

REGION 2

Patterns in Textbook Selection

	BIOLOGY	HISTORY	SCIENCE	READING	MATH
65-66	19.0%	14.9%	26.5%	18.4%	32.8%
64-65	25.1	25.0	22.4	21.3	28.1
63-64	23.4	20.1	19.4	15.5	19.8
62-63	8.7	13.6	8.5	12.1	7.5
Prior	23.8	26.4	23.2	32.7	11.8

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

Present text is good	28.3%	27.8%	18.8%	41.0%	31.1%
Present text weak—no new text better	8.1	8.7	6.9	2.5	5.0
Studying a change, study isn't complete	32.3	19.0	41.6	28.0	26.2
Reinforcing present text with supplementary materials	20.2	24.6	18.8	20.0	13.1
Adopt on a regular cycle, and cycle has not come up	9.1	15.9	12.9	7.0	21.3
School board budget too tight	2.0	4.0	1.0	1.5	3.3

a low figure since it really represents less than 3% of the region's districts (21% of 11.8%). Cycling figures in other textbook categories are equally low, running no higher than 4% of the region's districts for any textbook.

Textbook distribution

Over 95% of all Region 2 districts provide free textbooks to students. The few that don't, favor rental over student purchase. In fact, student purchase, which accounts for about 10% of all na-

tional distribution, is virtually nonexistent in Region 2 (actual figure: less than 1%). Rentals, while higher, account for only 3% of total distribution, compared to about 25% nationally.

Region 2 is marked by a particularly high percentage of paperback usage. Over nine of every 10 districts in the region use paperbacks, one-third as textbooks. Again, these figures are significantly higher than comparative national figures.

While hardcover distribution is

predominantly free, this is not the case for paperbacks. On the elementary level, only one district in four provides free paperbacks. The overwhelming majority (72.3%) rent them. On the high school level, free distribution is higher (64% of all districts), but those that do not provide them free, sell them (34%).

These statistics differ markedly from national paperback distribution figures. Nationally, one elementary district in five rents paperbacks (compared to more than