

# Reviewing the Case for Change and the Need to Pull Together

Constitutional Players Convening, June 17, 2024

Slides compiled from previous presentations to the Constitutional Players and Legislative Committees by the National Conference of State Legislatures and the National Center on Education and the Economy

# Why Do We Have the System We Have?

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The current education system has its roots in the turn of the century – The 20<sup>th</sup> Century!



Prepared workers for a burgeoning assembly line factory model



Assimilated immigrants into American culture



Provided widespread basic literacy and numeracy



Critical thinking necessary for only a select percentage




Leveraged lessons from across Europe

# How Has the Current System Performed?

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Actually, quite well...for a long period of time

 For almost a century, the U.S. led the world in education attainment and quality

 Drove the biggest economy in the history of the world to ever new heights

 Fostered an explosion of the middle-class

 Backbone of a stable democracy

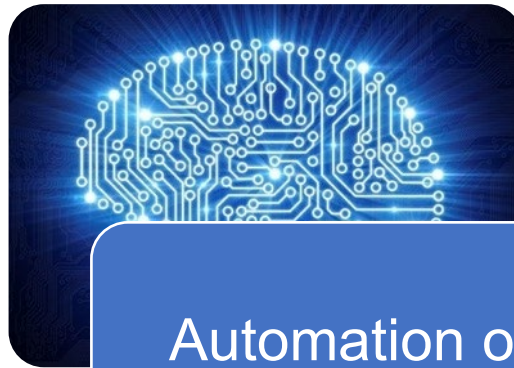
 Production engine that helped win 2 world wars

# 80s, 90s, and 00s: Global Economic Change



Low wage competition

- Low skill
- High skill
- All skill levels



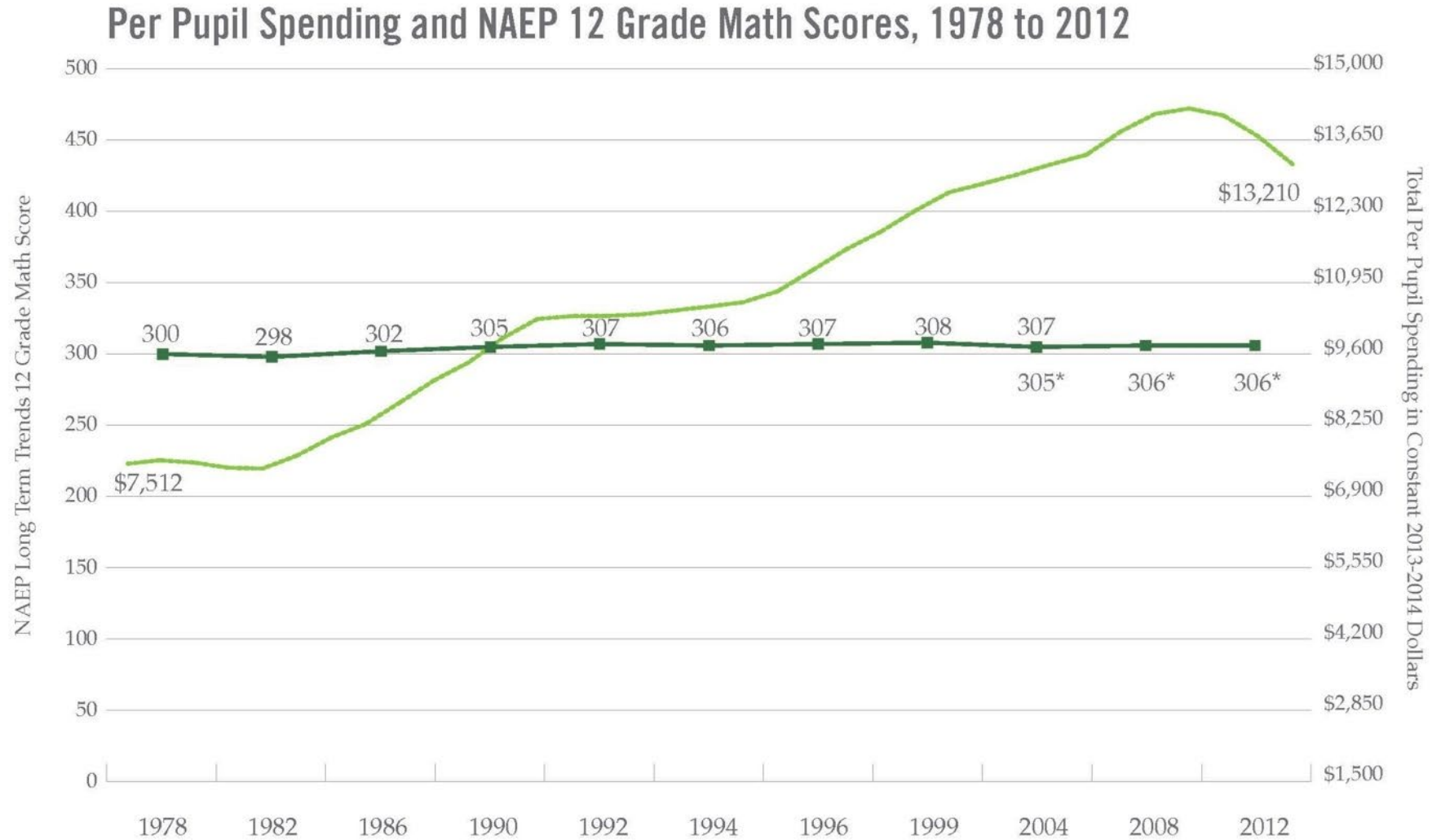
Automation of jobs involving routine work



Vast extinction of low-skill, routine work jobs in high-wage countries

John Dewey, "We cannot prepare students for the world we were in; we must prepare them for the world they will be in."

# How Has the Current System Performed Recently?

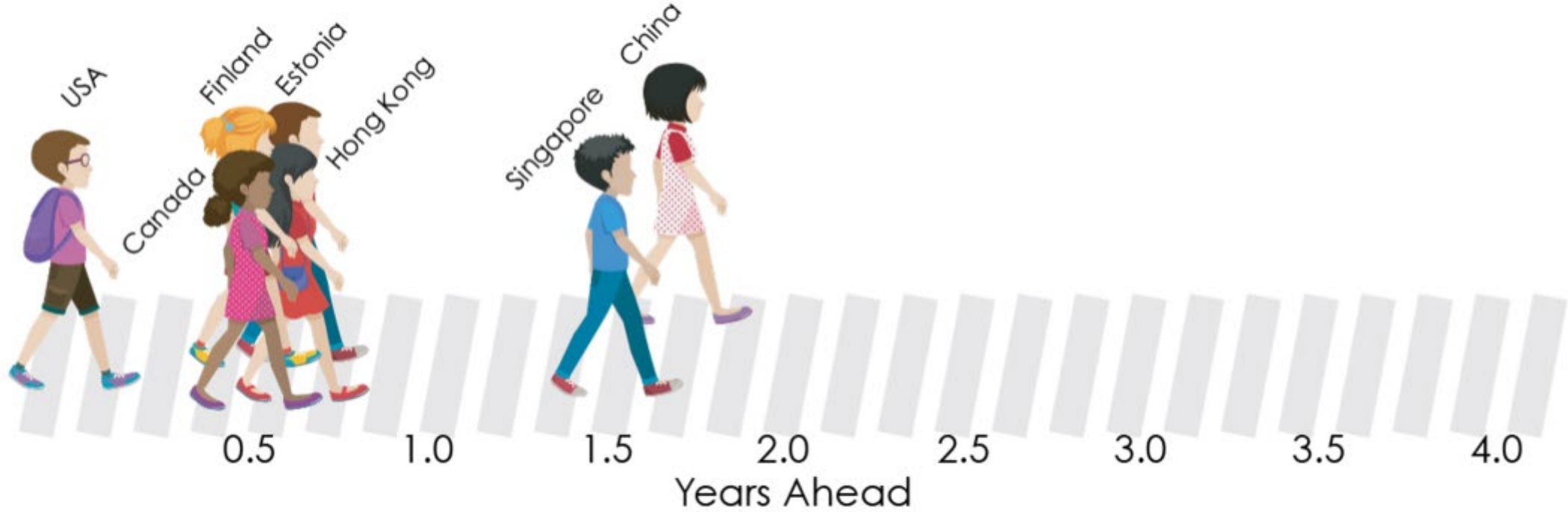


\*Revised assessment format

Sources: The Nation's Report Card "NAEP 2012 Long-Term Trends in Academic Progress"; NCES Digest of Education Statistics 2014

# Just How Far Behind Is the Average US Student in Reading?

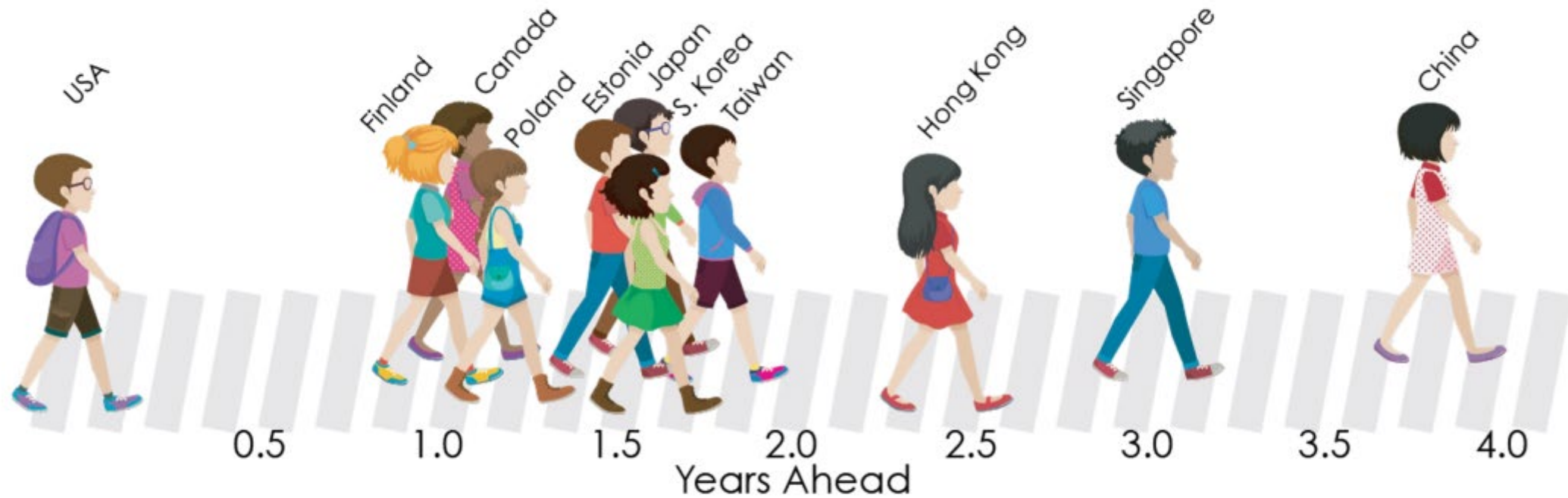
According to data from PISA 2018



In reading performance, average U.S. students are behind top-performing countries Canada, Finland, Estonia and Hong Kong by about half a school year. Students in China and Singapore are between 1.5 and 2 full years ahead of average U.S. students in reading

# Just How Far Behind Is the Average US Student in Mathematics?

According to data from PISA 2018

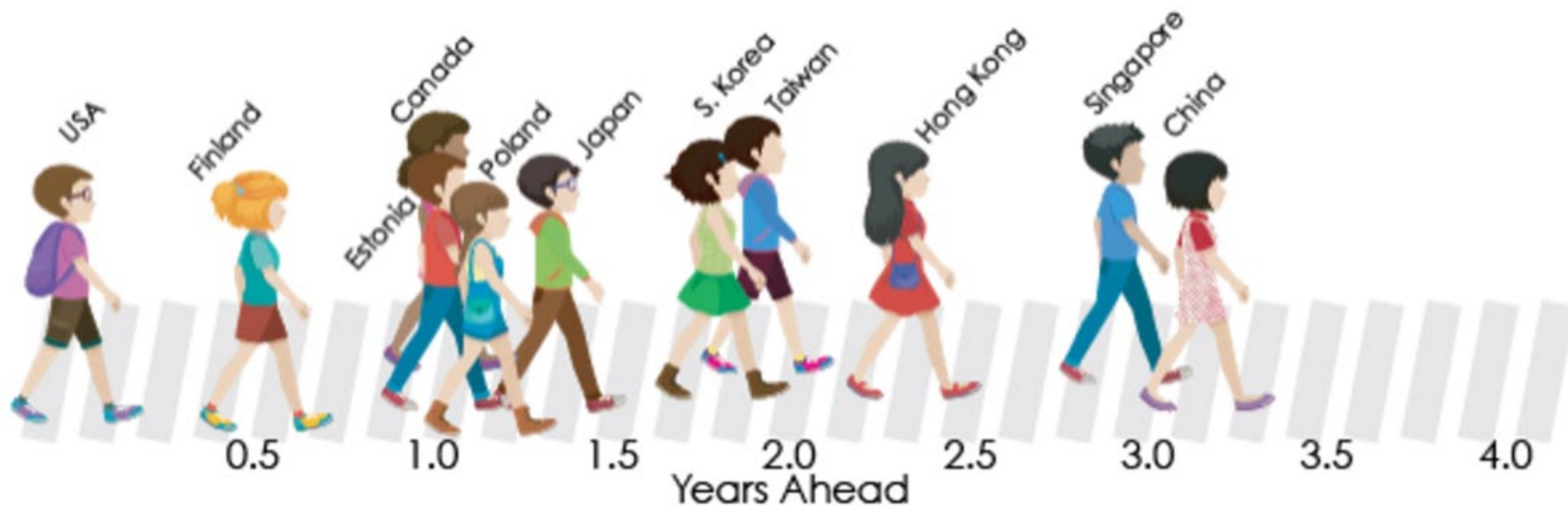


In mathematics performance, average 15-year-old US students are more than a year behind students from the top-performing countries. Students in Hong Kong and Singapore are between 2.5 and 3 full years ahead of average US students in math while Chinese students are nearly four full years ahead of US students.

Montana ranks just slightly above national average on NAEP, so how does this suggest Montana would compare at a global level?

# Just How Far Behind Is the Top Performing US Student in Mathematics?

According to data from PISA 2018



Students whose performance was among the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile (top 10 percent) in the U.S. in math were between half a year and 1.5 years behind their peers in Finland, Canada, Estonia, Poland and Japan. The 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of students in South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong were closer to 2 years ahead of US top-performers. And top-performers in Singapore and China were about 3 years ahead of their US counterparts.



# Constitutional Powers and Duties for K-12 Education in Montana

## Legislature

...shall provide a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools.

...shall fund and distribute in an equitable manner to the school districts the state's share of the cost of the basic elementary and secondary school system.

## School District Trustees

The supervision and control of schools in each school district shall be vested in a board of trustees to be elected as provided by law.



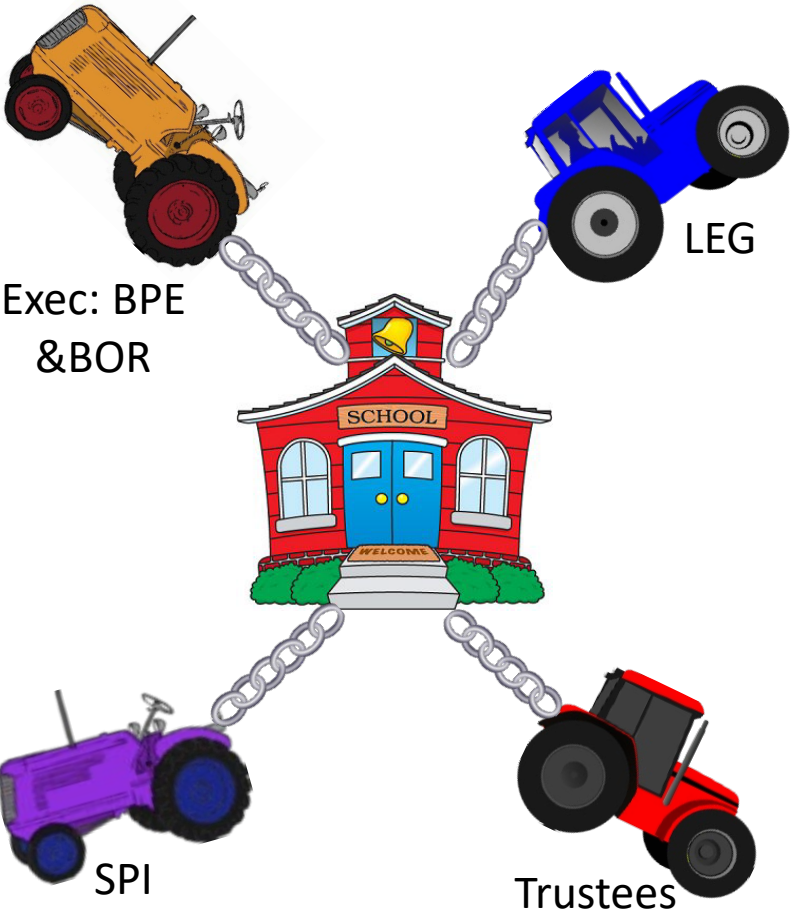
## Executive: Board of Education:

There is a state board of education composed of the Board of Regents of higher education and the Board of Public Education (General supervision over the public school system.)

## Superintendent of Public Instruction

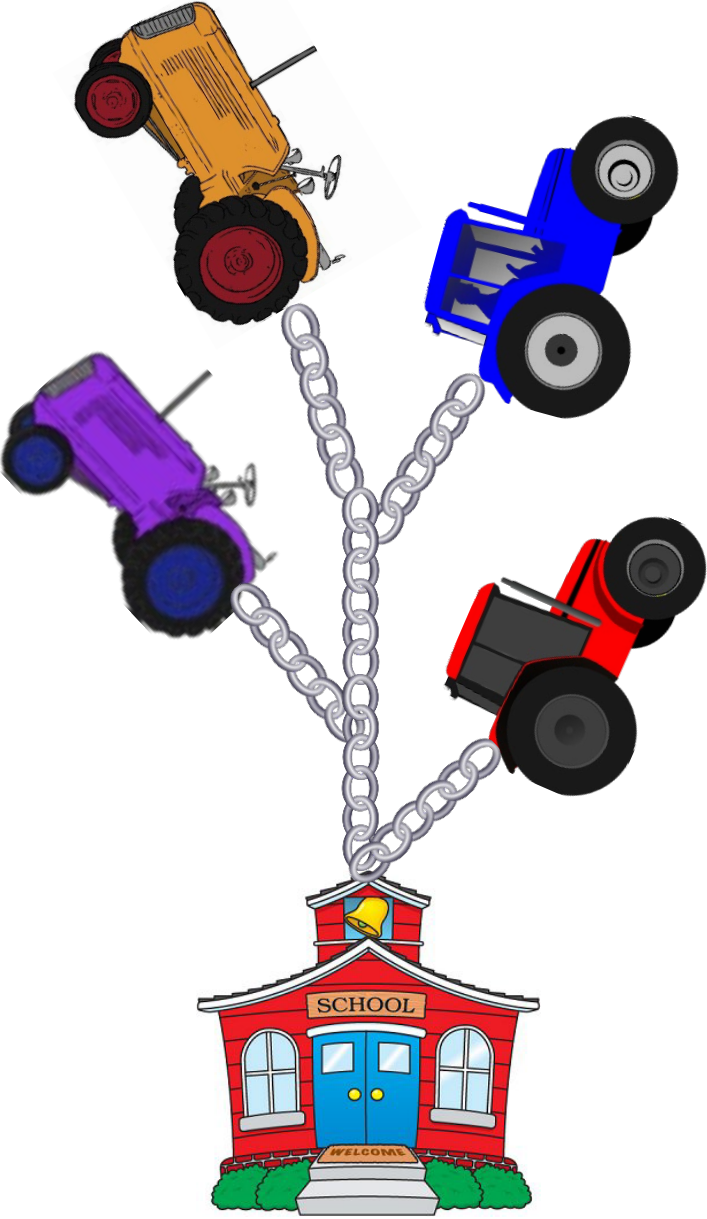
...shall have such duties as are provided by law.  
(serves as ex officio non-voting member of Board of Public Education and Board of Regents)

With four Constitutional “drivers” of K-12 education, which question is more important:



Who's driving???  
To what goal?

...

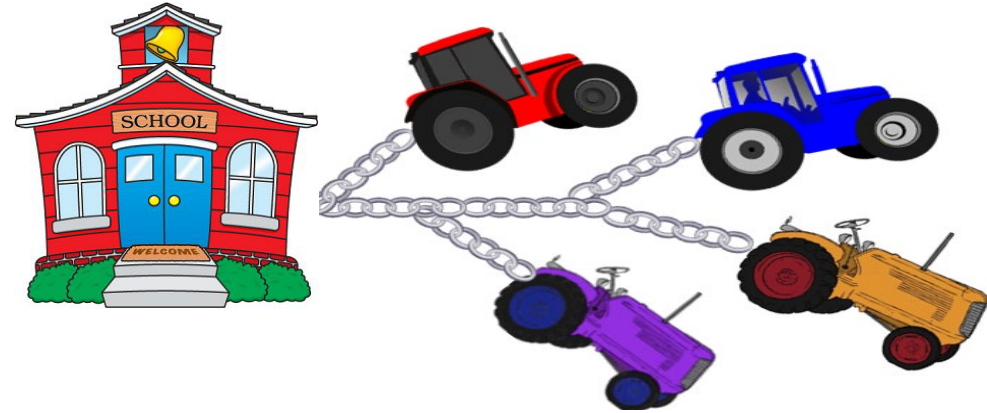


Where are we going?



Build on the success we had working together last session.

Meeting purpose: Empower aligning the key Constitutional players, parents and critical education stakeholders.



- Legislature
- Board of Education (Governor)
  - BOR & BOPE
- OPI (State Superintendent)
- Local School Board
- Parents