

American Institutes for Research



"We measure our success by the benefits our work produces for people, especially the disadvantaged."

— David Myers
President and CEO

AIR, founded in 1946 as a nonpartisan not-for-profit organization, is recognized around the world as a leader in behavioral and social science research and evidence-based technical assistance. Our goal is to use the best research evidence available to improve everyday life.

Making research relevant has been AIR's principal focus since it was established more than 60 years ago. AIR applies science to address real-world issues on behalf of clients that include federal and state agencies, international development agencies and foreign countries, leading foundations, school districts, and private businesses.

Our work spans a wide range of areas: education research, evaluation, and technical assistance; student assessment; international education and development; individual and organizational performance; health research and communications; usability design and testing; employment equity; and statistical and research methods.

AIR's staff members have expertise in such fields as education, psychology, sociology, economics, psychometrics, statistics, public health, software design, graphic design, and communications.

Our experts are a frequent source of information and guidance for policymakers, clients, and the news media.



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AIR at a glance

1946
Year AIR founded

1,650
Staff

\$300
MILLION
Annual revenue

31
U.S. and international
office locations

To learn more about AIR
visit us on the Web:
www.air.org



AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH®

Making
Research
Relevant

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AIR's program areas include:

AIR's purpose is to conduct and apply behavioral and social science research to improve people's lives and well-being, with a special emphasis on the disadvantaged.



Education, Human Development and the Workforce

AIR supports educators and their students, employers and their workers, as well as national, state, and community leaders in the continuing effort to provide opportunities for personal growth to all—whether they are preschoolers, attend K-12 or higher education, are in adult literacy programs, or are in the workforce. We help to improve learning, growth, and performance in the classroom and the workplace.

Our work spans a broad range of areas, from early childhood development and adult education to professional development and training techniques that expand career opportunities and worker productivity. We also help individuals who have special needs, and we support programs aiding children who have emotional and behavioral disturbances and their families.

AIR conducts rigorous quantitative and qualitative research that identifies effective programs and resources as well as provides the technical assistance to translate reliable evidence into effective action. Our research, evaluation, consulting, and technical assistance services improve performance in schools, communities, organizations, and the workplace.

AIR provides reliable and useful student-testing information that allows clients to measure more accurately and plan for progress toward meeting performance standards. AIR gives teachers information to help students achieve, while providing oversight agencies with the material they need to hold school systems accountable for student learning.

Assessment

AIR provides unique score reports and online reporting tools that package large-scale assessment data and translate them into understandable information for teachers, parents, and administrators. Our technology includes the industry's most powerful tools for item banking and an online test-delivery system with AIR's

adaptive algorithm, which has received No Child Left Behind approval.

AIR partners with states in the design and administration of student achievement assessments, including high school graduation tests to certify that students meet state standards. We also offer an AIR-developed alternate assessment for students with severe physical and cognitive disabilities, and extensive support for English language learners.

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International Development

AIR seeks to improve the quality of life in developing countries through education and social development. We work to ensure children's equitable access to all levels of education; improve the quality and relevance of education; and empower individuals, communities, and institutions to act as agents of social and behavioral change.

Our programs improve educational quality through teacher and school administrator training, curriculum development, improved teaching materials, early childhood development, community mobilization, improved information systems and execution of education policy, behavior change communication, research, assessments of student learning outcomes and teacher performance, and monitoring and evaluation systems. We strengthen the links



Health

AIR conducts and applies behavioral and social science research to develop improved health care, healthier environments, and improved quality of life.

Our services assist federal and state governments, foundations, private health care providers, and the general public.

We work on issues as varied as how to deal with Medicare and Medicaid reform, how to improve measures of quality of care and quality of life, and assessments of delivery system reform. We draw upon a number of disciplines and expertise to design, implement, and evaluate policies through both traditional research methods and technical assistance activities, as well as translate technical materials into useful tools for consumers, health care providers, and policymakers.

Our award-winning team has developed many successful public health campaigns to increase awareness and promote healthy behaviors among diverse populations. Our work focuses on some of the most important health challenges, including the threat of severe public health emergencies associated with seasonal flu and H1N1, prevention of HIV/AIDS, heart disease, and birth defects.

between health and education through improved health communications strategies, school-based health interventions, community health mobilization programs, policy dialogue, and HIV/AIDS and life skills education. We develop youth through training, research, policy analysis, and activities that raise awareness about exploitative child labor and other youth-related issues.



Federal Statistics

AIR works with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the federal government's primary source for collecting and analyzing statistical data about education in the United States and around the world. Our experts play a major role in helping NCES develop large-scale databases that provide the high-quality, reliable data about education that are a critical input to informed policymaking.

Our work includes survey and assessment design, development of questionnaires and test items, incentive and informational materials, data editing and imputation specifications, and data products. We monitor field operations; conduct data quality reviews, bias analyses, and disclosure risk analyses; analyze data; and produce statistical reports. We facilitate communication among statisticians, survey methodologists, practitioners, policy analysts, researchers, and the public.

We work with NCES to keep the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) on the cutting edge of large-scale assessment. Among other things, our work supports expanding the NAEP item pool, conducting quality reviews of reports, and addressing issues of statistical methodology.

Our work includes improving on-time high school graduation rate statistics; tracking school crime; developing statistics about students, schools, teachers, and homeschooling; and producing the agency's flagship report *The Condition of Education*.