



NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Roxanne Brower, Board President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: Stewart McDonald, Superintendent

FROM: Kathy Ahgeak, Interim Director of Teaching and Learning
Liz Noble, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

DATE: March 7, 2019

SUBJECT: Grade 6-12 Language Arts Materials

MEMO#: SB19-144
(Informational Item)

NSBSD Strategic Plan Goal:

1.0 ACADEMIC SUCCESS/WHOLE CHILD: All students will reach their intellectual potential and achieve academic success through integrating Iñupiaq knowledge systems into the core content areas and focusing on the development of the Whole Child.

Recommendation:

The Curriculum Committee recommends Pearson “myPerspectives” Language Arts (LA) resource for grades 6-12 as a pilot for School Year 2019-2020. Two teachers, one village teacher and one teacher from Utqiagvik, will pilot “myPerspectives” LA resources to determine the level of student engagement and academic success.

Issue Summary:

Pearson “myPerspectives” is a brand new English language arts materials for Grades 6–12 that values the perspective of the learner, collectively and individually, and provides next-gen learning experiences that promote higher achievement and develop the competencies needed for college and career readiness. Interactive learning blends print and technology in a student-centered, teacher-inspired classroom. This dynamic Pearson program creates an interactive, engaging, and relevant learning environment through readings, meaningful activities, and purposeful performance tasks. *myPerspectives* encourages social collaboration as well as student ownership of learning through goal setting, choice, and reflection.

Knowing and using skills are an integral part of *myPerspectives*. The program is backward design from standards-based learning outcomes. All activities, instruction, and assessments contribute to students demonstrating their learning in response to an achievable performance-based assessment. Students integrate the knowledge they acquired, apply critical thinking skills, cite evidence, and use effective expression to respond to complex multi-step writing and or speaking and listening task.

During the Language Arts Sub-Committee review the findings indicate an opportunity and ability to utilize Iñupiaq resources for instruction. The sub-committee is working to develop a supplemental resources and curriculum list to complement the *myPerspectives* materials and ensure our LA programs rigorously aligns with the ILF.

Background:

As per BP 6161.1 Selection and Evaluation of Instructional Materials the Language Arts Sub-Committee through the Curriculum Committee presents research documentation to support the Pearson “myPerspective” Language Arts pilot for SY 19-20. The recommendation also supports AR 6141 with reference to the Adoption Cycle.

Intent of the Pilot program is to determine student engagement and alignment with district initiatives such as the Inupiaq Learning Framework

Results from the Pilot program will be presented as Impact Data during the March 2020 school board meeting to identify student engagement and success with above noted materials.