

Intra-agency instructional planning includes coordination of educational research, program evaluation, and communication.

Agency staff members in all divisions and departments are assigned to various long- and short-range planning activities under the guidance of the office of planning.

Aware of the potential too in the projects funded under title III for affecting educational change in Texas, this planning office assists local schools in planning, developing, operating, and evaluating the projects.

In keeping with the intent of the title III program, the staff has encouraged schools to take a new look at their educational needs and to develop programs which illustrate innovative ideas. Projects demonstrating these programs are helping to create in Texas an awareness of successful innovations. In this way, title III may well become the key to educational change.

In the fall of 1965, as an initial step in developing a State plan for title III in Texas, a State panel identified the most pressing needs in Texas elementary and secondary education. During the first year of operation of title III in Texas, the State plan adopted by the State board of education served as a guide to local school districts in planning projects and to the Texas Education Agency in reviewing and recommending projects for funding.

In December 1966, the State plan was revised in light of changing educational needs and goals.

A review of the 16 months of operation of title III, ESEA, in Texas, shows that 50 projects have been funded to date. Thirteen projects offer multiservices such as consultations and mobile units, material centers, testing, and enrichment programs.

Two planning projects were designed for special groups of children: one for mentally and physically handicapped children, another for the gifted and talented.

Five projects emphasize staff development through such techniques as in service instruction by television, instruction in the use of media, or language development programs for teachers.

Thirteen projects are concerned with model subject-matter programs. The other projects provide for such services and activities as a model library-learning center, media centers, educational television services, a neighborhood learning center, and an experimental junior high school.

These 50 projects involve an estimated 800 school districts, employ an estimated 450 full-time personnel; and most important, are designed to benefit approximately 1,900,000 of the 2½ million schoolchildren in Texas.

Innovative projects, offering new solutions to old educational problems, are being planned, implemented and operated in Texas under title III.

As one component of its responsibility for effective utilization of title III, the staff of the Texas Education Agency has made an in-depth study of the concept of regional educational services and the relationship of such services to the title III program in Texas, the State department of education, institutions of higher learning and the new educational institutions being funded under title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.