

REGION 7

Patterns in Textbook Selection

	BIOLOGY	HISTORY	SCIENCE	READING	MATH
65-66	46.8%	9.7%	22.1%	8.3%	39.2%
64-65	15.3	12.2	15.6	15.0	26.4
63-64	6.4	10.6	13.1	16.7	12.0
62-63	7.3	43.1	24.6	10.8	4.8
Prior	24.2	24.4	24.6	49.2	17.6

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

Present text is good	15.2%	12.7%	8.1%	6.5%	4.3%
Present text weak—no new text better	3.0	2.6	2.7	1.6	4.3
Studying a change, study isn't complete	6.1	7.7	8.1	3.2	0
Reinforcing present text with supplementary materials	6.1	0	0	0	4.3
Adopt on a regular cycle, and cycle has not come up	63.6	71.8	75.7	85.5	82.8
School board budget too tight	6.0	5.2	5.4	3.2	4.3

these same districts tend to ask students to pay for paperbacks (where the alternative to student purchase is district purchase).

Cost of textbooks

The local district in Region 7 spends less on textbooks than any region in the nation, primarily because the states carry the big monetary load and Texas, the region's largest state, foots the entire bill. Actually, the median district spends only 85 cents per pupil on

the elementary level, and nine cents in high school, but a fraction of the national average. The dollar figures are correspondingly low all along the cost scale. Thus the top 25% of the districts spend \$4.00 per elementary student, against a national figure of \$7.12.

Region 7's library purchases are very close to the national pattern. The median district in the Region spends \$2.38 for elementary school library books compared to a national figure of \$2.25. The national

median district spends \$3.27 for secondary school library books compared to Region 7's \$2.99, a fairly insignificant difference.

Region 7 administrators have mixed feelings about state adoption policies. While they appreciate the monetary saving, they are critical of the structured type of adoption.

"In Texas our texts are purchased and approved by the State Education Agency. This practice is fine, but I'd prefer the state to fur-