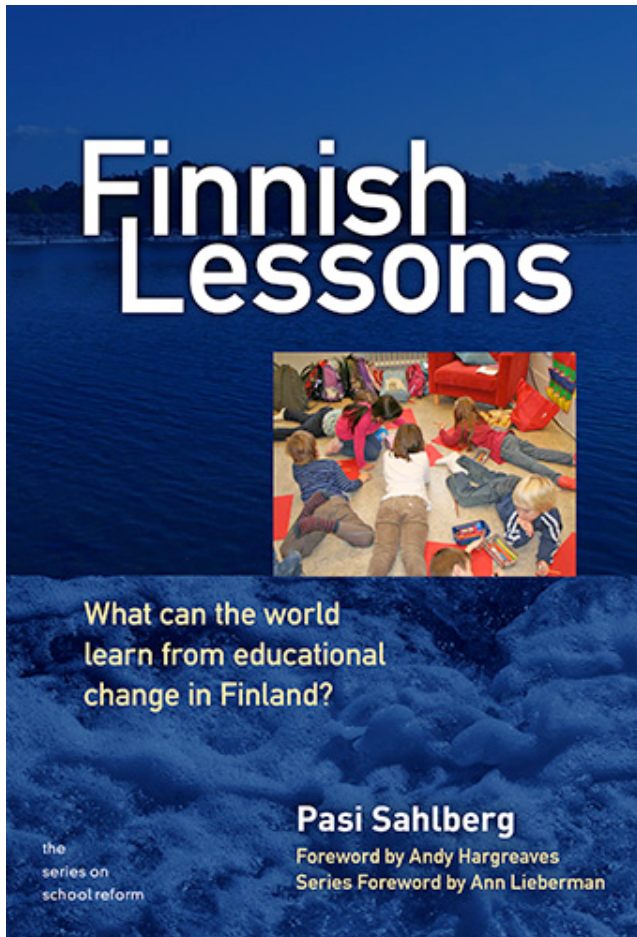


# Finnish Lessons: What Can the World Learn from Educational Change in Finland?

**Pasi Sahlberg**  
Foreword by Andy Hargreaves



*"The story of Finland's extraordinary educational reforms is one that should inform policymakers and educators around the world. This book is a must read."*

—**Linda Darling-Hammond**, Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education and Co-Director of the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education at Stanford University

*"A terrific synthesis by a native Finn, a teacher, a researcher and a policy analyst all rolled up into one excellent writer."*

—**David Berliner**, Regents' Professor in the College Of Education at Arizona State University

*"This book is a wake-up call for the U.S. This is the antidote to the NCLB paralysis."*

—**Henry M. Levin**, William Heard Kilpatrick Professor of Economics and Education, Teachers College, Columbia University and David Jacks Professor of Education and Economics, Emeritus Stanford University

*"It is essential also for us Finns to get a balanced analysis what really is behind the success of the Finnish educational system. This story makes sense to me."*

—**Olli-Pekka Heinonen**, Director, Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE, former Minister of Education (1994-99)

*"Finland's remarkable educational story is both informative and inspiring for others because it shows that with appropriate effort sustained over time."*

—**Ben Levin**, Canada Research Chair, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto

*"Pasi Sahlberg is a practitioner and a visionary that we Finns need when searching for the solutions to our educational challenges."*

—**Erkki Aho**, Director General (1973 – 1991), Finnish National Board of Education

*"It is now time to break down the ideological exceptionalism of the United States and other Anglo-American nations, if we are to develop reforms that will truly inspire our teachers to improve learning for all our students—especially those who struggle the*

*most. In that essential quest, Pasi Sahlberg and his work is undoubtedly one of the very best teachers of all."*

—**Andy Hargreaves**, Lynch School of Education, Boston College

Finland is one of the rare countries that has managed to build a school system where all children learn well and most schools succeed. In his new book, Pasi Sahlberg describes the history of Finnish educational reform and examines the success of the Finnish education today. This book shows how the Finnish way of improving schools differs from the global educational reform movement and the North American education reform strategies. *Finnish Lessons* is based on the author's research and personal experience as a teacher, scholar, and policy advisor both in Finland and abroad. It explores the evolution of Finnish education, the role of teachers, links between education reform and other sectors of society, and how smart education policies may raise nation's prosperity and reduce poverty. Rather than proposing that other nations follow in Finland's path, *Finnish Lessons* documents how Finland achieved success without going through the arduous and controversial process of implementing competition, school choice, and test-based accountability. This book is a message of hope and encouragement for other nations to find their own way to enact change that works.

**Pasi Sahlberg**, PhD, is Director General of CIMO (Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation) in Helsinki, Finland. He has global expertise in educational reforms, training teachers, coaching schools, and advising policy-makers. He has worked with policy and research organizations in Finland and as an educational specialist for the World Bank in Washington, DC, and for the European Commission in Torino, Italy. He sits at the board of directors of the ASCD. See [www.pasisahlberg.com](http://www.pasisahlberg.com) for more.

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