Lesson Tuning Protocol
from WestEd’s VITAL Collaboration Facilitator’s Guide

By WestEd

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About WestEd
WestEd is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research, development, and service agency that works with education and other communities throughout the United States and abroad to promote excellence, achieve equity, and improve learning for children, youth, and adults. WestEd has more than a dozen offices nationwide, from Massachusetts, Vermont, Georgia, and Washington, DC, to Arizona and California, with headquarters in San Francisco.
PURPOSE
The purpose of this protocol is to support collaborative conversations around the tuning or validation of curriculum, instruction and assessment resources. Please note that the times below are based on a forty-five minute time frame. Adjust times as needed.

PREPARATIONS AND MATERIALS
Make sure you have enough copies of the following documents.

» Completed Prep Sheet for Tuning
» Relevant Lesson Materials & Data
» Copies of Tuning Protocol

PROCESS
1. Determine Roles and Set Norms (1 minute)
   » Roles: Facilitator, Presenting Teacher(s), Time Keeper, Note-Taker, Other: _________________
   » Norms: Pausing, Paraphrasing, Posing Questions, Putting Ideas on the Table, Providing Data, Pay Attention to Self and Others, Presuming Positive Intentions, Other: _________________

2. Present Materials (3 minutes)
   » Presenter provides important background information about specific classes and students’ needs.
   » Presenter shares any relevant student work and/or formative assessment data.
   » Presenter provides brief overview and description of the materials.
   » Presenter describes the objective of the lesson and explains how it will be measured.

3. Determine the Focus for Feedback (1 minute)
   » Presenter poses a question or identifies an element of the lesson for the group to focus on to guide feedback.

4. Review and Clarify Materials (3 minutes)
   » Read / review materials.
   » Ask clarifying questions that prompt answers with QUICK responses – e.g. yes/no.

5. Review the Focus Standards (10 minutes)
   » Identify and discuss the stated and implied knowledge and skills in the focus standard.
   » Use the Tool for Analyzing Standards as a resource.

6. Tune the Lesson (25 minutes)
   » Identify lesson elements to focus on for feedback.
   » Silently read, analyze, and take notes.
   » Share praise of effective practice.
   » Discuss and offer feedback.

7. Reflect on Conversation (2 minutes)
   » Beginning with the presenting teacher, participants share insights and take-aways from the conversation.
   » Facilitator collects feedback about the process.

8. Schedule Observation - If Applicable
   » Determine if presenting teacher is interested in a follow-up observation. If so, schedule a date.
   » Clarify what the observation will look for.