



CENTER ON INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION BENCHMARKING
LEARNING FROM THE WORLD'S HIGH PERFORMING EDUCATION SYSTEMS

National Conference of State Legislatures

**Learning from Top Performing Education Systems to
Inform State Policy**

Betsy Brown Ruzzi

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Who We Are

Part of the National Center on Education and the Economy:
a 'think & do' tank based in Washington, D.C. established over
25 years ago.

- The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
- *America's Choice: high skills or low wages!*
- The National Institute for School Leadership (NISL)
- *OECD's Strong Performers & Successful Reformers: Lessons from PISA for the United States*

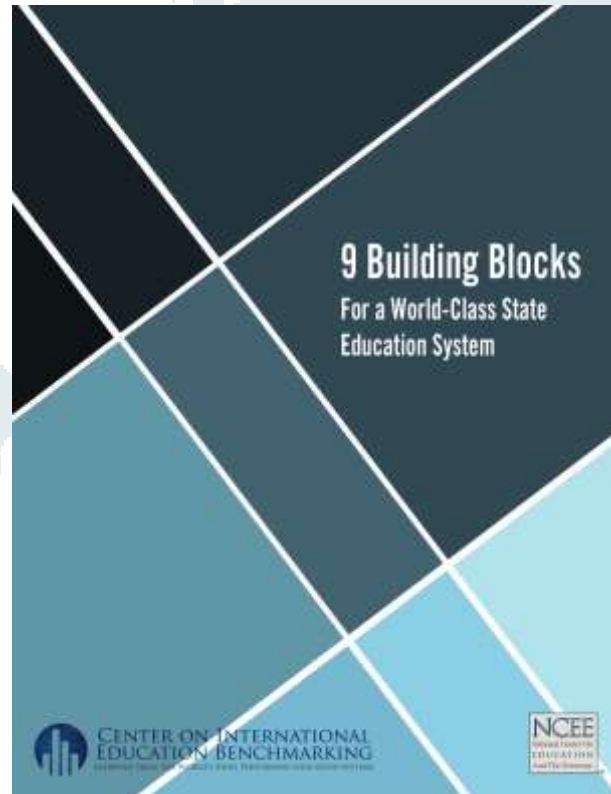


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What We Do

Translate lessons learned for US policymakers taking into account our culture and context





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**A Short Story About our Education System
and the Economy**



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1800s-1970s:

Race Between Education and Technology

Goldin and Katz

- From Mid-19th Century, US paces the rest of the world in education attainment
- Sustained growth of American economy; *most even* distribution of income in industrialized world
- Education attainment growth *stops* in the 1970s
- Productivity growth *slows*, family income *flattens*, distribution of income becomes *least equal*



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80's, 90's and 00's:

Major Change in the Global Economy

- Global competition for labor in all categories
 - Low skill
 - High skill
 - All skill levels
- Jobs involving routine work become automated
- Vast extinction of low-skill, routine work jobs in high-wage countries including the United States



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**GIVEN THESE CHANGES IN THE ECONOMY, WHERE
ARE WE NOW?**

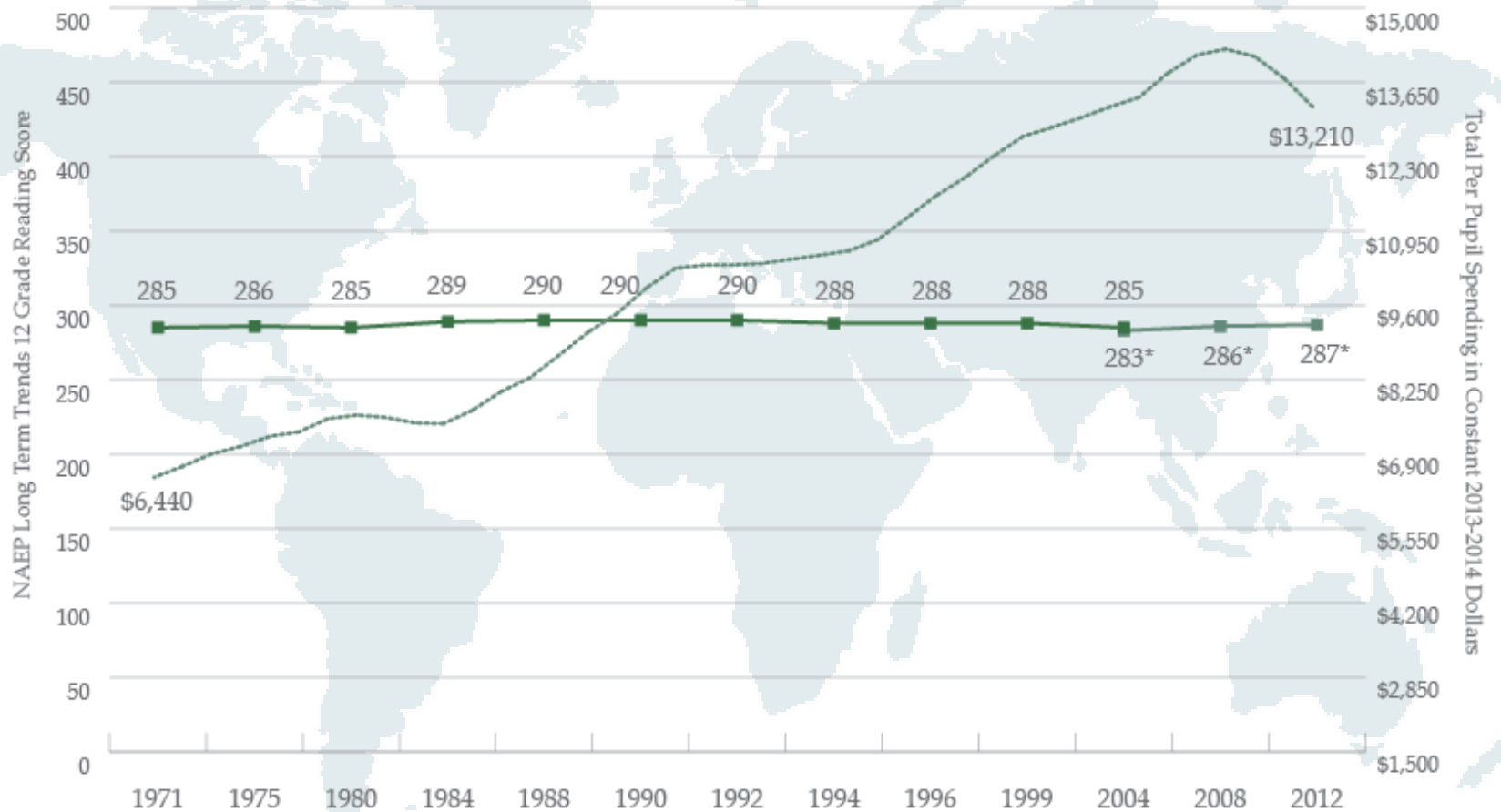
**AND, HOW DO WE COMPARE TO
OUR BEST COMPETITORS?**



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Per Pupil Spending and NAEP 12 Grade Reading Scores, 1971 to 2012



*Revised assessment format

Sources: The Nation's Report Card "NAEP 2012 Long-Term Trends in Academic Progress"
NCES Digest of Education Statistics 2014



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US Rankings on PISA

	Reading	Mathematics	Science
2000 (32)	15	19	14
2003 (41)	18	28	22
2006 (57)	NR	34	28
2009 (65)	17	30	22
2012 (65)	24	36	28

Source: OECD



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US Results on PIAAC (ETS Analysis)

- OECD survey of math, reading & problem solving
- ETS analysis of 16 to 34-year-olds in survey
 - Reading: Only Spain and Italy lower
 - Numeracy: Last, with Italy and Spain
 - Problem solving: Last again
- U.S. scores *declined* since last PIAAC* survey

*Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies 2013, OECD



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How Did Our Competitors Get There?

- Over the last 30 years, they have been completely changing their model of education to provide a kind and quality of education that had been, up until that time, available only to the elites in their society
- NCEE has benchmarked these systems and this is what we have found...



Common Elements in Top Performing Education Systems

- Strong supports for children and their families before they arrive at school
 - Includes early childhood education, day care programs, other social services
- More resources for at-risk students
 - Includes both additional financial allocations and highly skilled teachers
- World class, highly aligned instructional systems
 - Includes not only standards, but also curriculum and assessments
- Clear gateways for students with no dead-ends
 - Means that students know exactly what they have to be ready for the next level of education or training (qualification exam, etc.), but always have further opportunities to progress



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Common Elements in Top Performing Education Systems

- Abundant supply of highly qualified teachers
- School organization and management that treats teachers like professionals
 - Includes incentives (pay, career progression & respect) and support (professional learning, mentorship) for continuous improvement
- Effective system of career and technical education



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Common Elements in Top Performing Education Systems

- A leadership development system that produces leaders that can manage effectively
- A governance system with authority and legitimacy to develop coherent policies capable of being implemented at scale



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