WHAT IS LESSON STUDY?

- A small team of teachers working together in a systematic cycle of planning, teaching, observing, refining, and reviewing specific lessons.
- Focused on addressing an identified student learning need or pedagogical challenge.
- Aims to provide a process for teachers to examine their practice in order to improve their impact on student learning.

WHAT ACTIONS ARE INVOLVED?

**PHASE 1**

Plan the lesson
- The focus of the lesson study is defined using identified student needs or pedagogical challenge.
- Teachers work collaboratively to draw up a detailed lesson plan.
- May use backward design - start with the clarification of the learning goal, then design of instructional experiences that lead to the desired outcome.

**PHASE 2**

First classroom observation
- The plan is used by one teacher to teach the lesson.
- Group members observe the lesson and take notes, with a focus on what the students are doing and understanding.

**PHASE 3**

Post-observation discussion
- Group meets to discuss observations.
- Discussion is focused on data collected and notes recorded.
- Lesson plan is revised and amended based on the group discussion.

**PHASE 4**

Second classroom observation
- A different group member teaches the revised lesson plan with a different class.
- Group members observe and take notes, with a focus on what the students are doing and understanding.

**PHASE 5**

Final discussion
- Group meets again to discuss both observed lessons, including differences, similarities, and changes.
- A group report is produced outlining teacher learning and achievements in relation to identified student learning needs.
- Outcomes are shared with other teachers in the school.

WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS?

- Groups are led by teachers.
- Groups are unobtrusive observers in the classroom.
- An observation of student learning, not an evaluation of the observed teacher.
- A commitment to collaborative learning that takes into account the school context and professional learning culture, the experiences of teachers and the needs of students.
- Can be undertaken as frequently as desired.

WHAT DO I NEED TO CONSIDER?

- Completion of a single cycle can be time-intensive.
- Reviewing and revising school structures may be necessary to provide sufficient professional learning time to complete Lesson Study.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Lesson Study (Lesson Study Research Group, Columbia University)
Lesson study guide (Cerbin and Kopp, 2011)