

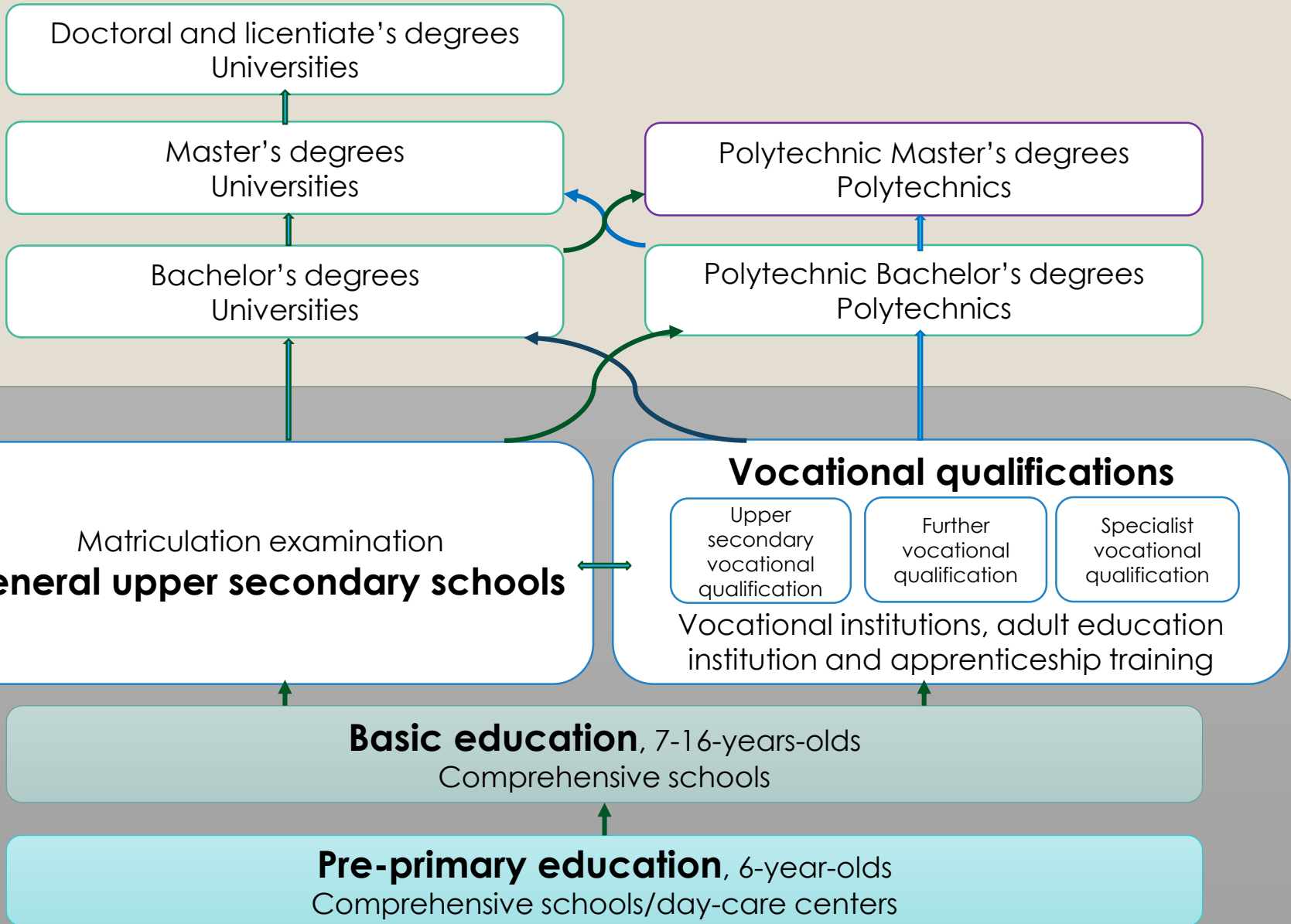


Finnish Education system

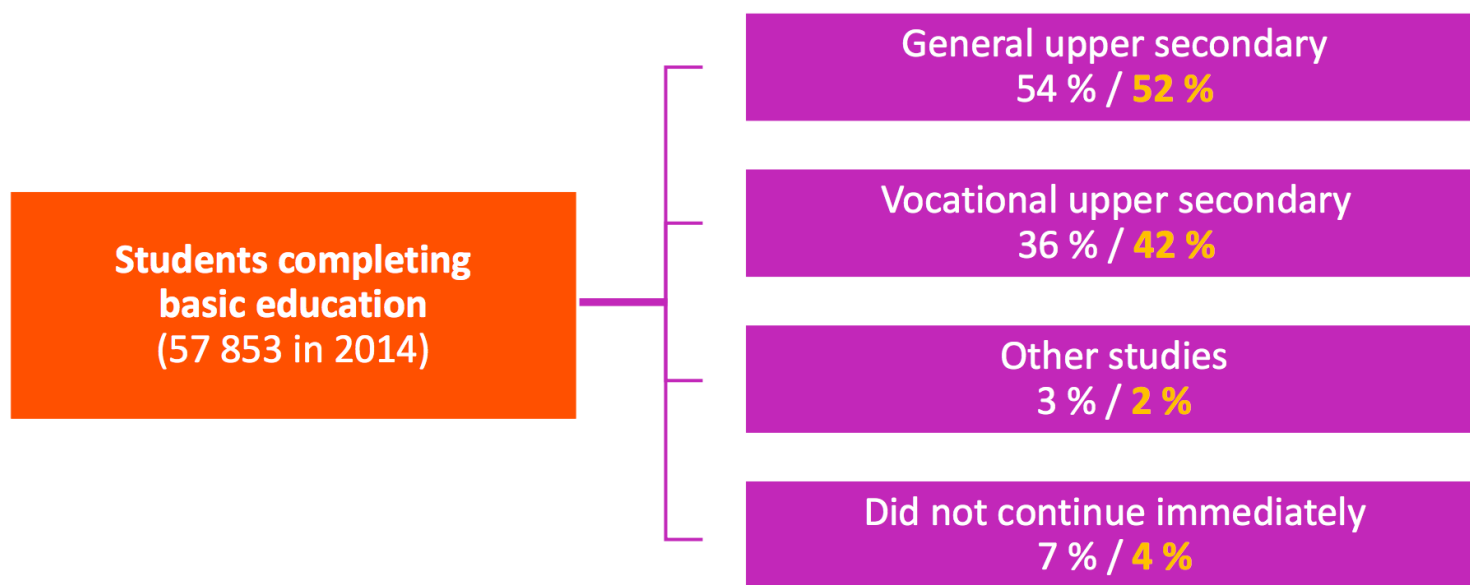
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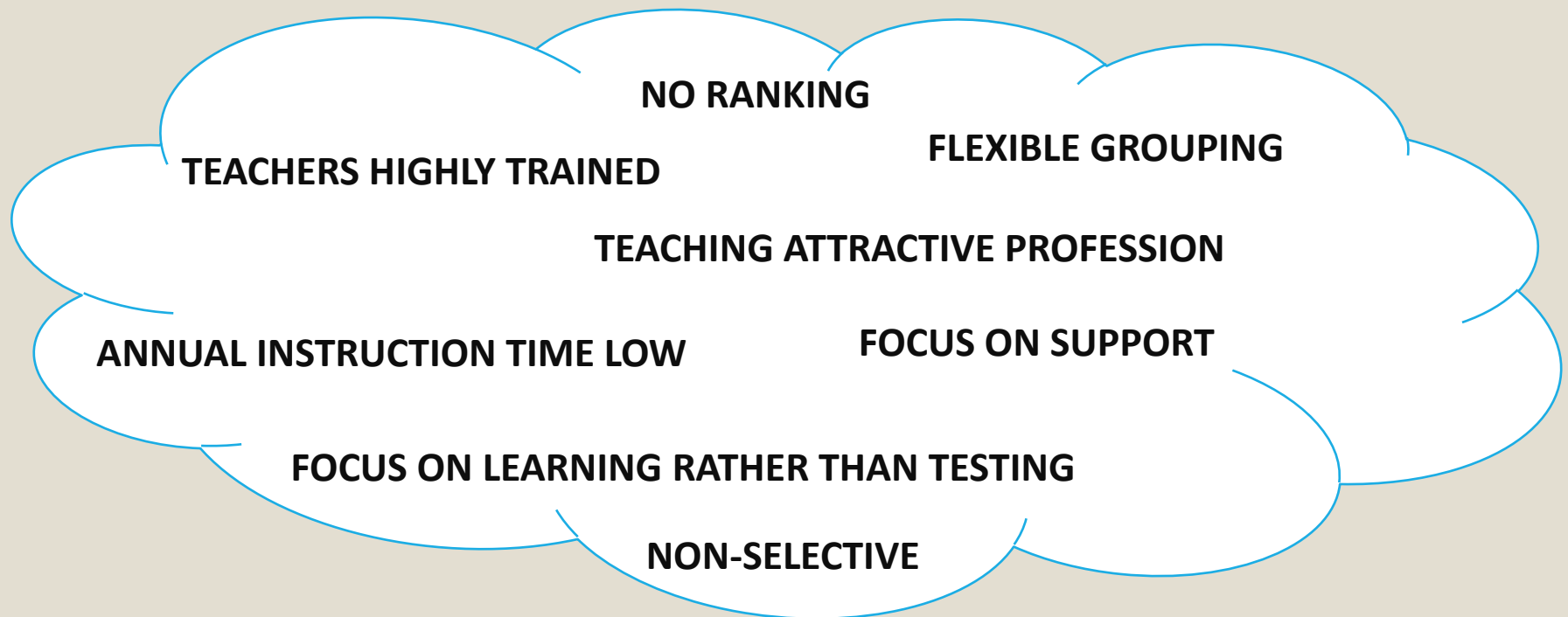
Education system in Finland



What happens immediately after compulsory education? 2001 / 2014



Specificities of the Finnish education system



Decentralised

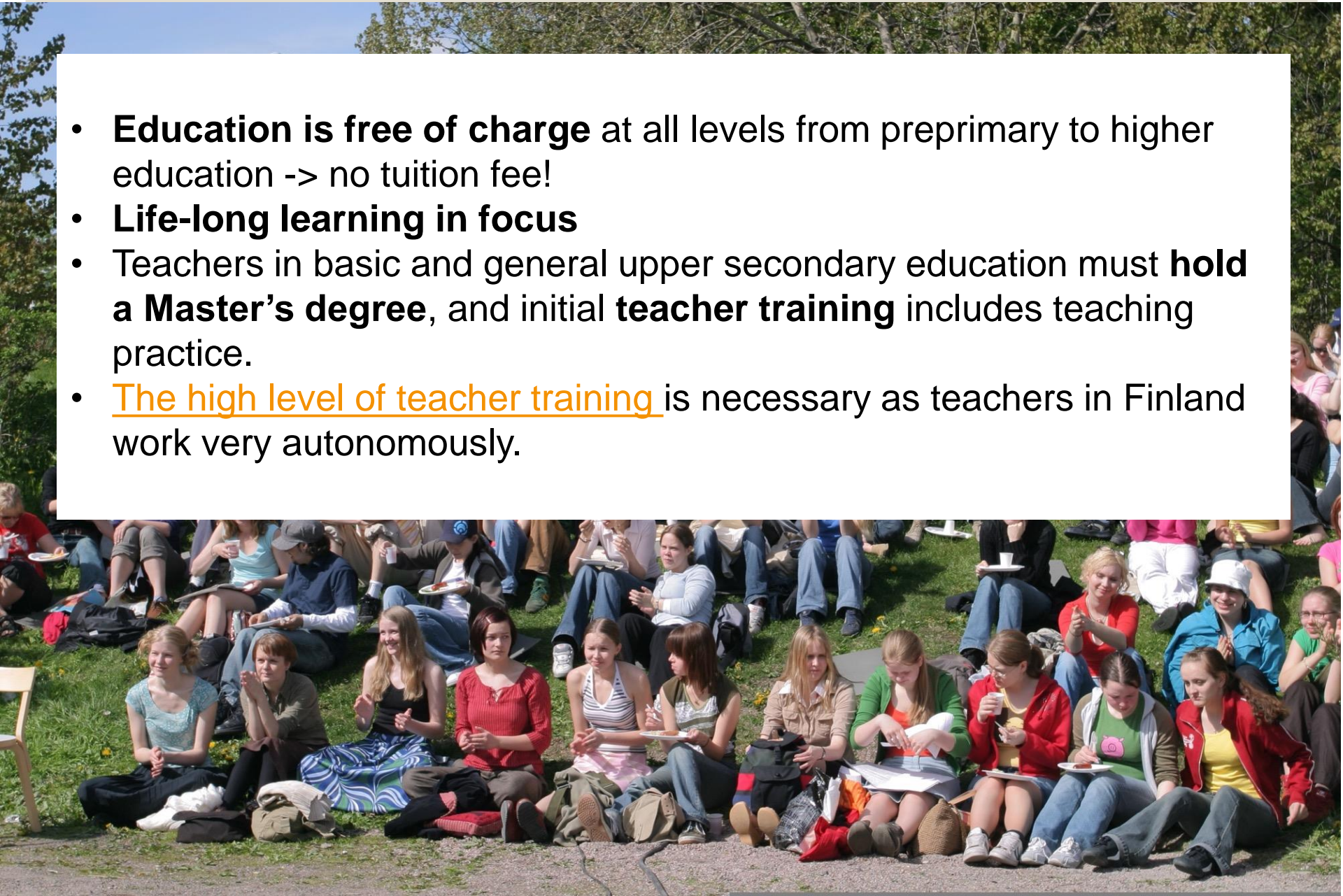
Central steering Trust

Local decisions Free education

Co-operation Public funding

We trust in teachers!

- **Education is free of charge** at all levels from preprimary to higher education -> no tuition fee!
- **Life-long learning in focus**
- Teachers in basic and general upper secondary education must **hold a Master's degree**, and initial **teacher training** includes teaching practice.
- The high level of teacher training is necessary as teachers in Finland work very autonomously.



- **Teaching hours (lessons):**

Class teacher (1-6 grades): 19-24h/week

Subject teacher (7-9 grades): 18-24h/week

Teacher in upper secondary school: 16-23h/week

- **Salaries:**

Early childhood educator: 2612 €/month

Class teacher (1-6 grades): 3530 €/month

Subject teacher (7-9 grades): 3459 €/month

Upper secondary school teacher: 4479 €/month

Teacher in vocational school: 4152 €/month

Principal/headmaster (basic education): 5395 €/month

Special teacher (basic education): 3695 €/month

Education planner: 3456 €/month

Reasons to Finnish success in education

1. Economy/society based on information, knowledge and technology:
 - Specially since 1990: 1. Collapse of traditional trade with the Soviet Union. 2. Economic recession and crisis.
 - > New products and strategies
 - > Strong pressure to schools
2. Equality:
 - The creation of comprehensive school in the 1970s with the ideology to educate all students equally.
 - Very small variation between schools.
 - Students' social or economic background has a low impact on their performance.
 - Taking care of every single student in heterogeneous groups (no differentiation or selection of pupils to schools).

Reasons to Finnish success in education

3. A system involving more than education

- Commitment to the well-being of all children: education, school transport, libraries, daily hot meal, health and dental services, guidance and psychological counselling and mental health service are free of charge.

4. Support for children with special needs

- Commitment to inclusion (even children who have the most severe intellectual disabilities).
- Focus on early diagnosis and intervention.
- Special teachers who are assigned to each school. Only 4 % of pupils are in special schools.

5. Social and cultural factors'

- Social cohesion and trust.
- High expectations

Reasons to Finnish success in education

6. Significant responsibility for teachers and students

- Teachers have responsibility to ensure well-being and high achievements of all the students.
- No external testing or monitoring -> Professional model of accountability. Trust of teachers expertise.
- High expectations and demands (from teachers, parents and society) to students to work hard and perform well.
- Students are expected to have active role in their own learning (independent work).

7. Teacher quality

- Teaching is very respected profession -> The best are selected to teacher education (10-15 % of all applicants).
- High commitment to work.