



NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM

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

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent Dsv

FROM: Reginald Santos, Director of Information Technology RS

DATE: November 14, 2024

**SUBJECT: Purchase \$50K and Over -
ThreatDown Subscription**

Memo No. SB25-092
(Informational Item)

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 3311, Bids: All purchases in the amount of \$20,000 or more shall be based, when possible, on three competitive bids. The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures to ensure that formal advertised bids are solicited for purchases over \$50,000.

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.

BP 3440, Inventories: The Superintendent or designee shall provide for the proper control and conservation of district property.

NSBSD Strategic Plan Summary:

Financial & Operational Stewardship

7.0: Standardize high-functioning, efficient, student-focused operations.

Issue Summary:

The North Slope Borough School District (NSBSD) seeks approval for a grant-funded purchase to upgrade our ThreatDown (formerly Malwarebytes) subscription from a Basic Core Bundle to an Elite Bundle. This upgrade, funded through the 2023 State of Alaska State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP), will be procured as a sole-source pre-bid purchase through OMNIA Partners due to its nature as an upgrade to the existing ThreatDown Core Bundle subscription.

Importance of Upgrade and Added Benefits:

The Elite Bundle upgrade will significantly improve NSBSD's cybersecurity posture with round-the-clock monitoring, expert analysis, and response capabilities. This improvement is vital in safeguarding district operations against advanced threats, optimizing IT resources, and enhancing overall cybersecurity preparedness, especially for a small IT team in a remote region.



Background:

NSBSD currently uses the ThreatDown Core Bundle for essential cybersecurity functions. While effective for basic protection, the evolving cyber threat landscape demands more advanced tools. The Elite Bundle upgrade offers critical enhancements, including Managed Detection and Response (MDR) and Ransomware Rollback, delivering 24/7 expert monitoring and threat response. These features are essential for NSBSD, which faces increasing cyber threats without adequate in-house cybersecurity resources.

Funding Explanation:

While the total cost of the ThreatDown Elite Bundle upgrade is \$114,499.40, the grant funding received is less than this full amount. The State of Alaska determined that since this is an upgrade to our existing subscription, currently \$29,042.35, the district is responsible for covering the cost of the regular Core Bundle subscription, while the grant will fund only the additional cost of upgrading to the Elite Bundle.

Funding Sources and Contract Amount:

The purchase amount for the ThreatDown Elite Bundle is \$114,499.40. The State of Alaska Grant Award is allocating \$85,457 for the cybersecurity equipment upgrade. The remaining cost of \$29,042.40 will be paid out of the Information Technology Other Purchased Services account code 290.200.355.000.440.

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|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| ThreatDown Elite Bundle | Total Cost | \$114,499.40 |
| | Grant Funding | \$85,457 |
| | General Fund | \$29,042.40 |

Grant Funds:

Please see the attached grant award.

Compliance with BP 3311:

This purchase is designated as a sole-source procurement because it is an upgrade to our existing ThreatDown subscription. This approach aligns with the NSBSD's 2023 SLCGP grant application, where we specified the need to enhance our current subscription with the Elite Bundle.

Proposed Motion:

"I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the purchase of the ThreatDown Elite Bundle subscription upgrade, as specified in the attached SHI quote for \$114,499.40, and memo no. SB25-092."

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Advisory Vote _____ Vote _____

Signature: DS Vadiveloo
DS Vadiveloo (Nov 19, 2024 09:23 AKST)
Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: Reginald Santos
Reginald Santos (Nov 18, 2024 21:49 AKST)
Email: reginald.santos@nsbsd.org

