

Introduction to Global Education

Lecture 6 – Measuring Learning & Making Comparisons

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The US spends more on education than other countries. Why is it falling behind?

Spending per student exceeds the OECD average but the likes of Finland and South Korea get better results. What are they doing right and what can the US learn from them?

- Are you a teacher? We want to hear from you



▲ A teacher at Cantonment primary school gets her pupils to line up on the first day of the school term.
Photograph: Caroline Chia/Singapore Press Holdings



merica's schools are in trouble - but it's not all about money. In 2014, the US spent an average of \$16,268 a year to educate a pupil

How do you compare apples and oranges?

How do you measure learning?

What things might effect learning from previous weeks ?

Outline

- Key Terms
- Sahlberg: the Fourth Way of Finland
- Guardian article
- Group Discussion

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-DcjwzF9yc>

First Way (end of WW2 – mid 1970s)

- Government support
- Massive expansion in secondary and higher education
- However, reached limits when money ran out → government had to cut back on educational spending
- Results:
 - Good: innovation and new social movements
 - Bad: uneven school performance, inconsistent leadership, educational improvements informed by **intuition and ideology rather than evidence**

Second Way (1970s- late 1980s)

- Governments: top-down approach
 - More tightness
 - More control
 - More regulation
 - More competition
- Resources: state → market (to reduce cost of public money)
- Result: lack of trained teachers, drop in quality of teaching, lower student learning
- Education Reform Act (ERA)

Education Reform Act (ERA)

Education Reform Act (ERA) 1988 in England

- Competition
- Autonomy for schools
- Choice
- Information for public

Third Way (1990s-2000s): Global Education Reform Movement (GERM)

1. Standardization
2. Increased focus on literacy and numeracy
3. Teach for predetermined results
4. Transfer of innovation from corporate to the educational world
5. Test-based accountability policies
6. Increased control of schools

GERM assumptions

- What are the assumptions?
 1. External performance standards lead to better learning for all
 2. Most effective way to improve educational systems is to bring well-developed innovations to schools and classrooms
 3. Competition between schools is the most productive way to raise quality of education

- What do you think are the problems with GERM?
- What is the impact on teaching with GERM?
- Have you experienced GERM in your time in schools?

Fourth Way aka the Finnish Way

- inspiration and innovation, of responsibility and sustainability.
- Does not drive reform relentlessly through teachers and use them
- Brings government policy, professional involvement, and public engagement around an inspiring social and educational vision of prosperity, opportunity, and creativity in a world of greater inclusiveness, security, and humanity
- Improvement that grows from the “bottom”, steers from the “top” and provides support and pressure from the side
- High-quality teachers and professional communities

- What are some of the assumptions about the Fourth Way aka Finnish Way?

Making international comparisons in groups

- US
- Canada
- Singapore
- Finland
- Germany
- South Korea

Discussion questions

- Which reforms have you experienced?
- After sharing, which system would you say is best?