



Guide on How to Engage in Lesson Study Planning

What is Lesson Study?

Lesson Study is a standards-based collaborative process used to improve instruction. Teacher-led teams regularly meet on a mutually agreed schedule to engage in the lesson study cycle. One of the goals of this instructional planning model is to identify academic achievement gaps and students' challenges. Teachers will then examine and refine lessons that address these concerns. Common Core Learning Standards, curriculum, learning styles, resources, short-term and long-term goals and all the other critical elements in designing a coherent lesson are taken into consideration in the planning. Teacher teams engage in collaborative pre-teaching and post-teaching discussion, preparation and reflection when selecting a lesson to teach, refine and reteach.

Why Lesson Study?

Lesson Study allows teachers to grow and develop together professionally. This practice promotes a risk-free environment where everyone is a valued contributor. The knowledge of their students and curriculum increases as a result of several focused discussions and reflection. This instructional approach enables teachers to be self-directed learners who are intrinsically motivated to embrace changes to improve their own practice. Teachers get to learn each other's strengths and areas for growth. Respect and trust for other's opinions and perspectives grow. Consequently, they capitalize on each other's strengths, leading to a more proficient way of working productively by building a repertoire of strategies for best practice. Furthermore, this process allows for teams of empowered teachers to build a collection of valuable lessons that can be shared within the school community, thus boosting morale, confidence and collaboration.

How Can We Engage in Lesson Study? A Step-by-Step Guide

1. Form a Lesson Study Team and determine a definite schedule to conduct the study. Set norms, identify roles and agree on using consensus decision-making when meeting.
2. As a team, identify a concept that students have challenges or difficulty learning. Use all relevant formative and summative assessment data to support your decision. Teachers select an overarching goal and related research question to explore. This research question then serves to guide the work on all the study lessons.
3. Gather resources and revisit the Common Core Learning Standards to determine what students need to know and be able to do.





4. Consider these critical elements when agreeing on a lesson to collaboratively examine, analyze, plan, and teach.
 - a) Engaging students in learning
 - b) Asking high-level questions that promote discussion and thinking
 - c) Anticipating students' responses
 - d) Responding to misconceptions or misunderstandings
 - e) Ending the lesson
 - f) Assessing if students understood what was taught
5. Ask a volunteer teacher to teach the lesson. The rest of the team gathers in the classroom to observe the teaching and learning process. As the lesson is taught, low inference notes (see Appendix C) are taken by the teachers observing the lesson.
6. Conduct a post-lesson discussion meeting promptly. Engage in a comprehensive post-lesson discussion highlighting the valuable information collected. Share why you think the lesson achieved its goals or not.
7. Consider all relevant recommendations and revise/refine the lesson accordingly, paying attention to the essential lesson elements mentioned above.
8. Reteach the refined lesson by another teacher in a timely manner. Continue the process with teachers observing and writing low inference notes.
9. Meet and reflect to determine the strengths of the lessons and areas in need of modification. Refine further if necessary.
10. Plan next steps.