

CLOSED

Patterns in Textbook Selection

	BIOLOGY	HISTORY	SCIENCE	READING	MATH
65-66	42.11%	10.14%	29.83%	16.74%	36.44%
64-65	21.53	14.01	20.18	19.91	22.67
63-64	9.09	14.01	12.84	15.38	16.45
62-63	8.13	34.30	20.64	12.22	6.22
Prior	19.14	27.54	16.51	35.75	18.22

REASONS GIVEN FOR NOT ADOPTING NEW TEXTBOOKS WITHIN THE LAST THREE YEARS

Present text is good	19.23%	12.66%	12.00%	15.46%	7.70%
Present text weak—no new text better	1.92	6.33	4.00	3.09	1.92
Studying a change, study isn't complete	9.62	8.85	14.00	4.13	5.77
Reinforcing present text with supplementary materials	9.62	3.80	0	4.13	1.92
Adopt on a regular cycle, and cycle has not come up	51.92	62.03	62.00	58.04	75.00
School board budget too tight	7.69	6.33	8.00	5.15	7.69

thetical example. A state adopts on a six-year cycle. In 1961, before any of the "new" biology texts are published, its biology cycle rolls around. A group of old biology texts are placed on the approved list. It is now impossible for a district in that state to purchase any books not on that list until a new list is drawn up in 1967, unless they want to do so without state support. Meanwhile, since 1963 a whole group of new biology texts have been on the market, but they are not even being considered by the affected districts.

In an effort to see whether state purchasing does materially affect textbook adoptions, SM researchers decided to study five regions of our nation more closely. These regions—including New England, the Central Plains, the Southeast, the

Southwest and the Mountain States—encompass a total of 33 states, 19 of which have open purchasing, allowing districts to select their own texts when and if they want to. The results of that study appear in the charts at the top of this page and the page opposite.

At first glance, there appears to be little significant difference between the two groups. But a closer look reveals some very important variations. For example, buying in the "closed" states is far more bunched, despite the fact that different states adopt in different years. Thus, while better than 42% of the districts in the "closed" states purchased new biology texts this year—a figure that seems extremely good—it is three years after the new biology books became available. Better than half the districts in the "open" states had chosen