

How Do We Get Better At Lesson Study?

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Growth of Interest in Lesson Study

Eruption of Interest Since 1999:

- At least 32 states, 335 schools, 125 districts
- Hundreds of publications, workshops
- Listserv with 900+ members
- Many public research lessons

Source: www.tc.columbia.edu/lessonstudy/timeline.html

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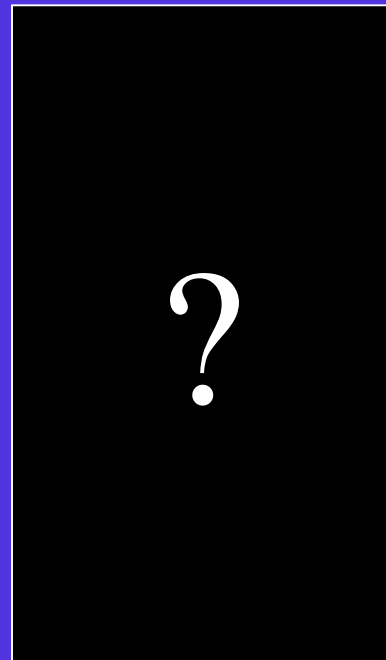
Will Lesson Study Be A Short-lived Fad?

Have you had the experience of seeing a promising innovation discarded before it has been deeply understood or implemented?

How does lesson study improve instruction?

Visible Features of Lesson Study

- Planning
- Curriculum Study
- Research Lesson
- Data Collection
- Discussion
- Revision
- Etc.



**Instructional
Improvement**

How does lesson study improve instruction?

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Perfect
Lesson
Plans

Instructional
Improvement



Features of
Lesson
Study →

Teachers' Knowledge of

- Content
- Instruction
- Students
- Curriculum
- Connection between daily instruction and long-term goals

Teacher Commitment- Community for Change

- Belief that improvement is needed, possible, satisfying work
- Accountability to valued practice community

Resources for Teaching- Learning

- Lesson & Unit Plans
- Data Collection Protocols
- Discussion Protocols

→ Instructional
Improvement

Lesson Study Is Not About Creating the Perfect Lesson

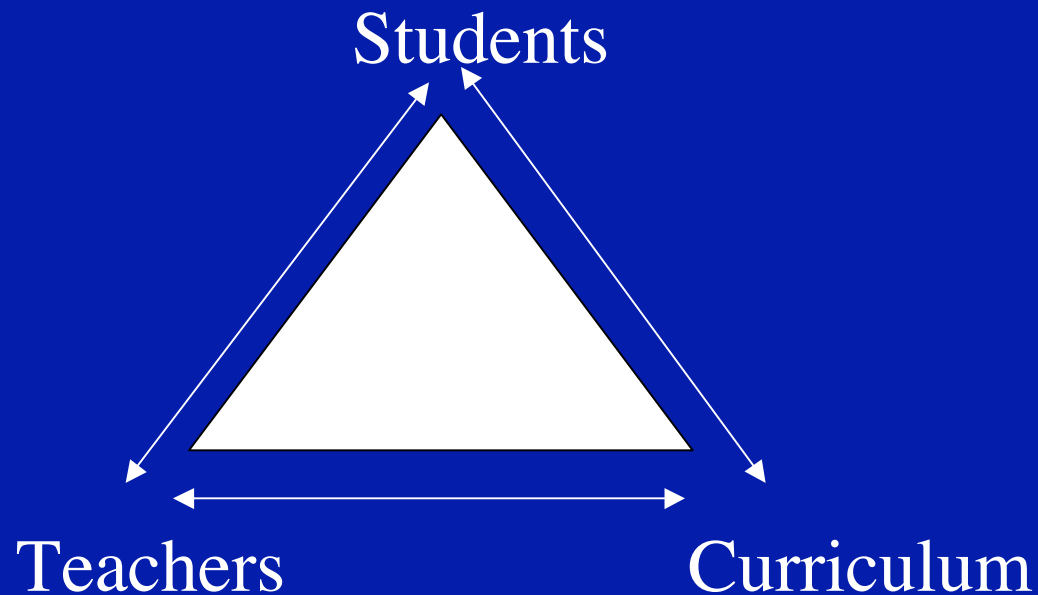
It Is About Increasing Our
Capacity to Learn From

-colleagues

-students

-curriculum & research

Learning From and In Practice



Based on NRC, 2001 & Cohen & Ball, 2000

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Observation is hard!

What can you do to improve your
observation of students this
afternoon?

Improve Your Observations

- Find out the planning team's questions
- Have a research question yourself
- Predict student responses
- Pair up with another observer to make a complete narrative of one or two students
- Record students in detail--tools, counting methods, reactions to input from others, erasures, etc.
- Mindset of inquiry, not evaluation

I like stretching my own brain.

Teacher from San Mateo, California

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Until lesson study we never discussed the value of the content being taught. We discussed the different ways students learn (multiple intelligences), how the brain works, how to differentiate.... Never had those discussions involved...problem-solving techniques, how to develop a particular concept...what to expect for outcomes.

Teacher From Lesson Study Communities (EDC),
Massachusetts

The opportunity to focus on two to four students' learning was incredible... You feel like you are in a true research mode.

Teacher from San Mateo, California

Catherine Lewis Mills College
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This experience has affected the way
some of us structure our lessons,
and has given us the courage to try
challenging lessons

Lesson Study Communities Teacher, Massachusetts

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Even if you think you have thought of all the
student responses

there will always be more.

Teacher, San Mateo, California

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Great trust has developed over time that allows us to be both teachers and learners with each other. Isn't that what it's all about?

*Lesson Study Communities Team Reflection,
Massachusetts*

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We feel there is a great value in a public lesson. It is an opportunity to put our work out for public scrutiny.

Lesson Study Communities, Massachusetts

If we had to use one word to describe our
work for the past two years, it would be
COURAGE

... to maintain this philosophy and
pedagogical thinking as we struggled
with our deficient MCAS scores ...
overcrowded classrooms...

Lesson Study Communities Team Reflection,

Worcester State University
Massachusetts
Lesson Study Group

To tell you the truth, it wasn't the research lessons or formal panels at the lesson study open house that made me want to try lesson study. It was talking to the other teachers at lunch, and realizing how excited they were about their learning.

Teacher from Palo Alto, California