The Challenge of Achieving World Class Performance

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NCSL: School Business Managers' International Conference

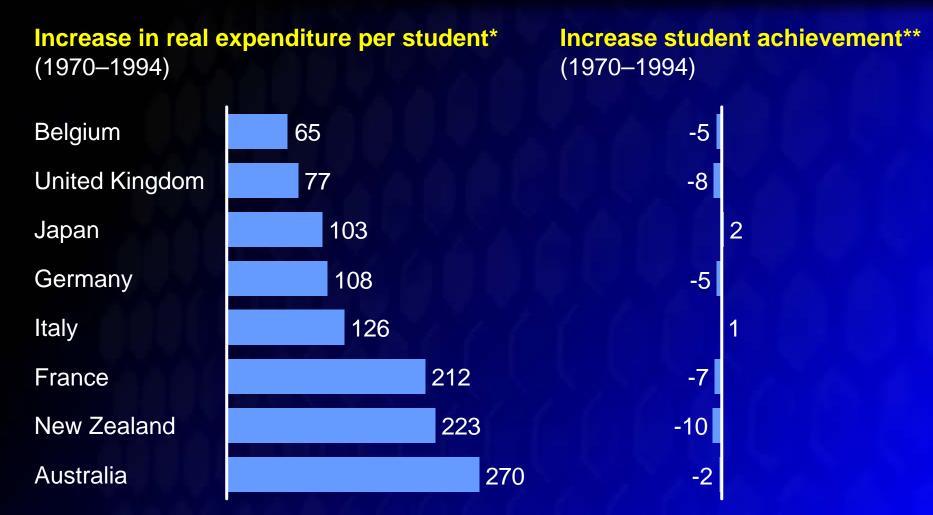
London, 9 May 2008

Part One:

What Doesn't Work

Despite big spending increases, in OECD countries education outcomes stagnated for 25 years

%

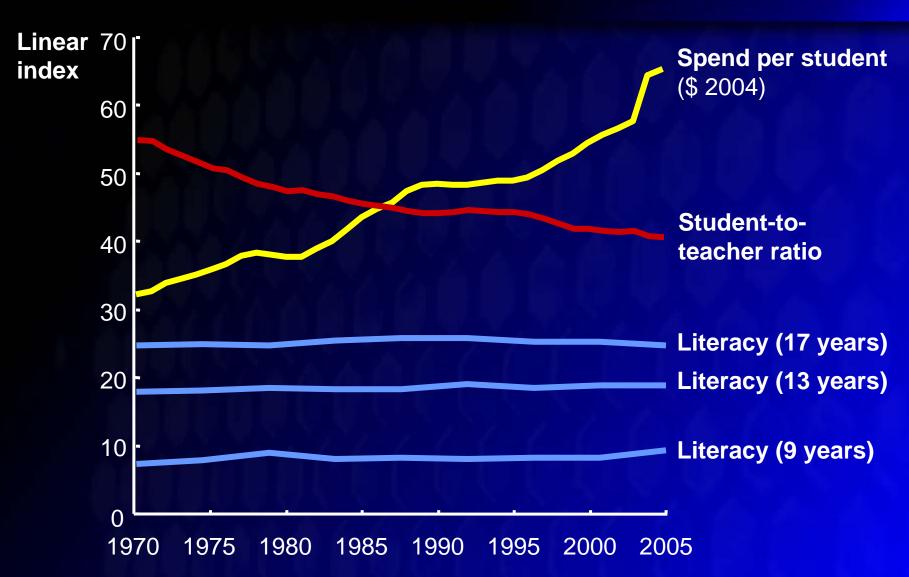


^{*} Real expenditure, corrected for the Baumol effect using a price index of government goods and service

^{**} Maths and Science

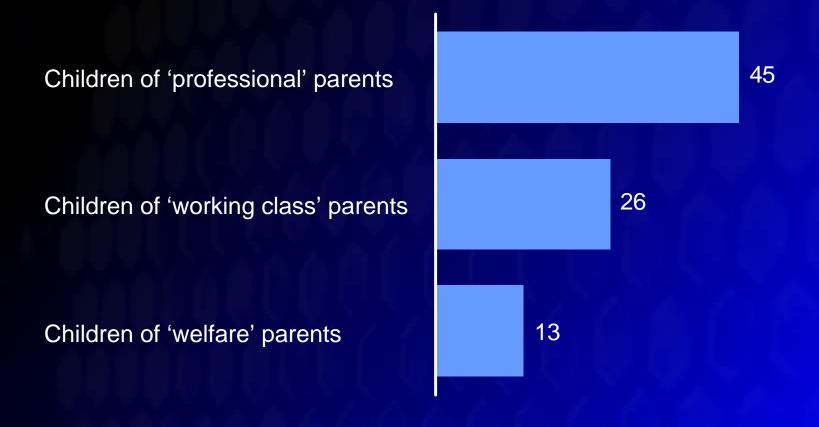
Source: Pritchett (2004); Woessmann (2002); McKinsey

Merely reducing student-teacher ratios does not improve outcomes



Unless an education system is highly effective the impact of differences in socio-economic status will be significant

Number of words (millions) heard by child at age 4*



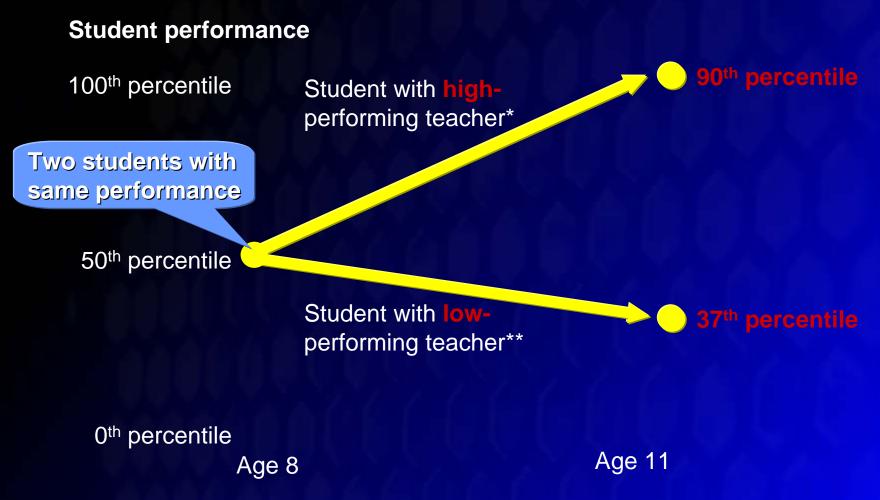
^{*} Based on longitudinal research of 42 families in Kansas City Source: Betty Hart and Todd Risley, 1995

Culture is not decisive





Consistent quality of teaching is by far the most important factor driving performance and is missing in most systems



^{*} Among the top 20% of teachers

^{**} Among the bottom 20% of teachers

Source: Sanders & Rivers Cumulative and Residual Effects on Future Student Academic Achievement

Part Two:

What Does Work

Lesson 1

"The quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers."

Great systems attract great people into teaching

- Korea The top 5 percent of graduates
- Finland The top 10 percent of graduates
- Singapore The top 30 percent of graduates

As the war for talent intensifies, rising to this challenge becomes ever more difficult

Lesson 2

"The only way to improve outcomes is to improve instruction."

Top-performers take professional development inside the classroom and make it routine

Professional development in Shanghai and Japan

Peer observation

All teachers in Shanghai are required to visit and observe at least eight lessons by colleagues each term

Lesson study

Teachers in both
Shanghai and
Japan work in
teams to analyse
and develop
model lessons

Demonstration lessons

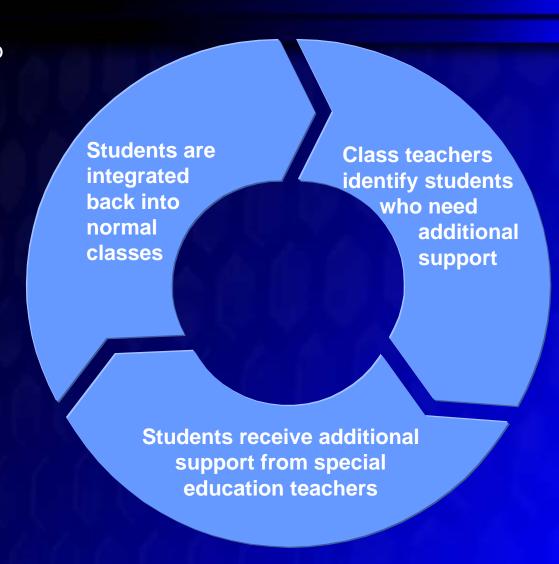
Teachers
demonstrate
excellent practice
to a wider group of
instructors,
followed by
discussion and
feedback sessions

Lesson 3

"High performance requires every child to succeed."

Finland: Educational support

- Additional 1-on-1 or small group tuition to support those who are falling behind
- 30% of all students benefit during any given year
- Focus is on Mathematics and Finnish language
- 'Special education' teachers receive an additional year of training and are paid slightly higher salaries
- They work with a wider support team – psychologists, nurses, special needs advisors – to provide a comprehensive support



Lesson 4

"Great leadership at school level is a key enabling factor."

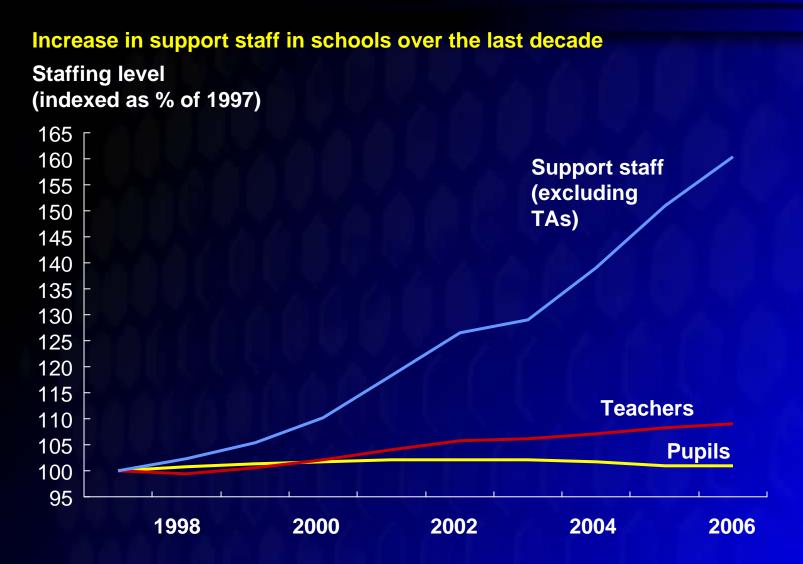
Top-performers recruit and train excellent school leaders: the Singapore example

"We train our teachers and vice-principals to apply best practices; we train our principals to create them"

6 month programme to develop new principals

- Management and leadership courses taken from leading executive training programmes
- One day a week in schools where candidates are assigned to develop innovative approaches to the toughest problems
- Group projects where candidates work in teams
- 2-week overseas placement with a major corporation (e.g., IBM, HP, Ritz Carlton), where they shadow top private-sector executives
- Rigorous evaluation only candidates who demonstrate the required competencies will succeed

Support staffing in schools has been growing rapidly



Enhanced school business management could drive significant benefits for schools

Effectiveness leading to improved outcomes

More effective and attractive HT & SLT roles



Improved strategic decision-making



Dedicated resource to build and create value from networks

and partnerships

Available to all schools

Context dependent

Efficiency freeing up funds to be redeployed towards T&L

Redeploying funds towards teaching and learning

Improved financial management



Improved income generation



Economies of scale in small primaries



Leadership reconfiguration

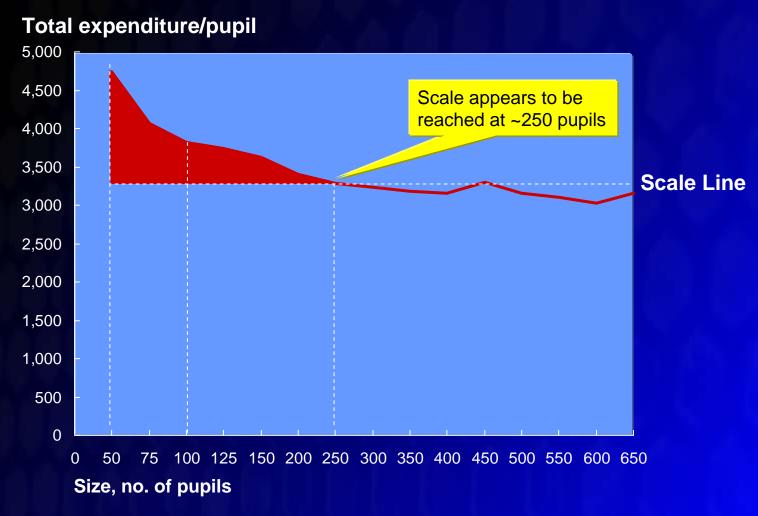


ASBM/SBD cost

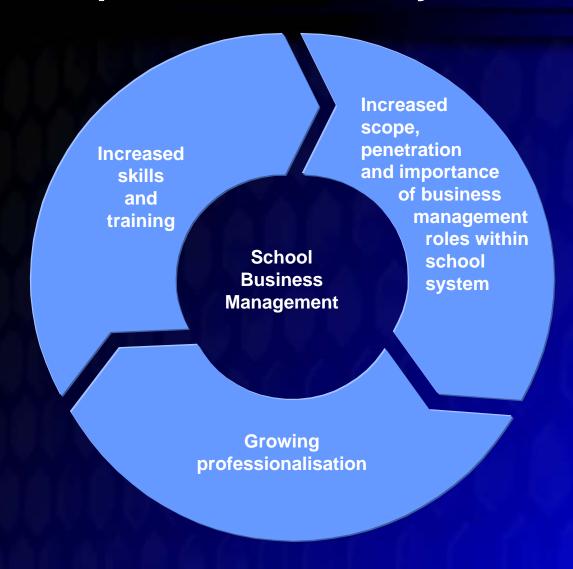
Source: Team analysis

A large number of primary schools are financially below scale and could benefit from partnerships

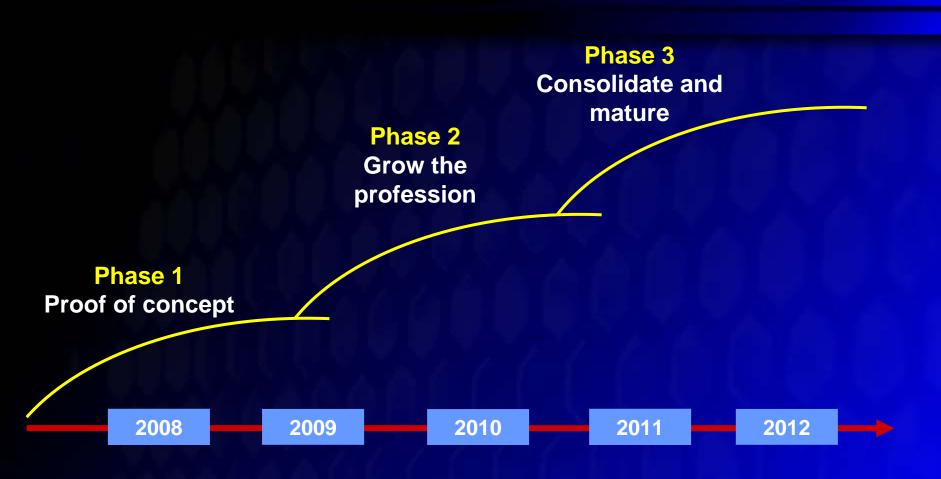
Primary schools, £



Building the school business management profession requires a virtuous cycle



Realising this vision requires three phases



The required cultural shift

- Hit & miss
- Uniformity
- Provision
- Producers
- Inputs
- Generalisation
- Talk equity
- "Received wisdom"
- Regulation
- Haphazard development
- Demarcation
- Look up

- Universal high standards
- Diversity
- Choice
- Customers/citizens
- Outcomes
- Specificity
- Deliver equity
- Data and best practice
- Incentives
- Continuous development
- Flexibility
- Look outwards

Comfortable

Demanding