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 Charter Schools	▪ 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)? ▪ 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 CACFP and SFSP	▪ 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? ▪ 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?

Issue	Question
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?