**Request for Proposals for Lesson Study Support**

The McDougal Family Foundation invites proposals from Chicago public schools for financial support for using lesson study to improve teaching and learning. Grants will cover the cost of **teacher substitutes** to provide time for lesson study activities, including but not limited to research and planning, teaching, observing, and discussing the research lesson, and writing the post-lesson reflection. The foundation will also fund an honorarium of $140 each to teachers on each planning team (up to 5 per team) for each research lesson (up to 2 lessons per teacher), payable upon submission and acceptance of a written reflection (see below). Because the foundation seeks to support lesson study as a year-long, systemic process, we anticipate that most good proposals will range from $6000 to $20,000.

Within 14 days after each research lesson, the planning team will be expected to send to the foundation by email a report comprising the research lesson plan and a reflection describing what was learned from the teaching of the lesson and from the discussion (approximately 3 paragraphs). The report may be posted to a public website (e.g. http://LessonStudyGroup.net) at the discretion of the foundation.

Grants will be administrated by the Children First Fund. All activities should be completed by May 29 to ensure that reimbursements can be processed before the end of the school year.

The foundation favors proposals that show lesson study being used as part of a coherent long-term professional development plan. Proposals for a single lesson study cycle will probably not be funded. A sample budget and timeline can be accessed at **http://tinyurl.com/pjd3x8q**

The foundation may sponsor research into this project, in which case we hope that participating schools and teachers will allow access by persons conducting that research, subject to CPS approval. Agreeing to such access is not a requirement for funding.

**The proposal should be signed by all participating teachers and by the school principal.** Please submit to:

Peter Mich

McDougal Family Foundation

737 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1040

Chicago IL 60611-7014

312-255-0916

PMich@McDougalFamilyFdn.org

Proposals are **due by June 26, 2015** and grant awards will be made by July 15, 2015.

For those wishing to learn more about Lesson Study before applying, the following persons have volunteered to answer questions:

CPS Administrators and teachers

* Prieto Math and Science Academy
  + Mariel Laureano, principal, <mnlaureano@cps.edu>
  + Andrew Friesema, math & science coordinator, <arfriesema@cps.edu>
  + Aubrey Perlee, teacher, <aeperlee@cps.edu>
* Chavez Multicultural Academic Center
  + Barton Dassinger, principal, <badassinger@cps.edu>
  + Nate Ortega, teacher, <nortega1@cps.edu>
* Boone Elementary School
  + Lori Zaimi, assistant principal, <LZaimi@cps.edu>
  + Gustavo Soto, teacher, <gasoto@cps.edu>
* South Shore Fine Arts Academy
  + Kent Steiner, instructional coordinator, <kdsteiner@cps.edu>
* Walter Payton College Prep
  + Paul “P. J.” Karafiol, resident principal, <pjkarafiol@cps.edu>
  + Scott Galson, math chairperson, <sdgalson@cps.edu>
* Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep
  + Steven Rogg, STEM Director, <SRRogg@cps.edu>
* O’Keeffe School of Excellence
  + Jasmine Bankhead, Ph.D., principal, <jcmitchell@cps.edu>
  + Melissa Warner, math coordinator, <mkwarner1@cps.edu>

Other people and resources

* Akihiko Takahashi, Ph.D., DePaul University <atakahas@depaul.edu>
* Lesson Study Alliance (http://LSAlliance.org), an approved CPS p.d. provider specializing in lesson study for mathematics
* The Chicago Lesson Study Group website, http://LessonStudyGroup.net
* Mills College Lesson Study website, http://LessonResearch.net

Other questions? Contact Peter Mich, PMich@McDougalFamilyFdn.org, 312-255-0916.

**Application for Lesson Study Support**

Please use as much space as needed to provide the following information. **By June 26,** please send the proposal, budget, and materials to:

Peter Mich

McDougal Family Foundation

737 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1040

Chicago IL 60611-7014

312-255-0916

PMich@McDougalFamilyFdn.org

1. Name and address of school:

2. Primary contact person’s name, title, email address, and phone number:

3. What problem of practice does the school hope to address through lesson study?[[1]](#footnote-1) For what content area(s) will lesson study be used?

4. What history does the school have using lesson study?

5. What training or experience has the staff had with lesson study?

6. Who will be involved, and what roles will they play (e.g. planning team member, observer, facilitator)?

7. Who will serve as the knowledgeable other[[2]](#footnote-2) to help maximize staff learning from lesson study?

8. Will the research lesson(s) be open to outside observers? If so, who will be invited?

9. Subject to CPS approval, will school administrators and teachers participating in lesson study allow access by university researchers to observe and document the process (yes or no)? (Allowing access is not required for funding.)

10. Please describe your plan of activities in narrative form.

11. Please attach a budget and schedule of activities, clearly showing how substitutes or other coverage will be used. The budget can include costs that will be borne by the school. A sample budget and timeline is available at http://tinyurl.com/pjd3x8q .

12. Please affix the names and signatures of participating teachers and of the school principal. Also attach brief (1- or 2-sentence) bios of each participant.

1. Lesson Study is most powerful when used to seek a solution to a problem of practice beyond any one lesson. Example: “How do we develop students who will argue mathematically with each other, in line with Standard for Mathematical Practice #3 of the Common Core?” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. A knowledgeable other is an independent person respected by the planning team who has deep expertise in the content and pedagogy being studied. The person might be, for example, a university professor, a district content specialist, or a veteran teacher from another school. A knowledgeable other should be present for the teaching of the research lesson and the post-lesson discussion, and may also provide guidance during planning. Lesson Study Alliance, a Chicago-based non-profit, provides knowledgeable other services for mathematics, usually for a small fee. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)