



**NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Esther Evikana
Members of the Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent *DSVadiveloo*

THROUGH: Megan Williams, Director of Finance *MW*

FROM: Michele Brown, Director of Curriculum & Instruction *MB*
MB

DATE: August 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Contract \$50K and Over –
Proximity Learning

Memo No. SB27-011
(Action Item)

NSBSD Policy Manual:

Board Policy 3312, Contracts: The Superintendent or designee may enter into contracts and memoranda of agreement (MOA's) on behalf of the District. All contracts and MOA's with a dollar value of \$50,000 or greater must be approved by the School Board.

NSBSD Strategic Plan Summary:

Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal 2: All students perform at or above grade level

Issue Summary:

Staffing shortages continue to affect the district's ability to deliver consistent, high-quality instruction. While active recruitment for yearlong teaching positions and long-term substitutes has been ongoing, several school sites have been unable to fill vacancies or have experienced both planned and unplanned staff outages. This level of understaffing presents a significant challenge to providing NSBSD students with the consistent, high-quality instruction they deserve. The district is recommending continued contracting with Proximity Learning, which provides remote licensed, professional teaching staff for periods longer than 1 month to fill gaps within buildings, or to provide access to course content where no qualified staff exists.

Background:

During the 2025-26 school year, the district partnered with Proximity Learning to provide remote certificated teaching services. This partnership was highly successful, with instruction remaining at a high level of quality and no gaps in learning across various content areas. The company was consistently responsive to the needs of the district, staff, and students throughout the year.

As the district continues working toward high-quality, consistent instruction for all students, existing capacity through Curriculum & Instruction staff, building paraprofessionals, and available substitute teachers has not been sufficient to meet instructional demands. Multiple certificated vacancies, combined with unanticipated absences due to illness, injury, and attrition, have left several classrooms without a certificated teacher during the school year.





To address this challenge, the district proposes to continue utilizing remote teaching solutions that provide access to certificated teachers while maintaining an in-person support presence through a paraprofessional or other district employee. Remote substitute teachers utilize district curriculum, follow established behavioral expectations, and operate fully within district systems. They receive specialized training in remote instruction and are supported through regular observation and feedback. This approach offers the best of both worlds: qualified, certificated instruction combined with consistent on-site support for students.

Length of Contract:

The contract runs for the duration of the 26-27 School Year.

Funding Source and Contract Amount:

Account Code: 100.200.350.000.410

Initial Contract Amount: \$49,841.82

Supplemental Contract Amount: \$121,499.91

Total Contract Amount: \$171,341.73

Available Budget:

\$430,000

Compliance with BP 3311.

Proximity Learning has served as a vendor for our district for the past year, with a strong track record of success in rural Alaska schools. This is a known vendor.

Recommendation:

The recommendation is to use Proximity Learning to provide remote virtual subs for the 26-27 School Year.

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$50,000 and greater proposal and related contract for Proximity Learning, in the amount of \$171, 341.73 as described in this memo and related attachments.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____

Signature: *DS Vadiveloo*

Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: *Mexed*

Email: megan.williams@nsbsd.org

Signature: *Michele Brown*
Michele Brown (Aug 18, 2026 16:25:39 AKDT)

Email: michele.brown@nsbsd.org

