**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** |
| --- | --- |
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| **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? |