



**NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** John Hopson Jr., President  
Members of the Board

**THROUGH:** David Vadiveloo, Superintendent *DSVadiveloo*

**FROM:** Caitlin Santos, Director of Curriculum & Instruction 

**DATE:** August 11, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Purchases over 50K – SAVVAS Learning

**Memo No. SB26-003**  
(Informational Item)

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**NSBSD Policy Manual:**

BP 3300 Expenditures/Expending Authority: The Superintendent or designee may purchase supplies, materials, and equipment in accordance with the law. The Superintendent or designee shall not authorize any proposed expenditure that exceeds the major budget classification allowance against which the expenditure is the proper charge unless an amount sufficient to cover the purchase is available in the budget for transfer.

BP 3310, Purchasing Procedures: The School Board desires to ensure that maximum value is received for money spent by the district and that records are kept in accordance with the law. The Superintendent or designee may issue and sign purchase orders.

Board Policy 3311, Bids: The district shall purchase....equipment & supplies 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.

**NSBSD Strategic Plan Summary:**

Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal 2: All students perform at or above grade level

**Issue Summary:**

In order to provide a rich and hands-on learning experience for students, the district purchased lab kits to supplement middle and high school core curricular materials. Lab kits are needed for each site, one per course taught, with the availability to refill consumables on a yearly basis, dependent on need.

**Background:**

SAVVAS Learning is the science curricular core resource. While the courses can be taught without accompanying labs, this does not match the hands-on learning approach. The cost outlay for the kits is significant and will last throughout the lifetime of the adoption. Each comes with one refill kit, which will add 2 years to the life of the kit. Kits range in cost from \$5,000 - \$9,000 depending on subject.

**Funding Source:**

These kits are funded from the general fund, as part of the Curriculum & Instruction budget, and in strict coordination with the business office in the amount of \$204,686.31.

**Compliance with BP 3311.**

Per Exemption C, of BP 3311, these contracts are exempt from the bidding process, and kits must be purchased that align to the core resource. Unlike textbooks, the kits are not available from other vendors, and purchasing equipment separately is not compatible with present capacity.

**Signature:** *DS Vadiveloo*

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Caitlin Santos (Aug 12, 2025 16:56:43 AKDT)

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