



NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Roxanne Brower, President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: Kathy Ahgeak, Superintendent

THROUGH: Ronnie Stanford, Assistant Superintendent

FROM: Liz Noble, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

DATE: February 13, 2020

SUBJECT: Language Arts Material Adoption
Grades 6-12

MEMO#: SB120-170
Action Item

NSBSD Strategic Plan Goal:

1. Academic Success/Whole Child: All students will reach their intellectual potential and achieve academic success through integrating Inupiaq knowledge systems into the core content areas and focusing on the development of the Whole Child.

Issue Summary:

Language Arts Sub-Committee recommends *myPerspectives*, Pearson, for grades 6-12. Recommendation is based on survey responses and Sub-Committee research, pilot, and input.

Three sites, Hopson Middle School, Barrow High School, and Harold Kaveolook School participated in the *myPerspectives* pilot this year.

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 the acquired, apply critical thinking skills,

cite evidence, and use effective expression to respond to complex multi-step writing and or speaking and listening task.

Background:

School Board Policy 6161.1 Curriculum Development and Evaluation Adoption Cycle was updated and approved by the School Board September 2017, which indicates the Language Arts research cycle would begin 2018. Research for Language Arts materials/resources was completed in the Spring of 2019 by the Language Arts-Subcommittee to determine pilot materials for 2019-2020.

Sites piloting *myPerspectives* distributed surveys and compiled results during the 2019-2020 school year. Surveys were also available on NSBSD website, and at Central Office for public review and input. The 17 responses from students and teachers identified the following as strengths of the *myPerspectives* curricular materials:

- Identifying major concepts
- Appropriate pre-assessments to check for prior understanding and readiness to learn
- Reality based portrayal of culture
- Historical/Cultural accuracy
- Encouraging diversity

A teacher reported strength of the *myPerspectives* materials was the ease with which outside materials could be used to supplement student learning. The broad general themes allowed for the integration of the Mapkuq units into the courses. Instructors piloting the *myPerspective* materials also noted that they appreciated the flexibility that allowed for the use of supplemental writing materials and novels with the units of instruction.

Student engagement was analyzed through formative assessments and NWEA-MAP comparison data from Winter 2020. Comparison data provides evidence of both student engagement and increased growth with students in the *myPerspectives* pilot materials classroom demonstrating more growth when compared to students as similarly sized schools not using the pilot materials.

Synopsis of Language Arts Pilot Materials was submitted to the Curriculum Committee for final review and recommendation to the school board.

Motion:

I move the NSBSD Board of Education adopt MyPerspectives, Pearson, Language Arts materials as a core resource for grades 6-12.

Motion by _____ Seconded by _____

Advisory Vote _____ Vote _____