



NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM

TO: Robyn Burke, President
Members of the Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent DsV

FROM: Caitlin Santos, Director of Curriculum & Instruction CS

DATE: August 14, 2024

**SUBJECT: Contracts \$10,000 and Over -
Education Northwest**

Memo No: SB25-012
(Information Item)

2020-2025 NSBSD STRATEGIC PLAN

3.0 Staff Success: Strengthen the recruitment and retention of highly effective staff and inspire more Inupiaq teachers and administrators.

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

NSBSD Policy Manual:

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.

Issue Summary:

As we work to implement the district pedagogy, specifically the Culturally Responsive Instruction Domain, outside support is needed. We have engaged with Education Northwest to provide Year-long Professional Development to our teaching staff, building principals, and instructional coaches.

For this specific project, EDNW will develop and facilitate two 2.5-hour virtual professional development sessions focusing on culturally responsive practices. Each session will be facilitated by EDNW content experts with activities for participants to explore between sessions. Per NSBSD request, the second session will be conducted twice, with participants split in half. Mikkaka Overstreet EDNW will schedule a one-hour planning meeting with Caitlin Santos for each professional development session to ensure that content is aligned and supports current practices in place. NSBSD will provide final approval on all materials developed. EDNW will host the virtual training sessions using Zoom providing a Zoom invitation to share with appropriate staff. All training materials including slide deck, facilitator guide, and recorded webinar will be shared as a reference.

In addition, EDNW will facilitate five one-hour Professional Learning Community sessions, two for instructional coaches and three for teachers utilizing the Zoom platform. Well-developed PLCs lead to a more student-centered focus, improved school culture, and positive impacts on student achievement (Stewart, 2014; Vescio, 2008). PLCs will be planned and scheduled with district staff between the core professional learning sessions. The timing of PLCs is critical in allowing teams the opportunity to implement strategies introduced in the professional development sessions. This will allow participants time and space to discuss practical applications and how to address potential challenges. PLCs are opportunities to apply new learning to unique contexts and address problems of





practice engaging in facilitated conversations about how to assess needs and monitor implementation over time. Behavioral change, skills development, and systems transformation rarely occur by just reading a manual or attending a single training session. Instead, sustainable change occurs through learning opportunities that are experiential, relevant, and ongoing. Professional Learning Communities not only scale the reach of learning but also create archives and resources that schools and districts can use without the cost and resource allocations needed to reproduce the experiences wholesale.

Background:

Education Northwest is a nonprofit organization based in Portland, Oregon, with a mission to use evidence to help partners solve educational challenges and improve learning. For more than 55 years, they have worked side by side with educators, policymakers, families, community and organizational leaders, and students to improve education and build stronger communities. Equity is at the heart of their work and are committed to helping identify and adopt practices that prioritize equity, inclusivity, and responsiveness. Their highly capable staff members have diverse perspectives, cultural identities, and professional backgrounds, and they bring a wide range of technical capabilities and content expertise to their work.

Education Northwest commits to taking a collaborative approach to every project. Their services are inclusive and timely, respect different perspectives, and center actionable and relevant information. Before beginning any work, they create explicit plans and timelines that meet our specific needs and are realistic.

Education Northwest has a long history of working with and within Alaska schools, as well as throughout the Pacific Northwest. Last year, we engaged with them (specifically Catherine Barbour, and Dr. Mikkaka Overstreet) to provide a series of sessions for the Instructional team to develop an effective coaching model for our specific context.

Length of Contract:

The contract runs from September 2024 to June 2025.

Funding Source and Purchase/Contract Amount:

Account code: 272.200.350.000.410 Title II funding in the amount of \$17,717.50

Account code: 100.200.350.000.410 in the amount of \$30,481.50

Amount of Contract: \$48,199

Grant Funding:

This contract is funded through existing Title monies and does not require a specific grant application. Funding was allocated through strict coordination with the Business Office.

Compliance with BP 3311.

Education Northwest should be considered sole source for the type of work in this contract. Their existing relationship with the district, as well as background in both the Culturally Responsive Instruction space, and Alaska in general make them the only vendor appropriate to the work.

Signature: DS Vadiveloo
DS Vadiveloo (Aug 19, 2024 13:50 AKDT)

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Signature: Caitlin Santos
Caitlin Santos (Aug 19, 2024 13:04 AKDT)

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