
Building Coaching Capacity Through Lesson Study

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DESCRIPTION

“Building Coaching Capacity Through Lesson Study,” by Lucy West, Ginger Hanlon, Phyllis Tam, and Milo Novelo, describes lesson study as a viable professional learning model for creating a coaching force with a clear focus and skill set to improve mathematics education. While the use of content specialists to improve student achievement has become widespread, the role and skill set of specialists in the role of coaching is rarely clearly defined. In fact, the effectiveness of coaching is often hindered because:

- Specialists rarely receive ample training, support, or direction.
- Specialists tend to be extremely isolated from one another.
- Specialists are rarely part of a team that has a clear mission.
- Specialists are rarely fully embraced members of the school communities to which they are assigned.

Lesson study provides a means for helping specialists to develop part of the skills necessary for effective content coaching and to build an understanding of the instructional practices worthy of sharing. The version of lesson study described in the article:

- Includes collaborative planning of a lesson or series of lessons with common planning tools
- Is inquiry based
- Utilizes curriculum materials
- Engages participants in “doing the mathematics”
- Is an iterative process of planning, public teaching, observing, debriefing, and refining a lesson

STAGE 2 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

“Building Coaching Capacity Through Lesson Study,” by Lucy West, Ginger Hanlon, Phyllis Tam, and Milo Novelo, supports stage 2 development of leaders working to implement a professional learning plan for improved teacher growth and development. Following the description of the professional learning model from the article, a group of specialists would participate in a yearlong cycle of lesson study designed to:

- Develop stronger planning habits
- Deepen content and pedagogical knowledge
- Enhance coaching sessions with teachers
- Develop a shared belief of what good math instruction should be
- Create a sense of community