

# Reading Specialists Thinking Globally: Gaining Insight for Improving Practice by Considering International Performance, Teacher Education, Curriculum, and Classroom Instruction

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## Project Summary

Goal: To incorporate an international perspective into our K-12 reading specialists program. Reading specialists are school leaders who have a major influence on instruction. Thus, broadening their understanding of global issues is likely to have a far-reaching effect. As part of *Leadership in School-wide Reading Programs*, reading specialist candidates will learn to think globally. They will be immersed in reading, resources, and projects related to international (a) student performance, (b) teacher education, (c) curricula, and (d) classroom instruction. These experiences will allow them to consider new possibilities and implications for instruction and teacher professional development as they provide leadership in their own schools.

## Focus on Finland

- Finnish students have an impressive performance record on international comparisons such as the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) (2001, 2004, 2007).
- Finland has been inundated with visitors from all over the world trying to learn their “secret.”

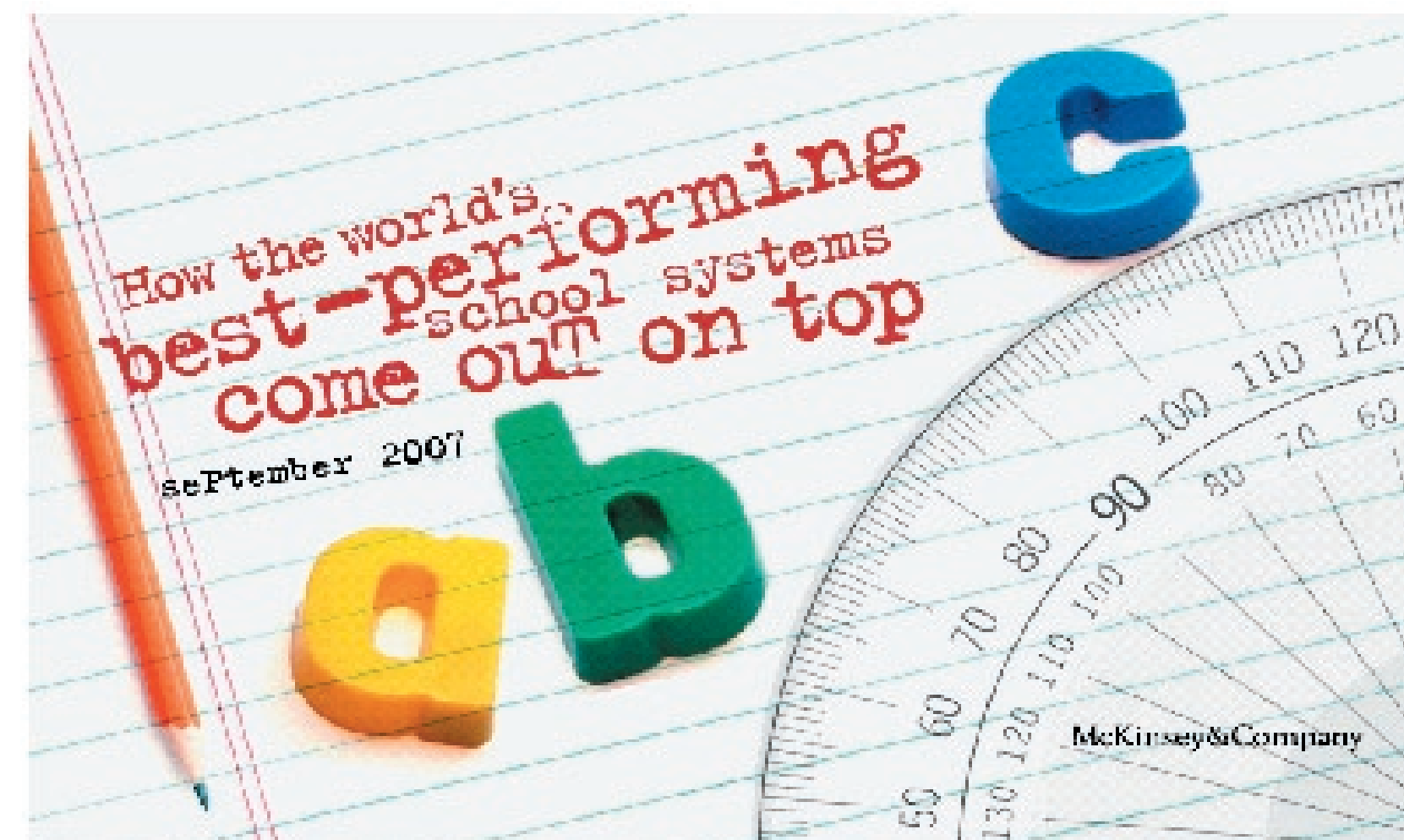


## International Performance

- How does the US compare?
- What do students have to be able to do in order to score well on PISA and PIRLS?
- Which countries do the best on overcoming factors like poverty?



## Teacher Education



## Classroom Instruction

Comparing US and Finnish approaches

## Curriculum

Comparing US and international approaches

