

Keynote: School leadership and the global educational reform movement

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In many parts of the world public education is challenged by alternative educational arrangements to raise the quality of schooling and equity in education. School competition and choice related to enrolment, externally prescribed curricula, standardized testing, and virtual schooling has become common tactics to improve the shortcomings of educational performance. This presentation suggests these principles of governance and leadership



guide policy-making and implementation of education reforms throughout the world to extend that we can call is Global Educational Reform Movement. This presentation is built around the following questions: How does this movement start? What are the common elements of that movement? Is there any evidence to judge the success or failure of the reforms built on these elements? What is the alternative way of educational change? The conclusion is that international student assessments (especially PISA) show that alternative policies to those driving the global educational reform movement are recommendable to transform education systems. School leaders' role in understanding global trends in educational change is critical in enhancing equity in schooling, building teacher professionalism, encouraging collaborative practices, and promoting trust-based responsibility.

Pasi Sahlberg is Finnish educator and scholar. He worked as schoolteacher, teacher educator and policy advisor in Finland and has studied education systems and reforms around the world. His expertise includes international educational change, future of schooling, and innovation in teaching and learning. His best-seller book "Finnish Lessons: What can the world learn from educational change in Finland" (Teachers College Press, 2011) won the 2013 Grawemeyer Award. He is a former Director General of CIMO (Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation) in Helsinki and currently a visiting Professor of Practice at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, MA, USA.

Pasi Sahlberg is a visiting Professor of Practice at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, MA, USA. He is experienced in classroom teaching, training teachers and leaders, coaching schools and advising education policy-makers around the world. Pasi is an international speaker and writer who has given more than 300 keynote speeches and published over 100 articles, chapters and books on education.

Pasi has lived and worked in England (King's College), the United States (World Bank in Washington DC) and Italy (European Training Foundation in Torino) and worked in 50 countries around the world. He earned his PhD from the University of Jyväskylä (Finland) in 1996 and has been invited speaker in Harvard University, Stanford University, Columbia University and Vanderbilt University in the U.S. and Parliament Houses in England, Scotland, New Zealand and the European Union.

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His book "Finnish Lessons: What can the world learn from educational change in Finland?" (2011) won the 2013 Grawemeyer Award and he received the 2012 Education Award in Finland and 2011 Upton Sinclair Award in the United States. He is also known as international "school improvement activist" because his direct links to practitioners and their communities. He is active in social media and public debates about education.