

# System of Regional Education Service Centers

<http://www.texasresc.net/> | T: 512.919.5349



## Quick Facts

Number of Regional Education Service Centers: 20

Established: 1967

Number of Services Offered: Over 300

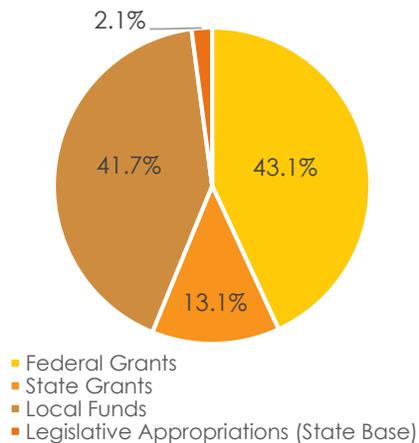
## Accountability

Regional Education Service Centers (ESC) have multiple levels of accountability and oversight. Each ESC has a locally-elected board of directors tasked with overseeing the ESC, approving an annual budget, and hiring an executive director. The Commissioner of Education also has broad oversight over the ESCs and established performance standards that each ESC is expected to meet. Each ESC is also required to perform an annual financial audit, conduct an annual client satisfaction survey of school districts and charter schools; as well as complete a cost-savings for schools analysis for the Legislature each biennium.

## Funding Sources

ESCs are primarily funded by revenue generated locally through school districts and charter schools purchasing ESC services. Legislative appropriations, \$12.5 million per year, comprise approximately 2.1% of all combined ESC funds. These funds are critical to offset the cost to schools and allow them to receive necessary services at the highest quality and lowest price. ESCs are non-regulatory agencies and have no taxing authority. This requires ESCs to purchase significant capital outlay expenditures and maintain/renovate facilities on a pay-as-you-go basis. ESCs must also have appropriate reserves to develop new services requested by schools and to help implement state initiatives.

### Revenue by Source



## Additional Highlights

### Client Satisfaction

For 2013, the 20 ESCs combined scored a 4.78 on a 5 point scale. Respondents were asked to describe their level of satisfaction on a variety of ESC services such as those designed to help schools operate efficiently and economically, support for Bilingual and ESL Education, and support in foundational academic areas. For most items, 96% of respondents expressed that they were very satisfied or satisfied with their ESC.

### Business Partnerships and Cost Savings

ESCs partner with private entities to assist schools in purchasing items and services. Combined, the 20 ESCs partner with over 10,600 vendors for a total of over \$900 million worth of goods and services. This maximization of economies of scale allow schools to have greater access to goods and services, than they would on an individual basis. Additionally, the 2013 Report of Cost Savings found that Texas schools save approximately a combined \$835 million by utilizing ESC services.

# Region 4 - Houston

<http://www.esc4.net/> | T: 713.462.7708



## Quick Facts

Number of School Districts and Charter Schools Systems: 96

Student Population: 1,123,557

Educator Population (projected): 134,154

## Student Population Information

Region 4 serves a student population made up of 19.4% African American, 49.1% Hispanic, 23.2% White, and 8.3% other. Approximately 60.3% of the student population is considered economically disadvantaged.

## Unique Regional Issues

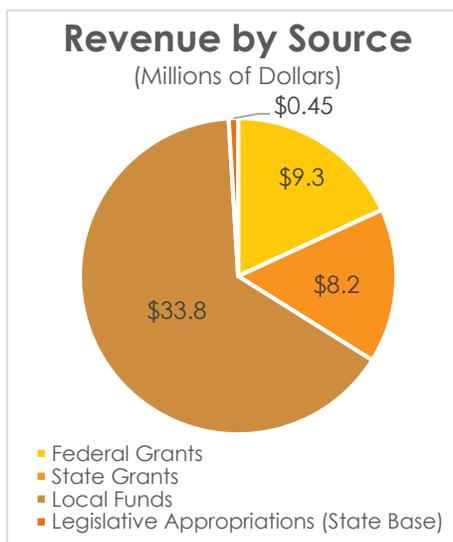
Most Region 4 districts are experiencing significant growth in student enrollment, especially in the number of economically disadvantaged and limited-English proficient students. Serving the unique needs of these students is a critical issue facing a majority of Region 4 school districts and charter schools.

## Funding Sources

Region 4 revenues for FY 2013 were \$52.5 million with 62.8% obtained from local funds. Legislative Appropriations are 0.9% of Region 4's total revenues. The ESC leverages these funds to provide services to schools, including, but not limited to; professional development, school turnaround programs, and business management service.

## Impact of Lost Legislative Appropriations on Districts/Charters

Region 4 has worked collaboratively with the districts and charter schools within the region to develop products and services that add value to their efforts and operations. With limited state base funding, Region 4 operates in an entrepreneurial manner to provide services at low cost or no cost to assist districts and charter schools improve student academic performance and increase operational efficiency.



## Projects & Initiatives

### HB 5 Implementation Support

Region 4 hosted three House Bill 5 Summits at no charge to participants. Hundreds of teachers, administrators, counselors and representatives from higher education worked together to identify and plan for key issues related to graduation plans, counseling, assessment, and accountability. Region 4 hosts an online library of House Bill 5 resources, where districts and charter schools can collaborate and share best practices.

### State Lead for Initiatives Serving Students of Special Populations

Region 4 serves as the statewide lead of two major networks in special education, the Texas Behavior Support network (TBS) and the Texas Assistive Technology Network (TATN). Through both networks, Region 4 provides support to schools and leadership and ongoing communication among the 20 ESCs about state-level needs assessment, processes, planning, implementing, and evaluation.

ESC Executive Director – Dr. Pam Wells

2014-15 Snapshot

Counties Served: Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, and Waller