



## NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT M E M O R A N D U M

**TO:** Robyn Burke, President  
Members of the School Board

**THROUGH:** David Vidiveloo, Chief School Administrator *DV*  
DV

**THROUGH:** MJ Geiser, Assistant Superintendent *MJG*  
MJG

**FROM:** Lori Roth, Director Student Services *LR*  
LR

**DATE:** November 4, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Contracts over \$10,000 -  
**TeleTalk Therapy, LLC**

**Memo No:** SB23-070  
**(Action Item)**

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### NSBSD Strategic Plan Goals:

1.0 Student Success: 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.

4.0 Financial & Operational Stewardship: Effectively employ our operational and financial resources to support our strategic goals and long-term stability of the district.

4.2 Financial Stewardship: Ensure financial management based on what is best for our students.

### NSBSD Policy Manual:

BP 3312, Contracts: The Superintendent of 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 \$10,000 or greater must be approved by the School Board.

### Issue Summary:

NSBSD has seen an increase in speech and language referrals over the last 2 years. For the 2022-2023 school year, a third speech language therapist was added to meet NSBSD needs. According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), providing early intervention support for language development may decrease the need for special education services in later grades. They continue to say, the earlier services are delivered, the more likely children are to develop effective communication, language, and swallowing skills and achieve successful learning outcomes (Guralnick, 2011). If a child is 3 to 5 years old and has not attended pre-school or started kindergarten [or has poor/chronic attendance issues], they may have problems following directions or understanding questions, trouble learning new words, trouble saying sentences, and may have trouble saying [letter] sounds clearly. Learning a second language does not cause a language problem.

At present, the North Slope Borough School District does not have an early intervention language development /enrichment program in our ECE classrooms facilitated by SLP. This MOA will fund up to 7 lessons per week: Ipalook Elementary School (3 hours/week), Kali School (45 min/week), Nuiqsut Trapper School (1 hour/week), Tikigak School (1 hour/week), Alak School (45 min/week), and Harold Kaveolook School (45 min/week). TeleTalk will provide weekly language lessons, weekly carryover activities, lesson preparation, collaboration with classroom teachers, screenings, quarterly progress notes, and year end feedback on student and staff progress.

**Background:**

According to ASHA, speech is defined as articulation, voice, fluency. Language is defined as what words mean, how to make new words, how to put words together, and what we should say at different times. Currently, NSBSD has 118 students ECE through grade 12 receiving speech language services.

Table 1

| Site                      | # Students | Site                   | # Students |
|---------------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
| Ałak School               | 13         | Hopson Middle School   | 7          |
| Barrow High School        | 6          | Meade River School     | 3          |
| Harold Kaveolook School   | 5          | Nuiqsut Trapper School | 8          |
| Ipalook Elementary School | 44         | Nunamiut School        | 8          |
| Kali School               | 5          | Tikiġaq School         | 19         |
| Kiita Learning Community  | 0          |                        |            |

Table 2 represents the increase in students across NSBSD qualifying for speech/language services.

| Date  | Therapist<br>1 | Sites   | Therapist<br>2 | Sites   | Therapist<br>3 | Sites                      |
|-------|----------------|---|----------------|---|----------------|----------------------------|
| 7/21  | 48             | Fred Ipalook,<br>Hopson Middle,<br>Barrow High,<br>Ałak, Meade<br>River | 42             | Tikiġaq, Nuiqsut<br>Trapper, Harold<br>Kaveolook,<br>Nunamiut, Kali | NA             |                            |
| 10/22 | 59             | Fred Ipalook,<br>Hopson Middle,<br>Barrow High                          | 42             | Tikiġaq, Nuiqsut<br>Trapper, Harold<br>Kaveolook,<br>Nunamiut       | 21             | Ałak, Kali,<br>Meade River |

According to ASHA, early intervention is different for each child and family depending on the child's needs and the family's priorities. The most important step is to start early. TeleTalk will provide speech/language enrichment programs and professional development to NSBSD ECE 3 and 4 staff to support early language development. TeleTalk will provide remote support and services with ECE teachers to support parents, students, and staff with the implementation of language enrichment activities. These activities will be done in large and small groups set up by pre-screening information.

TeleTalk activities and professional development are based on the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines: [https://link.edgepilot.com/s/cfcfb065/qFs3XWupMkCmMz\\_ELeehGA?u=https://www.alaskaedg.org/domain-5-communication-language-and-literacy-36-60-months/](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/cfcfb065/qFs3XWupMkCmMz_ELeehGA?u=https://www.alaskaedg.org/domain-5-communication-language-and-literacy-36-60-months/)

**Length of Contract:**

This MOA will be valid November 28, 2022 through May 12, 2023.

**Funding Source and Contract Amount:**

This MOA is funded through the Title VI-B Special Education grant and Title VI-B American Recovery Act grant funds. This MOA will fund up to 7 lessons per week and may not to exceed **\$23,400.00**.

No NSBSD employee benefits, travel, or housing costs are associated with this MOA.

**Grand Funding:**

This MOA is totally funded through the Title VI-B Special Education grant (285. 200.220.000.410) and the Title VI-B American Recovery Act funds (286. 200.220.000.410)

**Available Budget:**

Tile VI-B American Recovery Act funds (286. 200.220.000.410) has \$20,000.00 budgeted and approved for this project.

Title VI-B Special Education grant (285. 200.220.000.410) has \$20,000.00 budgeted and approved for this project. A budget revision will be done due to an over-budgeting of funds.

**Compliance with BP 3311:**

TeleTalk Therapy, LLC is an established speech/language service provider in the State of Alaska. The founders of TeleTalk therapy worked for the Southeast Regional Resource Center providing speech services throughout Alaska. In addition, TeleTalk therapy, LLC has been successfully implementing this Early Childhood Intervention program in rural remote school district across Alaska. TeleTalk therapy, LLC has staff available and will begin setting up the program upon approval of this MOA. TeleTalk SLP's will schedule, implement, and evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention with minimal support from NSBSD.

Southeast Regional Resource Center (SERRC) is located in Juneau, Alaska. It is an established related service provider across Alaska. As of this memo, a bid was received with no implementation plan, plan for follow-up activities, plan for staff professional development, or plan for assessing student/staff progress. Due to a lack of information, SERRC will not be considered for this project at this time.

**Proposed Motion:**

"I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$10,000 and greater proposal for TeleTalk Therapy, LLC, in the amount not to exceed \$23,400, as described in this memo and attachments."

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

Vote \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: David Vadiveloo  
David Vadiveloo (Nov 11, 2022 19:37 AKST)

Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: Mary Jane Geiser  
Mary Jane Geiser (Nov 11, 2022 07:55 AKST)

Email: maryjane.geiser@nsbsd.org

Signature: Lori Roth  
Lori Roth (Nov 11, 2022 07:32 AKST)

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