



State Agency
Funded Research, 2013-2014:
Annotated Bibliography

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State Agency Funded Research, 2013-2014 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

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hosted on Survey Monkey, was developed by ARD researchers in order to collect information regarding any finished, unpublished research funded by the state agency since 2011.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 Food 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 2013-2014.

The years 2011-2012 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. The program was tested in 2013, and the program went live in 2014.

Major Study Findings

Arkansas has increased direct certification percentage each year. In 2015, Arkansas reached the USDA's benchmark of 95%.

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

FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROGRAM FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Overview of the Study

The purpose of this study was to increase the consumption of and acceptance of fruits and vegetables for secondary students.

Methodology

Stage one involved a pre-study survey. Stage two involved eight fresh fruit and vegetable tastings along with nutrition education. Stage three utilized a post-study survey.

Major Study Findings

Twenty-six percent of the students indicated their family began buying more fruits and vegetables after participation in the program.

State Agency Contacts:

Emily Brinkman and Jill Ladd
Team Nutrition Project Directors
Kansas State Department of Education

Cheryl Johnson
Director
Kansas State Department of Education

KANSAS

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.

State Agency Contacts:

Cheryl Johnson
Director
Kansas State Department of Education

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

IOWA

RECESS BEFORE LUNCH

Overview of the Study

The Iowa Department of Education Team Nutrition Program partnered with the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Midwest Dairy Council to conduct a recess before lunch pilot in three select elementary buildings during the 2013-2014 school year.

Methodology

The pilot included an assessment of food and milk waste, photo estimation, and school staff interviews and surveys. Four site visits occurred at each building, providing a snapshot of food consumption in school meals when recess was after lunch and when recess was before lunch.

Major Study Findings

The results per school building, as well as a guide that was developed to assist schools in making the determination of moving recess before lunch, are published on the Iowa Department of Education Web site:

<https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/nutrition-programs/quick-links-nutrition/learning-tools-nutrition/iowa-recess-lunch>

State Agency Contacts:

Carrie Scheidel
Team Nutrition Co-Director
Iowa Department of Education

IOWA

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PARENT SURVEY

Overview of the Study

The purpose of the survey was to determine Iowa parents' knowledge and perceptions of the school lunch program and the new school meal patterns as defined by the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

Methodology

For the electronic survey, Iowa parents of school-aged children answered a series of questions intended to assess attitudes, beliefs, and practices surrounding the school lunch program at their oldest child's school. Specifically, questions were oriented to reflect the federal school lunch guidelines implemented in August 2012, and were designed to gather opinions on the policy initiative from parents representing many districts in Iowa.

Major Study Findings

The responses represented parents from a broad range of backgrounds, experiences, and geographical locations in Iowa. While a majority of the parents surveyed are aware of changes to school meals and regularly communicate with their child about their school lunches, opinions are mixed on whether the changes are effective in providing students what they want and need in terms of taste and nutrition. Parents overwhelmingly agree that the school lunch should be composed of fresh, nutritious food, yet do not believe this need is being met. Common concerns that emerged about school lunches were smaller/inadequate portions and their impacts to student performance, off site/pre-packaged meal preparation, wasting of undesirable food, and poor food taste and quality. For more information about this study, the resource, "Iowa Parent School Lunch Survey: Formative research for communication about school meal pattern changes" may be downloaded here:

<http://ppc.uiowa.edu/health/study/iowa-parent-school-lunch-survey-report-released>

State Agency Contacts:

Carrie Scheidel
Team Nutrition Co-Director
Iowa Department of Education



GY 2014 Routine Activities

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