

# REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE CENTERS



AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

ID: 321

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## OBJECTIVE

Provide an overview of the role of the Regional Education Service Center funding sources utilized by each of the centers.

## KEY FACTS

- ◆ There are 20 separate Regional Education Service Centers, with each serving a separate geographic region.
- ◆ Regional Education Service Centers provide a number of services to the school districts in their region, including professional development, training, staffing, and technical assistance.
- ◆ Funding of the Regional Education Service Centers varies greatly among the regions, but each Regional Education Service Center receives state, federal, and local funding.

## BUDGETARY IMPACT

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) was appropriated \$12.5 million annually in the 2012–13 biennium for Regional Education Service Center core services and provided an additional \$12.9 million in grants to Regional Education Service Centers in fiscal year 2012.

## STATUTORY REFERENCE

Texas Education Code, Chapter 8.

The Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs) are quasi-governmental entities serving school districts in twenty regions statewide with the primary goal of enabling school districts within each region to operate more efficiently and economically. This is accomplished by providing a number of services to the school districts in their regions, and to a limited extent, to school districts around the state. Services include professional development services, including training for board members, administrators, teachers, auxiliary staff and others; direct services, including staffing for libraries, counseling, nursing, business management, technology services, legal services, auditing services, and other similar services; technical assistance in the form of direct services provided on a temporary or ad-hoc basis, including technology support; and providing products to be purchased by districts including application software, instructional materials, printing, and internet filtering. Although these are general products and services provided by RESCs, the actual services and products provided at a particular RESC will vary considerably from region to region.

## TOTAL FUNDING

RESCs receive funding from state, federal, and local sources. State funding can be broken into Texas Education Agency (TEA) grants and formula funding distributed by TEA as directed by Rider 39 in TEA's bill pattern. Federal funding includes funds associated with various programs, the largest being Head Start (early childhood school readiness). Local funds are received by RESCs for products sold or services provided on a fee basis to local school districts. The level of funding from each of these sources will vary significantly across the RESCs. Fig. 1 shows RESC funding on a regional and statewide basis broken out by funding source, including total funding and percentage of funding by source.

## FORMULA FUNDING

As indicated above, a portion of each RESC's state funding is distributed through a formula as directed by Rider 39 in TEA's bill pattern. This funding is determined statewide by appropriation and allocated according to a formula that includes a base funding amount and additional amounts based on geographic region and size of school districts served. Statewide formula funding for RESC core services was reduced by the Eighty-second Legislature from \$21,375,000 annually in 2010–11 to \$12,500,000 annually in 2012–13. Additionally, Rider 39, Funding for Regional Education Service Centers, of TEA's bill pattern was modified for 2012-13 to require the Commissioner of Education to develop a new formula which placed a greater emphasis on directing funding to RESCs that served small and rural school districts.

The new formula distributes funding to RESCs as follows: 20 percent of the funding is divided equally among all RESCs; 40 percent of the funding is distributed on a geographic basis determined by the number of students per square mile and flows proportionally more funding to districts with lower population density; and 40 percent of the funding is distributed to RESCs that serve school districts with average daily attendance (ADA) of 1,600 or less.

**OTHER STATE FUNDING**

In addition to formula funding from the state, RESCs also receive TEA grants. The grants received and amount awarded by TEA to a RESC varies significantly, but some of the larger grants include Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) Professional Development, End-of-Course Academies, State Supplemental Visually-Impaired Instruction and Training, and the School Readiness Initiative.

**FIG. 1**  
**REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER AUDITED REVENUES BY SOURCE OF FUNDS, SCHOOL YEAR 2010-11**

(IN MILLIONS)	LOCAL		STATE		FEDERAL		TOTAL
	FUNDING	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL	FUNDING	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL	FUNDING	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL	
1. Edinburg	\$16.2	36.8%	\$9.4	21.3%	\$18.5	41.9%	\$44.1
2. Corpus Christi	8.6	49.0	4.0	22.8	5.0	28.3	17.6
3. Victoria	3.2	28.9	3.7	33.9	4.1	37.3	10.9
4. Houston	15.3	46.5	8.7	26.3	9.0	27.2	33.0
5. Beaumont	5.2	45.8	2.8	24.8	3.4	29.4	11.4
6. Huntsville	5.7	31.7	5.6	31.4	6.6	37.0	17.9
7. Kilgore	9.8	31.3	4.6	14.8	16.9	53.9	31.3
8. Mt. Pleasant	7.4	50.8	3.4	23.1	3.8	26.0	14.5
9. Wichita Falls	3.0	22.7	2.7	20.8	7.4	56.5	13.0
10. Richardson	24.8	29.2	12.0	14.1	48.2	56.7	85.0
11. Ft. Worth	11.3	49.7	4.3	18.8	7.1	31.5	22.7
12. Waco	11.0	46.2	5.0	20.9	7.8	32.8	23.9
13. Austin	29.5	42.6	19.3	27.8	20.5	29.6	69.3
14. Abilene	5.3	16.1	5.3	16.3	22.2	67.6	32.8
15. San Angelo	6.9	46.1	3.8	25.6	4.2	28.3	14.9
16. Amarillo	6.8	19.7	3.9	11.2	24.0	69.1	34.7
17. Lubbock	9.2	54.2	3.0	17.9	4.7	27.9	17.0
18. Midland	7.0	31.1	4.3	18.7	11.4	50.2	22.7
19. El Paso	4.1	8.6	4.3	9.0	39.5	82.4	47.9
20. San Antonio	25.9	50.1	7.7	14.9	18.1	35.0	51.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$203.5</b>	<b>33.7%</b>	<b>\$117.7</b>	<b>19.5%</b>	<b>\$282.2</b>	<b>46.8%</b>	<b>\$603.5</b>

Source: Texas Education Agency.

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