



TEXAS LESSON STUDY

Research. Reflect. Refine.

Educator Newsletter March 2020

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,

We are halfway through the year! We recognize that this season can be busy and overwhelming at times, so we wanted to take a minute to appreciate the work you do. While we know the work comes with peaks and valleys, what you do is valuable and necessary. When you show up—physically, mentally, and emotionally—for students every day, you shape their lives. We cannot express enough gratitude for you and your work.



Pictured left: Commissioner Mike Morath visits English II teachers at Morton Ranch HS



Pictured right: Students at Pecan Creek ES practice solving word problems.

Right now, you're probably preparing for STAAR, developing strategies to tackle Essential Actions and Key Practices from the Effective Schools Framework (ESF), or planning your Research Lesson. Meanwhile, TXLS facilitators/ coaches, Program Managers, and staff at TEA are working to ensure that Lesson Study continues to build your capacity by aligning with and supporting implementation for several other statewide initiatives. We hope that as you begin planning for next year that you have these crucial conversations about the ways Lesson Study can continue to reinforce the other critical work you do.

On your team and in your corner,

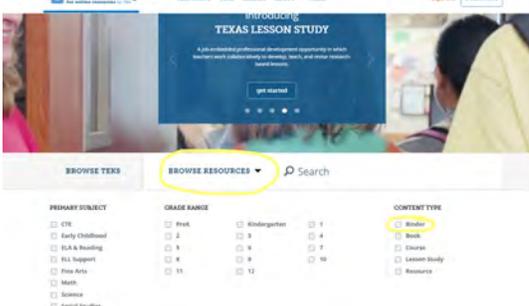
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Gateway Courses Transition



Digital Learning and Texas Gateway Update Newsletter (click for the full bulletin)

The Texas Gateway Courses platform will transition to a new learning management system. As a result, the following online Gateway courses will be closed, and educators can no longer enroll in these courses on the Gateway site and temporarily will not be able to receive an official CPE certificate.

If you would like to take the courses, you can find them as "binders" with assessments as a resource on the Gateway website. Select the "Binder" filter, then search "Texas Lesson Study Facilitator Training" or "Texas Lesson Study Facilitator: Gateway Development and Lesson Submission." Please note that the Gateway is temporarily offline, and we will provide updates when possible.



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

Issue 3.3 Inferring Beasts and How to Teach Them

Countless English teachers can tell you that teaching students how to infer is difficult. However, one brave TXLS group confronted this challenge in TXLS166, "Inferring: It's a Beast!" In the lesson, students used text evidence and drew from their personal schema to make logical connections across multiple genres. This group of teacher-researchers synthesized a range of research and instructional materials to implement the following strategies in the Research Lesson:

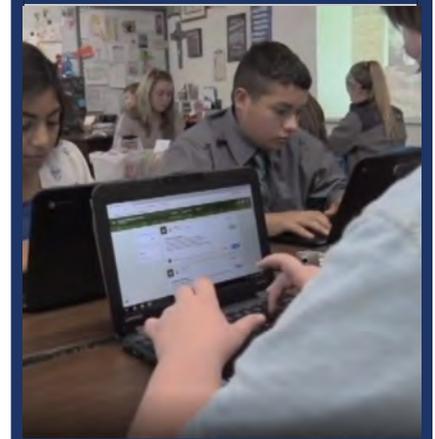
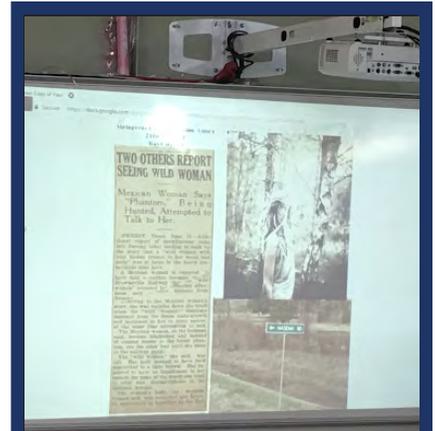
- Explicit instruction focusing on the skill of inferring to break down this complex skill
- Establishing "sequential procedures for creating inferences and justifying responses, as well as developing metacognition and monitoring"
- Incorporating technology to prepare students for digital collaboration seen in college and the workplace and to foster more authentic engagement between peers

Through this research, the team was able to create graphic organizers, clear questions, and a range of genres so students could formulate inferences about characters in various texts and think more broadly about the purpose of folklore.

[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.)

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Van Vleck ISD

Herman Middle School

Students used an online classroom to practice collaboration and discussion of various texts as they would in college or the workplace.



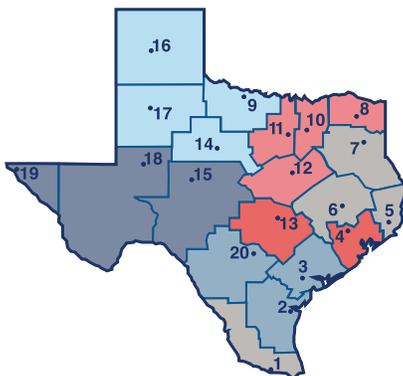
Each One, Teach One: Sharing TXLS in Region 1

The transformative nature of TXLS is most evidenced by teachers sharing the work they've done. In addition to co-facilitating a TXLS group this year, Ms. Angie Jackson presented Cleckler-Heald's second-grade Research Lesson at the Rio Grande Valley Texas Association of Bilingual Education annual conference. The team focused on strategies to engage English learners as they learn multiple meaning words. Ms. Jackson's presentation reminds us of how far-reaching TXLS learning can be. (Look at that crowd!)



We hope that you're also getting the opportunity to share your work with TXLS! If you have a story you'd like to highlight, please email us at txlessonstudy@tea.texas.gov.

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