

REGION 1

The median district in Region 1 is spending \$6.10 per pupil on elementary textbooks this year, and \$7.52 on secondary texts. How is that money being used?

As the chart on the right shows, it is being spent for math and science, rather than history and reading. One district in three has purchased a new elementary math series this year and three out of 10 have bought new biology texts. By contrast, only one district in 10 purchased a new basal reader in 1965-66 and two of 10 districts have new American history books.

The Region 1 buying picture compares favorably with the national picture. This year more districts in New England are buying biology, math and history texts than a comparative percentage nationally. And, though fewer districts in the region are buying science and reading texts, the figures are very close.

Well over half of the region's districts have purchased new math (62.5%), biology (61.3%) and science (51.1%) texts within the past two years. And three-quarters of all districts have purchased new texts in biology, history, science and math within the past three years.

Why aren't Region 1 districts purchasing reading texts? Of those districts in the region that have made no reading text purchases in the past three years, the largest portion (39.1%) claim their present text is still good. One district in four has reinforced the present text with supplementary materials.

And one in five is studying a change, but has not yet completed that study.

These figures for non-purchase of reading texts hold up pretty well for other texts too. Many districts find the present biology text still good, while in science and math a large number of districts are studying a change. In history, many districts have reinforced their present text with supplemental materials.

Two observations should be made about reasons for non-adoption of new texts. Nationally, one district in three has made no recent adoption because of cycling. In Region 1, virtually no district gives cycling as a reason. Reason: Region 1 is an entirely open buying region, without state control.

A second observation: As mentioned earlier, 1963 saw the introduction of new biology curriculums to the nation's public schools, and with it a variety of new textbooks. Almost 90% of all Region 1 districts have made biology textbook purchases since 1963, meaning that nine-tenths of all Region 1 districts have now been exposed to the new biology curriculums. Of the remaining 10%, half claim to be satisfied with their present text. In other words, 5% of the region's districts have considered the new biology—and decided against it. Another major drawback to buying in this region is lack of funds, cited by 8% of those not purchasing new biology texts.

Textbook distribution

Virtually all districts in Region 1—the seat of free public education in the United States—provide free textbooks to students. The few that don't, all on the secondary level, ask

REGION 1 SPENDING BOXSCORE

	Low 25%	Median	High 25%	Top 10%
ETB	\$4.83	\$6.10	\$7.08	\$ 8.96
STB	5.83	7.52	9.52	12.00
ELB	.92	1.42	2.06	3.33
SLB	1.73	3.33	4.98	6.37

ETB Elementary textbooks, STB Secondary textbooks, ELB Elementary library books, SLB Secondary library books.