

Board Workshop Item
Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting
April 10, 2018

The Texas Lesson Study Project

Board Goals:

Vision – Cultivate a network of professional learning communities addressing the educational needs of every child in our district; develop and maintain a culture where learning remains our first priority; remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus; establish goals for individual campuses that incorporate both measurable and intangible factors; effectively communicate achievements and recognitions to the Denton ISD community; and, prepare our students to be successful in a global society while instilling an appreciation for community service.

Teaching and Learning - Cultivate a consistent, strong, district-wide balanced curriculum based on ongoing needs assessments that supports all students; establish high expectations with a curriculum that fosters inquiry and critical thinking; develop academic skills and interpersonal relationships necessary for student success in college, the workplace and for life; expect full curriculum implementation on each campus by instructional leaders; establish quality staff development programs that promote professional learning communities; stay abreast of and incorporate best practices into teaching, learning, technology and leadership; advocate and practice true accountability based on measurement of individual student progress over time, regardless of external mandates; and, actively pursue, foster and support an advanced digital learning environment

Climate – Celebrate, respect and promote the values of diversity in our Denton ISD Community; and, encourage and nourish a safe learning and compassionate working environment which ensures open and transparent communication and is supportive, cooperative, and ethical; establish a high expectation level for success for all students, staff, parents, and community; instill in students a love of life-long learning; and, motivate and prepare students to embrace their full responsibilities and obligations as active citizens of their community, nation, and world..

Parent and Community Involvement – Foster a positive and welcoming environment that encourages parent and community partnerships to achieve success for all our students; utilize citizens' advisory committees to focus on short and long-term tasks; and, promote child advocacy across the state and nation.

Growth, Change & Fiscal Responsibility – Review and adjust policies and procedures as appropriate to address the challenges of rapid growth and changing demographic characteristics while maintaining and enhancing our strong sense of community; create and continuously modify strategies to mitigate increasing stresses on our children, our schools and our community; work continuously with our community to adjust and enhance district goals as appropriate; demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources; and, provide leadership and/or oversight to ensure District meets all fiscal, legal, and regulatory requirements.

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Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this workshop is to provide an overview of the **Texas Lesson Study Project (TXLS) Professional Development** program, which was piloted at Hodge Elementary School and Pecan Creek Elementary School. The initiative was advanced by the Texas Education Agency as a component of Commissioner Mike Morath's TEA Strategic Plan 2017-2021. TXLS is an inquiry-based, job embedded professional development pilot allowing teachers to work collaboratively to develop, teach, and assess research-based lessons. This workshop item is intended to provide an overview of TXLS within our two elementary campuses and share the lessons learned from their participation. It is the hope of those presenting that there will be rich discussion and valuable feedback regarding the process and the overall impact to student achievement.

Resources:

- Learn more about the **TXLS** by visiting the Texas Gateway at <https://www.texasgateway.org/resource/texas-lesson-study>
- **Texas Lesson Study** brochure (included)

Operational Impact:

As the Denton ISD remains committed to enriching teaching and learning experiences and increasing opportunities for students, program evaluation and funding sources may be a consideration if the continuance of TXLS is appropriate within the District. It is always a goal of the District to evaluate current structures and funding sources in a manner which may allow mitigation of any overall increase to cost. Should the TXLS be deemed a valuable professional development resource for the District, we will seek continued support from the Region XI Education Service Center as well as those teacher teams from Hodge and Pecan Creek elementary schools.

Results:

Advantages:

Through inquiry-based, job embedded professional development, teachers from both campuses were supported by Tenille Shade (Region XI English Language Arts Instructional Content Coach) as the campus teams collaborated to develop, teach, and assess research-based lessons. The advantages of this project will be shared by Dr. Jenson and Dr. Rainey, in coordination with members of each of their teacher teams.

Disadvantages:

None noted

Other Options:

None noted
