## Management Practices in Education: Descriptive Evidence

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AEA Meetings – January 2012

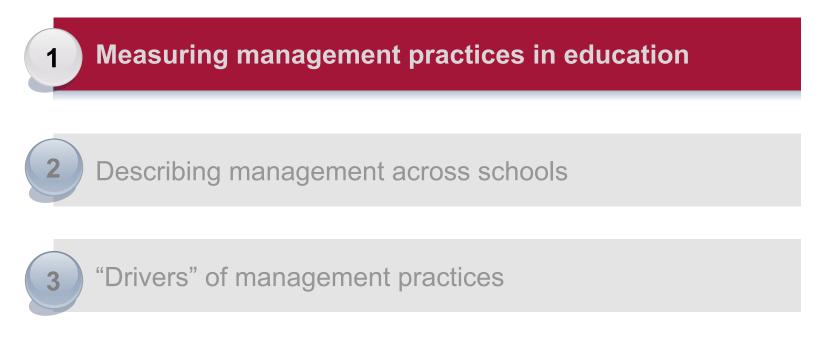
## Big picture question is does management matter in education – can better management improve pupils outcomes?

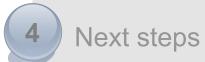
- Poor productivity of educational systems around the world
  - Massive increase in spending but flat educational achievements over the past 30 years
- Mixed views on what can be done about it
  - All depends on pupils socio economic background (Coleman, 1966)
     =>not much
  - Cognitive skills can be affected by institutional context (Hoxby 1996) and specific inputs (Hanusheck 1997, Rockoff 2006)
- More recent research points to importance of <u>managerial choices</u>
  - Charter schools studies
  - Role of basic managerial choices (Rockoff et al. 2011, Dobbie & Fryer, 2011)

### This research

- We gathered large sample international data to study the relevance of management in education
  - Survey instrument based on Bloom and Van Reenen (2007)
  - Long run measurement project: +10,000 organizations in 20 countries interviewed so far
- Today we will discuss some of the first steps in this research agenda
  - Approx. 1,000 middle schools Principals in Canada, Germany, Italy, Sweden, UK and US
  - Descriptive evidence, no causal results
- Preliminary findings
  - Wide heterogeneity in school management across and within countries
  - Management positively associated with school performance
  - School size, ownership, competition and specific principal characteristics associated with higher management scores

#### Agenda





#### The management survey methodology

#### 1) Developing management questions

- 20 practice scorecard: use of data, monitoring, targets, incentives, accountability
- Interviewed middle schools principals for ~1 hour

#### 2) Getting schools to participate in the interview

- Performance indicators from external sources (not interview)
- Endorsement letter from Department of Education
- Run by 25 MBA-types (loud, assertive & experienced)

### 3) Obtaining unbiased responses (<u>"Double-blind"</u>)

- Interviewers do not know the school's performance
- Interviewees are not informed (in advance) they are scored

#### **Q3 Data Driven Planning and Student Transitions**

- Is data used to inform planning and strategies? If so, how is it used especially in regards to student transitions through grades/levels?
- What drove the move towards more data-driven planning-tracking?

Score (1): School may be (3): School may (5): Student aware of critical understand the transitions are managed in an transitions for critical transition students, but little or integrated and points for students, although these are proactive manner, no effort is made to supported by match support not identifies in a formative services to students; consistent manner; data is often some data is assessments tightly linked to unavailable or difficult available, although not necessarily in an learning to use integrated or easy to expectations; data is widely use manner available and easy to use

#### **Q7 MONITORING – Performance Review**

How often do you review school performance with teachers and staff? Could you walk me through the steps you go through in a process review? Who is involved in these meetings? Who gets to see the results of this review? What sort of follow-up plan would you leave these meetings with?

Score	(1): Performance is reviewed infrequently or in an un- meaningful way e.g. only success or failure is noted	(3): Performance is reviewed periodically with both successes and failures identified. Results are communicated to senior staff. No clear follow up plan is adopted.	(5): Performance is continually reviewed, based on the indicators tracked. All aspects are followed up to ensure continuous improvement. Results are communicated to all staff.

#### **Performance Monitoring: Schools**

#### NYC Department of Education

#### Value-added Data for Teachers Initiative

#### Teacher: Swain, Winthrop

#### **Teacher Performance by Student Characteristics**

Teacher's value-added for sub-groups of students compared to teacher's value-added overall for history: up to 3 years

	U 1			
	Sample Size /	Actual	Predicted	Difference from Predicted
Types of Student	(% of Sample)	Gain	Gain	(Teacher's Value Added)
		English La	nguage Arts	
All Students	144 (100%)	0.11	0.04	0.07*
Citywide:				
Bottom Third	94 (62.8%)	0.27	0.16	0.10*
Middle Third	39 (29.3%)	-0.13	-0.14	0.01
Top Third	11 (7.9%)	-0.32	-0.37	0.04
School				
Bottom Third	51 (32.5%)	0.39	0.24	0.16*
ELL		·	-	
Special Education	15 (10.1%)	0.19	0.02	0.17
		Mathe	matics	
All Students	152 (100%)	-0.03	-0.09	0.06
Citywide:				
Bottom Third	106 (64.2%)	0.11	0.01	<u>0.10*</u>
Middle Third	37 (28.4%)		-0.30	-0.03
Top Third	9 (7.4%)	-0.46	-0.45	-0.02
School			10 C	
Bottom Third	48 (25.2%)	0.24	0.14	<u> </u>
ELL	10 (6.8%)	-0.14	0.01	-0.15
Special Education	15 (9.1%)	-0.01	-0.11	0.11

The (\*) means that there is a very high probability that the contribution is positive (or negative).

#### Source: Rockoff, Staiger, Kane and Taylor, 2011

### **Performance monitoring: Manufacturing**

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### **Performance monitoring: Airports**

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#### **Performance monitoring: Retail banking**

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### **Q15 INCENTIVES - Removing poor performers**

- If you had a teacher who could not do her job adequately, what would you do? Could you give me a recent example?
- How long would underperformance be tolerated? How difficult is it to fire a teacher?
- Do some individuals always just manage to avoid being re-trained/fired?

Score	(1): Poor performance is not addressed or inconsistently addressed. Poor performers are rarely removed from their positions	addressed, but typically through a limited range of methods. Terminating an employee often takes more than a year, and is	(5): Repeated poor performance is addressed, beginning with targeted interventions. Poor performers are moved out of the school when weaknesses cannot be overcome
		infrequent	

#### Agenda



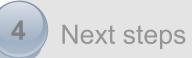
Measuring management practices in education



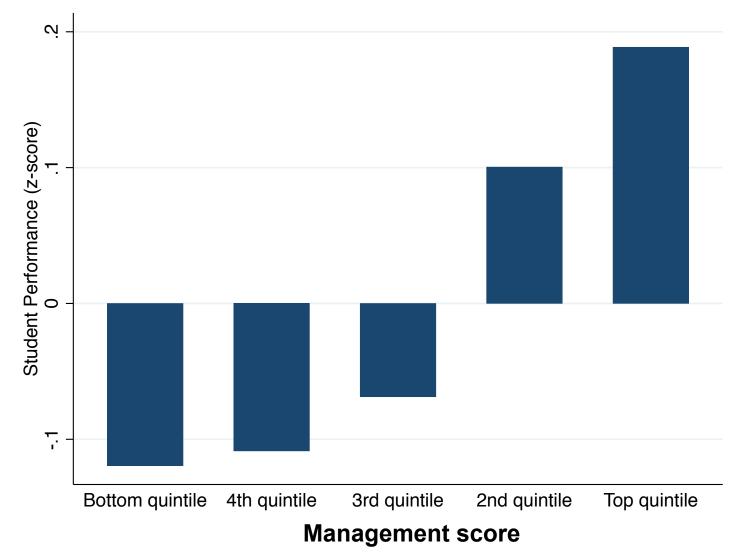
Describing management across schools



"Drivers" of management practices



## We found good management to be strongly correlated with better school performance



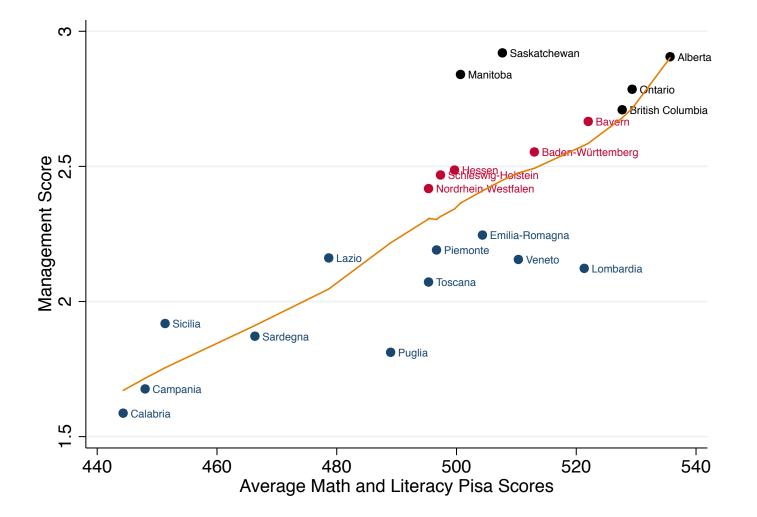
Notes: Graph based on 354 observations with available school performance information (Canada=77; UK=85; US=120; Sweden=72). Schools performance data are zscored within country.

#### The correlation between management and school performance is robust to the inclusion of a wide range of controls, and similar across subgroups of the management score

deress subgroups										
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)			
Dependent Variable	School Performance									
Management	0.119**	0.185***								
	(0.054)	(0.060)								
Monitoring			0.071							
			(0.055)							
Targets			-	0.150**						
_				(0.060)						
People				· - /	0.175***					
·					(0.055)					
Evidence based instruction					()					
methods						0.093*				
						(0.055)				
						(0.000)	0.400**			
Pseudo-Fryer Index							0.122**			
							(0.061)			
Observations	354	354	354	354	354	354	354			
Country dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Regional dummies	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
School controls	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Noise controls	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			

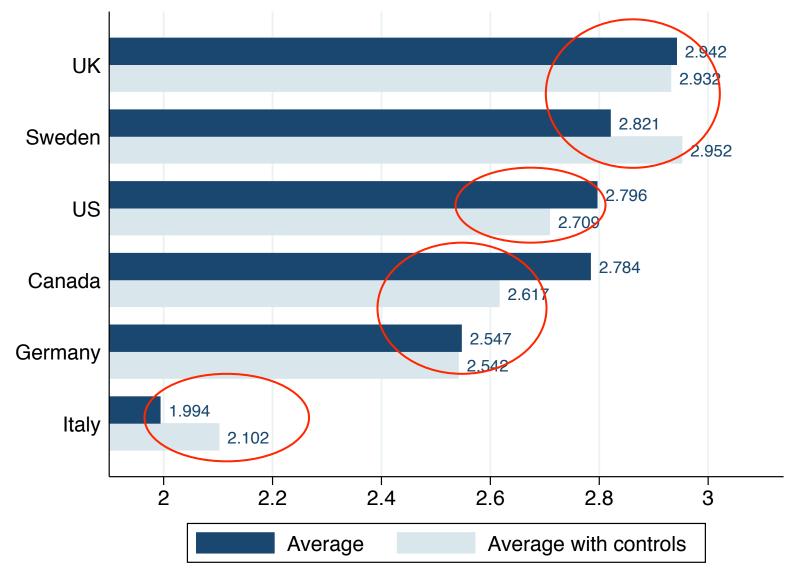
Notes: Graph based on 354 observations with available school performance information (Canada=77; UK=85; US=120; Sweden=72). Schools performance data are zscored within country. School controls include: number of pupils, pupil-teacher ratio, age, ownership, type. Noise controls include: interviewee tenure in post, gender, seniority; interview duration, reliability time, day of the week; analyst dummies. Robust standard errors in parentheses under coefficients.

#### Management scores by region are correlated with PISA rankings



Notes: Graph based on 512 observations: countries with available regional PISA data, and regions with at least 10 management interviews. (Canada=120 obs, PISA 2009; Germany=106 obs, PISA 2006; Italy=286 obs, PISA 2009).

#### School management practices vary across countries



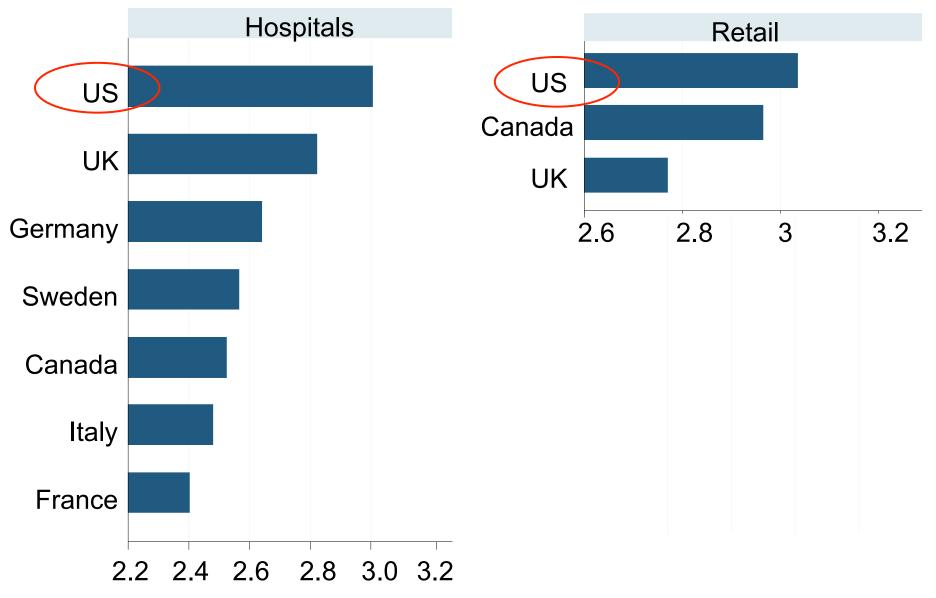
Note: Averages taken across all schools within each country. 988 schools. . School controls include: number of pupils, pupil-teacher ratio, age, ownership, type. Noise controls include: interviewee tenure in post, gender, seniority; interview duration, reliability time, day of the week; analyst dummies

School management rankings differ from other sectors: Manufacturing



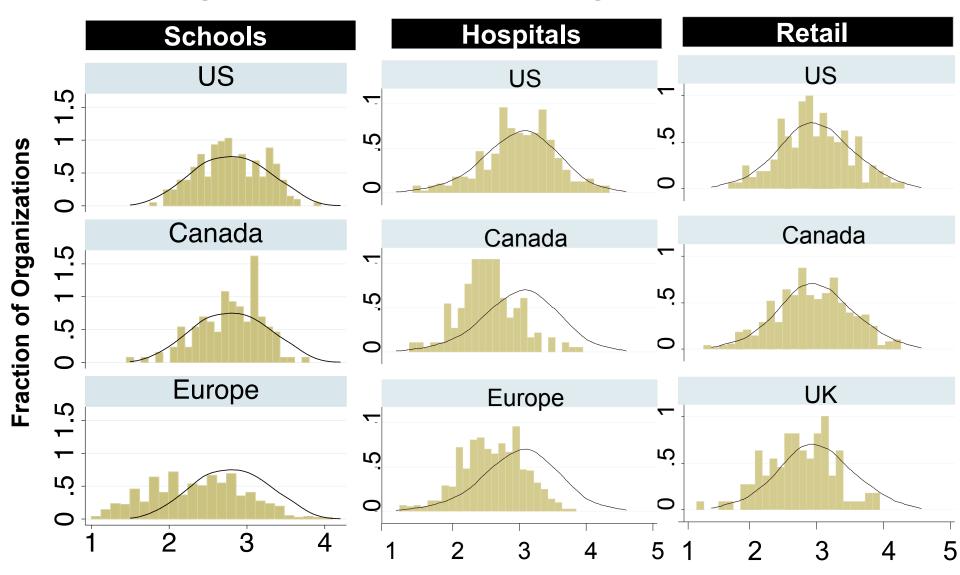
Note: Averages taken across all firms within each country. 9,079 observations in total. Firms per country in the right column

#### School management rankings differ from other sectors: Healthcare and Retail



Note: Averages taken across all organizations within each country. 1,183 hospitals, 661 retail sites

#### School management practices show a large spread



Firm management scores, from 1 (worst practice) to 5 (best practice)

Note: Bars are the histogram of the actual density. The line is the smoothed (kernel) of the US density for comparison.

#### Agenda



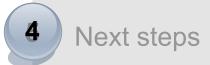
Measuring management practices in education



Describing management across schools



"Drivers" of management practices



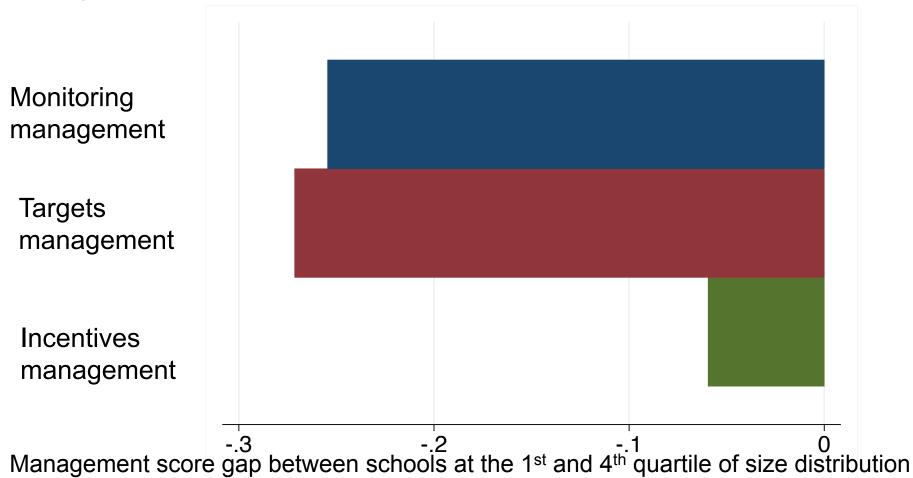
# **Size:** There is a strong relationship between school size and management practice



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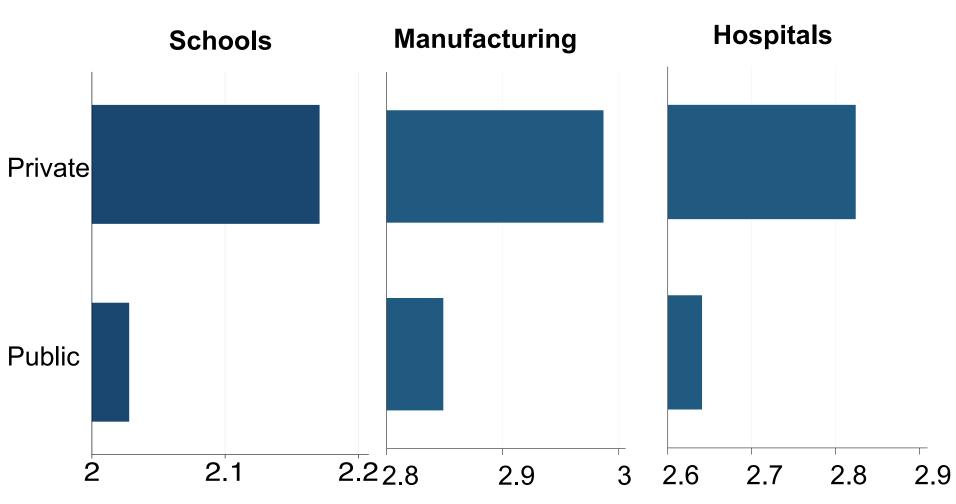
### Small schools are characterized by particularly poor monitoring and target management (difference in incentives is insignificant)

Gap between schools in the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> size quartile by sub-components of management



Management scores after controlling for regional dummies. Monitoring is collecting and using data, targets are the setting and effectiveness of targets, and incentives is performance related hiring, promotions, bonus and exit. Data from 988 schools.

## <u>Ownership</u>: government ownership is associated with worse management across every industry we studied

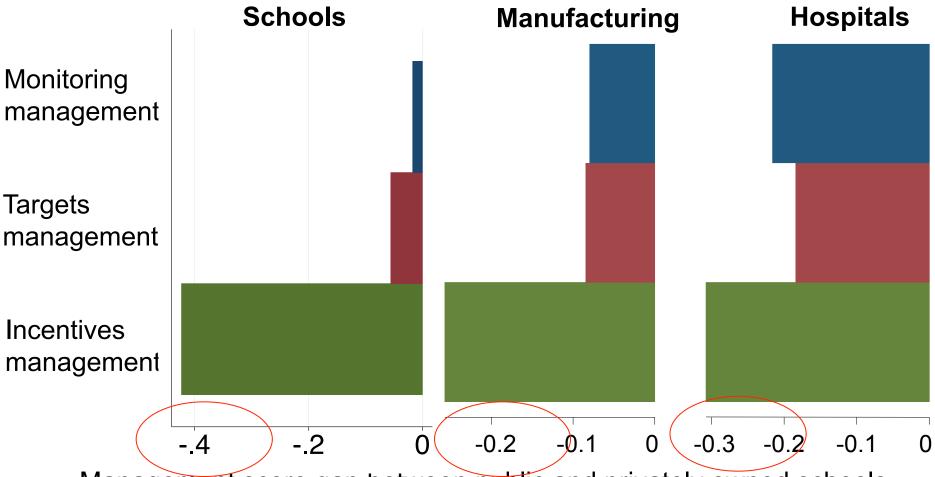


#### Management score

Management scores after controlling for size (number of employees, beds or students) and country. Data from 9079 manufacturing firms, 1,183 hospital and 988 schools. There were no publicly owned retail firms so the comparison is not possible within retail.

# Government ownership is associated with particularly poor incentives management (hiring, firing, pay and promotions)

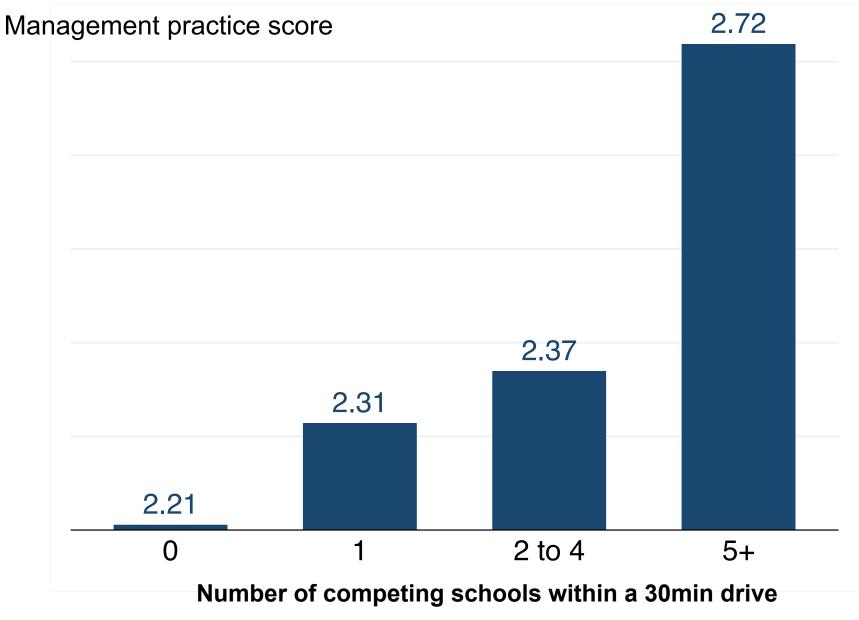
Gap between public and private ownership by sub-components of management



Management score gap between public and privately owned schools

Management scores after controlling for size (number of employees, beds or students) and country. Monitoring is collecting and using data, targets are the setting and effectiveness of targets, and incentives is performance related hiring, promotions, bonus and exit. Data from 9079 manufacturers, 1,183 hospital and 988 schools.

#### **<u>Competition</u>**: this appears to be good for management



<sup>1</sup>As perceived by the Principal

#### We also looked at **Principal characteristics**

	Management Score	Monitoring	Targets	Incentives
Experience (tenure in school, tenure in post)	X	X	X	×
Background (Science vs. Humanities)	X		X	×
Gender (Female)		X		

#### Agenda



Measuring management practices in education



Describing management across schools



"Drivers" of management practices



### Conclusion

- First descriptive evidence on international differences in management in schools
- Patterns remarkably similar to other industries
  - Wide heterogeneity even within same institutional context
  - Association management-school performance
  - Size, ownership, competition, CEO characteristics correlated with higher management scores
- Next steps
  - Expand sample to developing countries (India, 2012)
  - Move beyond correlations