**APPENDIX A**

**RESEARCH ISSUES AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

Appendix A

**Table 1. CNOPS-II Research Issues and Questions for the State Child Nutrition Director Survey**

| **Issue** | **Question** |
| --- | --- |
| **Section 1:** **Food Service Administration**Alternative Provisions | * How many schools operate under Provision 2, Provision 3, and Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)?
* How long have the schools operated under the CEP?
* How many schools operate in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) only, or both SBP and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP)?
 |
| Charter Schools | * What is the increase in charter schools operating in NSLP and SBP?
 |
| **Section 2:** **Professional Standards**Training and Technical Assistance  | * What types of training and technical assistance are provided?
* What sources of training and technical assistance are used?
* Who is meeting the professional standards requirements for training?
* Which hiring standards are being used?
* How are State Agency Child Nutrition Directors tracking, or how do they anticipate tracking, annual continuing education/training requirements?
 |
|  | * What differences do States experience with residential child care institutions that impact their ability to comply with professional standards requirements?
* What difficulties do States experience with charter schools that impact compliance with professional standards requirements?
 |
| **Section 3:** **State Child Nutrition Director Background**  | * Which hiring standards are being used?
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**Table 2. CNOPS-II Research Issues and Questions for the School Food Authority (SFA) Director Survey**

| **Issue** | **Question** |
| --- | --- |
|
| **Section 1:** **School Participation**NSLP and SBP Participation Rates  | * How many schools participate in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and/or National School Lunch Program (NSLP)?
* How many elementary, middle, and high schools participate in SBP and/or NSLP?
* How has school participation changed over time?
 |
| CACFP and SFSP | * How many schools participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Afterschool At-Risk Supper Program, and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)?
* What are non-participating schools’ intentions to participate for CACFP and SFSP?
* What are schools doing to build awareness and promote CACFP and SFSP?
 |
| **Section 2:** **Student Participation**NSLP and SBP Participation Rates and Meals Served | * How many students participate in SBP and/or NSLP?
* How many students in elementary, middle, and high schools participate in SBP and/or NSLP? How many SBP and NSLP meals were served?
* How many SBP and NSLP meals were served in elementary, middle, and high schools?
* How has student participation and the number of meals served changed over time?
 |
| **Section 3:** **Meal Prices** | * What is the average price charged for full-price, reduced-price, and adult meals for the current school year?
* How have meal prices changed over time?
 |
| **Section 4:****Food Service Operations**Alternative Provisions | * How many schools are operating under Provision 2, Provision 3, and the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for NSLP only, SBP only, and both NSLP and SBP?
* How long have the schools operated under the provision?
* Does the district have schools eligible for CEP?
* Does the district group schools to participate in the CEP?
* What are reasons for non-participation in CEP?
 |
| **Section 5:** **Eligibility Determination and Verification** | * What technology is used for eligibility determination and verification?
* What is the relative number of children directly certified during the year compared to those directly certified at the start of the school year?
* Is direct verification used?
* Do SFAs use verification for cause?
* What are the reasons that prompt districts to verify for cause?
* How do the distribution of verification for cause outcomes compare to outcomes for other verified applications?
* Do SFAs follow-up with households that did not respond to initial requests for verification documentation?
* Does the district accept emailed copies of verification documentation?
* Do SFAs use rolling verification as applications are certified, rather than all at once in October?
* What challenges do SFAs face in matching enrolled students to household participation in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations?
 |
| **Section 6:** **Financial Management**Financial Management | * What difficulties have SFAs experienced in monitoring costs paid out of the nonprofit school food service account?
* What is the role of the business manager in making decisions that impact the nonprofit school food service account?
* What creates an inability at the SFA level to separate costs and revenue for purposes of measuring compliance with the non-program revenue requirement?
 |
| Financial Recovery of Overdue Lunch Monies | * What alternative meal policies are used for children in arrears?
* What methods are used to collect money owed as a result of unpaid school meals?
* What are the implications for non-payment?
* What was the size of non-payment, and what was the success of recovery?
 |
| **Section 7:** **Training and Professional Standards**Training | * What are the training, technical assistance, and continuing education topics, including topics such as the Food Buying Guide, Crediting, Product Formulation Statement, and Web based Menu Planner Training Module?
* What sources of training and technical assistance are used?
* How useful was the training and technical assistance?
* Do SFAs that had Team Up training have ongoing follow-up?
* Are relationships with Team Up mentors being maintained?
 |
| Professional Standards | * Who is meeting professional standards requirements?
* What hiring standards are being used?
* How are SFAs tracking annual continuing education and training requirements?
* What types of training are being taken?
* What is the popularity of certain training topics?
* Are SFAs using the FNS Professional Standards Training Tracking Tool?
* How useful is the FNS Professional Standards Training Tracking Tool?
* What barriers and challenges have SFAs experienced with documenting staff completion of continuing education and training activities, and using the FNS Professional Standards Training Tracking Tool?
 |
| **Section 8:** **Food and Beverage Marketing** | * Who is allowing or restricting food and beverage marketing in schools?
* What types of foods and beverages are marketed in schools?
* What is the role of marketing in SFA finances?
 |
| **Section 9:** **Food Service Equipment** | * What food service equipment needs replacement?
* Are SFAs using food service equipment grants?
* What equipment is being purchased with food service equipment grants?
* What is the feasibility of lower state and local thresholds on equipment purchases?
* Is the equipment purchase threshold appropriate or outdated for nature of program operations?
 |
| **Section 10:** **Meal Counting** | * What technology is used to track meals served?
* What method of counting is used in non-cafeteria points of service?
* What training and oversight is provided to cashiers on meal counting?
* What alternatives to the traditional cashier model are used?
 |
| **Section 11:** **Smarter Lunchrooms** | * What is the implementation of Smarter Lunchrooms activities?
 |
| **Section 12:** **Revenues and Expenditures**  | * What are SFA annual revenues and expenditures?
* How have annual revenues and expenditures changed over time?
 |
| **Section 13:** **SFA Director Background** | * Which hiring standards are being used?
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