



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 Vadiveloo, Chief School Administrator *DSV*
DSV

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

DATE: March 23, 2023

SUBJECT: Grant Acceptance - **Memo No: SB23-156**
English Language Arts (ELA) Core Curriculum Initiative **(Action Item)**

NSBSD Strategic Plan:

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:

Board Policy 3290, Gifts, Grants and Bequests: The School Board greatly appreciates the support of community members and may accept suitable donations on behalf of the district. In order for the gift to be acceptable, the gift, grant or donation must satisfy the criteria 1 through 7. Upon acceptance by the district, all gifts, grants, and bequests shall become district property. At the Superintendent or designee's discretion, a gift may be used at a particular school.

Issue Summary:

As part of the Alaska Reads Act, the State offered districts funding to take part in a core curriculum initiative supporting curricular materials in reading for grades K-5. The district applied for the funding, was awarded the funding, and has been taking part in extended trainings surrounding literacy in the primary grades, selection of appropriate curricular materials, and ensuring implementation and training are both appropriate to the teaching force, and materials are culturally appropriate for student populations.

Length of Grant:

The grant is a lump sum, and will support purchase of curricular materials, attendance at in person and remote trainings through the rest of the 22-23 school year and into SY23-24.

Funding Source and Grant Award Amount:

The funding source is the State of Alaska. The preliminary grant amount is \$249,303.80. This is split between travel costs at \$25,000, and materials/ training costs at \$224,313.80. The grant award amount may increase dependent on whether or not other districts take part through completion.

Background:

The NSBSD Curriculum Committee piloted a new reading curriculum during SY22-23 called "Into Reading." The pilot was relatively small scale due to turnover and other factors. However, it was determined that this set of curricular materials was not the best fit for our students or teaching staff. Concurrently, the State of Alaska announced the above mentioned grant initiative. A determination

was made to apply for the state funding and go through their curricular review process with the hopes of identifying a better fitting set of materials for both teachers and students in the district. Through the review process, and meeting with educators throughout the district, we have identified Amplify CKLA, and will be using the state funding to do a full-scale pilot of CKLA in grades K-5. This is also fortunate timing in terms of creating curricular coherence in support of COVID learning recovery.

It is anticipated that the state funding will fully cover the cost of the pilot and will not require use of district funds. We will also have the opportunity to have thorough training for all staff provided by the vendor, covered through grant funds.

Dependent upon the outcome of the pilot, Curriculum & Instruction will either go through the board adoption process or seek out another set of materials in SY23-24.

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the ELA Core Curriculum Initiative grant funded through the State of Alaska in the amount of \$249,303.80.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Advisory Vote _____ Vote _____

Signature: *Ds Vadiveloo*
Ds Vadiveloo (Apr 2, 2023 12:46 AKDT)

Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: *Caitlin Santos*
Caitlin Santos (Apr 1, 2023 18:31 PDT)

Email: Caitlin.Santos@nsbsd.org