



News Release
For Immediate Release

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LIBERTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 25 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INCORPORATES LESSON DESIGN WITH CO-TEACHING TO IMPROVE MATHEMATICS EDUCATION ACROSS DISTRICT

BUCKEYE (March 15, 2023) – Liberty Elementary School District No.25 is pleased to announce its efforts to improve mathematics education for all district students by implementing embedded professional development for its teachers with co-teaching.

At all seven LESD No.25 schools, teachers are participating in a lesson study with a grade level or vertical team along with Melissa Hosten, the district's math consultant, to review and restructure their lessons. Hosten is the co-director of University of Arizona's Center for Recruitment-Retention for Math Teachers. She has worked in education for more than 20 years, serving as Mathematics Department Chair, District Mathematics Specialist, and Grant Director. She supported the revision of the state standards in 2008 as a Mathematics Specialist for the Arizona Department of Education, and as a committee member for the revision of the standards in 2016.

"It was an honor to have Melissa Hosten in my first grade classroom. Having Melissa in my classroom assured me that I'm on the right track to successfully teach mathematics," said Jeanette Garcia, first grade teacher at Las Brisas Academy.

A lesson study helps teachers improve by focusing on collaboratively planning and revising a single lesson. This form of professional development requires teachers to collaboratively create, participate in, and reflect on a lesson. Collaboratively, the teachers plan a mathematics lesson aligned to our Math Learning Block Structure: Launch, Explore, Discuss and Closure (LEDC). Hosten provides the team with specific feedback to revise their lesson. Then, she co-teaches the lesson with a teacher from the team while the rest of the co-constructors of the lesson observe. After all the co-teaching sessions are complete, she debriefs with the teachers, site administration, instructional coach and district Educational Services Team to extend the district's mathematical learning and instructional practices. Hosten uses knowledge gained from the sites' own classroom co-teaching experiences to stimulate professional conversations about teaching and learning. In addition, shared experiences through joint planning and observation support the conversation, helping teachers and administrators develop and further their own understanding and share it with others.

"Our after school debrief was another benefit to having Melissa on campus. She provided feedback, and she explained her reasoning to the actions she took in the classroom. I'm truly appreciative of this experience," Garcia said.



LESD No. 25 teachers are highly receptive to co-teaching as a form of professional development. They receive immediate coaching and feedback to finetune their math content and instruction in real time in their classrooms.

About LESD No.25

Founded in 1882, the Liberty Elementary School District No.25 spans 285 square miles including rural and suburban settings. It has grown from a historic one-room schoolhouse, to seven kindergarten through eighth grade schools between Buckeye and Goodyear. Its seven schools educate more than 4,500 students in kindergarten through grade eight and are tailored to serve students based on their interests. Through engaging and challenging learning environments, LESD No.25 prepares all students for success in high school and beyond. Through individual accomplishment, personal leadership, and contribution to their community, children flourish. Discover more at liberty25.org

Cultivating curious, confident, problem solvers prepared for tomorrow.

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