

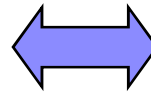
**Education
and the
Competitive Advantage of Nations:
*Governance, Achievement and Economics***

**Patricia Parulekar
National Director
Canadian School Boards Association
to the Atlantic Conference
January 2009, St. John's, Newfoundland**

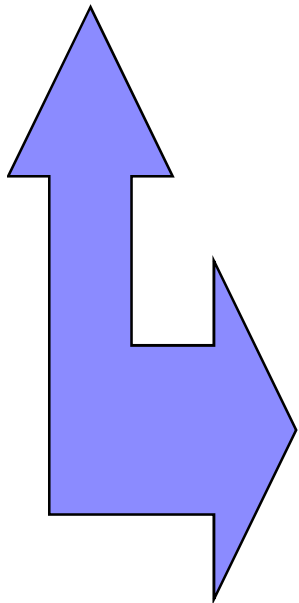
Education and Economics

Introduction & Arguments

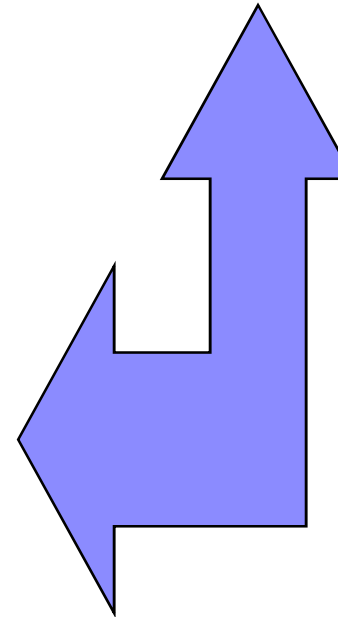
Local democracy leads to effectiveness in education and the economy



Canada's high PISA ranking has an economic and social impact



Governance System - Provincial governments, provincial school board associations and locally elected school boards comprise this system of services and decision-making



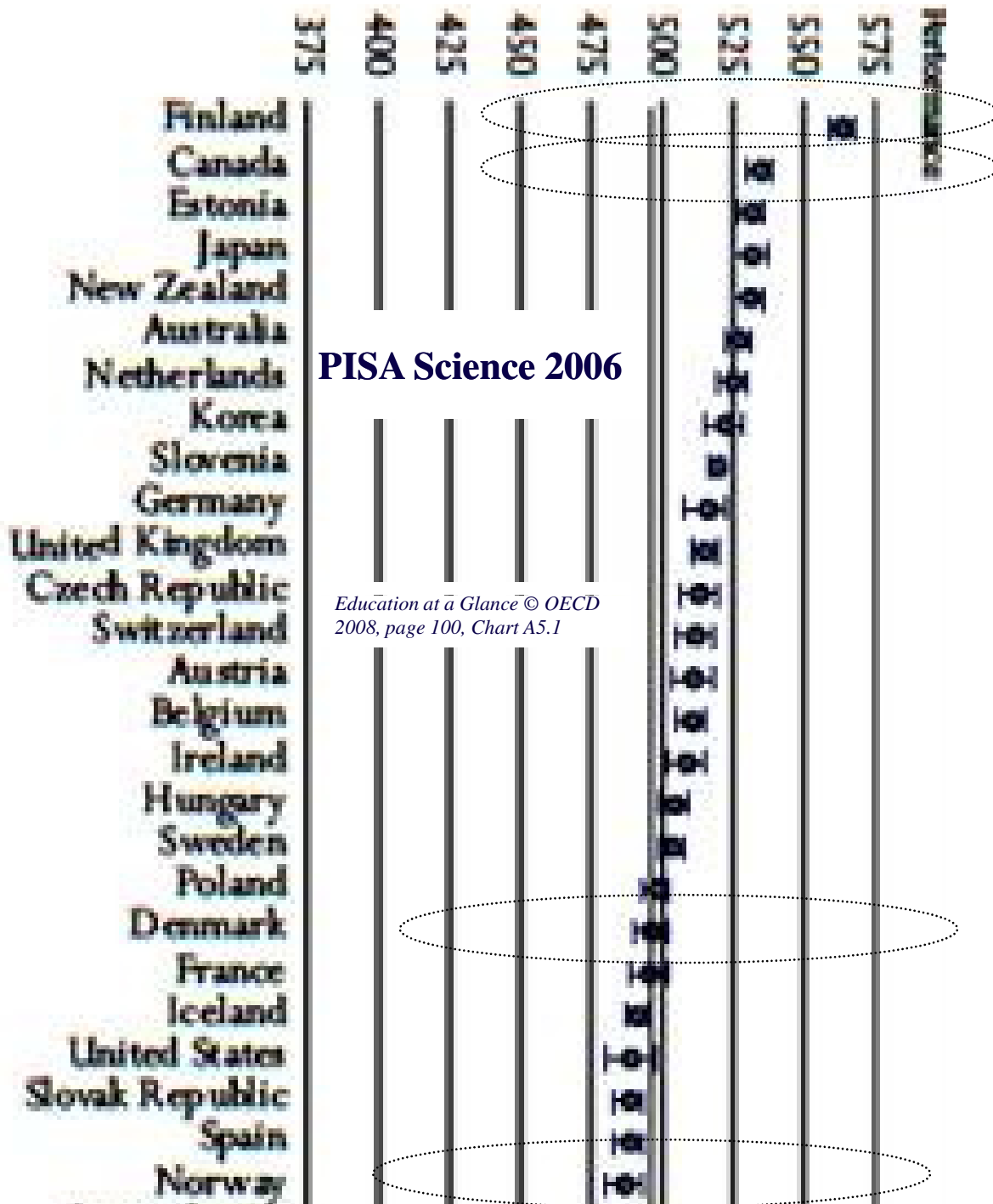
Nation, Size, % GDP Spent On Education

Country	Size in Square KM
Canada	9,984,670
United States	9,826,630
Australia	7,686,850
Mexico	1,972,550
France	547,030
Sweden	449,964
Finland	338,145
Norway	323,802
New Zealand	268,680
Korea	98,480
Denmark	43,094
Switzerland	41,290

The CIA World Fact Book - www.cia.gov

Country	% of GDP Spent	Country	% of GDP Spent
Iceland	5.4	Norway	3.8
New Zealand	4.7	Poland	3.7
United Kingdom	4.6	Austria	3.7
Denmark	4.5	Canada	3.6
Switzerland	4.4	Netherlands	3.4
Mexico	4.4	Ireland	3.4
Korea	4.3	Hungary	3.4
Sweden	4.2		
Belgium	4.1		
Finland	3.9		
United States	3.8		
<i>OECD average</i>	<i>3.8</i>		

Expenditure on Primary, secondary & postsecondary nontertiary education as a percentage of GDP by level of education 2006 - Education at a Glance © OECD 2008, page 237



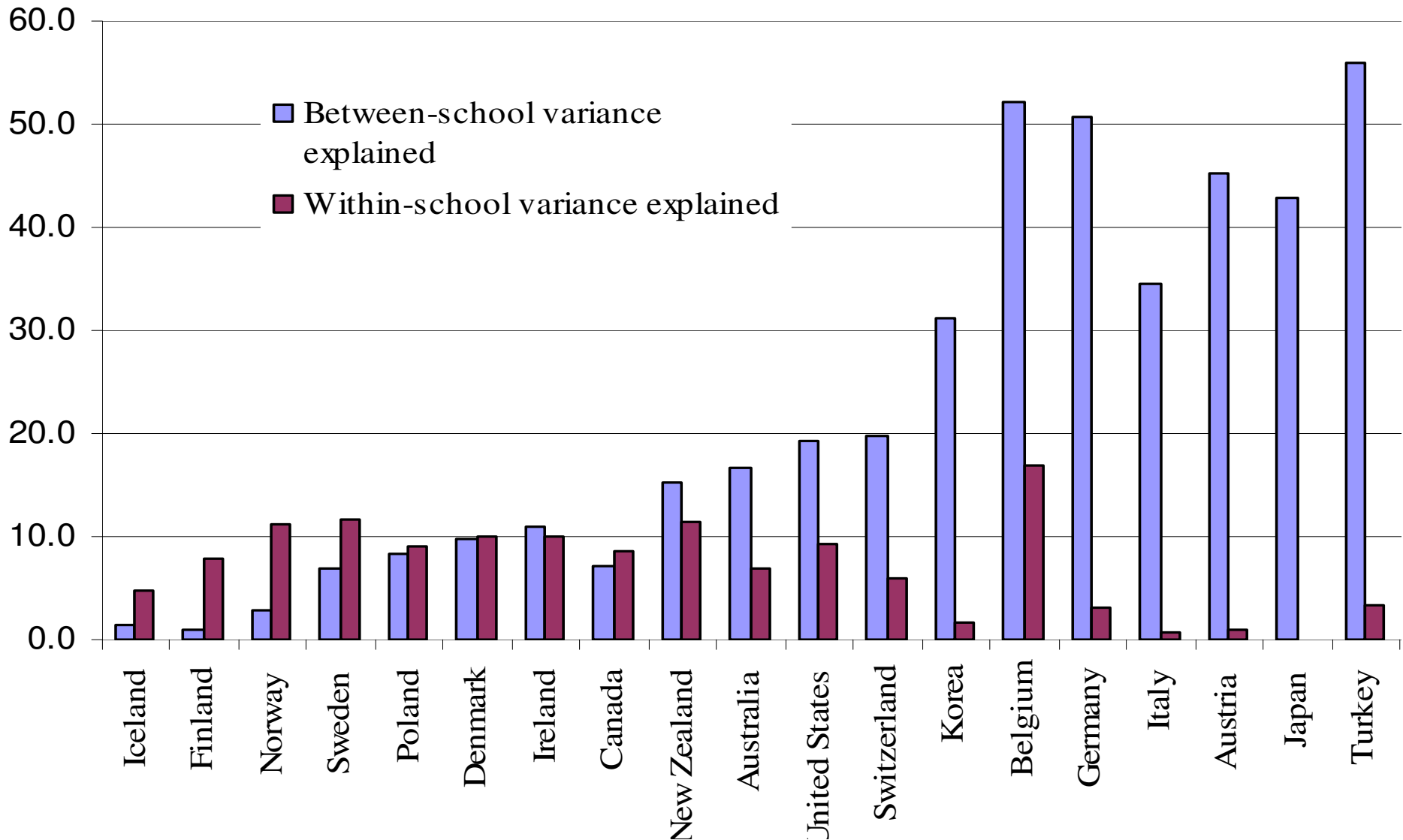
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Finland	3.9
United States	3.8
<i>OECD average</i>	3.8
Norway	3.8
Canada	3.6

Primary, secondary & postsecondary nontertiary education as a percentage of GDP by level of education 2006 - Education at a Glance © OECD 2008, page 237

Equality Indicator

Low variance on both scales means: Canadian can be confident that no matter what school in Canada their child attends, no matter their income level, their child will receive a good education.

Table A5.1. Between-school and within-school variance in student performance on the PISA mathematics scale (2003)



Education's Investment Impact: *Economic Mobility*



Country	% of GDP Spent
United Kingdom	4.6
Denmark	4.5
Mexico	4.4
Korea	4.3
Sweden	4.2
Belgium	4.1
Finland	3.9
France	4.0
Norway	3.8
United States	3.8
Canada	3.6
Germany	3.4
Italy	3.3

*Expenditure on Primary, secondary & postsecondary nontertiary education as a % of GDP - 2006
Education at a Glance © OECD 2008, p 237*

Finland – Myths & Facts

Ranked Factors of Finnish Success	Explanation	Canada Compared
1 Attitudes	The most powerful factor contributing to high Finnish achievement	1& 2. Canada's Between- and Within-School Variance is very low. Low variance on <i>both</i> scales coupled with Canada's high PISA scores, means that: <i>'Canadian parents can feel confident that no matter what school their child goes to, no matter their income level, their child will receive a good education. Education at a Glance OECD 2006, p. 16</i>
2 Family	The next most influential factor for Finnish success	
3 Library use	44% of Finnish students borrowed from a library compared to 27% in Canada	Finland has about 15 people per sq. mile, Canada has about 3.
4 Family cultural communication	Parents discussing political or social issues, books, films, music etc, is high in Finland	
5 Curriculum Congruency	In science literacy the researchers noted that the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) examinations were well suited to the Finnish curriculum	
6 National Curriculum	The correlation between Finland's national curriculum and excellence is statistically insignificant . Finland's improvement began in the '90's when it moved to a system more like what exists in most Canadian provinces. Finland decentralized the curriculum and its delivery to its <i>local school authorities</i> and made the curriculum more flexible and less detailed while increasing accountability and external testing programmes.	
7 Cultural homogeneity	is cited as a success factor	Canadian school boards celebrate diversity
8 Free preschool	93% of Finland's population	Many provinces offer free preschool education.

Conclusions

Locally elected school boards are

- Financially efficient
- High achieving and consistently effective
- Promotes economic access for all

Implications

Democratic responsibility

- We should be number one in the world
- No education = unemployment, life-long poverty, repeated incarceration, poorer health

Local education democracy = what community needs

- Music vs. farming, or firefighter training
- Train all well vs train all the same. Produces a different result than bureaucracy. The right of everyone to vote on education specifically forces accountability for the success of each and every student. A cabinet minister is still ultimately responsible for all cabinet items