



TEXAS LESSON STUDY

Research. Reflect. Refine.

Educator Newsletter 3.1 August 2019

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,

Texas Lesson Study (TXLS) is now in its fourth year of implementation, and we have grown far beyond a pilot program that began with 30 participating campuses in the 2016–2017 school year. We want to welcome all educators, both Lesson Study veterans and those that are new to the process, and share some growth information. In the 2019–2020 school year, we have:

- Seventeen participating Regional Education Service Center (ESC) Hubs,
- Twenty-nine (29) full-time Lesson Study Facilitators statewide
- Thirty-seven (37) additional educators certified as Lesson Study facilitators
- Over 50 participating districts and over 100 campuses
- Over 700 educators and about 25,000 students impacted
- Four unique ways to implement TXLS (described at the bottom of this page)

This is a powerful community of individuals that are dedicated to providing Texas students the very best instruction through their commitment to continued professional growth. We salute all of you!

Lesson Study participants also actively contribute to a statewide curricular resource repository—the [Texas Gateway](#). There are currently 120 published lessons with videos ranging across all grade levels and subject areas. Each lesson is accompanied by supporting research that contributed to the lesson design, as well as teacher reflections providing insight into how students engaged with the lesson. Each issue this year will highlight exemplary research and development that went into these lessons on page 2.

Here is to the best year yet!

On your team and in your corner,

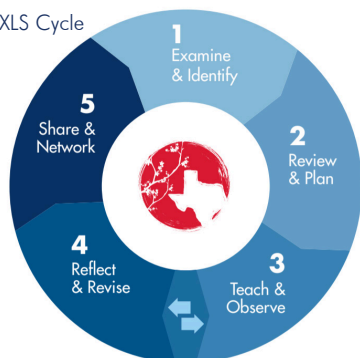
Blair Claussen
Project Manager

Sheel Jagani
Program Specialist

Alissa Rhee
Program Specialist

txlessonstudy@tea.texas.gov

TXLS Cycle



Levels of Texas Lesson Study Implementation

Levels I and II	Level III	Level IV
ESC Facilitator leads Lesson Study groups on campuses, including regular on-site meetings. Teacher lead may co-facilitate with support from the ESC.	District or campus facilitator leads Lesson Study groups after attending TXLS trainings. ESC staff provides in-person coaching and support.	District or campus staff independently implement Lesson Study following online trainings . ESC staff provides customer service.



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Each issue will highlight strong examples of lesson research and development.

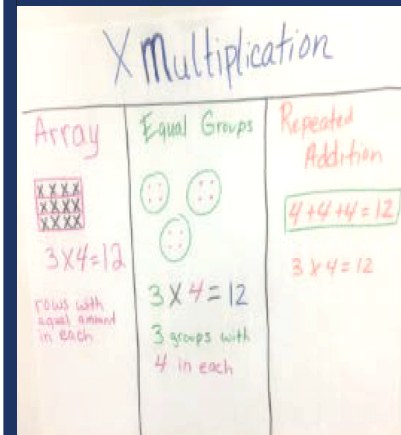
Issue 3.1 Research Themes Preparing Students for Success

Lesson Study groups select a Research Theme early in the process of developing a master lesson. This theme is created by the group to guide their thinking throughout the process. It is an overarching goal that unifies the work of the campus and the teachers. TXLS group 165, fall 2017 participants from Eagle Lake Intermediate School, wanted students to “develop the confidence to become intrinsically-motivated problem solvers,” while ensuring third graders could solve one-step multiplication word problems. The teachers carefully disaggregated three years of historical data to decide on this topic for their Research Lesson. They also designed a pre-assessment that verified their assumptions of where learning was breaking down for their students. The teachers then researched an apprenticeship model of instruction that targeted themes of intrinsic motivation and problem solving. Their final Research Lesson incorporated the following strategies:

- Cognitive modeling: students emulating experts performing a task
- Scaffolding: the gradual removal of teacher supports
- Structured articulation: students reasoning and explaining their problem-solving methods
- Student reflection: peer comparison and reflection on independent problem solving

[View the full lesson, teaching videos, research summary, and more on Texas Gateway.](#)

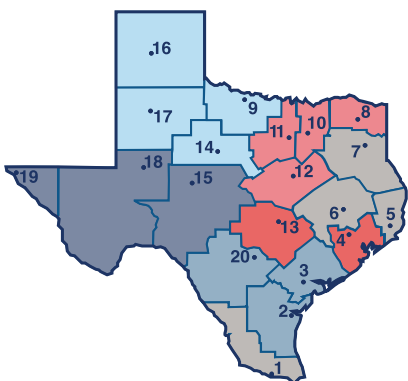
(Note: A Gateway account is required to view and is free to all Texas Educators.)



Texas Lesson Study Staff Members Love Continuous Improvement

This summer, all of the Texas Lesson Study staff from TEA and the ESCs came together in Austin. We convened for four days to plan for the upcoming year, share best practices, and ensure we are well prepared to support the amazing work you are doing in classrooms. Topics ranged from cutting-edge research and student-led activities to guidance on preparing for publication on the Texas Gateway. To the left is a picture from the session, “Breaking Down the TEKS,” in which participants played a game while reading scenario cards to see gaps in learning through the elementary years.

Get to Know Us



- ESC 3 HUB:** ESCs 2, 3, 20
Tammi Tinnin • ttinnin@esc3.net
- ESC 4 HUB:** ESCs 4 and 13
Mendy Wandling • mendy.wandling@esc4.net
- ESC 6 HUB:** ESCs 1, 5, 6, 7
Traci Seils • tseils@esc6.net
- ESC 10 HUB:** ESCs 8, 10, 11, 12
Michelle Stimpson • michelle.stimpson@region10.org
- ESC 14 HUB:** ESCs 9, 14, 16, 17
Anne Post • apost@esc14.net
- ESC 15, 18, 19**
Texas Lesson Study • txlessonstudy@tea.texas.gov

RICE CISD

EAGLE LAKE
INTERMEDIATE
SCHOOL

Students explored a variety of methods to solve similar mathematical problems with multiple opportunities for peer evaluation and self-evaluation.

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