

Comparative Education Analysis Between Finland and the United States: A Case Study

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Research Questions:

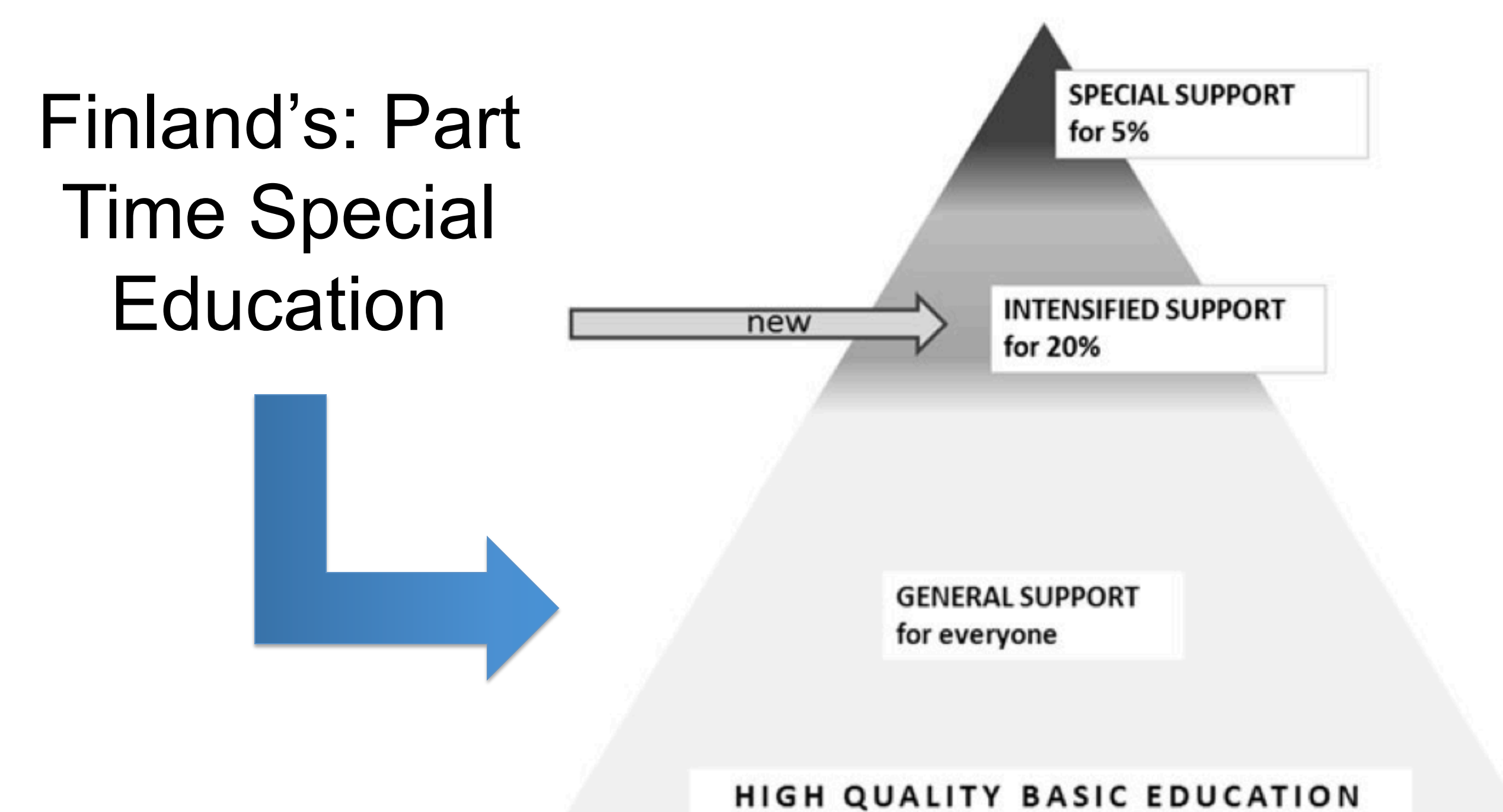
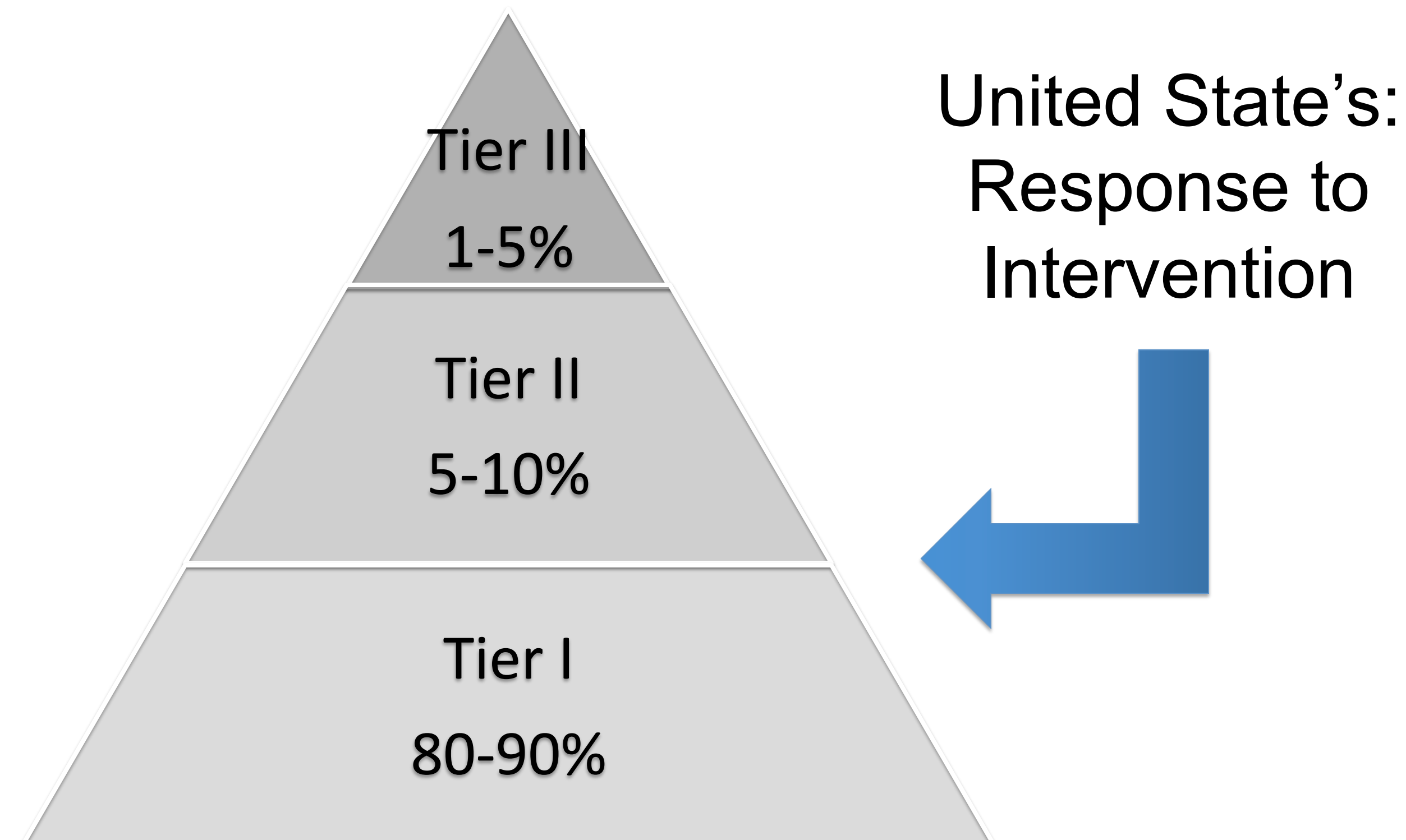
- What changes have been made in the educational system in Finland that have contributed to improving performance on international assessments?
- What changes have been made in the United States educational system that are similar to the changes that have been made in Finland?
- What are the factors contributing to the success of the changes in Finland that could be replicated in the United States?

PISA Rankings 2000-2006

		Finland	United States
2000	Reading:	1	16
	Science:	4	15
	Math:	5	20
2003	Reading:	1	18
	Science:	1	22
	Math:	2	28
2006	Reading:	2	N/A
	Science:	1	29
	Math:	2	35

Why Finland:

- The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) was first administered in 2000.
- Finland continuously ranks at the top of PISA (an international standardized test), contrary to their practice and philosophy of no national standardized tests.
- The United States ranks either at or below average in all categories.
- PISA low in-school and between-school performance variance in Finland.

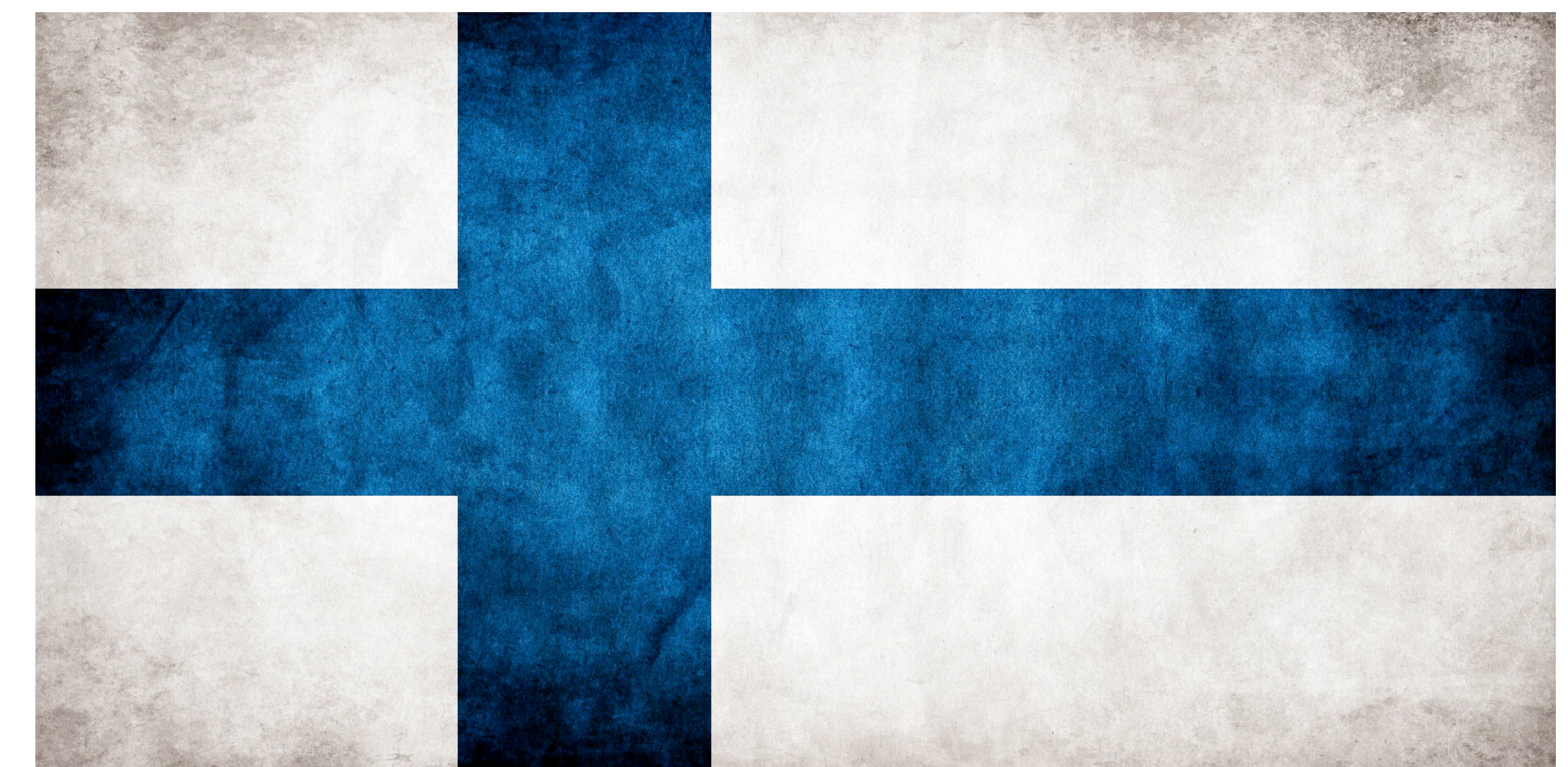


Finland's Part-Time Special Education System:

- Implemented in every school and fully funded by the government.
- Students in part-time special education do not need to be formally identified with a special need, such as ADD, ADHD, dyslexia, etc.
- Focus on early intervention places most students using part-time special education in early and elementary education.

United States' Response to Intervention (RTI):

- Only a handful of public schools offer RTI services.
- Do not need an Individual Education Plan to receive support from RTI.



Further Research:

- Research regarding teacher education in Finland and the United States.
- Conduct interviews with:
 - Experts in comparative education
 - Educators and scholars from Finland and the United States
- Berry Summer Thesis Institute 2015