

three in five in Region 2). On the secondary level the figures go the other way. Only 45% of the nation's secondary schools provide free paperbacks (compared to 64% in Region 2). The figures are surprising in that they go against all national and regional trends.

Textbook spending in Region 2 runs pretty close to the national average. Nationally, the median district spends \$4.97 per elementary school pupil, compared to \$5.00 in Region 2. On the secondary level, Region 2 districts are spending \$6.85 per pupil, about 70 cents above the national average.

The balance that shows up in textbook buying patterns also comes through in the region's cost figures. Three-quarters of all elementary districts spend at least \$4.00 per student, compared to a national figure of \$3.38. And three-quarters of all secondary districts spend at least \$5.62 per student, as compared with a national \$3.88.

These figures level off at the other end of the buying scale. The top 10% of all Region 2 districts are spending \$8.03 per pupil in elementary school, \$10.94 per secondary pupil. Corresponding national figures are \$10.00 and \$11.73. In other words, Region 2, while spending more money per student than the nation as a whole, spends it much more evenly throughout the region.

Some of the money that is not spent on textbooks is obviously spent to stock Region 2's school libraries. Almost all the way along the line, Region 2's districts outspend the comparable national figures. But being realistic, there's little to boast about. Few Region 2 elementary schools are buying even a single book per pupil during the current year. And at the secondary level, only the top 10% of the districts are exceeding recommended *minimum* expenditures for library books.

tory and general science texts prior to 1962-63. And one-quarter of the districts last bought a reading text prior to that year.

Region 3 and the nation

Region 3's buying patterns run ahead of the nation's in some subjects (math and reading), behind in others (science and biology). The region's biology text purchases are especially noteworthy because they are so far behind the national average.

Picking out spot figures for the past three years, math led all purchases this year (36.6% districts), history last year (27.1% of all districts), and reading two years ago (26.2%). This buying pattern suggests that purchasing is cycled. And the reasons for non-purchase offered by Region 3 districts bears this out.

Despite the fact that only one state in this five-state region uses a statewide adoption system, cycling emerges as the major reason for non-purchase of texts. Half the region's districts blame cycling for not making a biology purchase within the last four years, only slightly less than half for failure to buy a new general science text. One district in three blames cycling for its failure to purchase a new history text or math series; and one in four districts making no recent reading purchase gives cycling as the reason. These are very high figures, especially for a region relatively free of state mandates. Obviously, purchasing is cycled, if not by state, by district. And, just as obviously, cycling has hurt textbook purchasing. One district out of every five in the region has not made a new bi-

REGION 3

■The median district in Region 3 is currently spending \$5.52 per pupil on elementary texts, \$6.21 on secondary texts. How is this money being spent?

Over 35% of all districts in the region bought new math texts this year. By contrast no more than one district in five bought any of the other texts surveyed. American history was low on the list with just 13% of the districts indicating 1965-66 purchases.

Looking at the combined figures

for the past three years, most districts still lean heavily toward math. Since 1963-64, over 78% of all Region 3 districts have made new math purchases. In no other textbook category have more than 60% of the districts made a purchase. That leaves a significant portion of the region's schools without a new biology, science, history or reading text in the last three years. In fact, it is disturbing to find that one-third of the region's districts last bought biology, American his-

REGION 3 SPENDING BOXSCORE

	Low 25%	Median	High 25%	Top 10%
ETB	\$4.00	\$5.52	\$8.60	\$10.59
STB	4.62	6.21	8.70	11.67
ELB	1.65	2.50	3.87	6.00
SLB	2.06	3.27	5.23	9.49

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