



TEXAS LESSON STUDY

Research. Reflect. Refine.

Educator Newsletter August 2020

TXLS Mission

Texas Lesson Study is committed to supporting student mastery, building the professionalism of teaching, and developing cultures of learning and improvement through transformative professional development processes.

TXLS Vision

Texas Lesson Study is the primary framework for teacher-driven professional development across Texas.

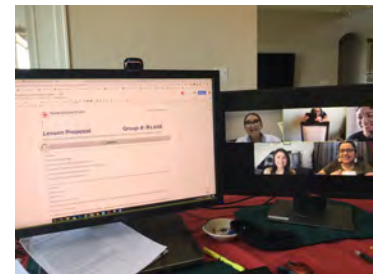
Letter from the Editors:

Fellow Educators,

You did it! In the face of a global pandemic and nationwide protests, you finished out the school year. Our team is grateful for all the ways that you showed up for students. As you focused on creating meaningful, virtual experiences for students, the team at TEA streamlined the Texas Lesson Study process to ensure that you continue to have transformative professional learning experiences. We appreciate the educators, Facilitators, and Program Managers whose feedback made these updates possible.



Pictured left: R4 Facilitators, Melanie Shannon and Lindsey Curiel, support Quail Valley Middle School teachers with a Spanish I virtual delivery.



Pictured right: R1 Facilitator, Domenica Vela, meets virtually with her Welasco ISD first-grade group.

We hope that you are taking time this summer to fill your cup. Whether you're doing that with rest and relaxation, time with loved ones, or professional development, we are excited to launch the next school year with a more teacher-friendly approach to TXLS, and we hope you are too!

On your team and in your corner,

Blair Claussen
Director

Beth Burkhart
Educator Support Project Manager

Alissa Rhee
Education Specialist

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Updates to the TXLS Approach

Process Over Product

Starting in the 2020–2021 school year, **lesson publication will no longer be a component of TXLS.** We're excited for Lesson Study teachers to have more collaborative time to devote to examining and improving instructional practices.

Be on the lookout this year as we develop more ways for teachers to showcase and share their TXLS work.

Repeated Short Cycles

TXLS participants shared in their feedback that the purpose of Lesson Study becomes more clear during the lesson delivery and reflection. To ensure even more relevancy throughout the TXLS process, **groups can complete multiple, short lesson study cycles throughout the year.**

ESC facilitators will work with campus leaders and groups to determine the best short-cycle timelines.

Using Existing Curriculum

With the end of publication comes new possibilities for TXLS groups. Previously, publication may have prevented teams from using the curricular and instructional materials provided to them.

Now, **teams will be able to use existing curriculum and the research they conduct in TXLS to effectively adapt the materials to meet their students' needs and long-term growth goals.**



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

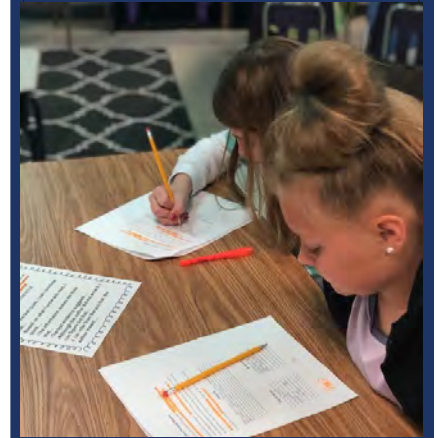
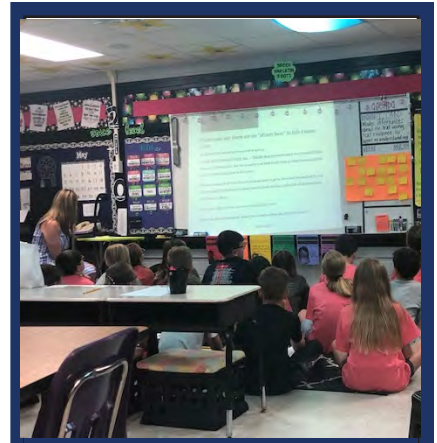
Celebrating a TXLS Teacher in Region 5



Angela Lewis is a fifth-grade Reading Language Arts teacher and Grade Level Chairperson at Port Neches Elementary (PNE). She was also one of this year's Wayne A. Reaud Excellence in Education Award recipients. She holds numerous campus leadership positions, is the fifth-grade homeroom volunteer coordinator, works as the University Interscholastic League (UIL) coach for both Oral Reading and Spelling, and has served as a mentor teacher for Lamar University since 2006.

Ms. Lewis continued to serve her students as an author and the lesson observation teacher of TXLSR5.008, "Hooked on Inferring." In their lesson, Ms. Lewis and her colleagues used research on background knowledge, explicit teacher instruction, cooperative learning, and student-centered instruction to teach inferring. Dr. Roxanne Minix-Wilkins was excited to share all that Ms. Lewis had accomplished in Lesson Study and beyond, including her Master's degree!

Share and celebrate your TXLS work! If you have a story you'd like to highlight, please email us at txlessonstudy@tea.texas.gov.



Continuous Learning with Leaders

Rebecca Phifer and Lauren Smith are staying busy in Region 11 this summer! After talking with a Denton ISD principal, this duo invited a handful of campus leaders from across the region to pilot a TXLS cycle for instructional leaders. This inaugural group is focusing on PLCs for their problem of practice.

Just like other TXLS groups, the group is researching best practices and using the "See It, Name It, Do It" protocol to do a root cause analysis and devise solutions. We can't wait to share their final outcomes!

What is our research plan? (Questions for discussion)

Questions	Important Notes (if needed)
• What questions do we have that will guide our research based on our problem of practice?	
• Will we each research different articles, podcasts, book excerpts, etc.?	
• Will we research the same piece?	
• What is our deadline for completing research before we meet?	

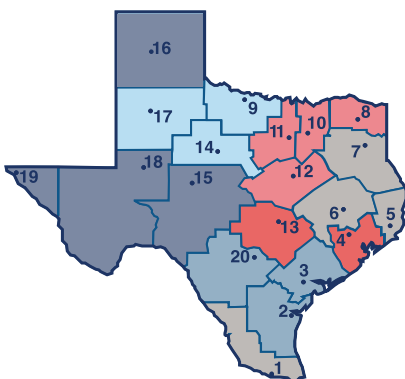
snapshot of research questions from the group's agenda

Port Neches-Groves ISD

Port Neches Elementary School

Students used an informational text set about fishing to practice creating inferences both with a partner and independently.

Get to Know Us



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