



State Agency  
Funded Research, 2011-2012:  
Annotated Bibliography

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Applied Research Division  
The University of Southern Mississippi  
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# State Agency Funded Research, 2011-2012 Annotated Bibliography

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# **Institute of Child Nutrition**

## **The University of Mississippi**

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.

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## INTRODUCTION

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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hosted on Survey Monkey, was developed by ARD researchers in order to collect information regarding any finished, unpublished research funded by the state agency since 2011.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**

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### **DIRECT CERTIFICATION**

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#### **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.

#### **State Agency Contacts:**

Patricia Winders  
Assistant Director of Program Administration  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Child Nutrition Unit

Suzanne Davidson  
Director  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Child Nutrition Unit

## **KANSAS**

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### **KANSAS FITNESS INFORMATION TRACKING**

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#### **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.

#### **State Agency Contacts:**

Cheryl Johnson  
Director  
Kansas State Department of Education

Mark Thompson  
Healthy Kansas Schools Project Director  
Kansas State Department of Education



**GY 2012 Project #9**

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