



TEXAS LESSON STUDY

Research. Reflect. Refine.

Educator Newsletter
3.2 November 2019

Letter from the Editors:

Fellow Educators,

The fourth year of Texas Lesson Study (TXLS) is in full swing! Whether taking the time to unpack the language in the standards, as they did in Wharton ISD (pictured right) or collaborating on the weekend, like the group from Progreso ISD (pictured below), Texas teachers are doing the work to facilitate authentic student learning in their classrooms. TXLS provides a community of support for these educators who show up every day to do what's best for students.



As you look to incorporate new strategies in your classroom, consider using the research-based lessons on the **Texas Gateway**. These lessons include best practices across content areas and address some of the most difficult skills students need to be successful throughout their education and in life.

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

We know when you step into the classroom, you rise to the challenge of providing students with the best education possible to prepare them for the future. Amanda Sager, an English/Language Arts instructional coach in Katy ISD, said it best in the **Fall 2019 Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) Magazine**: "[Lesson Study] was a lot of work, but it was the best kind of work because it was personalized to our campus and student needs." The critical formal and informal roles you play—as educators, counselors, caregivers, and countless more—drive us to provide the best support we can.

On your team and in your corner,

Blair Claussen
Director

Alissa Rhee
Educator Support Specialist

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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 3.2 Research Leading to Student Engagement

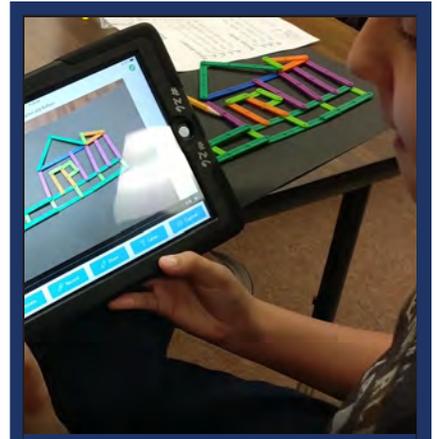
The need for practical, real-world education is changing the way we approach instructional design. TXLS170, "Open House: Challenger Oaks—Geometry by Design," was designed to "facilitate student understanding in the areas of vocabulary and geometry through an authentic application," for their fourth graders. After thorough analysis of State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) data from 2017 and a Curriculum Diagnostic Benchmark from the same year, the teacher-researchers found that the increased rigor for vocabulary caused a breakdown in student understanding of geometry. As a result, the TXLS group chose to focus on four areas of research:

- Using manipulatives to create a concrete understanding of math
- Developing a functional understanding of mathematical concepts by applying mathematics to real-world scenarios
- Creating relevant learning experiences by selecting relatable, real-world scenarios
- Incorporating technology to enhance engagement and learning

Because of the research teachers conducted, students had the chance to address real-life tasks, apply their understanding of math in concrete ways, and evaluate their success through conversations with their peers.

[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 and parents.)



Northside ISD

Scobee Elementary School

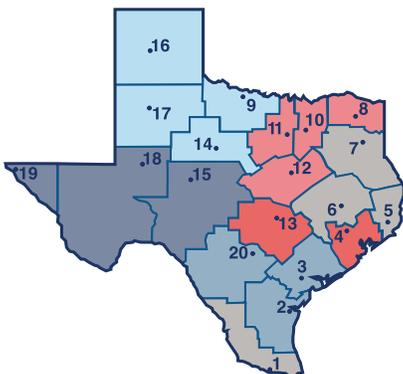
Students created buildings out of manipulatives and measured their success against an "inspection code" rubric.



TXLS Breaks It Down with Channelview ISD Leaders

The collaborative work of Texas Lesson Study doesn't stop at teacher participants and TXLS staff. TXLS Facilitators in Region 4 had the opportunity to share their work with district leaders from Channelview ISD. The investment of these leaders and so many others at the district and campus levels across the state is integral to the success of TXLS. We are excited to see educators at all levels of the district getting involved with the process and journey of Lesson Study!

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