State Agency
Funded Research, 2011-2012:
Annotated Bibliography

2015

Applied Research Division
The University of Southern Mississippi
1-800-321-3054
State Agency Funded Research, 2011-2012
Annotated Bibliography

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2015
Institute of Child Nutrition
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The Institute of Child Nutrition was authorized by Congress in 1989 and established in 1990 at The University of Mississippi in Oxford and is operated in collaboration with The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. The Institute operates under a grant agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service.

PURPOSE
The purpose of the Institute of Child Nutrition is to improve the operation of child nutrition programs through research, education and training, and information dissemination.

MISSION
The mission of the Institute of Child Nutrition is to provide information and services that promote the continuous improvement of child nutrition programs.

VISION
The vision of the Institute of Child Nutrition is to be the leader in providing education, research, and resources to promote excellence in child nutrition programs.

This project has been funded at least in part with Federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service through an agreement with Institute of Child Nutrition at The University of Mississippi. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. government.

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INTRODUCTION

The Institute for Child Nutrition, Applied Research Division (ICN, ARD), routinely collects information on state agency-funded research related to Child Nutrition Programs (CNP). In the spring of 2015, state agency representatives responsible for overseeing CNPs were contacted via e-mail to provide ARD researchers information regarding state-funded research utilizing an electronic survey. The e-mail included an overview of the Annotated Bibliography, and a link to an electronic survey where respondents could record information about projects. Two weeks later, a follow-up e-mail was sent to encourage increased response.

The electronic survey, hosted on Survey Monkey, was developed by ARD researchers in order to collect information regarding any finished, unpublished research funded by the state agency since 2011. The gathered information is published in two separate State Agency Annotated Bibliographies; one to include research conducted in the years 2011-2012, and the other to include research conducted in the years 2013-2014.

Sixty-six state agencies, representing the National School Lunch Program, Summer Food Service Program, and Child and Adult Care Program, were sent e-mails. Of the 66 state agencies, 61 e-mails were delivered, and five e-mails were undeliverable. Forty-three e-mail recipients logged responses to the Survey Monkey questionnaire. Four survey respondents indicated that research or development projects had been completed since the spring of 2011, four respondents indicated research or development projects had been conducted but was not completed to date, and 35 respondents indicated no research or development projects had been completed. This report contains summaries of state agency-funded research during 2011-2012. The years
2013-2014 are in a separate report. Information submitted for two projects for the year 2015 will be held and published in a later report.

We appreciate the response from state agency representatives and their willingness to share the results of their research with others. For more information about these studies, a state agency contact is included with each project summary.
ARKANSAS

DIRECT CERTIFICATION

Overview of the Study

This was a comprehensive redesign of the Direct Certification process to improve out-of-date technical solutions, to revise existing business processes, and to implement a comprehensive reporting method for full compliance with federal law and direct certification sustainability.

Methodology

State-wide direct certification matches were provided to districts through a portal system. The portal system also provided districts access to perform ad hoc matches. Match methods were redesigned to include a wider set of student attributes.

Major Study Findings

The funding for this project was obtained from the USDA in 2012 and the project was in development. The program was tested in 2013, and the program went live in 2014.

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Child Nutrition Unit

Suzanne Davidson
Director
Arkansas Department of Education
Child Nutrition Unit
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Kansas Fitness Information Tracking

Overview of the Study

The purpose of this study was to establish a link between the individual student’s physical fitness and academic achievement.

Methodology

Teachers were trained in the use of Fitness Gram physical fitness tests and trained on how to enter data for individual students. Teachers reported physical fitness test results in the Web-based program. Student fitness scores were linked with their individual state assessment scores.

Major Study Findings

Students who were physically fit scored better on standardized tests. There was a positive correlation between physical fitness and academic achievement.

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