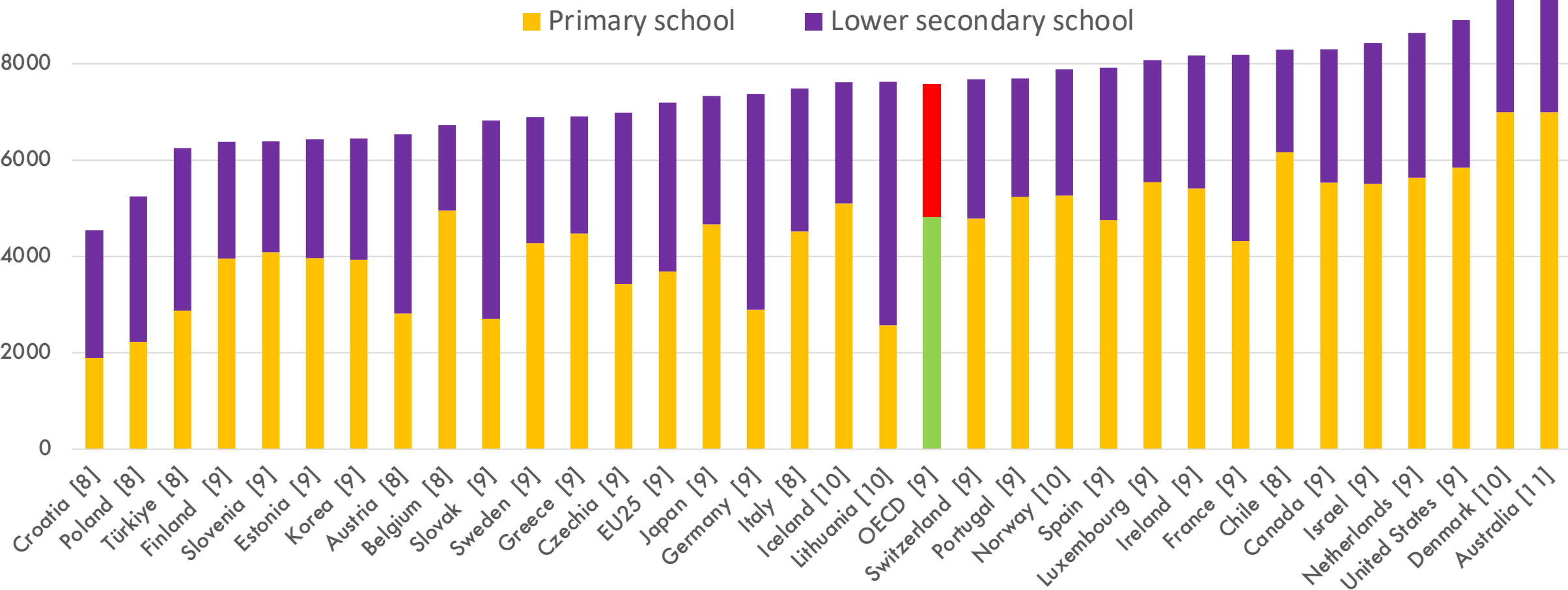
# The Australian Way: Inequity

Proportion of low and high performers in Australia on the PISA reading literacy proficiency scale by Indigenous background since 2000



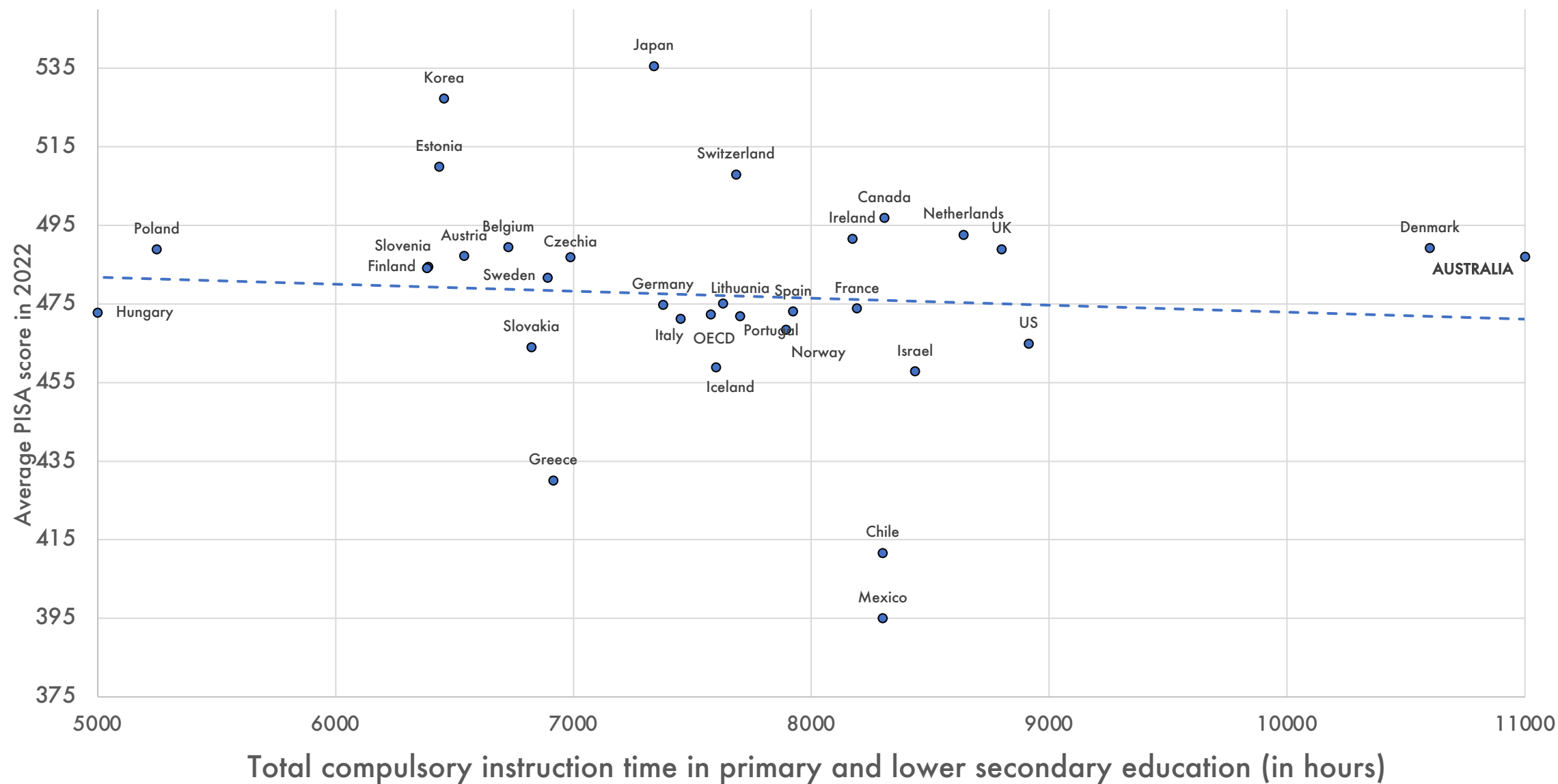
# The Australian Way: Instruction time

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



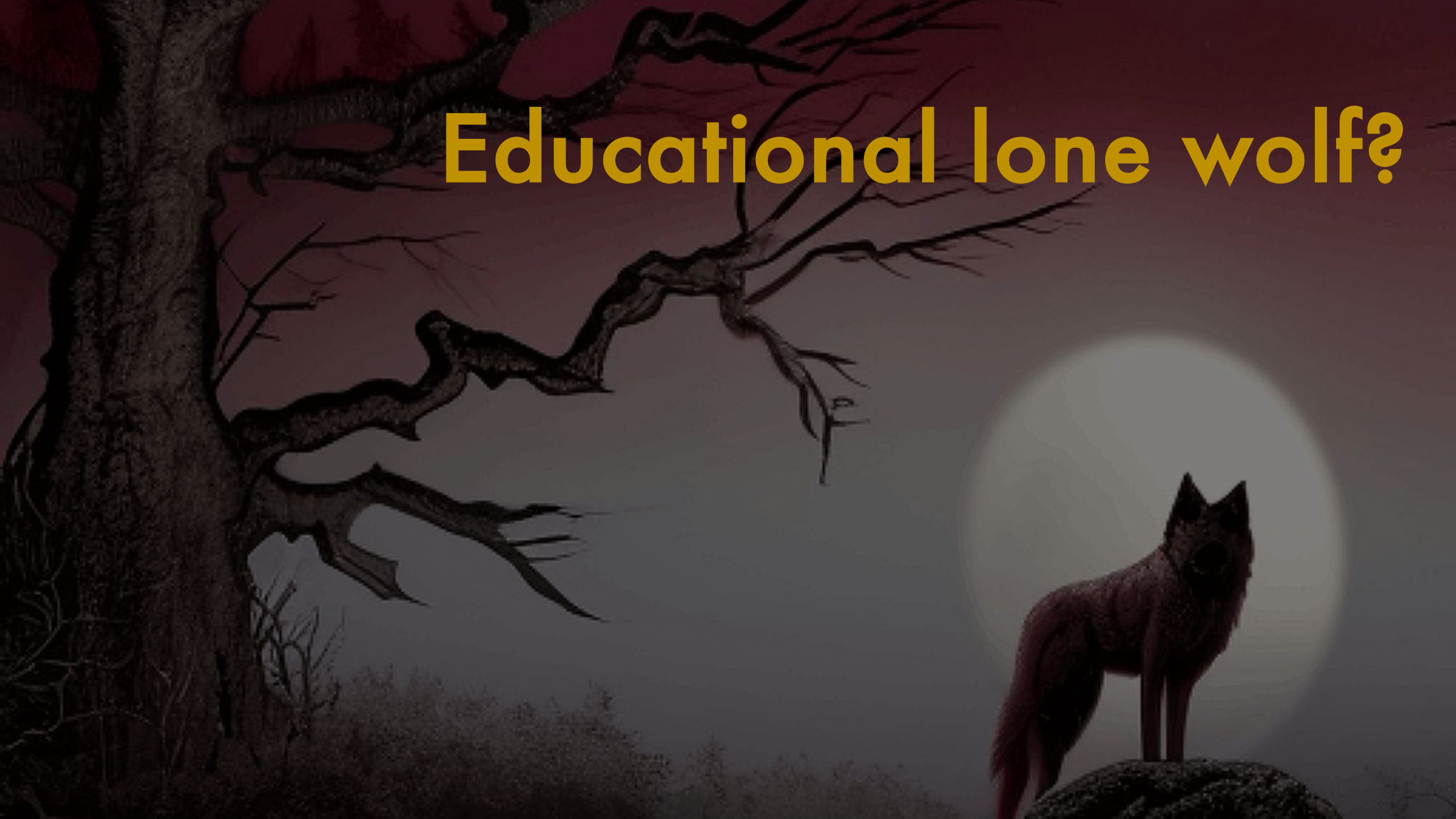


# Students' instruction time vs. achievement in school

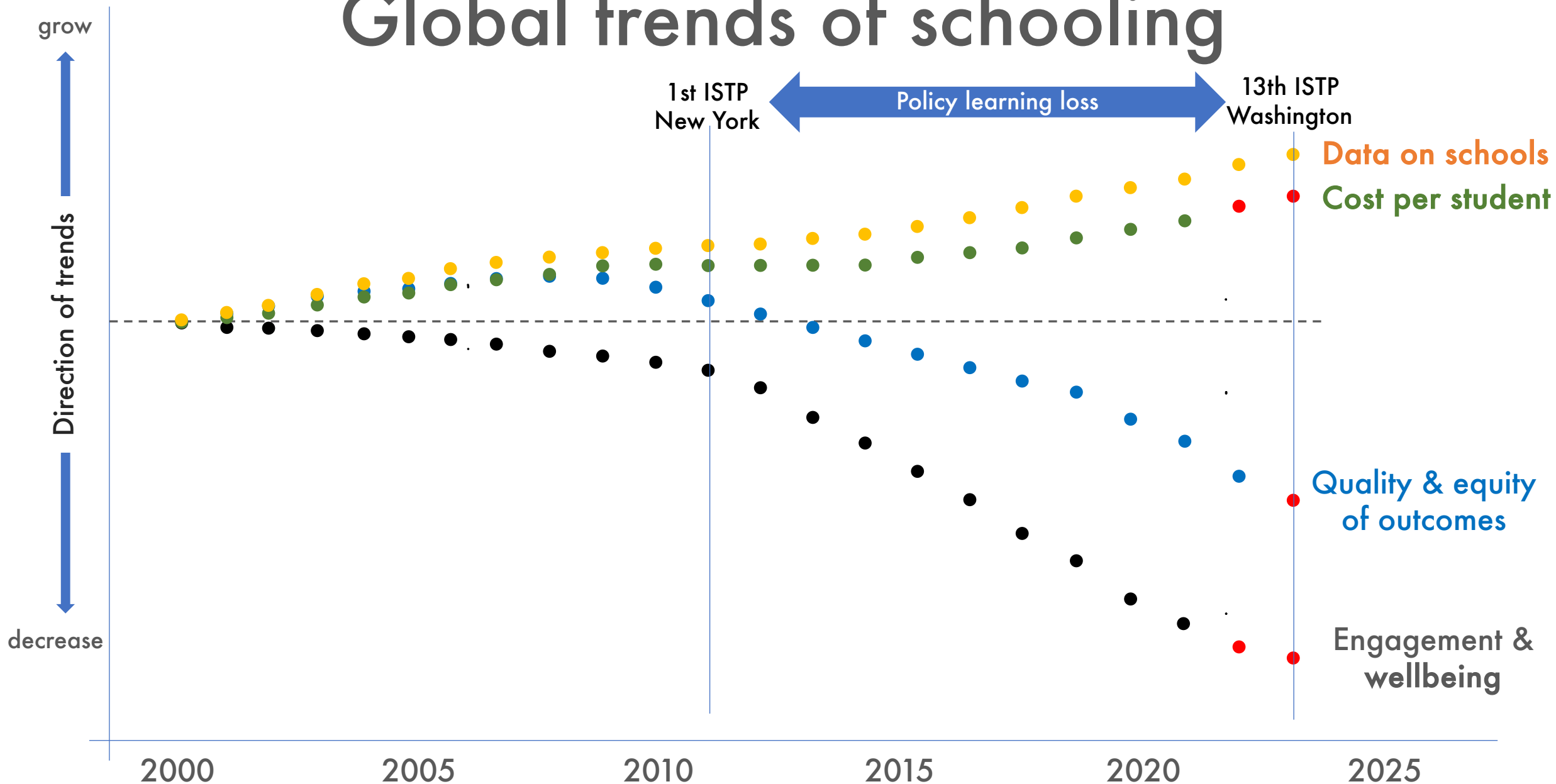


**What are your thoughts?**

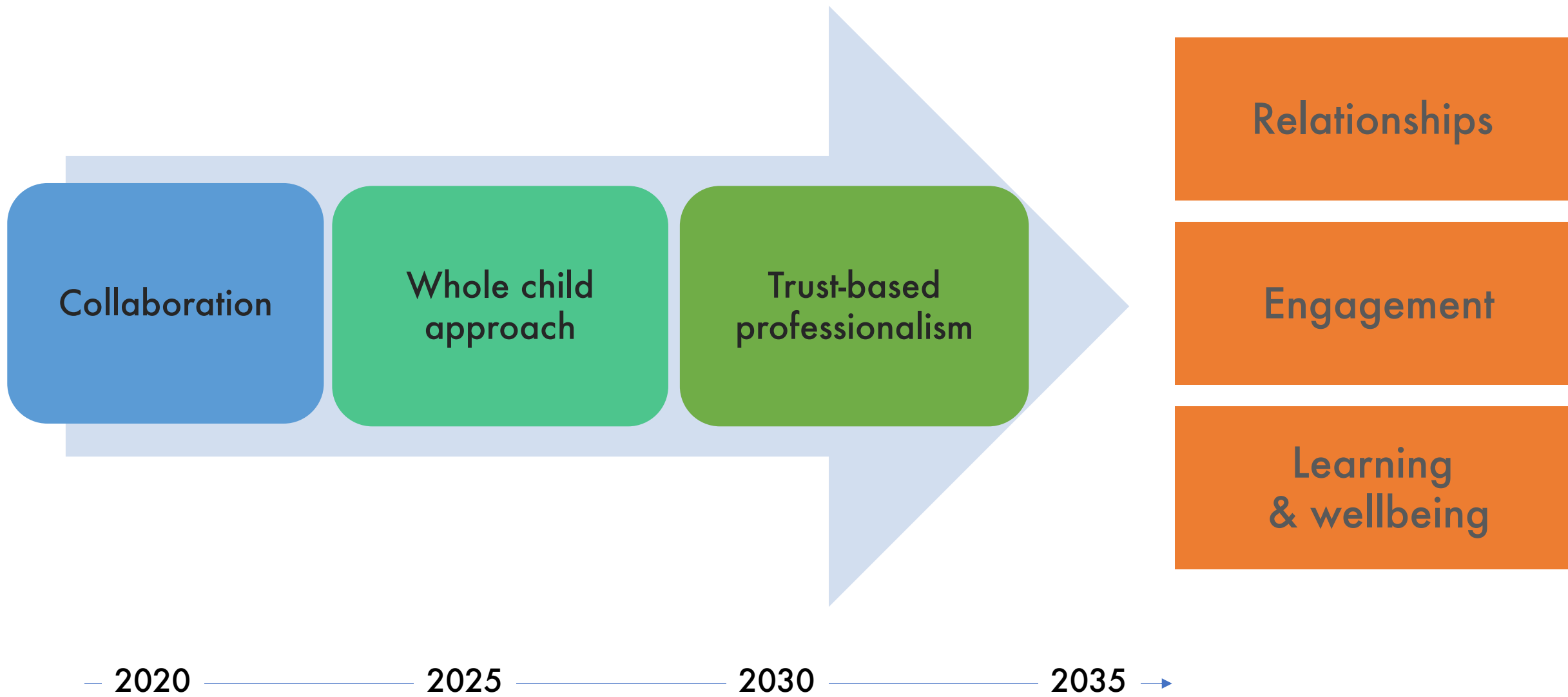
# Educational lone wolf?



# Global trends of schooling



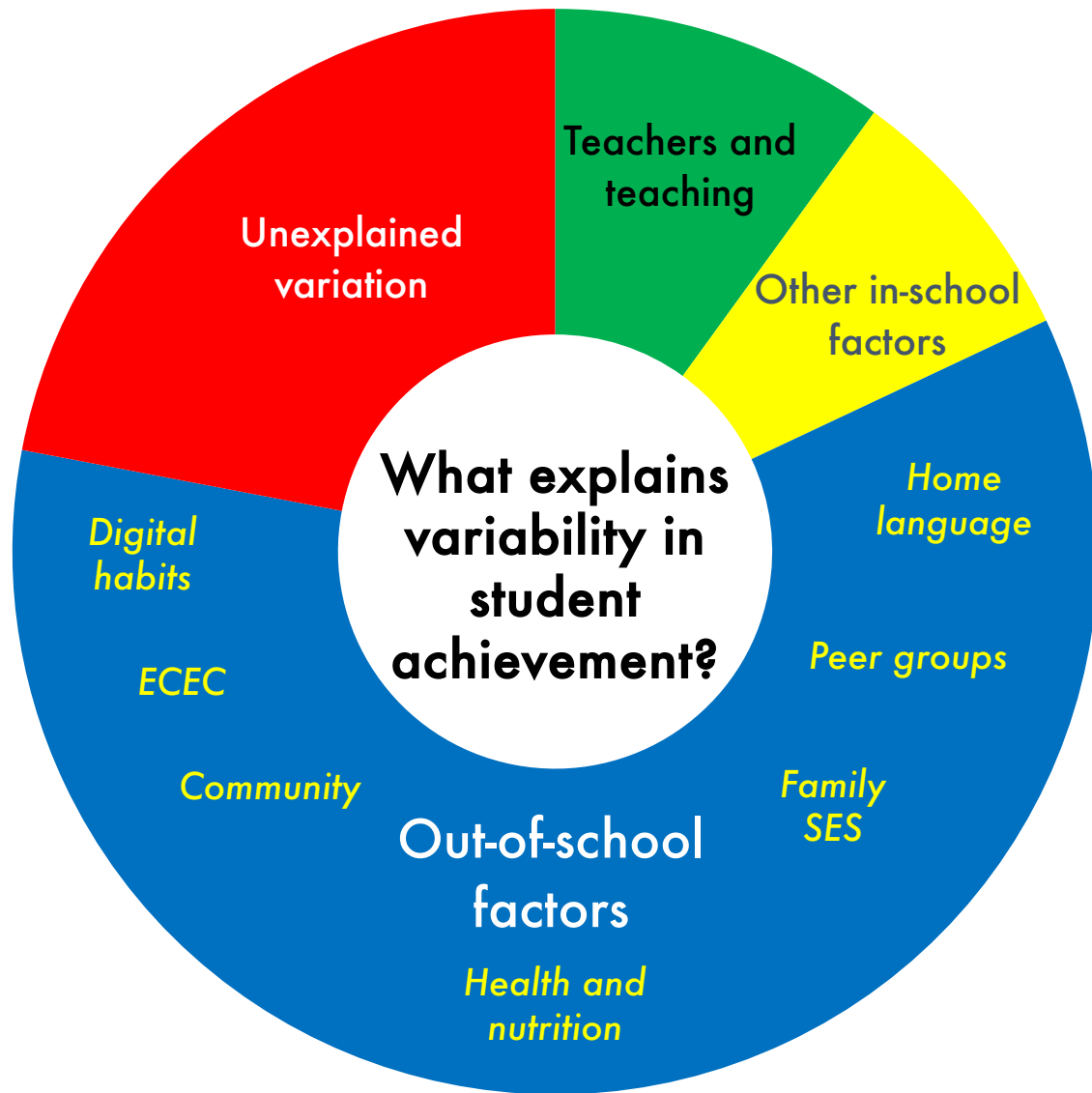
What would a new paradigm of  
schooling look like?



# **Part 3:**

# **What can we leaders do?**

# Rethinking student learning



Student's family background is far more important factor influencing school performance than people think. This has remained a solid research finding for the past half a century.



**Three bold ideas to build healthy relationships  
that could transform Australian schools.**

1

# Healthy relationships through teacher looping

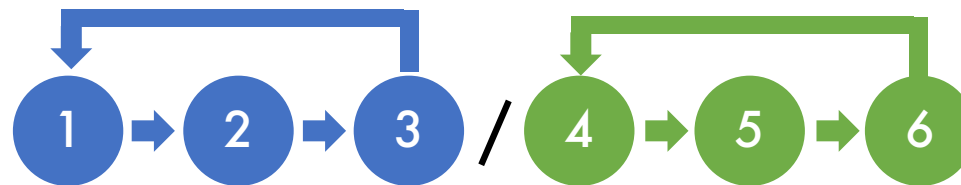
‘Looping’ is an old educational practice in which whole class is taught by the same teacher in two or more sequential years in school.

Research shows that looping is linked to

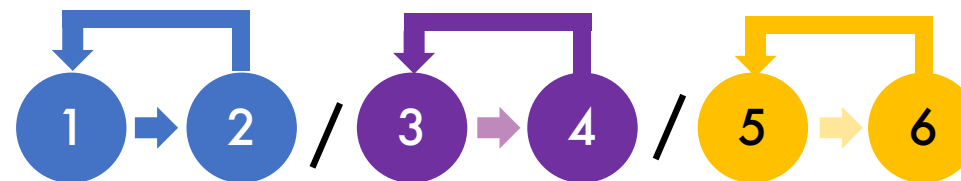
- (1) healthier peer and student-adult relationships,
- (2) improved student engagement, wellbeing and learning, and
- (3) better teacher job satisfaction.

# Examples of 'teacher looping'

Two 3-year loop:

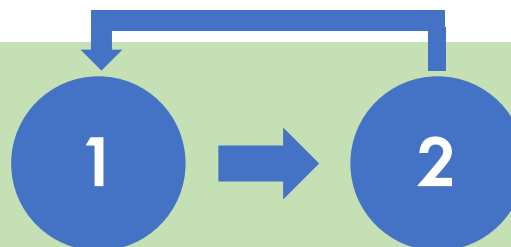


Three 2-year loops:

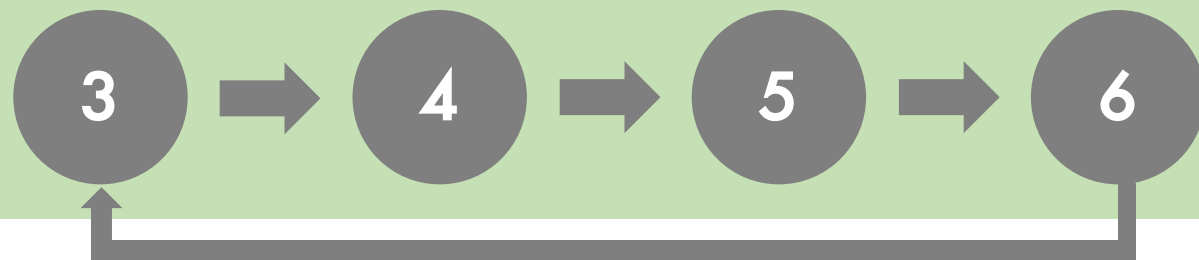


The Finnish Model

One 2-year loop:



One 4-year loop:



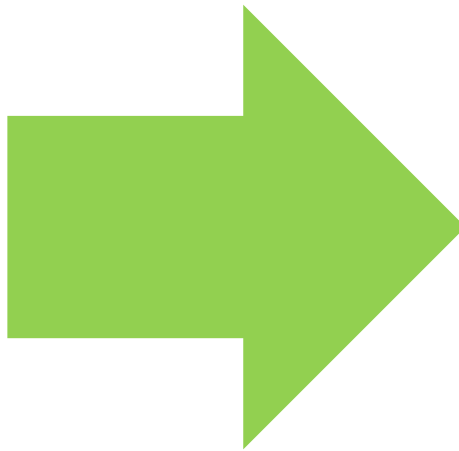
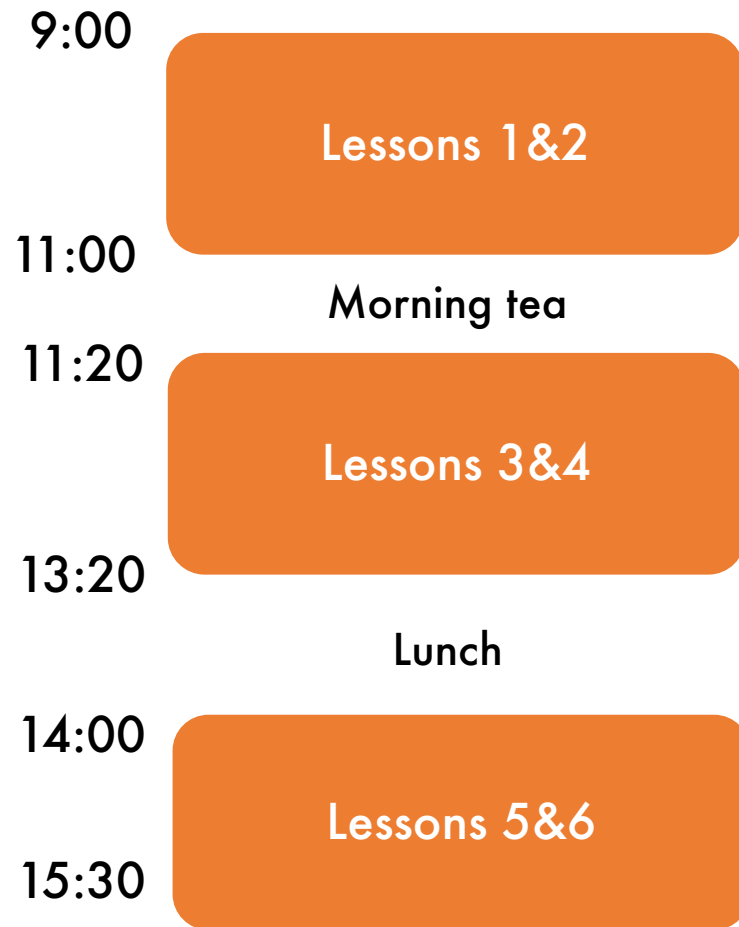
## 2

## Relationships through time to play

Child development studies suggest that the time for which a child typically can maintain active focus on a task (e.g., reading or mathematics) in primary school ranges from about 10 mins to 30 mins. School schedules should be adjusted to children's ability to learn and their natural need to play.

"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" (e.g., Gray et al., 2023).

# Restructured daily schedule



## 3

## Relationships through healthy food and music

Healthy food and engaging in music are essential elements for children to learn well and be well. Students with access to healthy meals and playing music have been shown to have greater overall engagement in schools and thereby better wellbeing and learning outcomes.

*"Schoolwide free-meal programs fuel better classroom outcomes for students."*  
(Brookings Institute, 2021)

*Music plays a multifaceted role in promoting children's well-being and learning by nurturing their emotional, social, cognitive, and physical development and fostering a sense of joy, connection, and fulfilment in their lives.*

# Thank you!

