

nish paperback texts which could be replaced each year," was one typical comment.

"Under our state system of adoption, purchase prices are relatively low. However, teachers feel that the content in some areas is old before the five- or six-year cycle of use is completed," said another

area superintendent of schools.

Still a third suggested the way his district gets around this problem: "Due to the Texas state adoption policy," he said, "we feel that a time lag between the availability of new texts and their distribution is created. We try to compensate for this with paperbacks."

way. The remaining districts rent texts to students.

On the secondary level, free contribution accounts for only half of the districts. Of the remainder 35% rent them, the other 15% as students to buy them.

Nine districts in 10 use paperbacks in Region 8, compared 88% nationally. About one district in four uses them as texts, the same as in the nation as a whole. Distribution of paperbacks is still predominantly on a free basis (73.7% of the elementary school districts, 42.7% of the high school districts). Yet both figures constitute a 10% dip from hardcover distribution figures for the region. Districts that don't give paperbacks away as students to purchase them. Almost 40% of the high school districts prefer student purchase to free contribution, 16% of the elementary districts. The remainder rent paperbacks to students.

The median district in Region 8 spends \$1.68 more per student elementary texts than the national median (\$6.65 to \$4.97) and spends more per secondary student (\$6.21 to \$6.15). Region 8 is one of only two regions where more is spent per elementary student than secondary student.

The elementary figure of \$6.21 is especially significant because it is the highest spent by any region in the nation, about 34% above the national average. This advantage decreases at the upper end of the scale (the region's top quartile districts spend only 14% more than the national top quartile elementary texts).

Secondary spending is quite

REGION 8

■ The median district in Region 8 spends \$6.65 per pupil on elementary texts, \$6.21 on secondary texts. How is this money being spent?

This year, over 36% of the Region's districts have bought new science texts, 31% new math texts, and 30% new biology books. By contrast, only 15.5% of the districts have made new reading text purchases this year, only 11.3% have bought new history books.

Region 8 is a heavy buying region, at least over the past two or three years. Well over half the region's districts have bought new biology, science and math texts since 1964. In the past three years, over half have made new reading and history purchases. Looking at the other end of the chart, only in reading texts have a particularly high percentage of districts (29%) failed to make a recent purchase.

Most districts offer three reasons for non-purchase: They are satisfied with their present text; they are studying a change; and purchasing is on a cycle which has not come up for a particular text. For

non-purchase of biology texts, the largest number (40%) of those not purchasing since 1961 cite satisfaction with the present text. For non-purchase of a new general science text, the largest number (41.2%) claim they are studying a change. For the other three textbooks cycling is the major reason for non-adoption. In some areas this reason is very meaningful. For example, almost 42% of all districts have made no reading text purchase since 1962-63. Thirty percent give cycling as the reason. That means that over 10% of the districts have made no new reading purchase recently due solely to cycling. The figures for non-purchase of history texts are equally high. Over 13% of the districts in Region 8 have made no reading text adoption only because the cycle for reading has not come up in the past three years.

Distribution patterns

Textbook distribution in Region 8 takes two distinct patterns. On the elementary level, free textbooks predominate. Over 82% of the districts distribute them this

REGION 8 SPENDING BOXSCORE

	Low 25%	Median	High 25%	To 10
ETB	\$4.55	\$6.65	\$8.11	\$10.
STB	3.35	6.21	8.15	10.
ELB	1.83	3.20	4.00	6.
SLB	2.50	3.33	4.45	8.

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