

- Independent in 1917
- Crippled agrarian society
- Preserved independency after WWII, strong national efforts to survive
- Two-path, unequal, segregating education system prevailed until 1970s
- Multi-party consensus regarding priorities

FINNISH EDUCATION: A BRIEF HISTORY

Early beginnings: 1917-1970

- The New Basic School System
- Critics of the new system: equity and equality
- The development of a new national core curriculum
- Allowing some differentiation to accommodate perceived differences
- Primary school teacher education to Master's level

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW:

Systemic reform in the 1970s

A focus on equity
and well-being

Teachers who are
highly valued and
highly trained

Smart
accountability
policies

A culture of trust

Sustainable
leadership and
political coherence

A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION SYSTEM:

Finland today