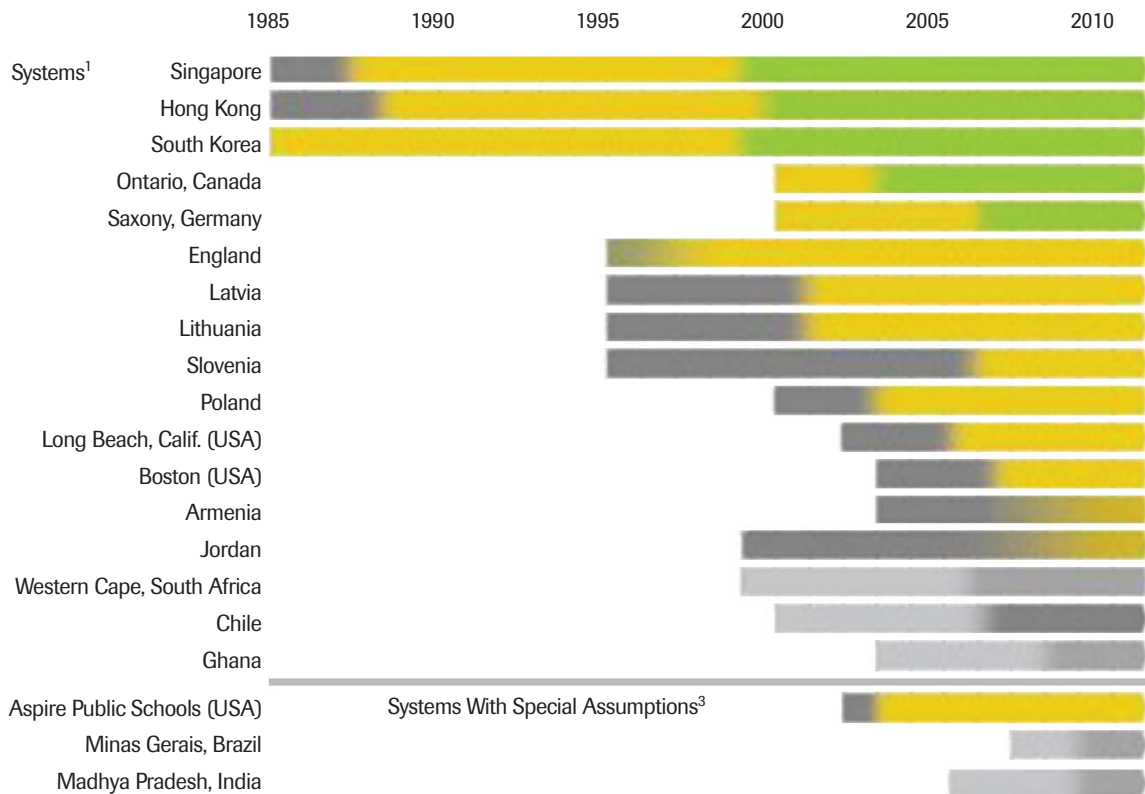


Success Trajectories

Researchers from McKinsey & Co. evaluated 20 schooling systems around the world as they moved along a continuum of improvement from “poor” to “fair” to “good” to “great.”



¹ Systems were categorized across time as poor, fair, good, or great based on their average performance across test instrument, subject, and age group in a particular year on the universal scale. Systems also improve within each phase (e.g., England improved significantly within good but without crossing the threshold to great).

² Score cutoffs: Excellent >560 (none of the sample systems achieved this level); Great 520-560; Good 480-520; Fair 440-480; Poor <440.

³ No directly comparable assessment data to link these systems to international assessments exist, so special assumptions were made in placing them on the scale.