

Title:	Why Finland's schools outperform most others across the world
First Broadcast:	Jan 2020
Source:	ABC's 7.30 Report
Minutes:	6:25
Video & Script:	https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/why-finlands-schools-outperform-most-others-across/11915770
Summary:	Finland's schools consistently outperform Australian schools and most others across the developed world.

KEY WORDS

Below is a list of words which appear in the report - can you match the words with their correct definition? Use a dictionary to help you if you aren't sure.

assess	
collect	
fair	
fear, concern or nervousness	
have a role in or be an important part of something	
immensely	
much desired or in demand	
noisy, boisterous	
of the same or a similar kind	
programme of studies	
put on warm clothing	
something built for a specific purpose	
unwelcome involvement in the activities and concerns of other people	

curriculum (n)
feature (v)
rug up (v)
raucous (adj)
school facilities (n)
raise funds (v)
equitably (adv)
evaluate (v)
sought after (adj)
interfere with their work (v)
anxiety (n)
vastly different (adv)
homogenous (adj)

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

SUMMARY

Finland's schools consistently outperform Australian schools and most others across the developed world.

FOCUS QUESTIONS

- Where is Finland? What do you know about the country?
- In Finland, there's little anxiety about finding the right school for your child – why?
- Why do you think Finland's schools consistently outperform schools in most developed countries?
- What might be the single biggest difference in Finnish education?
- School students in Finland spend a lot of time playing, either indoors or outdoors. Do you think this is important?

LISTENING

First watch the report and answer the questions

- Compared to Australian school kids, students in Finland spend _____ as much time in a classroom.
- How the curriculum is taught in Finland is decided by _____.
- Finland's schools do not have exams. **T / F**
- The single biggest difference in Finnish education is the _____.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

After watching the report, try to answer the following questions

1. Who decides how much technology features in Finland's classrooms? _____
2. Who pays for student lunches and things like books and excursions? _____
3. Parents only have to pay school fees. **T / F**
4. There are regular exams in Finland but the results are not _____.
5. All teachers in Finland must have a _____.
6. What advice does Vesa Ayras, a school principal, give?
Try to build (a) system (in which) you _____.
7. What does Oona Arnez, a teacher, say at the end of the report is very important in Finland when it comes to education?

“Society respects the teachers and it means also _____”

CLOZE

Use the words to complete the sentences

The form of the word may need to be changed

curriculum	feature	rug up	raucous
facilities	raise	equitably	evaluate
interfere	anxiety	vastly	homogenous
sought after			

- Each year, all teachers at the school had to undergo peer of their classroom teaching practices.
- As part of the state's high school, every student had to study English right through until they completed year 12.
- It is very common for students to feel before an exam.
- Many people questioned whether giving private schools, which charged parents thousands of dollars of fees, the same amount of government funding as public schools was
- Once they leave office, American presidents are much public speakers and can earn tens of thousands of dollars per booking.
- Teachers sometimes complain that parents these days tend to too much in how they teach their classes.
- The country has a very society with most people sharing similar cultural backgrounds and values.
- The government announced an extra \$100 million in funding to build new classrooms and upgrade the country's educational
- The new school playground a basketball court and an ice rink.
- The school held a cake sale to money to buy books for the new library.
- The school's new state of the art library was a improvement on the previous one which was basically just a small classroom with some books in it.
- The teacher told her students to if they were going to play outside because it was freezing.
- There were cheers from the crowd when the home team scored a third goal and won the game after they had been 2-0 down.

ANSWERS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • half • (individual) teachers • F • standard of teaching 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. teachers 2. it is free 3. F 4. published and shared 5. Master's degree 6. trust the people 7. "... the parents respect the teachers and they don't question the teachers ..."
--	--

assess	evaluate
collect	raise
fair	equitably
fear, concern or nervousness	anxiety
have a role in or be an important part of something	feature
immensely	vastly
much desired or in demand	sought after
noisy, boisterous	raucous
of the same or a similar kind	homogenous
programme of studies	curriculum
put on warm clothing	rug up
something built for a specific purpose	facilities
unwelcome involvement in the activities and concerns of other people	interfere

1. As part of the state's high school **curriculum**, every student had to study English right through until they completed year 12.
2. Each year, all teachers at the school had to undergo peer **evaluation** of their classroom teaching practices.
3. It is very common for students to feel **anxious** before an exam.
4. Many people questioned whether giving private schools, which charged parents thousands of dollars of fees, the same amount of government funding as public schools was **equitable**.
5. Once they leave office, American presidents are much **sought after** public speakers and can earn tens of thousands of dollars per booking.
6. Teachers sometimes complain that parents these days tend to **interfere** too much in how they teach their classes.
7. The country has a very **homogenous** society with most people sharing similar cultural backgrounds and values.
8. The government announced an extra \$100 million in funding to build new classrooms and upgrade the country's educational **facilities**.
9. The new school playground **featured** a basketball court and an ice rink.
10. The school held a cake sale to **raise** money to buy books for the new library.
11. The school's new state of the art library was a **vast** improvement on the previous one which was basically just a small classroom with some books in it.
12. The teacher told her students to **rug up** if they were going to play outside because it was freezing.
13. There were **raucous** cheers from the crowd when the home team scored a third goal and won the game after they had been 2-0 down.