**APPENDIX A**

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

**Table 1. CEP Characteristics Study Research Questions for the State Child Nutrition Director Survey**

| **Research Question** |
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| RQ 1: How difficult is it to implement CEP? |
| RQ 2: What are the common concerns about CEP expressed in non-participating LEAs? |
| RQ 3: How are the notification and public reporting requirements for State agencies implemented? Are State agencies able to meet these requirements? |
| RQ 4: How has the discontinued use of FRP applications affected the allocation of educational benefits to economically disadvantaged students? |
| RQ 5: Do State Agencies receive timely information (e.g., lists of eligible and near-eligible schools, notification of desire to participate) from LEAs with one or more eligible schools? |
| RQ 6: What do State Agencies do to confirm that the enrollment and number of Identified Students in individual schools an LEA has identified as eligible are correct? |
| RQ 7: Is the administrative review of CEP schools more or less time-consuming than when an LEA operated under other provisions? |
| RQ 8: Have State Agencies had to alter their financial payment system to accommodate the meal reimbursement payments for schools/LEAs participating in CEP? |
| RQ 9: How many LEAs elect the Provision district-wide, for one school, or by groups of schools? |

**Table 2. CEP Characteristics Study Research Questions for Local Education Agencies (Participating and non-Participating)**

| **Research Questions** |
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| RQ 1: How appealing is CEP to high poverty LEAs? To high poverty schools? |
| RQ 2: For those eligible schools/LEAs that do not elect CEP, what are the barriers to participation? |
| RQ 3: For those eligible schools/LEAs that do not elect CEP, what changes could be made to the special assistance provision to make it more appealing? |
| RQ 3a: How are the LEAs educating and informing the public about CEP? |
| RQ 4: What are the characteristics of eligible LEAs/schools that elect this option and those that do not elect this option? |
| RQ 5: Are LEAs/schools operating under Provision 2 or 3 more likely to switch to CEP or remain on Provision 2 or 3? |
| RQ6: What do State Agencies do to confirm that the enrollment and number of *Identified Students* in individual schools an LEA has identified as eligible are correct? |
| RQ 7: How much administrative burden has been reduced with the election of CEP? What is the associated cost savings to the LEA? |
| RQ 8: Have LEAs been able to reallocate staff as a result of not having to take applications? |
| RQ 9: How does the total meal reimbursements received under CEP compare with the total meal reimbursements received in prior years? (Objective V-b) |
| RQ 11: How often do LEAs use the first year identified student percentage (established in the year prior to electing the option) instead of using more recently established percentages? |
| RQ 12: Have any LEAs elected out of the option? If so, what were the reasons? |
| RQ 13: What portion of the identified student percentage is from direct certification and what portion is from other students not subject to verification? |

**Table 3. CEP Characteristics Study Impact Questions**

| **Research Questions** |
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| RQ 1: What is the impact of electing to receive special assistance payments under CEP on the School Breakfast Program? |
| RQ 2: What is the impact of electing to receive special assistance payments under CEP on attendance and program participation? |
| RQ 3: What is the impact of electing to receive special assistance payments under CEP on revenues generated for reimbursable meals? |
| RQ 4: What are the School Foodservice Director’s *perceived* impacts of electing to receive special assistance payments under CEP on: a) Rates of attendance and tardiness; b) Student health (e.g., visits to the school nurse);  c) Student behavior (e.g., number of disciplinary incidents); and d) Meal quality. |