



# Texas Regional Education Service Centers

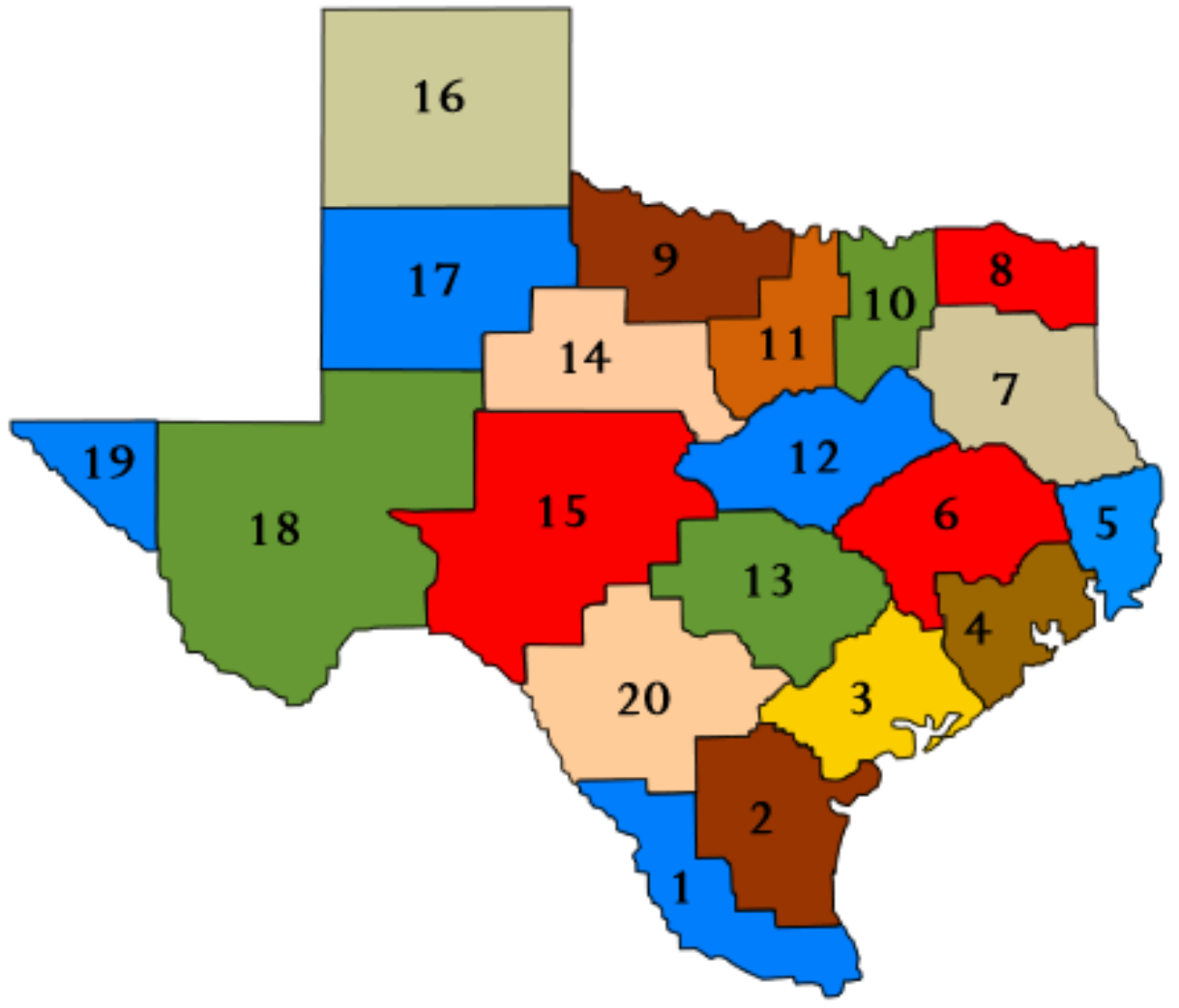
# What Are ESCs?

- Texas Education Code; Sec. 8.002. PURPOSE. Regional education service centers shall:
  - (1) assist school districts in improving student performance in each region of the system;
  - (2) enable school districts to operate more efficiently and economically; and
  - (3) implement initiatives assigned by the legislature or the commissioner.

# Locations

- Region 1: Edinburg
- Region 2: Corpus Christi
- Region 3: Victoria
- Region 4: Houston
- Region 5: Beaumont
- Region 6: Huntsville
- Region 7: Kilgore
- Region 8: Mt. Pleasant
- Region 9: Wichita Falls
- Region 10: Richardson
- Region 11: Fort Worth
- Region 12: Waco
- Region 13: Austin
- Region 14: Abilene
- Region 15: San Angelo
- Region 16: Amarillo
- Region 17: Lubbock
- Region 18: Midland
- Region 19: El Paso
- Region 20: San Antonio

# The 20 Regions



# Student Population and Area

ESC	Number of Students	Square Miles
1	417,490	10,515
2	105,796	11,414
3	53,528	10,833
4	1,123,557	6,856
5	81,986	5,152
6	177,412	12,110
7	170,293	13,305
8	56,824	6,419
9	38,498	10,513
10	776,920	6,548

ESC	Number of Students	Square Miles
11	562,831	7,745
12	161,025	11,214
13	380,872	13,059
14	52,288	12,115
15	48,145	25,224
16	86,440	25,805
17	83,330	18,966
18	83,305	37,145
19	182,814	5,095
20	429,036	16,606

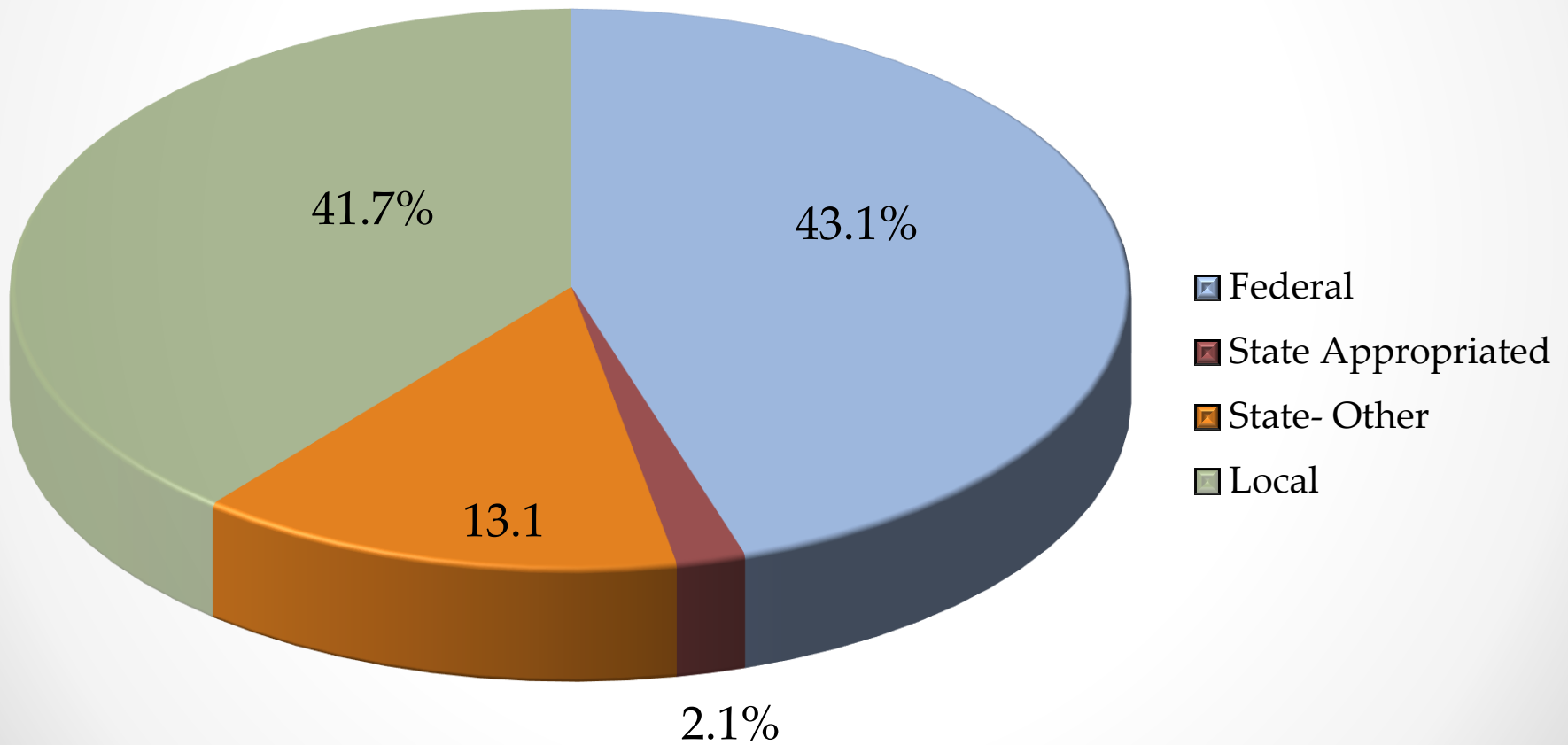
# Governance

- Each ESC has a Governing Board elected by school board members and charter schools in that region. 8 board members, including one charter school representative.
- ESC Executive Directors report to their Boards, the Commissioner of Education, the Legislature, and local schools.
- ESCs are to provide services at the request of school districts and/or charter schools.

# ESC Funding

- ESCs have Four Sources of Funding:
  - State Appropriated
    - Source(s): Legislature
  - State Grants/Designated
    - Source(s): TEA, Other State Agencies
  - Federal Grants
    - Source(s): USDE, Head Start, etc.
  - Local Revenue
    - Source(s): School Districts, Charter Schools, Private Schools

# Current Funding



Source: Annual ESC Audits



# Funding Formula for GR Funds

- The commissioner shall distribute money to each regional education service center for basic costs of providing those services according to an annual allotment set by the commissioner based on:
  - (1) the minimum amount of money necessary for the operation of a center;
  - (2) an additional amount of money that reflects the size and number of campuses served by the center under Section 8.051; and
  - (3) an additional amount of money that reflects the impact of the geographic size of a center's service area on the cost of providing services under Section 8.051.

# Use of GR Funds

- Funds from General Revenue may only be used on certain items:
  - (1) Training and assistance in teaching each subject assessed.
  - (2) training and assistance in providing each program that qualifies for a funding allotment under Section 42.151, 42.152, 42.153, or 42.156;
  - (3) Assistance specifically designed for a school district or campus assigned an unacceptable performance rating
  - (4) Training and assistance to teachers, administrators, members of district boards of trustees, and members of site-based decision-making committees.
  - (5) Assistance specifically designed for a school district that is considered out of compliance with state or federal special education requirements.
  - (6) Assistance in complying with state laws and rules.

# Fund Balance

- ESCs are a non-taxing entity, meaning ESCs must develop new services for purchase and save funds to meet facility and development needs.
- A fund balance is needed to:
  - Fund new development of services being requested by districts.
  - Implement initiatives assigned by TEA or the Legislature.
  - Construction and expansion of needed facilities to better serve educators.
  - Provide services during unforeseen natural disasters (i.e. Hurricane Rita, West, Texas, Tornadoes, etc.)

# Services and Products Provided by ESCs

- Provide over 300 different services.
- Services are developed at the request of schools.
- Include professional development, curriculum support, business support, emergency response, and many more.
- Schools may use any service provided by any ESC.
- Schools are **NOT** required to use any ESC service.

# Efficiencies of ESCs

- ESCs provide efficiencies in a number of ways:
  - Cooperative Purchasing Arrangements
    - Food Purchasing
    - Technology
    - Supplies
  - Business Office Support
  - HR Support
  - Professional Development
  - IT Support
- ESCs provide over \$881 million of cooperative purchasing contracts

# Sample of Services Provided by ESCs

- HB 5 Trainings and Support
- Texas Education Telecommunications Network (TETN)
- Internet Services and Data Storage
- Business Office Support
- Professional Development Trainings
- Public-Private Partnerships
-

# State Initiatives

- Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN)
- Texas Center for District and School Support (TCDSS)
- Migrant Education
- Disaster Support and Recovery
- Texas Literacy Initiative

# Accountability

- **Annual Independent Financial Audit**
  - Audits of all funds (federal, state, local) are conducted. TEA posts all ESC audits on website. Audits filed with Federal Clearinghouse.
- **Biennial Legislative Report**
  - Rider 38 of the Appropriations Bill requires the Commissioner of Education to biennially submit an ESC cost comparison report to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB), Governor's office, and chairman of the House and Senate Education Committees.
- **Annual Regional Performance Hearing**
  - An ESC performance hearing is held annually. The hearing includes a review of academic performance data, budget data, and other ESC performance standards.
- **PEIMS Data – ESC Budget, Personnel, Shared Services**
  - TEA monitors these submissions and compares the data to that recorded by the independent auditors.



# Accountability

- **Workshop Evaluation System**
  - All workshop attendees complete an anonymous survey following any workshop which they attend.
- **Program Advisory Committees**
  - Local services offered on a fee-basis for district purchase are informed by advisory committees which assist in setting fee-structures and designing program/service delivery.
- **On-line Posting of Check Registers**
  - On-line check registers are posted monthly by each ESC on their websites.
- **Performance Based Monitoring of Regional ESCs**
  - Student performance data is annually reported by the region showing gaps in student performances and groups of students who are under-or-over represented in various programs.
- **Annual Evaluation of ESCs by the Commissioner**
  - The performance of each ESC and the Executive Director is conducted annually by the Texas Education Agency.

# Accountability

- **Monitoring Reports from Various Agencies**
  - State and federal agencies such as Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Department of State Health Services, Head Start, Texas LEARNS, etc., conduct desk and on-site monitoring of ESC fiscal and program compliance.
- **Annual Needs Assessment and Program Review**
  - Each ESC annually assesses the effectiveness of its program and services, identifies areas for additional services based on district requests, and modifies existing programs.
- **Performance Scorecard Measures**
  - Data is reported uniformly by all ESCs on a monthly/quarterly/annually basis for key performance indicators. Data is reported to TEA and the LBB.
- **Annual 3rd Party Client Satisfaction Survey**
  - University of Texas conducts a client satisfaction survey among ESC users. Results are reported by each ESC and reported to the Commissioner and the Legislature.

# Client Satisfaction

- Since 2005, the ESC have contracted with the Institute for Organizational Excellence at The University of Texas at Austin to conduct a survey of all school districts and charter schools in Texas.
- The 14 questions focus on core services and support in assessed academic areas.
- 2013 Results
  - All quantitative items receiving scores between a 4.73 and 4.83 on a 5-point Likert scale.
  - For most items, 96% of all respondents expressed that they were very satisfied or satisfied with the various services assessed.

# FAQs

**Q: Are schools required to purchase ESC products or services?**

A: No. Schools may purchase all, some, or none of the services provided by an ESC.

**Q: Do ESCs serve charter and private schools?**

A: Absolutely! All products and services are available to any Texas public, charter, or private school.

**Q: What is the relationship between ESCs and TEA?**

A: TEA performs certain regulatory functions and is responsible for setting in place rules and regulations for implementing initiatives enacted by the Legislature. ESCs are non-regulatory, but do assist both schools and TEA in implementing state initiatives.

# FAQs

**Q: Do ESCs compete with private vendors?**

A: ESCs partner with over 9,600 private vendors for a total of over \$984 million of contracts.

**Q: Do ESCs provide other services besides professional development?**

A: Yes! ESCs provide over 300 different products and services.

**Q: Are ESCs really valuable to all size schools?**

A: Yes! In reality, the “urban” ESCs serve just as many rural schools as “rural” ESCs.

# The TEKS Resource System

- No longer developing or providing sample lesson plans.
- All materials, with the exception of optional assessments, have been posted online.
- Created a new managed system to increase school representation and input.
- The State Board of Education reviewed all former Social Studies lessons.
- Received helpful recommendations from various entities to improve operations.
- Reduced costs to schools.
-

# Opportunities for Engagement

- Monthly Superintendent meetings allow opportunity for elected officials to communicate with school leaders.
- ESC Executive Directors can be a resource to provide information on school leader thoughts on education issues.
- Serve as resource for how legislative initiatives are being implemented across the region and state.

# Contact Information

Mason Moses

Chief Communications Officer

System of Texas Education Service Centers

512-919-5349

[mason.moses@esc13.txed.net](mailto:mason.moses@esc13.txed.net)

[www.texasresc.net](http://www.texasresc.net)

Follow us on Twitter!

@TxESCs