



Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology  
Republic of Indonesia

# Emancipated Learning: Perspectives and Challenges in Transforming an Education System

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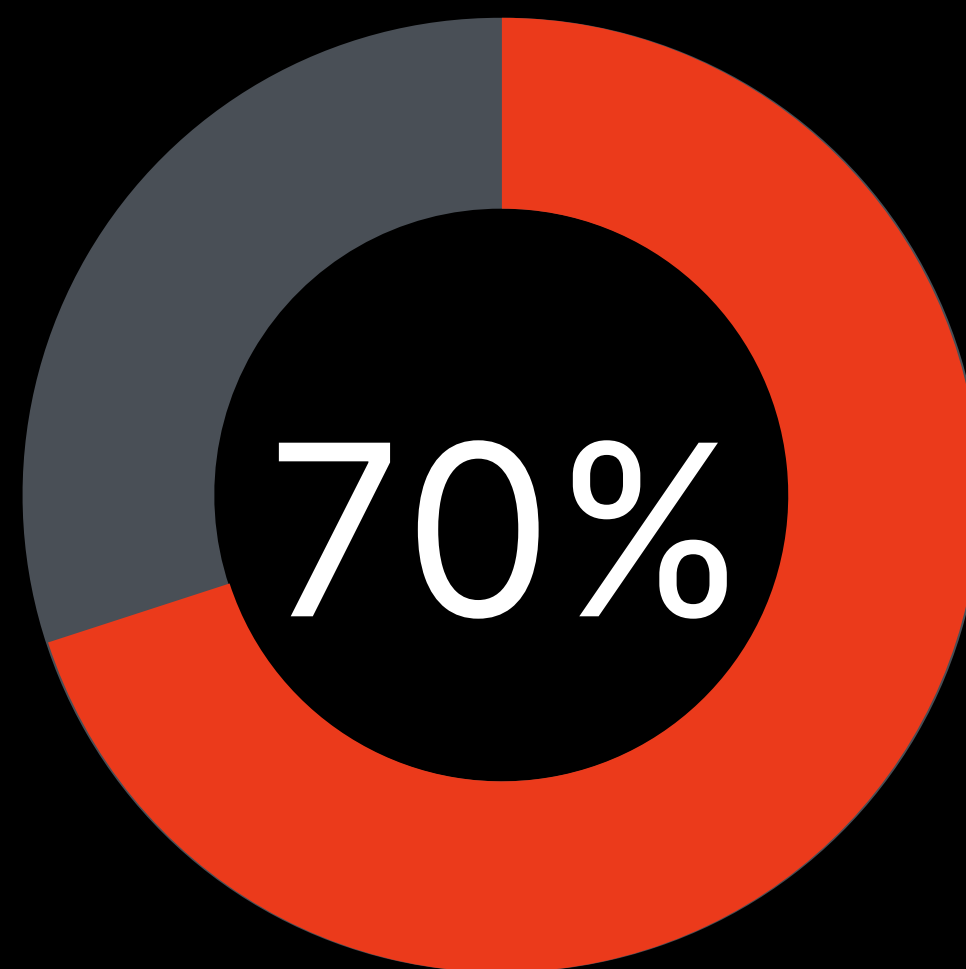
Part 1:

# The beginning



# A learning crisis in Indonesia

In 2018, 70% of 15 year-old students showed below minimum competency level in literacy and numeracy.







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# A vision for Emancipated Learning

Schools as learning environments which nurture **competent, lifelong learners** with **strong character traits** based on Pancasila values, the Indonesian national ideology.





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Part 2:

# The transformation







# The Merdeka Belajar Transformation



## Curriculum and pedagogy: commitment to foundational learning

1. Measure learning better: replace high-stakes national exam with diagnostic **national assessment**
2. Introduce a more flexible **curriculum** framework
3. Replace subject-based **public university entrance test** with an aptitude based test



## Support (good) teaching

4. Select **master teachers** as the next generation of **school leaders**
5. Redesign the pre-service **teacher education**



## Open up tertiary education

6. Allow university students to spend up to three semesters **out of their major**
7. Encourage **practitioners** to teach alongside academics



## Utilize technology to scale up and accelerate progress

8. Provide high quality digital **teaching resources**
9. Assist principals in managing the **school budget**
10. Provide **matchmaking** platform between university students and industries
11. Provide **matchmaking** platform between universities and industries



# Measure learning better through a diagnostic **national assessment**

- 1 Sampling representative at the school level, rendering the assessment **low-stakes** for diagnostic purposes. Students become **less stressed**.
- 2 Administered at grades 5, 8, and 11, whereas the transition from elementary to junior high to senior high school happens at grades 6, 9, and 12. Teachers can **improve teaching quality** based on assessment result.
- 3 Measures **literacy and numeracy** skills, not content mastery. No special preparation is necessary.
- 4 Includes a survey to students that measures six key **character traits** based on Pancasila, the Indonesian national ideology: being faithful in God, cooperative, creative, critical as a thinker, embodies diversity, and independent.
- 5 Includes a survey to teachers and students that measures teaching and learning quality, as well as **school climate** (including incidence of bullying, intolerance, and sexual harassment and assault).





# Kurikulum Merdeka, a more **flexible curriculum** framework



## **1** Depth more than breadth

.....

More focused on foundational skills. Fewer topics but deeper engagement. Learning becomes less rushed, more meaningful, and more joyful.



## **2** More freedom

.....

No more natural science, social science, and language tracks in high school. Achievement standards are designed in phases spanning multiple years.



## **3** Relevant and interactive

.....

Project-based learning gives more opportunities to students to actively explore issues relevant to them such as environmental degradation, the pandemic, etc.





# Replace subject-based public university entrance test with an aptitude-based test

- 1** The aptitude-based test measures more foundational skills: **cognitive** skills, **numeracy**, and **literacy** in Indonesian language and English language.
  - Students are **less dependent** on test prep centers.
  - Teachers can emphasize **meaningful understanding** during high school education instead of drilling and memorizing.
- 2** Students with **outstanding achievement** in particular subjects can apply through a separate selection track but their **overall grades** are given at least 50% weight in admission decision. This encourages more **holistic education** in high school.

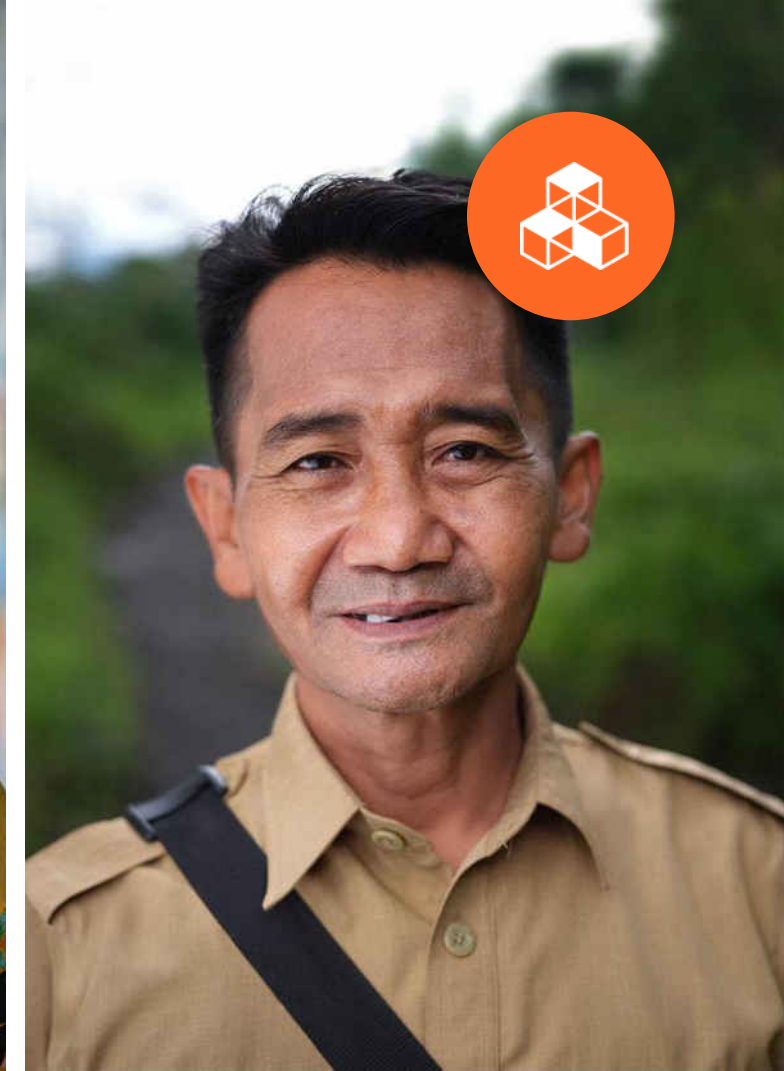






# Master teachers as the next generation of school leaders

- 1 Teachers undergo a competitive selection process and intensive **on-the-job training** for **nine months** to become master teachers. The training includes student-centered **teaching philosophy**, building **school culture**, techniques such as **differentiated learning**, **student coaching**, running **school programs**, and **decision making**.
- 2 The master teachers form **communities of learning** to increase teaching skills among other teachers, including using the digital platform for teachers.
- 3 Finally, the ministry regulates that recruitment of **principals** and **superintendents** must prioritize master teachers who care the most about student learning.





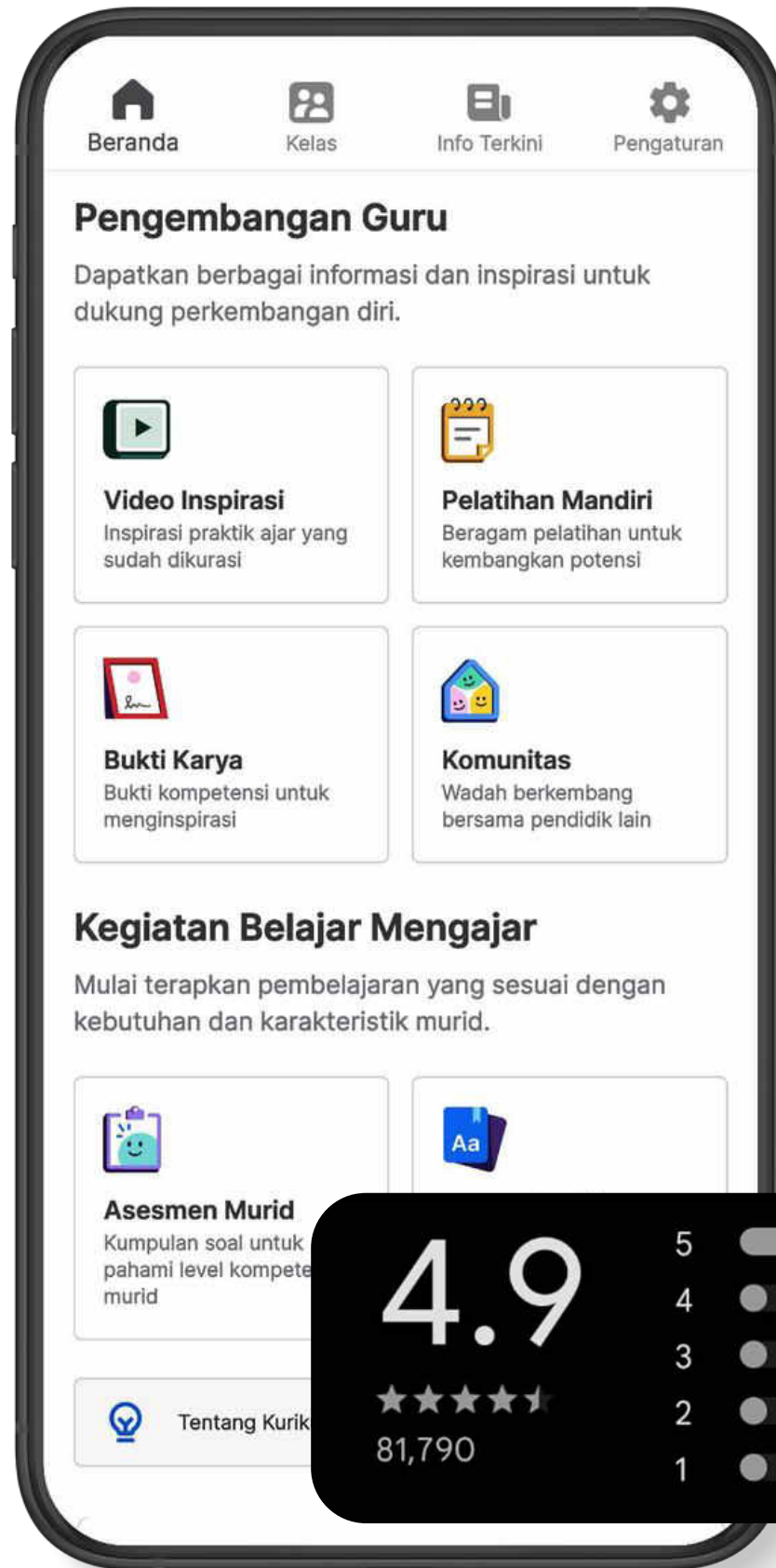


# Redesign the pre-service teacher education

- 1 Practice-oriented**, relative proportion of theory and practice is 50:50. As much as possible, pre-service teachers practise in schools where they will likely be placed.
- 2 Selective admission emphasizing internal motivation** to teach aside from content mastery.
- 3 Involving master teachers** as instructors to inspire future teachers and relay best practices.

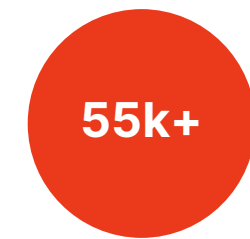




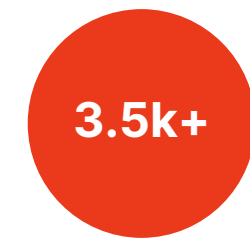


# Provide high quality digital teaching resources

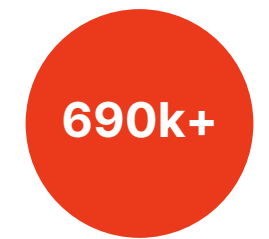
The Emancipated Teaching platform (platform Merdeka Mengajar) provides **differentiated learning modules**, tutorials on the new **curriculum** framework, curated **teaching materials**, as well as space for teachers to share **best practices** and find **inspiration from peers** on how to improve their teaching quality.



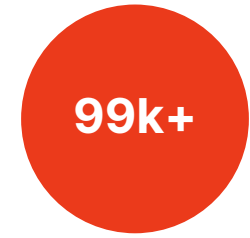
self-learning  
content available



teacher communities  
across the nation



teachers downloaded  
teaching tools



content uploaded  
by teachers



total app downloads  
after six months



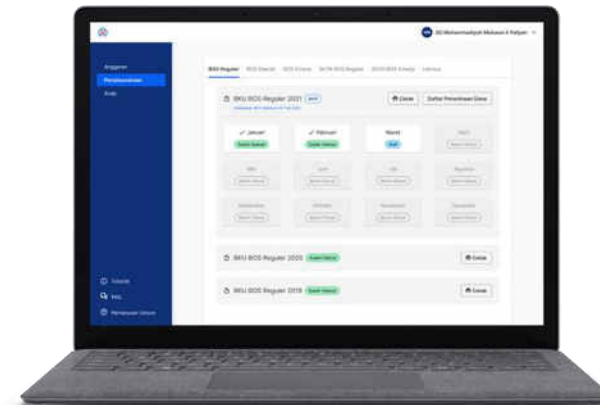
teachers have used  
the platform







# Assist principals in managing the school budget



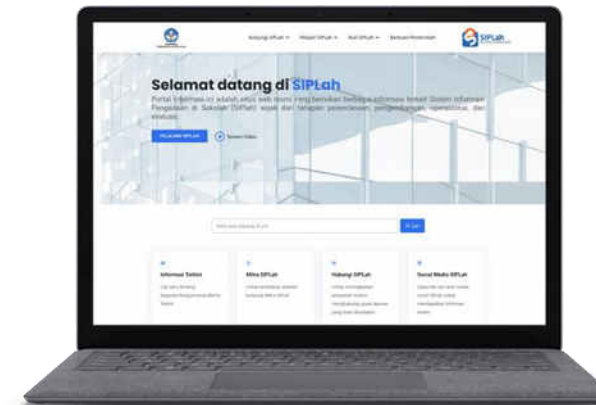
Accountable planning, reporting and budget management

217k+

schools have used the platform

3.5 bio+

USD managed on the platform



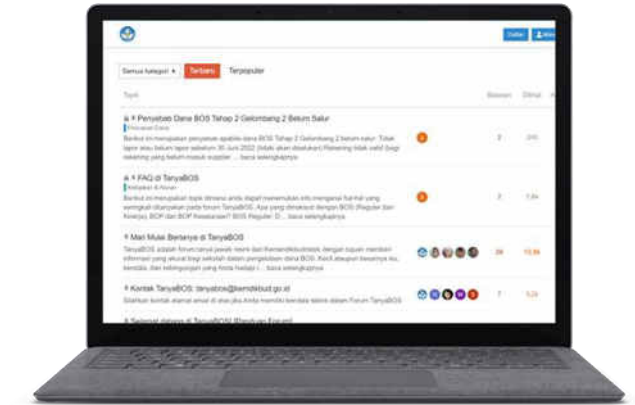
Official e-commerce platform to simplify school procurement process

237k+

schools have used the platform

84k+

SMEs engaged in the platform



Official Q&A forum providing information on budget management

3k+

topics posted on the platform

11k+

visitors participated





# Provide **personalized report** on national assessment results to each region and school

The Education Report platform (platform Rapor Pendidikan) provides local governments, principals, and teachers with **personalized report** on literacy, numeracy, character traits, and school climate based on national assessment results, combined with other datasets on education.

280+

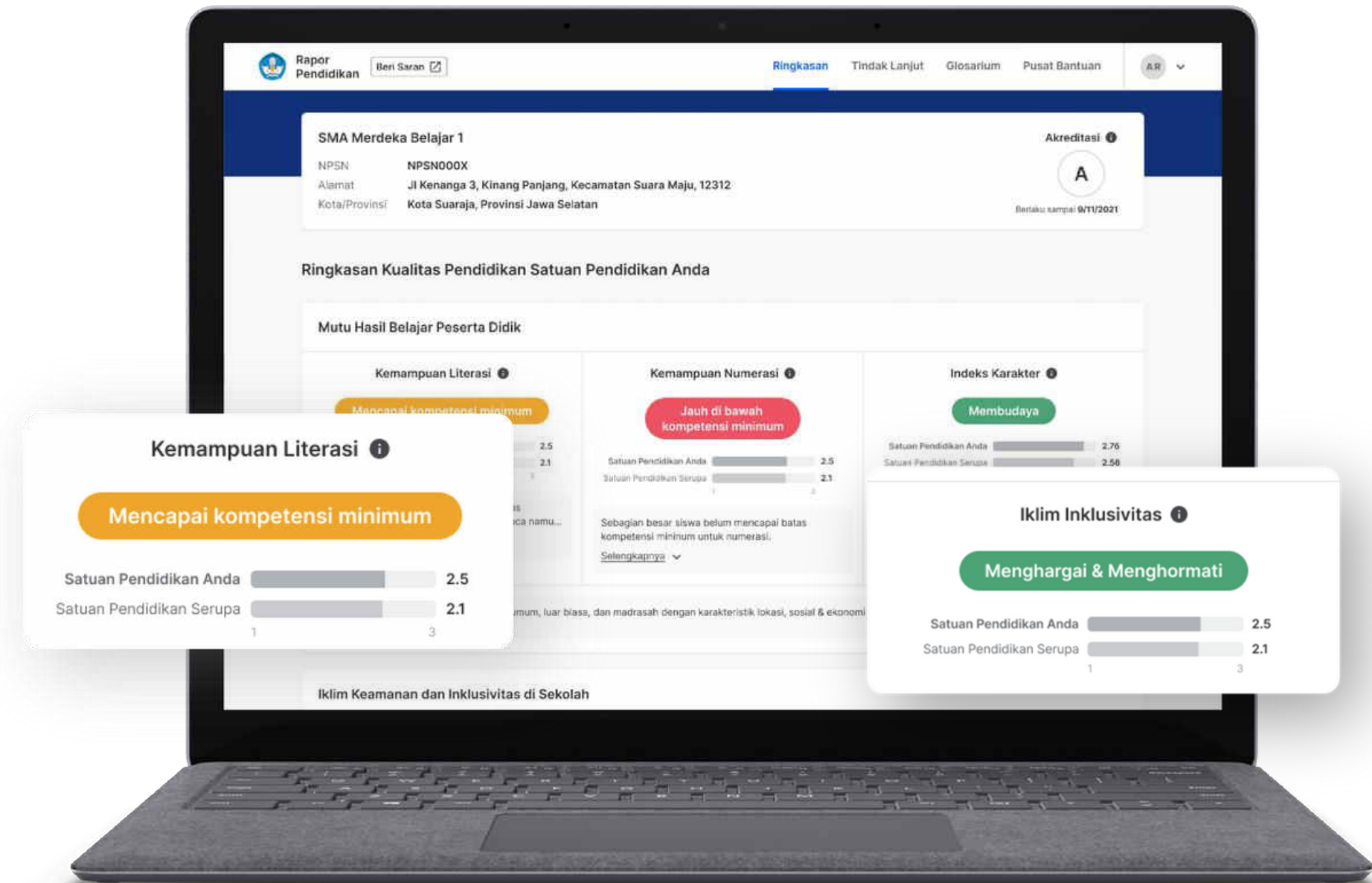
indicators provided

178k+

schools have accessed their report

546+

local governments have accessed their report







Part 3:

# The challenges







# Challenges

Change always generates **resistance**.

- Noise is not an indicator of quality or urgency of policy change, but noise reduces political support.

We need scale for irreversible change, but scale means **variance** in quality.

- Intensive, adaptive approaches to selected regions still necessary.

People worry about the **sustainability** of transformation.

- Secure personnel, regulations, and practices that can outlast an administration.





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Thank you!