

tary material (vs. 95.6% nationally). However, only 22.1% of the region's districts use paperbacks as texts, compared with 25.2% nationally. So, while paperbacks have been pretty much accepted in the region, they have not yet been accepted as texts with the same frequency as they have nationally. One Region 3 administrator, in filling out the survey form asked, "Are paperbacks really being used in schools?"

Region 3 districts either provide free paperbacks to students or ask their students to purchase them. Few use a rental system. Over 42% of the elementary districts provide them free; over 40% ask students to buy them. By contrast, only 28.9% of the high school districts provide free paperbacks, while 58.6% ask students to purchase them.

Region 3 exceeds the national spending pattern for textbooks at every level, but the margin is hardly decisive. The median Region 3 district spends \$5.52 per student for elementary textbooks, compared to \$4.97 nationally. One out of four districts in the region spends \$8.60 or more (compared to \$7.12 nationally) and one of 10 spends better than \$10.59.

When it comes to secondary school texts, Region 3 stays even closer to the national figures spending \$6.21 per student at the median level, compared to \$6.15 nationally.

Spending for library books exceeds the national level for elementary schools by 25 cents in the median district. Secondary school libraries are supported at exactly the national median level—\$3.27 per student.

that balance comes through. Although the nation is proportionally ahead this year in all but history purchases, the three-year totals put Region 4 well ahead in history (64% of all districts buying, compared with 46% nationally), science (79% to 67%) and reading (61% to 52%). Though the region trails the nation in biology (69% to 64%) and math (76% to 73%) the figures are very close.

Due to the heavy concentration of purchasing during the past three years, only a small percentage of districts have made no purchase prior to those years. Only 7.4% of the districts are using old general science purchases, and 12.6% have had no new math texts since 1962. The figures for the other texts, though higher, are still low.

The districts that have failed to make a recent purchase offer several reasons. Foremost is a general satisfaction with the present text. Between 34% and 40% of the districts offer this as the reason for non-purchase of all texts except general science. Two other reasons come through fairly regularly: In about one district in four, schoolmen claim that 1) they are studying a change and 2) adoption is cycled. The number of districts that cite cycling as a reason for failure to buy a new text is surprising in view of the fact that every state in the region is on open buying.

Textbook distribution

Region 4 districts operate on two distinct distribution patterns, one for elementary schools, a second for high schools. On the elementary level, 57.8% of the districts provide free texts, the remainder

REGION 4

■ The median district in Region 4 is spending \$5.57 per pupil for elementary textbooks and \$6.70 for secondary texts. How is that money being spent?

In Region 4 textbook spending is marked by balance. Over 22% of all districts made science purchases this year. About 12% made reading purchases. Purchases for the other three subjects fall between these two figures (history: 17.3%; math: 17.5%; biology: 19.9%).

Balance marks past purchases too. Last year, 21.8% of the districts bought new history books,

30.2% bought new math books. All other purchases fall between those figures. And the same balance is true of 1963-64 purchases.

Looking at the total purchases for the past three years, better than six of every 10 districts have bought new textbooks in all categories. In the three-year period, almost 80% of the districts have made new science purchases, 73% have bought new math books.

Region 4 and the nation

Comparing Region 4 purchases with those of the nation as a whole,

REGION 4 SPENDING BOXSCORE

	Low 25%	Median	High 25%	Top 10%
ETB	\$4.08	\$5.57	\$8.92	\$11.49
STB	4.44	6.70	8.97	12.70
ELB	1.82	2.66	3.33	4.40
SLB	2.48	3.30	5.00	6.83

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