

On the basis of this study, the agency has identified "providing educational services within a region"—particularly an educational planning capability—as a priority need which should be met through the Texas title III program.

A number of other activities have also contributed to recognition of the need for regional educational planning. By September 1967, Texas must be ready to implement regional media centers which were authorized by the 59th Texas Legislature in 1965.

The intent of the media legislation is to provide State money to regional centers to match local expenditures up to \$1 per pupil to purchase instructional media such as films, filmstrips, and visuals for use with overhead projectors.

Valuable as these aids are in modern teaching, to establish regional media centers outside the context of other regional educational needs would even be to shortchange education in Texas.

Therefore, the Texas Education Agency has planned for the implementation of the regional media center in such a way that other needed educational services may eventually be provided. Coordination between State resources for the media center and Federal resources available under title III would strengthen services available to all schools.

In addition, such coordination would provide the machinery—the education service center—for involving all school districts—large and small—in educational planning for the region.

To assist in the development of this needed regional planning capability and to implement the media legislation, the state board of education has adopted policies and designated 20 regions in Texas, each to be served by an education service center.

Resources available under title III will make it possible to establish in each center a capable staff to assist in designing innovational approaches to educational problems.

As the centers develop, other educational services which regional schools, large and small, need and want, will become available. And, at every step of development, evaluation will be a necessary component of program design. Careful educational planning needs the kind of feedback only evaluation may provide feedback to indicate change of pace and direction, feedback to point out alteration of design and techniques.

Regional educational planning provides an opportunity to tailor education to the unique environment of the region, to the specific needs of the pupils, and to the strengths of the professional educators within the region.

This objective is beyond the reach of the majority of Texas school districts functioning alone. But through utilization of resources available under State media legislation and Federal legislation, in-depth educational planning can become a reality in the education service center.

In reviewing title III project proposals, the Texas Education Agency has made broad use of advisory committees in the State. We have worked cooperatively with the U.S. Office of Education in screening projects to insure that the projects approved for Texas fit into the overall plan for title III in Texas.

Activities developed under policies of the State board of education have given direction to the title III program. To get the full benefit from these efforts, to insure that the purposes of title III are met