



TEXAS LESSON STUDY

Research. Reflect. Refine.

Educator Newsletter 1.2 **Letter from the Editors:** March 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

Fellow Educators,

February is always a whirlwind for educators and it has been no less so here at TEA. We are honored and inspired by your daily commitment to holistic student learning and strive to match that commitment.

To specifically honor the work of the Texas Lesson Study family, Commissioner of Education Mike Morath invited TXLS teacher participants from Ridgewood Elementary School in Port Neches-Groves ISD to join him on stage during his keynote speech at the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) Midwinter Conference. With an audience of systems leaders—hundreds of administrators from over 1200 districts across the state—the Commissioner elevated these teachers who brought their students to over 90 percent mastery on a historically challenging mathematics standard.

Also here in Austin, the yearly medley of the infamous SxSW festivals includes a week dedicated to practitioners and influencers in education: SxSWedu. The TXLS team designed and delivered a workshop that paralleled the overview training TXLS teachers receive prior to beginning the TXLS cycle. Attendees then dove more deeply into the research and instructional design phases, highlighting what makes the lesson study process so unique. Our workshop at SxSWedu allowed collaboration among educators from across Texas, other U.S. states, and international locations including Tokyo. It is thrilling to grow Lesson Study's international community of practitioners through Texas Lesson Study!

Here is to continued collaboration, community, creativity, and the curation of best teaching and development practices—all thanks to you in the field!

On your team and in your corner,

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

Issue 1.2 focus: Reflect

Educators often notice there is rarely ample time to closely observe individual student learning while simultaneously teaching or to reflect on lesson effectiveness with thought partners. Participants of TXLS form teams to research, design, pilot, reflect, and refine a master lesson that is peer-reviewed and published as original content. The teacher reflection occurs iteratively throughout the entire Lesson Study Cycle and more intensively after the Research Lesson has been taught and observed.

TXLS group 18, fall 2016 participants from Liberty Hill Intermediate School, brought together 5th and 6th grade science teachers. After researching, designing, and delivering a grade 5 science lesson, they gathered low-inference qualitative and quantitative data to reflect upon as a team. They asked, "What were students saying throughout the lesson? What was challenging for students? How much of this was productive struggle?" Among several observations, the team noticed that "there was an increased level of critical thinking and discussion through discussion stem cards at each station," and therefore made revisions to increase the robustness of this student behavior. A fraction of this deep reflection is captured in each published lesson proposal. Visit the [Texas Gateway](#) to read this team's entire proposal and download materials to deliver the same [Uses of Energy Research Lesson](#).

Facilitator Online Course

Wanting to implement TXLS on your campus but constrained by access to an ESC Facilitator? We are developing a course for campus-based educators on all aspects of the TXLS cycle, including tips on how to facilitate and support a collaborative team, and publish and share your work.

Projected launch in May 2018.

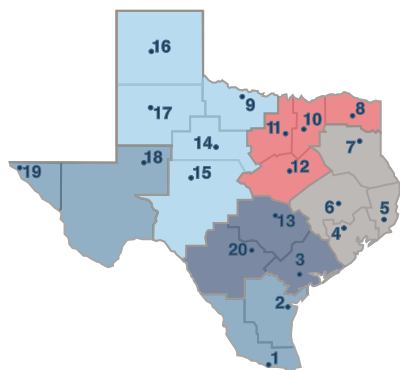
#TXLS and #IAmTXEd

Sharing success stories about Texas Lesson Study? Curious about the stories of others? Tag and search #TXLS on social media. Include #IAmTXEd for the chance to be featured on official TEA accounts, like [TXLS group 35](#) from Abilene ISD. Their story was published on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) in the summer of 2017.

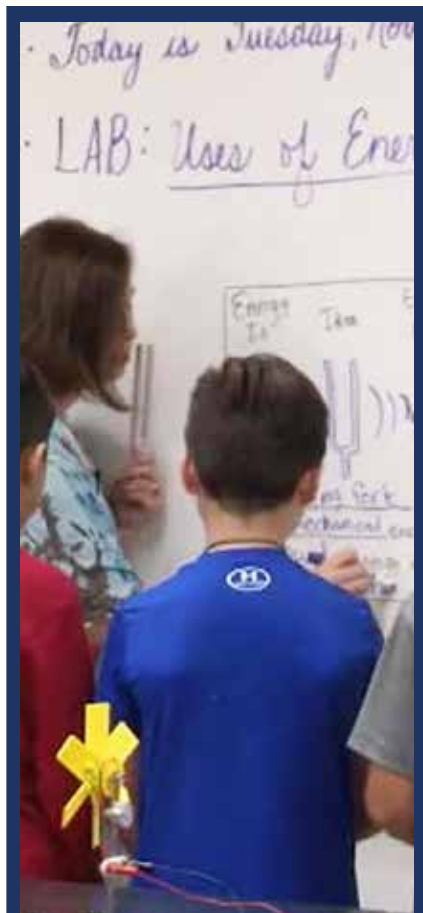
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LIBERTY HILL ISD

LIBERTY HILL INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Teachers
meticulously reviewed
observations of their
lesson's successes
and areas for
improvement as part
of their reflection
process.

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