

Lesson Study

A  Collaborative Strategy
for Professional
Development

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Introduction

- Third and Fourth Grade Teacher
- Lynnwood Intermediate School
- MC/Gen 2000
- Began lesson study two years ago
- Four groups in my school this year

What is Lesson Study?

- A team of teachers plans and teaches a meaningful learning activity for their students.
- It's borrowed from Japan, where lesson study is a major form of professional development.

The Five Steps

1. The team sets a goal.
 - Long range, over-arching
 - “We want our students to be...”
2. A curricular area is selected.
 - Examine data
 - Perform needs analysis

The Five Steps

3. The group plans the lesson.

- This can take a while!
- Everything is discussed.
- Divergent ideas are debated.

4. One team member teaches the lesson.

- The others watch and take notes.
- Outside eyes can be brought in.
- Emphasis is on student learning.

The Five Steps

5. The team analyzes and reflects.

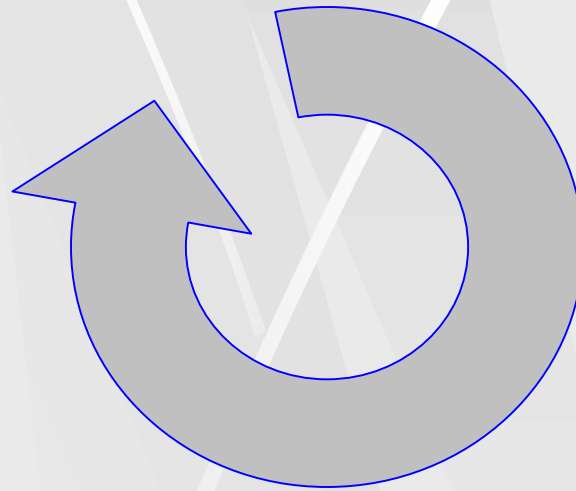
- Immediately after the lesson
- Established protocol
- Focus is on the students
 - The team can decide to revise and re-teach.
 - Revised lesson is disseminated

Another Way to Look at it:

1. The team
sets a goal.

2. A curricular
area is selected.

5. The team
analyzes and
reflects.



3. The group
plans the lesson.

4. One team
member teaches
the lesson.

Benefits of Lesson Study

- Professional development is study-centered and teacher-directed.
 - As opposed to “Spray and Pray” workshops
- Legitimizes the work that teachers do in classrooms
 - Where the rubber meets the road
- Promotes rigorous examination of practice as a basis for professional development
 - Sound familiar?
- Encourages the forming of relationships and true collaboration with peers

The Costs of Lesson Study

- Time
 - 4-6 teachers meeting for an hour each week
- Money
 - 4-6 teachers meeting for an hour each week
 - 4-6 half-day subs for each completed lesson
- Administrators can feel threatened
 - It's too simple and too teacher-directed.

So, is it worth it?

- At our school, we went from one group of four to four groups of 4-6.
- People joined because of word-of-mouth.
- This year, all four groups have been meeting for three weeks, and we still haven't found a funding source.
- At least five other schools in Washington have started Lesson Study because of what's happening at our school.
- Teachers crave opportunities to collaborate and talk about their craft.

Resources:

- Lesson study: a handbook of teacher-led instructional change
Publisher: Research for Better Schools (RBS)
- Global Education Resources, LLC:
www.globaledresources.com
- Lesson Study focused on science/ in Japan:
www.lessonresearch.net

Resources:

- Regional Educational Laboratories:
NCREL, NWREL, SERVE, WestEd, etc.
<http://www.nwrel.org/nwreport/nov01/nwteach.html>
- Research for Better Schools:
http://www.rbs.org/lesson_study/index.shtml
- Eisenhower National Clearinghouse
<http://enc.org/features/focus/archive/lessonstudy/>