

## Lesson Study Groups

Key points:

- The purpose of the study is to learn **something about students' thinking**. It is not a demonstration lesson.
- Comments and reflection should focus on the goals set by the group.
- Everyone has something to contribute and all ideas should be respected and weighed.
- Do not try to rush the process.
- Begin with a goal in mind, not a lesson or activity.
- Investigate how the content develops and what prior knowledge students must have to engage in the learning.



What do you want students to know at the end of the lesson?



*Lesson Study at its inner core makes teachers more aware of how students think and learn.*



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## Lesson Study Groups

The goal of a Lesson Study is continual improvement of teaching so that children will learn more.

Its primary focus is how students think and learn.



How students think and learn.

It differs from other forms of professional development because it takes place in the moment of teaching and learning.

Its focus, as described by Jim Stigler and James Hiebert in *The Teaching Gap*, is teaching not teachers, children working, **not children's work**.

The success of a Lesson Study is measured **in teachers' learning, not in the perfection** of a lesson. That better lessons are created is a secondary byproduct of the process but not its primary goal.

## Lesson Study Group Essentials

Groups of teachers work to formulate lessons that are taught, observed, discussed, and refined.

Teachers engage in Lesson Study only a couple of times a year because the process is intense.



A Lesson Study cycle consists of:

- Selecting a focus
- Planning the study lesson
- Public teaching of the lesson
- Focused observation of the lesson based on **the group's goals**
- Evidence-based debriefing
- **Revision based on the group's reflection**
- Teaching of a revised lesson
- Evidence-based debriefing



Planning is not ordinary lesson planning.

An important part of planning a Lesson Study lesson is an intensive study of materials. This does not mean textbooks alone, but includes understanding the topic being taught, examining materials for teaching it, and seeking any research that might exist.



Along with this, great attention is given to:

- ◆ What you want students to know at the end of the lesson
- ◆ How to engage or motivate students
- ◆ The question to be posed and how best to word it to make students think
- ◆ How students are likely to think and how to respond to anticipated errors
- ◆ How to arrange the work produced so it tells the story of the lesson
- ◆ How to end the lesson to help students make sense of it