

High Expectations & Safety Nets: Teaching & Learning Mathematics in Singapore

YEAP, BAN-HAR.

The Singapore education system is often said to be working well. In particular, students in Singapore have done well in international benchmarking studies in mathematics, science and literacy.

In this presentation, I will focus on two features of mathematics teaching and learning for the first eight years of the formal school system.

In the first part, an analysis of the primary six national test items and a case study on how primary schools teach their weakest students found that there is a high expectation placed on every student, including the lowest achievers.

In the second part, a study of structures that are implemented in all schools found that there are three 'safety nets' in the first eight years to ensure that no student is permanently left behind.

National Institute of Education (Singapore) <http://www.nie.edu.sg>