**Why is Finland’s education system considered the best in the world? Is it justified?**

44 Answers

[John Katt](https://www.quora.com/profile/John-Katt)

[John Katt](https://www.quora.com/profile/John-Katt), teacher with 25 years of experience (linguistic, French, English, elementary)

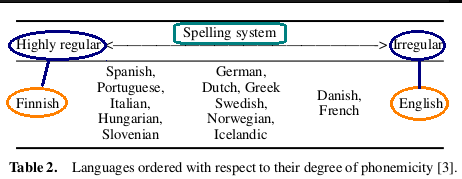
[Updated Nov 14, 2017](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answers/30204048)

While many have noted that there are so many variables in evaluating the success of an educational system that it is hard to note what is the defining element or elements, it is worth mentioning a few counter examples.

1. PISA scores can be broken down between the several linguistic communities of a country, offering a near-perfect way to see how a spelling system can affect the outcomes. This is the case with Finland.
2. There is a legitimate debate about the legitimate influence of the complexity or irregularity of spelling systems to account for more difficulties.
3. Although this is not the case with Finland, it has been noted that countries like China (shanghai), Korea, and maybe Japan and Singapore have schools and parents that spend a lot more hours studying (as much as 14 hours a day) in schools that tend to pick the best students too.
4. PISA tests are taken at age 15. Many European countries (incl. Finland) have already send students who do not seem to be interested in academic careers in technical schools. Who is being tested?
5. PISA tests would be more interesting if drill-down variables could be controlled and levelled, such as hours of school/of studying, socio-economic background, first language VS immigrant students,…

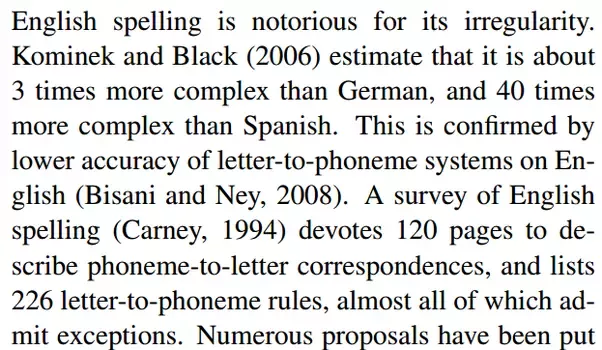
There is a lot of hype involved in the idea that Finland has the best educational system in the world. Sure, the PISA tests demonstrate that they are doing well. But, are they the best and why would it be? Everyone wants a winner and be proud. However, the educational success of Finland is (like in most marketing) a bit overstated, especially considering the idea that there are so many variables that cannot be controlled.

First, very few supporters will ever admit that their language is one of the major reasons why it could be. In the FREE [400 pages PISA report book](https://play.google.com/store/books/details?id=ZhZ-gklIJfgC&pcampaignid=books_booksearch_atb&rdid=book-ZhZ-gklIJfgC&rdot=1&source=gbs_atb), the idea of a spelling system being a factor is not even mentioned). Yet, there is plenty of evidence that this is so, but it is almost never stated. To me this is the sign of an overzealous marketer (or politician or bureaucrat who wants to keep his or her job). One very important reason is that Finnish has a very simple and regular spelling system. Let me explain.



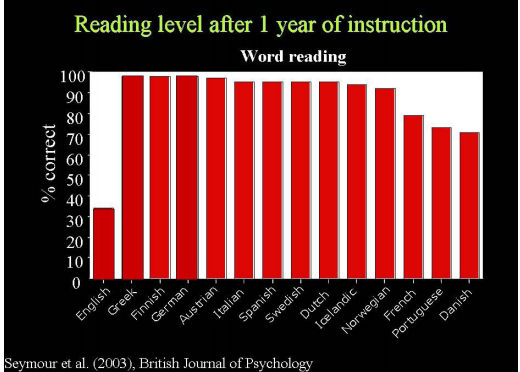
[Regularizing the English Spelling System](http://reforming-english.blogspot.com/)

The above table makes English look like not too bad, but the difference between English and Finnish is probably much worse, if one considers the complexity that exists between German and Spanish, for instance:



Second, Swedish-speaking Finns do not do as well on PISA tests as the Finnish-speaking Finns, who (the latter) come from a lower and less educated demographic group. (This is all explained at [Regularizing the English Spelling System](http://reforming-english.blogspot.com/p/finglish.html).)

“To correlate international literacy assessment scores (literacy) with the phonemicity of a language is a complex proposition since many other factors interfere. Yet, it is interesting that Finnish students, who use one of the most phonemic languages of all European languages, top the chart. Yet, Canadian students are not far behind! How are some Commonwealth countries able to pull the impossible!



First, the Canadian and Finnish systems are quite similar. So, how do they pull it off? Surely, there are other compensatory factors at work in elevating the scores of the Canadians. Did you know that Canadian students start school at age 5.5 in some parts of Canada? In Finland, they start at age 7. It is also quite striking for whoever studies this to see how much hours. time, is devoted to literacy in Canadian schools. There are many more special literacy teachers given the task to support the ones who struggle.

But, let’s go back to Finland. There was a great analysis done on the subject by a Finn [here](http://finnish-and-pisa.blogspot.com/), but it does have a few shortcomings which I will explore later on.

**Background**

Finnish students tend to score very high on many literacy assessments and consistently so (PISA 2003 and 2006,...) and one might just wonder why! Conv...

[Maria Nikols](https://www.quora.com/profile/Maria-Nikols)

[Maria Nikols](https://www.quora.com/profile/Maria-Nikols)

[Answered Feb 14](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Maria-Nikols)

Finland is an innovative country when it comes to education, and its innovation yields results.

It's consistently one of the highest performing developed countries on the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), an important tool for measuring education systems worldwide.

While Finland's ranking dropped to 12 in the most recent PISA ranking, it's still a lot higher than the US ranking of 36.

Here are some things Finland does differently — and arguably better — than the US when it comes to education:

**1. Better standardized tests**

Finnish students only take one standardized test during their entire primary and secondary schooling.

By contrast, the US, driven by No Child Left Behind and Common Core mandates, requires students in third through eighth grade to take annual standardized tests to track their performance. Critics claim constant testing doesn't make students any smarter but instead creates a "teaching to the test" environment in schools.

Karen Magee, the president of the largest teachers union in New York, went so far as to urge parents to boycott standardized tests recently.

The Finnish test, called the National Matriculation Examination[,](https://www.ylioppilastutkinto.fi/fi/english) is taken at the end of high school and graded by teachers, not computers, as Pasi Sahlberg a professor and former director general at the Finland Ministry of Education, explained to the Washington Post in 2014. The test also doesn't shy away from controversial or complex topics.

Here are some typical questions, according to Sahlberg:

"In what sense are happiness, good life and well-being ethical concepts?"

"Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels predicted that a socialist revolution would first happen in countries like Great Britain. What made Marx and Engels claim that and why did a socialist revolution happen in Russia?"

Sahlberg added, in the Washington Post, "Students are regularly asked to show their ability to cope with issues related to evolution, losing a job, dieting, political issues, violence, war, ethics in sports, junk food, sex, drugs, and popular music. Such issues span across subject areas and often require multi-disciplinary knowledge and skills."

**2. More time for play**

Students in Finland spend relatively little time on homework, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). A 2014 study of 15-year-olds around the world by the OECD said that on average, Finnish students spend 2.8 hours a week on homework. This contrasts noticeably from the 6.1 hours American students spend per week.

Finnish law mandates that for every 45 minutes of instruction, students must get 15 minutes to play. [onlineclasses.org](http://onlineclasses.org)

Finns place a lot of value on free time and play. By law, teachers must give students a 15-minute break for every 45 minutes of instruction.

It's a different story in the US where kids typically get less than half an hour of recess every day.

This "deficit of play" for US students may lead to additional anxiety and other mental health issues, the psychologist and research professor Peter Gray has written.

**3. College is free**

In Finland, not only are bachelor degree programs completely free of tuition fees, so are master and doctoral programs. Students pursue higher education goals without the mountains of student loan debt that many American students face. And the same goes for foreign students. Tuition is free for any student accepted into a college or graduate program in Finland.

This contrasts greatly with the US, where the average student loan debt now approaches $30,000, according to the Institute for College Access and Success's 2014 report.

**4. Elevated teaching profession**

Hours per year teachers required to spend teaching for 2012. OECD

In Finland, teaching is one of the most revered professions with a relatively high barrier to entry.

Only one in 10 students who apply to teacher education programs are admitted, according to the Center on International Education Benchmarking (CIEB).

Teachers in Finland are treated like professors at universities, and they teach fewer hours during the day than US teachers, with more time devoted to lesson planning.

They also get paid slightly more in Finland. The average teacher in the US makes about $41,000 a year, compared to $43,000 in Finland, according to OECD data.

And while teachers in the US make less money than many other countries, the OECD found that they work the longest hours of all.

It's easy to understand why America's teachers — who are overworked and get relatively little respect — might not be as effective as teachers in Finland.

3.8k Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=8tQ2aufcLs2&type=answer) · Answer requested by [Simon Deck](https://www.quora.com/profile/Simon-Deck)

[Rishi Banerjee](https://www.quora.com/profile/Rishi-Banerjee-15)

[Rishi Banerjee](https://www.quora.com/profile/Rishi-Banerjee-15), B.Tech Information Technology, Manipal University Jaipur (2021)

[Answered May 14, 2017](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Rishi-Banerjee-15)

Oh Yes! Finland has by far the best education ‘system’ in the world. I need a country to compare it with. Okay! I’ll compare their education system with my country India (Though India is developing, India focus on the difficulty level and the marks and not the knowledge).

Since it implemented huge education reforms 40 years ago, Finland's school system has consistently come at the top for the international rankings for education systems. So how do they do it?

It's simple — by going against the evaluation-driven, centralized model that much of the Western world uses and what countries like Japan, Korea and India uses.

Finnish children don't start school until they are 7. And here we are enrolled in schools at the age of 5 and some people enroll their children even before that. (Blockheads)



Compared with other systems, they rarely take exams or do homework until they are well into their teens. I dont have to speak anything about India, it’s already known.

The children are not measured at all for the first six years of their education. We on the other hand start measuring our children’s intelligence from day 1. (He or she will be and Engineer/Doctor).



There is only one mandatory standardized test in Finland, taken when children are 16. Well, an Indian has given over a thousand exams before sixteen.



All children, clever or not, are taught in the same classrooms. In India we have Batch 1 for Geniuses, Batch 2 for Intelligentsia, Batch 3 for Good and Batch 4 for weak students. Wow! That’s discrimination.



A few other proofs are :

1. 30 percent of children receive extra help during their first nine years of school.
2. 66 percent of students go to college. (The highest rate in Europe).
3. The difference between weakest and strongest students is the smallest in the World.
4. Science classes are capped at 16 students so that they may perform practical experiments every class. Now this point is really important, they make scientists, we make engineers, they make developers, we make doctors. We too make scientists and developers but far less as compared to them, though our student count is higher.
5. 93 percent of Finns graduate from high school.(7.5 percent higher than the US.
6. Teachers are given the same importance as Doctors and Lawyers. A teacher in Finland is well paid and is highly respected. We respect our teacher only by calling them ‘Guruji’ and perhaps occasionally touching their feet before exams. But truly, I’ve never seen a student, not making fun of a teacher, behind their back. Our teachers are not well paid either, unless you are a teacher in DPS, IIT or NIT. Lol!

Edits and Suggestions are welcome. Thank You!

4.3k Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=YgRcRdShWP&type=answer)

[Kari Autero](https://www.quora.com/profile/Kari-Autero)

[Kari Autero](https://www.quora.com/profile/Kari-Autero), Native Finn

[Updated Jan 23, 2017](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answers/16610513)

Originally Answered: [Education in Finland: Would other education systems benefit from adopting Finland's system?](https://www.quora.com/Education-in-Finland-Would-other-education-systems-benefit-from-adopting-Finlands-system?no_redirect=1)

The question as it was when I answered:  
  
**“Education in Finland: Would other education systems benefit from adopting Finland's system?**

School starting age is 7, 5 hour school days (which typically start at around 9 AM), 15 minutes break after every lesson, no formal examinations until the age of 16, yet Finland typically scores in the top 3 in terms of academic achievement. What's stopping other countries such from adopting Finland's methods, especially since it's rather clear that their system is an ideal one?”  
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Thanks for asking to answer.

"The world" has set its priorities with regard to education. Those priorities vary, and I'm not aware of different goals that have been set in different countries.

Pasi Sahlberg, a Finnish authority in education has written about this subject and he has pointed out that you can't just take some features of e.g. Finnish education system and transfer them into a totally different culture.

So, to adopt the positive features of Finnish education, you must adopt other things as well, like cultural values etc. Especially in the USA Finland is regarded to be a socialist country by many. What can I say? How likely they are to adopt anything from us? Some other countries may have better understanding of the Nordic Model and they might more likely benefit some of our features.

There is one feature in Finnish education system, that Pasi Sahlberg has pointed out and the same feature has been discussed in the context of the Nordic countries in general on Quora. It is the culture of trust.

It seems to be characteristic for Nordic countries that we trust our authorities, we trust each other, we trust our parents, teachers and students. And this has a huge impact on e.g. the professional independence of teachers and how students are tested. Of course we have rules, bureaucracy and control in our education system, but many things are still based on trust.   
We trust that our teachers do their job without metering their results all the time. Same is with the students. We have tests, but we don't examine everybody all the time. We trust on their responsibility and their will to do their best and that they will develop inevitably.

The other cultural feature is prioritizing between whether we concentrate to offer the best for the best or the equally high quality "normal" education for all. In Finland we have chosen the latter. It is a cultural choice in general. I have understood that in the USA the choice is different.

The third feature is in the teacher education: in Finland it's hard to get to this education, the profession is highly valued and the salaries are quite good. The studies are high level and the educational pressure is rather in the teacher education than in the schools. When they are let out to the schools, they do very good work.

This all has lead to the good results in international tests like PISA. And as a comment to Matthew Daneman: I've learned from several sources in Finnish discussions, that we didn't really know how good our system was until we took part to the PISA tests. So I would say that our educational style is NOT the result of our test scores, it is just the opposite.

I tried to describe shortly how the cultural values affect the organization of the education system. I don't think it can be copied to an other system as such. But may be it can be used as an inspiration and the parts of it can be tested in other cultures too.

4.1k Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=LxvyfrvpYvY&type=answer) · Answer requested by [Caleb Harrington](https://www.quora.com/profile/Caleb-Harrington-2)

[Roberto Vilar](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland%E2%80%99s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified)

[Roberto Vilar](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland%E2%80%99s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified)

[Very wise....](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland%E2%80%99s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified)

[Viivi Ahti](https://www.quora.com/profile/Viivi-Ahti)

[Viivi Ahti](https://www.quora.com/profile/Viivi-Ahti), Learning all the time...PhD research fellow, serial entrepreneur

[Updated Oct 22, 2014](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Viivi-Ahti)

Originally Answered: [Does Finland's school system deserve its good reputation?](https://www.quora.com/Does-Finlands-school-system-deserve-its-good-reputation?no_redirect=1)

Hi,   
in my opinion it deserves the reputation for a few important reasons.  
The size of a Finnish class is not large. Each teacher works with 7-8 students and pay attention to each student student's need. (s) he follows students' progress and stay in close contact with school principals and parents about the performance.   
  
Children have some homework but the most of the work (especially in early classes) is done at school and together with other student.  The practice together and learn together. In addition, each subject is repeated many times in the class. As a result, Finnish children remember what they learn in school and apply it later in life.  
  
They also think about students' strength and weaknesses in early years. This helps the student to understand the career and wish she or he can choose based on her or his strength and perform much better than choosing what (s) he doesn't need.  
  
Finnish culture pays attention to individuals (the level of individualism is rather high but lower than Denmark or Sweden for example). In the school system (and in the families to a great extent), it means that children are seen and respected as an adult. Their opinion is considered important and people pay attention to what children say or want.   
  
However, every coin has two side. The fact that children are seen as adult sometimes go too far. For instance, some teacher quit their job because children insult them!   
  
  
I provide you a real example of two schooling system. My sister's teacher mentioned about her strength in literature and linguistics when she was 10. She was about studying Economy when she turned 19, but took the chance and went to film school. She is a great screenwriter for her age (21) now and got scholarship to continue in UK.  I don't know if she would be an exceptional economist though.  Moreover, she remembers most of the materials she learned during her study. Math, psychiatry, history, geography etc.   
let’s compare this to my experience as the older child who was raised in the Middle East (Iran). I studied math and physics in the high school not because I liked them, but because it was sign of being smart and my parents forced me to go there. I liked politics and sociology but they were out of question because engineers and doctors were seen successful, and forget about the rest. Additionally, I don't remember any of the history or geography lessons although we were 6 hours in the school and had homework for the whole evening. As you see, we are two sisters that have the same parents, but raised in two different educational system.  
  
Once again, it is an opinion and experience, which might be biased.   
  
Viivin

6.1k Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=bAAhAh25qTD&type=answer)

[Heikki Hietala](https://www.quora.com/profile/Heikki-Hietala)

[Heikki Hietala](https://www.quora.com/profile/Heikki-Hietala), lives in Finland

[Updated May 6](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answers/40071340)

Originally Answered: [Why does Finland have the best education system?](https://www.quora.com/Why-does-Finland-have-the-best-education-system?no_redirect=1)

There are many reasons. The Finns have always valued education, since it offered a way up in society. It was seen necessary to teach as many people to read and write as possible, and it was made a part of the requirements of getting to the Holy Communion.

And without that, you couldn't get married, so a strong incentive for learning to read has existed for a long time.

With reading came the thirst for education. Many wealthy farmers sent their younger offspring to study, as the oldest son got the farm. In the 1800s the Church organized a form of school in which teachers rotated between villages and taught there.

Teacher education became formalized in 1863 as the Jyväskylä Seminary started its training. Requirements for teachers gradually increased, and currently tenured teachers must hold a Masters degree in their subject, plus they must have taken the pedagogical studies required.

Finns installed the Compulsory Education Act in 1921, and at first, four years were compulsory, then six, later eight, and in the 1970s comprehensive school reform, nine. All this has been free of tuition, but secondary education has had some costs incurred to the student, even if tuition isn't paid even at university level.

I'd say that the Finnish school system quality results from the high value placed on education for centuries, and the willingness to offer equal chance of success to every child.

[Juha Kurki](https://www.quora.com/profile/Juha-Kurki)

[Juha Kurki](https://www.quora.com/profile/Juha-Kurki), Several administration posts in universities in Finland

[Answered Mar 31, 2016](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Juha-Kurki)

Originally Answered: [Why is finland's education system better than others?](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-finlands-education-system-better-than-others?no_redirect=1)

There is no studies that prove that schools in Finland are better than any country. There is only studies that prove, that childern who do PISA test in finnish language qualify best. If I have understood right?  
  
Finnish language is said to be the most difficult in the word. Language defines our way of thinking, it is the only tool for thinking. Does it matter what kind of tool you are using when memorizing, when understanding? Finnish language is very specific, if you understand finnish, you know exactly what she/he is saying. Finns don't speak much. In the otherhand acrobats don't work long hours.  
  
I think that the reason for good results in PISA tests for finnish childern is, that they have to learn hardest language in the World, where you have to make whole sentence in your brains with modifications in almost every word before letting it out of your mouth. If you say, that doing something, anything, harder way than others do, does not evolve you, you are lying to yourself.  
  
Take Noam Chomskys TG-theory. Read it.  
  
Take results of PISA tests. Take structure of languages compared with their difficulty by countries. - See if these correlate statistically. I have done that.

1.8k Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=VDHJQ6LnxhD&type=answer)

[David Rosson](https://www.quora.com/profile/David-Rosson)

[David Rosson](https://www.quora.com/profile/David-Rosson), Linguist cum Software Engineer

[Answered Feb 20, 2014](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/David-Rosson)

Originally Answered: [What makes Education in Finland best in the world?](https://www.quora.com/What-makes-Education-in-Finland-best-in-the-world?no_redirect=1)

I just came up with an impromptu 'marginal improvement hypothesis':  
  
**Whereas:**

* Teachers in Finland are highly qualified;
* Schools are well-resourced;
* There is an emphasis on helping students who fall behind.

**If you think of how much a student can improve:**

* With the same amount of input in terms of teaching resources;
* A 50th percentile student can improve a lot;
* A 99th percentile student can improve little.

**Therefore:**

* In terms of overall aggregates, or net average improvement...
* And that is what the international rankings generally measures...
* The Finnish strategy wins out;
* It's like you get more bang for the buck if you give the dollar to micro-lending.

Still, in terms of academic achievement and research prowess, U.S. is probably way ahead, and many successful Finns do migrate or work there.

3.6k Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=bM6YNuviAxD&type=answer)

[Shu Lee](https://www.quora.com/profile/Shu-Lee-5)

[Shu Lee](https://www.quora.com/profile/Shu-Lee-5), Master of Teaching. Teacher of Mandarin and ESL. Father of Genius Esther Lee

[Answered Jul 4](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Shu-Lee-5)

I cannot comment on the first question because I have had no experience of living in Finland as a teacher or student. But even if I did, it would still not entirely qualify me to make a conclusive statement such as that the Finnish education system (FES) is the world’s “best.”

So, if I was to answer “is it justified?” I would say it is not justified.

It is not justified to argue that the Finnish education system is the best in the world. One could say that the FES is “one of the best” or simply just “good/wonderful/useful” or of “high quality,” but to say that it is the “best” is to argue that it is comprehensively superior to every other education system that exists in every human community.

There is a flaw here because it would not even be possible to ascertain this data, let alone assess and measure it according to some kind of a universal standard of education. Education and educated people will inform you that there is no universal standard of teaching and learning for purposes that are unique to each social environment.

The results from PISA is only one method of rating the success of an education system. However, it is not an absolute “be all end all” tool of comparison. PISA tests students on their concentration and knowledge when in an exam situation. PISA is not an assessment of educational systems worldwide. And how students perform in tests may have more to do with community culture rather than a reflection of what the education system and teachers are doing. If a student performs well on a test, it is a reflection of that student and his support base in terms of background training. This is an individual matter. This cannot be attributed to the teacher or education system. Why? Because not every student being taught by the same teacher will do well in the test. Some will, some will not. The teachers do not sit tests for their students. Each students sit their own tests and the result is a reflection of the self will. Not a direct reflection of how the education system of a country is doing. There are going to be high achieving students in every type of education system in any country, whether that be a “1st world”, “2nd world” or “3rd world” nation.

You could definitely state that the FES is the best system for the Finnish people in Finland. This would be a sound register. But if you exported this system and attempted to implement it in Japan or the USA, it would not work. Yes and organisers should care about the feasibility of a plan when it comes to comparing and assessing which would be the best system for any particular context.

My personal belief is that whatever education system is operating in any particular community at the moment, that is currently the most appropriate system for that situation. Sure, there is always room for improvement, whether that be extinguishing superfluous rules and methods or establishing new or reinstating old rules and methods. But when taking the big picture into account, since no system can be overturned, it should be developed from within. Besides, there are many factors that influence and impact upon a nation’s education system and culture that the education department has no control over.

64 Views

[Johanni Larjanko](https://www.quora.com/profile/Johanni-Larjanko)

[Johanni Larjanko](https://www.quora.com/profile/Johanni-Larjanko), Moved here from Sweden 30 years ago. Have picked up a thing or two.

[Answered Oct 2, 2016](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Johanni-Larjanko)

Originally Answered: [What makes Finland's education so successful?](https://www.quora.com/What-makes-Finlands-education-so-successful?no_redirect=1)

There has been a lot of discussion on this topic. Many explain parts of the success this way: Finnish teachers are highly trained, well motivated and enjoys a relatively high status in society. As teaching has been a high-status profession many of the best and brightest apply to become teachers. The Finnish school system (like the Swedish, Norwegian and Danish) starts at an internationally comparatively late age (7), allowing the kids to be a bit more mature. The first years of schools are marked by a rather small amount of homework. Classes are kept small, and the individual school (and indeed teacher) has a relatively high level of autonomy in how the subjects should be taught. The general aims and targets are set in the curriculum by the state (Board of Education), but schools decide themselves how to best accomplish them. Further, the schools in Finland are public schools, free of charge, with no “elite” schools. What stands out in PISA is the wide range of pupils performing well, not a peak of a smaller very highly performing elite. Thus the system is considered equal and fair (although of course there is ranking, internal comparisons, poorly performing schools etc). To some extent the school system has been criticized for prepping students to perform well in PISA, rather than question the usefulness of that sort of measuring tool. Other studies show that many teenagers are not enjoying school, and are feeling bad because of it. So, success is a relative term. However, especially PISA has attracted study visits from all over the world for a decade now, and that in itself is also building a kind of confidence within the school system. Confident teachers and headmasters are likely to also perform better. For a more extensive analysis and discussion on the Finnish School system i would suggest Pasi Sahlberg, our probably internationally best known author on this: [ABOUT FINNISH LESSONS - Pasi Sahlberg](http://pasisahlberg.com/finnish-lessons/about-finnish-lessons/)

Did this answer your question, or is there anything specific you were curious about?

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[Kristian Fagerlund](https://www.quora.com/profile/Kristian-Fagerlund)

[Kristian Fagerlund](https://www.quora.com/profile/Kristian-Fagerlund), lives in Finland

[Answered Oct 2, 2016](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Kristian-Fagerlund)

Originally Answered: [What makes Finland's education so successful?](https://www.quora.com/What-makes-Finlands-education-so-successful?no_redirect=1)

A2A

1. We don’t have private schools, other than just a few. Even in those, tuition fees aren’t allowed, they must be free. So pretty much everyone goes to a public school. Everything is free in elementary and middle school, you don’t have to pay anything for books, food or taxi rides to school, if you happen to live far enough. In high school, you have to pay for your books, but the education is still completely free. This gives everyone an equal chance to get high education, your family’s wealth doesn’t affect that in any way.
2. Teachers are required to have a master’s degree from a university in order to become a teacher, so the teachers are really well educated and know exactly what they’re doing and how they’re supposed to teach. They also respect their students and don’t place themselves above them. They don’t suppress students, but encourage them to question things instead of blindly believing everything.
3. School days aren’t too demanding. In elementary school, days can be around 5 hours long. In middle school, they’re 6 hours long. The teachers do give homework, but as an above-average student I did them all in just minutes. So you always have enough time for hobbies and whatever you like to do.
4. If you have difficulties in learning, you’ll get special assistance as much as you need. There will always be one to help you learn as well and much as possible.
5. Students are free to express themselves. Unlike in American schools (as far as I can tell, from my foreign friends’ stories), you will never get a bad grade on an essay, because your opinions and values are completely different from the teacher’s.
6. The education is always up to date, they make changes as needed. The information usually isn’t outdated and the school books are never from the 80’s anymore.

Those are just some points that make the Finnish education one of the best in the world. I’m quite busy right now, but I still wanted to leave an answer of some kind. I hope it helps!

[Hans Henderson](https://www.quora.com/profile/Hans-Henderson)

[Hans Henderson](https://www.quora.com/profile/Hans-Henderson), Bangkok Thailand

[Answered Oct 21, 2014](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Hans-Henderson)

Originally Answered: [Why are primary and secondary education so good in Finland?](https://www.quora.com/Why-are-primary-and-secondary-education-so-good-in-Finland?no_redirect=1)

There is very little difference in income between the various professions, and teaching attracts many of the brightest graduates, as it is very high-status and well-paid\*.  
  
The system therefore can trust its professionals, and there is a lot of peer-to-peer cooperative learning and teaching within and between school faculties; their actual class teaching time workload is half that of less effective systems like the UK and the US.  
  
Therefore there are no top-down standardization efforts, no state-wide testing until time for tertiary entrance exams, no pressure for schools to "measure up" to some arbitrary external bureaucratic requirements. Hence less crippling stress killing performance, freedom to focus on the needs of that roomful of kids, morale remains much higher than in systems where teachers aren't respected and curriculum is imposed (and constantly changed) from outside vested interests.  
  
Finally, there are no private schools, or at least it's illegal for them to charge any tuition fees, so the 'ruling elite' of the country will always support quality government education since everyone's getting the same standard, and funding levels are not different from one location to the next - in fact those poorer communities with greater needs get \*more\* funding not less.  
  
\* note since one does not need to save for health care, child care, one's survival in old age, kids' university fees there is less incentive to maximize income at the expense of the family spending time together and other more rational quality of life issues. In comparing taxation levels with less-developed non-welfare-state countries, one should to add these additional private costs as if they are taxes.

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[Shivam Annapurne](https://www.quora.com/profile/Shivam-Annapurne)

[Shivam Annapurne](https://www.quora.com/profile/Shivam-Annapurne), Student at Indian Institute of Technology , Dhanbad (2015-present)

[Answered Apr 3, 2017](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Shivam-Annapurne)

Originally Answered: [Why does Finland have the best education system?](https://www.quora.com/Why-does-Finland-have-the-best-education-system?no_redirect=1)

**Finland** is the first country to get rid of all school subjects. **Finnish officials want to remove school subjects from the curriculum. There will no longer be any classes in physics, math, literature, history, or geography.**

“There are schools that are teaching in the old-fashioned way which was of benefit in the beginning of the 1900s — but the needs are not the same, and we need something fit for the 21st century.“

Instead of individual subjects, students will study events and phenomena in an interdisciplinary format. For example, the Second World War will be examined from the perspective of history, geography, and math. And by taking the course ”Working in a Cafe," students will absorb a whole body of knowledge about the English language, economics, and communication skills.

This system will be introduced for senior students, beginning at the age of 16. The general idea is that the students ought to choose for themselves which topic or phenomenon they want to study, bearing in mind their ambitions for the future and their capabilities. In this way, no student will have to pass through an entire course on physics or chemistry while all the time thinking to themselves “What do I need to know this for?”

The traditional format of teacher-pupil communication is also going to change. Students will no longer sit behind school desks and wait anxiously to be called upon to answer a question. Instead, they will work together in small groups to discuss problems.

The Finnish education system encourages collective work, which is why the changes will also affect teachers. The school reform will require a great deal of cooperation between teachers of different subjects. Around 70% of teachers in Helsinki have already undertaken preparatory work in line with the new system for presenting information, and, as a result, they’ll get a pay increase.

The changes are expected to be complete by 2020.

You can also check my answer for- [Shivam Annapurne's answer to Which countries have the best education system and why?](https://www.quora.com/Which-countries-have-the-best-education-system-and-why/answer/Shivam-Annapurne)

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[Aaron Smith](https://www.quora.com/profile/Aaron-Smith-45)

[Aaron Smith](https://www.quora.com/profile/Aaron-Smith-45), Blank Check: Re-Creating America's Broken Schools at Education (2015-present)

[Answered Feb 15](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Aaron-Smith-45)

From what I have seen, yes in many aspects.

* Teachers are making higher wages compared to American teachers which makes the teachers want to remain in education.
* Standardized testing and literacy rates are higher compared to the world.
* Differentiation is emphasized in classes while many teachers still use teacher -lecture discussions.
* The Fins spend more per student than America’s taxpayers do.

When you look at the whole perspective they have adapted education to the times from techniques to technology making them ahead of many countries.

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[Timo Slinger](https://www.quora.com/profile/Timo-Slinger)

[Timo Slinger](https://www.quora.com/profile/Timo-Slinger), Msc Educational Science, Bsc Teacher Education in Physical Education

[Answered Feb 14, 2016](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Timo-Slinger)

Originally Answered: [What are some interesting things about the Finnish education system?](https://www.quora.com/What-are-some-interesting-things-about-the-Finnish-education-system?no_redirect=1)

Currently, the Finnish education system is so famous that there is an entire industry for arranged tours of the system. Go figure.

Besides that fun fact, trust in teachers is probably the single most important and interesting aspect of the Finnish educational system.

Let me quote and paraphrase from a textbook I have right here, *Curriculum: Foundations, Principles, and Issues* by Allan Ornstein and Francis Hunkins:

Just what did Finland do to make it an educational envy of the world?

The authors state that the Finnish Ministry of Educational introduced a range of novelties, such as:

going from an agency that was highly centralized managing education with curriculum guides exceeding 700 pages to an organization working more as a catalyst to get educators at the local level to assume responsibility for creating curricula and assessments;

going from a central authority prone to issue edicts as to what teachers should do in schools and classrooms to an organization that expressed confidence in teachers, with excellent preparatory programs, could be trusted creating curricula and innovative pedagogical strategies;

and a stress on local and idiosyncratic assessment generated by teachers

The authors go on to say that trust in teachers is perhaps the single most significant novelty introduced by the Finnish authorities.

Source: Page 282 in *Curriculum: Foundations, Principles, and Issues* 6th edition by Allan Ornstein and Francis Hunkins.

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[Cn Blue](https://www.quora.com/profile/Cn-Blue-1)

[Cn Blue](https://www.quora.com/profile/Cn-Blue-1), Student || Dreamer || Thinker

[Answered Dec 5, 2016](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Cn-Blue-1)

Originally Answered: [What makes Finlands education system best in the World?](https://www.quora.com/What-makes-Finlands-education-system-best-in-the-World?no_redirect=1)

There are a lot of things that makes their system rate so highly worldwide. In many education systems Teachers are held responsible for the poor performance, but one must think where did today's teacher come from … *you guessed it right* … they were students of the same education system. So this looks like an endless loop of blame.

This is where Finland put some great measures.They figured to get better teachers they have to make better students.They formulated their education system based on pretty unique components:-

* Finland **doesn’t have schooling till age 7**,but they do have preschools until then which starts around 2 years early, where they are focused on socialising and bonding.
* On an average Finnish children get **around 70 minutes of recess a day**, so a minimum break of 10 minutes after every lesson.
* Very **few tests and homework**. They do have an exam at the end of high school but other than that tests are not conducted often.
* An average class in Finland **consists of 15 to 20 students**.There is no separation of students based on ability, if you are excellent you don’t get rewarded but a weak student gets special classes to help him.
* **Teachers spend less time on teaching** and more on evaluating and accessing the student.
* There is **no strict rules for teaching only guidelines**,this allows teachers to form their own unique style of teaching. That means though a history class may be more confined to the class, an Environmental subject students are more likely to spend time in gardens or nearby forests.
* Teachers **must also obtain a Masters Degree** from one of eight national colleges.But the silver lining here is the cost is completely subsidised by the government.
* In Finland, a teacher is likely to **stick with the same group of students for around five years** opposed to changing teachers system followed in many countries.This allows teachers to bond more closely with the students.
* In Finland, **teachers are regarded as highly** as doctors and lawyers.

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[Matthew Laine](https://www.quora.com/profile/Matthew-Laine-1)

[Matthew Laine](https://www.quora.com/profile/Matthew-Laine-1), Teacher, Entrepreneur (2008-present)

[Answered Jun 18, 2017](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Matthew-Laine-1)

Originally Answered: [Why is Finland #1 in education?](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland-1-in-education?no_redirect=1)

Finland consistently ranks among the top countries for education for two reasons.

1. Not everyone goes to lukio, the equivalent of high school. Trade schools account for many of those educated. If you're testing only students in the upper half, of course they're going to be categorically better as a whole.
2. Secondary education across the whole world in general is bad. It's incredibly easy for a homogeneous population that values high test scores to outperform people who are underperforming.

Seriously, we need to rethink education as a whole. Ultimately, PISA scores are meaningless when it comes to achieving real world results such as success, progress, and financial independence.

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[Dev Kumar](https://www.quora.com/profile/Dev-Kumar-482)

[Dev Kumar](https://www.quora.com/profile/Dev-Kumar-482), former Teacher

[Answered Jun 27, 2017](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Dev-Kumar-482)

Finland has the best school education system in the world and has constantly been ranked first in this field globally. I will discuss some of the aspects of schooling system in Finland here.

1. The school hours is less than 4 hours of day. This includes the lunch time. There are 25 classes in a week, each class of 45 minutes duration (20 hours of schooling per week). Of the 25 classes, 9 classes are for music, drama, arts, outdoor activities, etc.

2. There is NO concept of Homework. As Education minister Sanni Grahn-Laasonen says, "The best way to make sure a child learns is to be let him/her be a child. The time at home is meant to learn family values, culture and explore hobbies, strengths and curiosities. Homework hampers the all-round development of a child."

3. There is no system of marks. At the end of year, every student gets a 4-5 page report card. The report card mentions the strengths and weaknesses of a child in detail. For example, the report card will state that the child possesses extraordinary skills in solving fractions, but needs to work on skills related to geometry. The report card assesses every single subject area of all the subjects in detail.

4. The children are asked to do whatever they like during the outdoor activities sessions of school hours. For example, if a child loves climbing a tree, the school lets them do so. The child is encouraged to observe the surrounding, look at flowers, insects, leaves and anything they find exciting. This is how creativity us nurtured and promoted.

This system is not only for small children, but for entire schooling. No homework, no marks, just 4 hours of schools per day and 2 classes per day for music, arts, drama, sports, etc etc.

PS - A teacher is one of the highest paid public servants in Finland. Getting a job as a teacher is extremely competitive and tough. The best compete and the exceptionally strong candidates get a job as teacher. The joining salary of a teacher is 45,000 euros per annum that increases to 65,000 euros with experience.

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[Pamela Boulais](https://www.quora.com/profile/Pamela-Boulais)

[Pamela Boulais](https://www.quora.com/profile/Pamela-Boulais), Software Tester at Copla Oy (2018-present)

[Answered May 13, 2017](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Pamela-Boulais)

Originally Answered: [What are the proofs that Finland has the best education in the world?](https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-proofs-that-Finland-has-the-best-education-in-the-world?no_redirect=1)

Hi, it is scored under PISA. [http://gpseducation.oecd.org/Cou...](http://gpseducation.oecd.org/CountryProfile?primaryCountry=FIN&topic=PI&treshold=10)

Finland is about to change their system, here is a link about that as well.

[The truth about Finnish schools - thisisFINLAND](https://finland.fi/life-society/the-truth-about-finnish-schools/)

3.4k Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=FxxUnoboW2H&type=answer)

[Markus Kajo](https://www.quora.com/profile/Markus-Kajo)

[Markus Kajo](https://www.quora.com/profile/Markus-Kajo), Scriptwriter/producer/tv and radio comedy ’talent’ at YLE

[Answered Jun 29, 2017](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Markus-Kajo)

The *why* question I can’t answer to.

About “Is it justified?”

Perhaps not so much in the future: it appears the younger generation reads less and less (literature etc), teachers of Finnish language complain that more and more pupils and students whose mother tongue is Finnish make more and more clumsy mistakes. Some even pose the question if the lack of being well versed in one’s mother tongue is likely to cause harm ion one’s ability to think.

Bullying - in spite of various campaigns agains it - is daily hell to many, many pupils.

The depression among the youth is much bigger an issue that the Finnish society can deal with.

So while most university students that have matriculated from Finnish schools speak several languages, and “know a lot”, many of them carry a mental burden.

I don’t know how the depression, substance abuse etc figures compare to the ones in other nordic and European countries, but in my mind is is naïve to compare just school or university test results.

You don’t push on thru life on the force of your papers, it is your brain, both the emotional and cognitive side of it, that is your engine and pilot through the life.

Also, techers - I keep hearing - are being treated “by the system” (=authorities) like interchangeable cogs in a machine. If a city or county can find a way to wiggle out from some overtime payments, if they can find a way to save an Euro, no matter how inconvenient it is for the teacher and the pupils, the Euro will be saved.

You might study to become a math teacher for the topmost (=matriculating) classes - and be put to teach very young kids math and whatever else.

I am a Finn, and the temptation to sing the praises of our famous school system is there, but my honest impression is that due to excessive cost cuts, burned-out parents, burned out teachers, and so on, make a bleak future if real and substantial change of course and allocation of resources is not taken.

Having said all that, we have excellent schools, excellent teachers, students and parents who support the school (=co-operate with teachers when needed).

But.

There are pupils with ADD or Aspergers (etc) and as far as I know, the teachers and schools can do diddly squat to tailor teaching (for example) to the needs of an ADD kid. They just sit there, accepting that inability to concentrate takes away the “the best education in the world” from them.

Most of the teachers bend of backwards to try and find means to teach all kids in the class, but budget cuts, this eternal “saving” makes it all but impossible.

So, while you might find more positive view in other answers, this might make the picture more complete.

if you want to know more, why not ask in Quora the opinions of teachers, parents of depressed, bullied, ADD, Asperger etc kids, headmasters and the like.

Anyways, let’s hope the powers-that-be will realise that if a change of course isn’t made, the quality and thus also the reputation of Finnish schools is going to hell in a handbasket - unless there are no hand baskets left due to cost cuts, and thus the delivery to hell will be made by some private logistics company, since outsourcing seems to be the Gospel of this age…

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[Richard Hom](https://www.quora.com/profile/Richard-Hom)

[Richard Hom](https://www.quora.com/profile/Richard-Hom), PhD Research in food insecurity, food public policy

[Answered Oct 29, 2015](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Richard-Hom)

Originally Answered: [Education in Finland: Would other education systems benefit from adopting Finland's system?](https://www.quora.com/Education-in-Finland-Would-other-education-systems-benefit-from-adopting-Finlands-system?no_redirect=1)

Policy decisions require validation because of public money and legislative input.  As [Matthew Daneman](https://www.quora.com/profile/Matthew-Daneman) states, there is got to be a way to related their success on scores with their education system.  
  
As a researcher, the best way to "test" something is to do a prospective randomly controlled trial (RCT). Unfortunately, that is unlikely since no parent will want to "volunteer" their child for an experiment.   
  
This then falls onto each parent to decide for themselves whether one kind of approach is better than another.    
  
**Richard Hom** [Connect on LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/in/paraescriber)

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[Thomas Cabinham](https://www.quora.com/profile/Thomas-Cabinham)

[Thomas Cabinham](https://www.quora.com/profile/Thomas-Cabinham), Freelance artist, game dev, reformed pro-thief, BDSM-sub

[Answered Feb 13, 2014](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Thomas-Cabinham)

Originally Answered: [What makes Education in Finland best in the world?](https://www.quora.com/What-makes-Education-in-Finland-best-in-the-world?no_redirect=1)

Well, there's the fact that education in Finland, unlike many other countries, is paid for by the goverment. Even university students receive a small monthly check from the goverment. This means that everybody has a chance of getting the highest education possible regardless of social class.

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[Matthew Daneman](https://www.quora.com/profile/Matthew-Daneman)

[Matthew Daneman](https://www.quora.com/profile/Matthew-Daneman), Reporter of pay-TV and satellite news, devourer of popular culture.

[Answered Oct 29, 2015](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Matthew-Daneman)

Originally Answered: [Education in Finland: Would other education systems benefit from adopting Finland's system?](https://www.quora.com/Education-in-Finland-Would-other-education-systems-benefit-from-adopting-Finlands-system?no_redirect=1)

Because while Finland's style of education correlates with those scores, how do we know it causes them? Perhaps that educational style is the result of Finland's test scores. You're assuming causation, but there could other factors at work. So lacking strong evidence that school start at 9 a.m. or schooling beginning at age 7 are what actually works, there's probably not going to be much groundswell for other countries changing how they do things.

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[Ana Popovic](https://www.quora.com/profile/Ana-Popovic-7)

[Ana Popovic](https://www.quora.com/profile/Ana-Popovic-7), Positive aging advocate, sauna addict and expat.

[Answered Apr 20, 2016](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Ana-Popovic-7)

One of the main factors is because Finland has consistently been on top in the international education rankings and competitions.

The reasons for this, in a nutshell: education is free for every child, teachers are consistently educated in the latest methods, the system fosters creativity, group work and community instead of competitiveness.

794 Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=9phqen6X3EK&type=answer)

Anonymous

Anonymous

[Updated Mar 11, 2017](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answers/16615755)

Originally Answered: [Education in Finland: Would other education systems benefit from adopting Finland's system?](https://www.quora.com/Education-in-Finland-Would-other-education-systems-benefit-from-adopting-Finlands-system?no_redirect=1)

There has been enormous media reaction to Finland’s educational system of late and the rumor mill is operating at full force. No one has claimed that any country’s educational system is the best in the world.

This is the test that attracted much media attention. It’s offered every four years. Finland did not participate in this TIMMS in the 2003 and 2007 testing. It did participate in the 2011 testing.   
[Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)](https://nces.ed.gov/timss/figure11_4.asp)  
What does that graph show in regard to Finland? You'd find South Korea and Singapore doing consistently well on those tests but the media never seems to devote attention to those countries’ success.   
   
I am not a fan of standardized testing and the exaggerated importance attached to it but I am a fan of Finland’s approach to education and the U.S. has private schools - not many but some - that use a system similar to the Finnish system. With all the furor over Finland’s system of education why has no one in the US stepped forward to speak up for universal preschool - preschool is provided at no cost to the parents in Finland.   
   
I'd be happy to see the U.S. adopt the Finnish system - certainly to provide it as an option and I'd put both my children into it - because the Finnish system understands that education must be geared to the developmental realities of children and that children's learning is served well by including proper exercise and healthy play into the day.

728 Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=4QzEqT745oW&type=answer)

[Joni-Petteri Kivistö](https://www.quora.com/profile/Joni-Petteri-Kivistö)

[Joni-Petteri Kivistö](https://www.quora.com/profile/Joni-Petteri-Kivistö), Pirate Party of Finland, board member of Tampere district.

[Answered Jan 27](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Joni-Petteri-Kivistö)

For elementary, secondary and upper secondary, absolutely.

I would argue that the benefits come from superior teacher education system, culture, evolutionary school improvement system, standardised testing and good work-leisure balance in school and home.

After that it gets gets more diverse ranging from excellent to useless depending on city, school/uni, field studied and enrolment year.

66 Views

[Peter WilliamHoh](https://www.quora.com/profile/Peter-WilliamHoh)

[Peter WilliamHoh](https://www.quora.com/profile/Peter-WilliamHoh)

[Answered Jun 25, 2017](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Peter-WilliamHoh)

Many during the 80s and 90s touted the Japanese system . All have their reasons and all use varied measures. There is only one long term measure …. how has each country developed or progressed over time given it’s inherent maturity in both tangible and intangible benchmarks. Unfortunately mature economies only glow at snail pace so it makes comparison difficult.

If you look purely at economic growth and propects, one could say either China or India.

For stark reality as a guide, which are countries that consistently attract high calibre international students. Why ? It’s their educational system.

Some point to the western countries and say it’s because English is important but Zambia or Zimbabwee or Malaysia or South Africa or India or Sri Lanka or Singapore or Hong Kong is English language driven and indeed Indian/Singapore universities are well established plus some claim to world class achievements. So it’s not English though it is a likely factor.

The primary goal has to be quality of education ! The game changer selection approach…how each country or culture has altered the world. No brainer.

248 Views

[Rose Myriah Sebastian](https://www.quora.com/profile/Rose-Myriah-Sebastian)

[Rose Myriah Sebastian](https://www.quora.com/profile/Rose-Myriah-Sebastian), 13 years working in special education-- 4 as an assistant and 9 as a teacher.

[Answered Mar 29, 2016](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Rose-Myriah-Sebastian)

Originally Answered: [Why is finland's education system better than others?](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-finlands-education-system-better-than-others?no_redirect=1)

Amanda Ripley's book, [The Smartest Kids in the World: And How They Got That Way: Amanda Ripley: 9781451654431: Amazon.com: Books](http://www.amazon.com/The-Smartest-Kids-World-They/dp/145165443X) looks at schools in a few different countries, including Finland. The books is also super fun to read and a great place to start if you are interested in learning more about American education in comparison to the rest of the world! Teaching in Finland is an incredibly respected-- and well trained-- profession. I wish both of those were true here!

1k Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=11FtfQJw7RQ&type=answer)

[Sune Jakobsson](https://www.quora.com/profile/Sune-Jakobsson)

[Sune Jakobsson](https://www.quora.com/profile/Sune-Jakobsson), lived in Finland

[Answered Nov 20, 2016](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Sune-Jakobsson)

Originally Answered: [What makes Finland's education so successful?](https://www.quora.com/What-makes-Finlands-education-so-successful?no_redirect=1)

Teaching is a respected profession in Finland, and they give grades early on. For children with learning or behaviour issues, they get help early on, and are removed from the standard education system, and therefore disappear from the statistics.

485 Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=o9CEo0A1Vd&type=answer)

[Upvote · 6](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland%E2%80%99s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified)

[Soumya](https://www.quora.com/profile/Soumya-136)

[Soumya](https://www.quora.com/profile/Soumya-136), works at Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

[Answered Nov 17, 2016](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Soumya-136)

Originally Answered: [What makes Finland's education so successful?](https://www.quora.com/What-makes-Finlands-education-so-successful?no_redirect=1)

I read about this yesterday.Will try to keep it as short as possible:

1. Kids start school at age 7

2. Teaching is the most respected profession in Finland.Getting a degree in Primary education is a matter of pride and acceptance rate for the program is just 10%

3. Only Teachers with masters degree are accepted to teach in schools

4. Teachers have their own offices and recreational rooms.They get breaks just like students and a day off from teaching which they use to plan and create thought provoking lessons

5. Students are given less homework and are encouraged to participate in class

1.2k Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=VKHVAxCuBuu&type=answer)

[Atli Geir Lárusson](https://www.quora.com/profile/Atli-Geir-Lárusson)

[Atli Geir Lárusson](https://www.quora.com/profile/Atli-Geir-Lárusson), University student

[Answered Feb 23, 2016](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Atli-Geir-Lárusson)

Because they managed to make their school system a lot more lenient(longer recess,fewer tests,lenient teacher guidelines,kids don't enter school until they're seven) without them suffering from it. In fact,it seems that Finnish students are actually preforming better than a lot of their peers abroad.  
  
 There is also better pay and tougher standards for teachers there,which also helps.

1.4k Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=mRlDf4NYGVK&type=answer)

[Jonathan Riikonen](https://www.quora.com/profile/Jonathan-Riikonen)

[Jonathan Riikonen](https://www.quora.com/profile/Jonathan-Riikonen), Born in Taka-Hikia

[Answered Oct 23, 2017](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Jonathan-Riikonen)

Perhaps it is the quality of the students to begin with. Finland also has the most Mensa (high IQ) level people per capita in the world. This could reflect in the PISA results. I doubt that good education provides more intelligence itself, knowledge is a different thing.

70 Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=dHPXwmDB978&type=answer)

[Upvote · 2](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland%E2%80%99s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified)

[Lasse Torni](https://www.quora.com/profile/Lasse-Torni)

[Lasse Torni](https://www.quora.com/profile/Lasse-Torni), lives in Finland

[Answered Dec 31, 2016](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Lasse-Torni)

No, it’s not justified. The answer is not in the system - many other countries have as good system as we do have. But they are behind us.

The answer is the material we “feed” our schools with.

[Pete Zeman](https://www.quora.com/profile/Pete-Zeman)

[Pete Zeman](https://www.quora.com/profile/Pete-Zeman), Investment Management Consulting

[Answered Oct 29, 2015](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Pete-Zeman)

Originally Answered: [Education in Finland: Would other education systems benefit from adopting Finland's system?](https://www.quora.com/Education-in-Finland-Would-other-education-systems-benefit-from-adopting-Finlands-system?no_redirect=1)

They also have free Pre-School and Free Child-care.  So Finnish kids may be getting the same amount of socialization, play time and recess at US kids.    
  
I cannot imagine that formal tests---or no tests---make a decisive difference. If you can learn anything from the state of US schools is that the more homework they assign, the poorer the test schools get.  In any case, curricula in many Asian systems are chock full of test and they get good results too.  
  
The most powerful variables in education seems to be:  
-Parents   
-Teachers  
-Ability to deliver different instruction to different learners

447 Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=3IpTvV9tBoi&type=answer)

[Upvote · 3](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland%E2%80%99s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified)

[Susanna Luhtanen](https://www.quora.com/profile/Susanna-Luhtanen)

[Susanna Luhtanen](https://www.quora.com/profile/Susanna-Luhtanen), Native Finn

[Answered May 11, 2017](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Susanna-Luhtanen)

Well the “best” comes from PISA-results.

As for how it comes… I think Pasi Sahlberg explains that quite well.

There are plenty of other videos about that in You tube.

Other theories include phonetic language making it easy to read…

87 Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=IXLzvxwmYmu&type=answer) · Answer requested by [Samuel Marks](https://www.quora.com/profile/Samuel-Marks-8)

[Upvote · 1](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland%E2%80%99s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified)

[Kurt Vitalis](https://www.quora.com/profile/Kurt-Vitalis)

[Kurt Vitalis](https://www.quora.com/profile/Kurt-Vitalis), Resident Dirtbag

[Updated Mar 7, 2017](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Kurt-Vitalis)

Finland is one of the least diverse countries outside of North Korea. Poverty is almost unheard of in Finland and the children are born into families that speak two or three languages. Taxes are high yet everyone is expected to pull his weight. Finland does not suffer from the soft bigotry of low expectations that plagues our schools in the USA.

162 Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=RNbkjya3jnd&type=answer)

[Markku Nissinen](https://www.quora.com/profile/Markku-Nissinen)

[Markku Nissinen](https://www.quora.com/profile/Markku-Nissinen), native finn

[Answered Mar 28, 2016](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Markku-Nissinen)

Originally Answered: [Why is finland's education system better than others?](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-finlands-education-system-better-than-others?no_redirect=1)

Equality before excellence sums it up pretty neatly.

Used to be, it was either taking care of others and being a part of the community or horrible death. What with the climate and all.

342 Views · [View Upvoters](https://www.quora.com/api/mobile_expanded_voter_list?key=3Fono2RfGja&type=answer) · Answer requested by Quora User

[Upvote · 1](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland%E2%80%99s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified)

[Zurab Gachokidze](https://www.quora.com/profile/Zurab-Gachokidze), former Self-employed

[Answered Jul 20](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Zurab-Gachokidze)

Without going into the details I can say one thing - when I compare the Finnish curriculum with the Russian one, it becomes obvious to me that Finnish students fall behind massively.

And that is the reason my family can’t move back to Russia. My son has been going to Finnish school for the last 6 years and he won’t be able to catch up if we move back. So we have to wait until he finishes school

101 Views

[Upvote](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland%E2%80%99s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified)

[Bholanath Dutta](https://www.quora.com/profile/Bholanath-Dutta)

[Bholanath Dutta](https://www.quora.com/profile/Bholanath-Dutta), Founder & President at MTC Global (2009-present)

[Answered Jun 24](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Finland’s-education-system-considered-the-best-in-the-world-Is-it-justified/answer/Bholanath-Dutta)

There are many reasons. But , one line answer for this question is

‘They have the best teachers”.

Cheers!!!

26 Views