NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Madeline Hickman, President
Members of the Board

THROUGH: Dr. Caitlin Santos, Superintendent

THROUGH: Megan Williams, Director of Finance

FROM: Qaġġuna Tenna D. Pili, Director of Iñupiaq Education

Tennessee Judkins

DATE: October 28, 2026

SUBJECT: **Contract Under $50K – Language Fluency Now!**

Memo No. SB27-068
(Informational Item)

NSBSD Policy Manual:

BP 3311, Bids: The district shall purchase….services on a competitive bidding basis when required by law and whenever it appears to be in the best interest of the district to do so. All bids under federal awards must be made in accordance with the standards set forth in 2 CFR 200.320.

BP 3312, Contracts: The Superintendent or designee may enter into contracts and memoranda of agreement on behalf of the district. All contracts and memorandums of agreement with a dollar value of $50,000 or greater must be approved by the School Board.

NSBSD Strategic Plan Summary:

Family & Community Collaboration

Goal 1: Prioritize and implement intentional and purposeful partnerships.

Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal 4: Graduate bilingual students

Staff Support & Professional Development

Goal 6: Build and sustain a thriving workforce aligned with the mission of this District

Issue Summary:

The NSBSD Iñupiaq Education Department seeks to contract with Indigenous Fluency Now! to provide specialized training, technical assistance, and curriculum development support for the implementation of the Indigenous Language Fluency Transfer System (ILFTS) in Iñupiaq. This partnership will support the Iñupiaq Education Department's ongoing language revitalization efforts by strengthening the development of structured immersion-based instructional resources and building the capacity of Iñupiaq language educators.

Under this contract, Indigenous Fluency Now! will provide remote coaching and technical guidance to support the development of Iñupiaq ILFTS Level 1 and Level 2 instructional materials, including language modules, stories, lesson scripts, recordings, teaching resources, and a customized Language Delivery Manual. Services will also include training and guidance for educators to deliver Level 1 Language and Stories modules through full-immersion instruction, along with the development of a roadmap for expanding the ILFTS approach to additional levels of Iñupiaq language learning.

Background:

The Iñupiaq Education Department continues to strengthen its language revitalization initiatives by expanding opportunities for immersive language learning and developing instructional resources that support increased Iñupiaq proficiency and fluency. A critical component of this work is building the capacity of language educators to deliver structured, effective immersion instruction while developing culturally and linguistically appropriate materials that can be used consistently across learning environments.

Indigenous Fluency Now! offers the Indigenous Language Fluency Transfer System (ILFTS), an instructional approach designed to support language acquisition through structured immersion and progressive language development. Through this partnership, the District will begin adapting ILFTS materials for Iñupiaq, with an emphasis on developing foundational language and story-based instructional modules, preparing educators to deliver immersive lessons, and establishing a framework for continued curriculum expansion. This work will support the District's long-term goal of strengthening Iñupiaq language instruction and increasing the number of proficient speakers and educators.

Length of Contract:

September 21, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Funding Source and Contract Amount:

This contract would come out of the Iñupiaq Education Department Professional & Technical budget, funded by a partnership NPR-A Grant through NSB Iñupiat History, Language, and Culture department.
Account Code: 381.200.120.000.410, not to exceed $10,000.00

Available Budget:

Account Code: 381.200.120.000.410

Compliance with BP 3311.

This contract is for specialized professional and educational consulting services focused on Indigenous language immersion instruction, curriculum development, and educator training. Indigenous Fluency Now! provides technical expertise and instructional resources through its Indigenous Language Fluency Transfer System (ILFTS), which will be adapted to support the development and delivery of Iñupiaq language instruction.

The proposed services require specialized knowledge of the ILFTS instructional framework, including the development of language and story-based immersion materials, educator coaching, and the preparation of instructional resources to support consistent language delivery. The partnership will provide NSBSD with access to the training, materials, and technical guidance necessary to begin implementing this structured immersion approach.

BP 3311, Exemption #3, exempts professional or consultant services, including educational services, from formal purchasing procedures. This contract qualifies for the exemption based on the specialized professional development, curriculum consultation, and educational training services being provided.

Signature: Caitlin Santos (Nov 3, 2026 10:39:14 AKST)

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