Lesson study is a school-based professional development model that has been used for decades in Asia with great success. Teachers engaged in lesson study meet once a week over a period of several weeks to plan a “research lesson.” This is then taught by one of the members of the team. The teaching and learning that occurs during the first trial of the research lesson is observed by the other members of the lesson study group and by “knowledgeable others” such as the principal or other colleagues. The research lesson is then discussed and refined. The refined lesson is taught by another member of the team to another group of students.

Lesson study is a collaborative process, with a focus on student learning, not on teacher behavior. The resulting lessons (“polished stones”) are often very impressive. Nevertheless, the process of lesson study is more important than the product. Lesson study transforms teachers into “teacher-researchers” who share their ideas in order to become more reflective (and therefore more effective) practitioners.

The speakers are co-directors of a lesson study pilot project in Dubuque that was funded by an Iowa Eisenhower professional development grant. They will survey the research on lesson study and share what has been learned during the first year of the project.

A complete set of slides from this talk is available at our Web site.
Links and additional references can also be found there.
LESSON STUDY: SELECTED RESOURCES

BOOKS

REPORTS AND TALKS

VIDEOS
3. Three Perspectives on Lesson Study: Catherine Lewis, Clea Fernandez, and Jim Stigler, Regents of the University of California, 2001. VHS format.

ARTICLES

WEB SITES
1. Research for Better Schools (Patsy Wang-Iverson et al)
   http://www.rbs.org/lesson_study
2. Global Education Resources (Makoto Yoshida et al)
   http://www.globaledresources.com
3. Lesson Study Research Group at Columbia University (Clea Fernandez et al)
   http://www.tc.columbia.edu/lessonstudy
4. Lesson Study Group at Mills College (Catherine Lewis et al)
   http://lessonresearch.net
5. Lesson Study Project at EDC
   http://www2.edc.org/lessonstudy
6. Puerto Rico Statewide Systemic Initiative
   http://web.uprr.pr/rcse/ssi
7. Mathstar Lesson Study Project at New Mexico State
   http://mathstar.nmsu.edu
8. Colorado State Lesson Study Pilot Project
   http://cslsp.dreamteamtech.com