



# TEXAS LESSON STUDY

Research. Reflect. Refine.

Educator Newsletter 1.1  
February 2018

## TXLS Mission

This inquiry-based, job embedded professional development allows teachers to work collaboratively to develop, teach, and assess research-based lessons.

TEA aims to reach 10 percent of all Texas teachers by 2023, but the potential for impact includes every student in Texas.

## TXLS Vision

To boost innovation in instructional design, improve teacher effectiveness, share best practices, improve student outcomes, and provide a platform to demonstrate mastery within the teaching profession.

## Letter from the Editors:

*Fellow Educators,*

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Texas Lesson Study (TXLS) Educator Newsletter. We are very pleased to launch a communication platform to bridge our hopes and ambitions for student achievement here at the Texas Education Agency with the ambitions and actions of educators in the field. We hope that you will come to view our role as not only in service to you, but also in awe of all your work in service of the 5.3 million students across Texas. We truly believe (based on research, experience, and feedback) that TXLS is a game-changer for forward-thinking classroom leaders because it is a framework that uses action research to put the student experience at the center of innovation, honors teachers as professional researchers and innovators, and disseminates proven best practices across all districts in Texas.

We are currently in year two of program implementation. In year one, we collaborated with six Education Service Center (ESC) regions to bring TXLS to 190 teachers and impact 1,260 students. Due to their successes, we now collaborate with 16 ESCs and 600 teachers that impact over 25,000 students on 104 campuses within 61 districts. Expansion tells a story, but expansion with fidelity tells a success story—and we have an incredible and tireless team to thank! For readers interested in the positive impact of TXLS on student learning and teacher professional development, please see our Fall 2016 or Spring 2017 *Report on Effectiveness* linked at the end of this newsletter.

We wish you happy reading, impactful teaching, and reflective development in your professional growth!

*On your team and in your corner,*

**Blair Claussen**

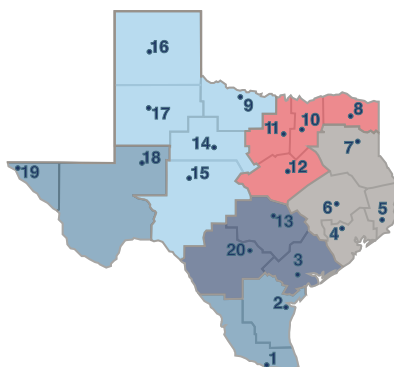
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## Learn More About TXLS:

TXLS Cycle



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Our first three issues will align with the three tenets of Texas Lesson Study.

## Issue 1.1 focus: Research

Not all regions, not all districts, and not all campuses serve the same community. TXLS provides a pathway for teachers to teach content specifically rather than generically. In three semesters of implementation, teachers have been examining current student achievement and using that information to dive into research on content-based pedagogy (what works for a specific subject), cognitive development (what works for a specific age group), and subpopulations (what works for a specific community). Each of these encompass unique learning needs.

TXLS group 138, fall 2017 participants from Tool Elementary at Malakoff ISD, brought together four educators teaching grades 2 through 5. They analyzed vertical content standards and campus achievement to collaboratively research and design instruction for their 4th grade English Language Arts and Reading curriculum.

*"Developing a great lesson is an ideal thing, but I think the best thing about the lesson study experience is that it gives you a chance to reflect about and rethink your own teaching."*

- TXLS Teacher

These teachers examined and cited seven different peer-reviewed research studies providing both evidence and strategies for (a) active learning that "accesses multiple learning styles in an effort to help students improve their writing," (b) self-evaluations that "allow students to become successful evaluators of their own work," and (c) "a game-based structure to practice difficult concepts...and simulate nurturing time," essential to their campus's highly mobile population. Well done, TXLS team!

## SXSWedu

We are excited to announce a workshop at SXSWedu on March 8th. Our interactive crash-course parallels the training TXLS teachers receive prior to beginning the LS cycle and dives into the research and instructional design phases, while brainstorming campus implementation models. Learn more at our [session page](#).

## Design Thinking

We are engaging with new models of empathy- and equity-centered classroom design that is applicable K-12. Our team will be trained on Design Thinking and will soon bring these high-impact models to our Texas teachers. Learn more at the Stanford [d.school K12 Lab Network](#) and upcoming [workshops](#).

## Get to Know Us

Lesson Proposals: [Texas Gateway](#)

Fall 2016/Spring 2017 Reports on Program Effectiveness: [tea.texas.gov](#)

Follow us on Twitter: [#TXLS](#)

Contact us: [txlessonstudy@tea.texas.gov](mailto:txlessonstudy@tea.texas.gov)

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MALAKOFF ISD

TOOL ELEMENTARY

Teachers intentionally and intensively examined their student achievement data as part of their research process.

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