

RESOURCE ALLOCATION AND STUDENT PERFORMANCE IN THE SOUTHWESTERN REGION: New Findings from SEDL Research

Demographics of High- and Low-Performing School Districts 1999-2000

	Arkansas		Louisiana		New Mexico		Texas	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Number of school districts	103	103	22	22	29	30	348	347
Percent of students by race/ethnicity								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0%	0%	.3%	.1%	1.2%	23.1%	.4%	.3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	.1%	0%	.7%	.4%	.6%	.2%	.9%	.5%
Hispanic	2.1%	2.1%	1.0%	.5%	30.3%	58.5%	19.1%	39.3%
Black, non-Hispanic	2.8%	41.1%	27.5%	66.9%	1.7%	.4%	3.7%	12.9%
White, non-Hispanic	95.0%	56.8%	70.5%	32.1%	66.2%	17.8%	75.9%	47.0%
Percent of disadvantaged students	31.4%	54.3%	40.0%	67.2%	23.7%	36.7%	25.5%	49.1%
Percent of students with IEPs	12.2%	12.9%	11.4%	12.1%	19.3%	16.0%	13.3%	15.2%
Ratio of students to teachers	13.6	12.5	14.6	14.8	13.8	15.6	12.4	12.8
Percent of teachers	54.5	53.1	49.8	47.7	50.2	44.2	54.3	50.3
Percent of school administrators	2.7	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.8
Percent of district administrators	1.3	1.6	.4	.6	3.1	2.6	1.9	1.7

Data source: *NCES Common Core of Data: School Years 1994-95 through 1998-99.* (data file, 2001).

Average Spending in High- vs. Low-Performing School Districts 1994-1999

	Arkansas		Louisiana		New Mexico		Texas	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
REVENUES PER PUPIL								
Local and intermediate	1,584	1,416	2,041	1,662	884	914	5,021	2,515
State	3,180	3,440	2,950	3,015	5,686	4,986	3,150	4,167
Federal	414	685	577	831	594	1,552	381	613
EXPENDITURES PER PUPIL								
Core (instruction, student support, and instructional staff support)	3,192 ¹	3,432 ¹	3,360 ¹	3,237 ¹	3,883	3,816	4,262	4,201
Instruction	2,878 ¹	3,086 ¹	2,948 ¹	2,840 ¹	3,336 ¹	3,079 ¹	3,907 ¹	3,786 ¹
General administration	223 ¹	298 ¹	123 ¹	143 ¹	301	268	373 ¹	313 ¹

¹ Differences between high- and low-performing districts are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Data source: *NCES Common Core of Data: School Years 1994-95 through 1998-99.* (data file, 2001).

School Resource Strategies in Districts with Improved Student Performance Over Time

	Arkansas	Louisiana	New Mexico	Texas
	teachers reporting strategy implemented			
Increased computer technology	82.1%	81.8%	76.5%	73.0%
Increased special instructional programs	65.3%	71.2%	58.8%	68.3%
Provided more professional development	64.5%	67.7%	44.7%	54.8%
Provided needed materials/equipment	53.4%	59.6%	44.7%	53.2%
Improved programs/services for at-risk students	48.9%	58.1%	51.1%	58.7%
Reduced class size	41.3%	49.6%	29.7%	39.3%
Improved building facilities/maintenance	41.6%	36.3%	34.6%	36.1%
Increased teacher planning time	26.8%	22.9%	24.8%	25.7%
Increased classroom aides	10.0%	20.3%	19.4%	21.3%
Increased teachers with more experience or higher degree	9.5%	17.9%	8.8%	5.5%
Reduced class load	7.4%	17.9%	13.7%	12.2%

Data source: Surveys received from 1,701 teachers across 12 improvement districts.