



# Comprehensive Course: The High Performance LEARNING-FOCUSED Lessons

A Framework for High Engagement, Standards-Driven Lessons



## Overview

A high-performance lesson is the result of purposeful, standards-driven planning within a consistent instructional framework. This backward design model provides a reliable structure for planning challenging learning goals and instruction that purposefully connect the most effective research-based strategies for maximizing learning.

The Learning-Focused Lesson plan ensures that exemplary practices are used consistently and pervasively across classrooms. It integrates essential elements like graphic organizers, collaborative learning activities, and frequent formative assessments to actively engage all students. The result is an engaging and challenging learning environment where distributed summarizing strategies and other formative tools provide constant evidence of learning. This consistent, school-wide approach promotes collaborative planning and reflection, placing the focus squarely on effective teaching and accelerating learning for all students.



## Outcomes

**By the end of this course, you will be able to...**

- Explain the rationale for using a common, school-wide lesson planning framework.
- Identify the characteristics of effective, research-based teaching practices.
- Utilize a backward planning process to plan lessons with the end in mind.
- Develop grade level aligned Learning Goals and Lesson Essential Questions to guide instruction.
- Design grade-level assignments and formative assessments that provide evidence of learning.
- Plan engaging instruction by integrating strategies like activating and summarizing activities, graphic organizers, and collaborative learning.

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### Requirements

To complete the course you will need to complete all activities within the course. At the end of the course you will receive a completion certificate for 12 hours of professional development.

### Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites. Everything is available within the course and book.

	Section	Objective	Topics
1	Research-Based Learning Strategies	Analyze the core principles of the Learning-Focused framework and its impact on instructional planning and effectiveness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Purpose and Process of Symphonic Planning</li> <li>• The Power of Research-Based Learning Strategies</li> <li>• Contrasting Traditional Lessons vs. LEARNING-FOCUSED Lessons</li> <li>• Reviewing an Example LEARNING-FOCUSED Lesson Plan</li> </ul>
2	How do you plan a LEARNING-FOCUSED Lesson?	Adopt a backward design mindset to outline the lesson planning process from the desired outcome to the starting point.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Backward Planning Process: Planning with the End in Mind</li> <li>• Outlining the Steps for Planning a LEARNING-FOCUSED Lesson</li> </ul>
3	How do you teach a LEARNING-FOCUSED Lesson?	Implement the three-step planning process to build a standards-aligned lesson from curriculum and assessment to instruction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Step 1: Planning the Lesson Curriculum               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Learning Goals and Lesson Essential Question</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Step 2: Planning the Lesson Assessment               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ The Assignment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Step 3: Planning the Lesson Instruction               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Graphic Organizers</li> <li>◦ Assessment Prompts</li> <li>◦ Learning Activities</li> <li>◦ Activating Strategies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4	The Importance of Planning and Teaching LEARNING-FOCUSED Lessons	Translate the planned lesson into effective classroom delivery and reflect on implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executing the Plan: Steps for Teaching a LEARNING-FOCUSED Lesson</li> </ul>