



**NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Esther Evikana. President
Members of the School Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent *DSVadiveloo*

THROUGH: Dr. Caitlin Santos, Assistant Superintendent

THROUGH: Megan Williams, Director of Finance *MM*

FROM: Qagğuna Tenna Pili, Director of Iñupiaq Education

Tennessee Judkins
Tennessee Judkins

DATE: September 15, 2026

**SUBJECT: Contract over \$50,000
Sprig Learning**

**Memo No: SB27-033
(Action Item)**

NSBSD Policy Manual:

BP 3311, Bids: The district shall purchase equipment, supplies and services 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.

BP 3312, Contracts: The Superintendent or designee may enter into contracts and memoranda of agreement (MOA's) on behalf of the district. All contracts and MOA's for professional services with a dollar value of \$50,000 or greater must be approved by the School Board.

NSBSD Strategic Plan Summary:

Culturally Responsive Instruction

Goal 2: All students perform at or above grade level

Goal 4: Graduate bilingual students

Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

Goal 5: Facilitate & maintain culturally, emotionally, & physically safe learning environments

Issue Summary:

The Iñupiaq Education Department is requesting approval to contract with Sprig Learning during the 2026–2027 school year to support the production and publication of the NSBSD K–3 Iñupiaq Early Reader Series.

Under the proposed contract, Sprig Learning will provide professional illustration, design, formatting, production, printing, digital development, and project management services. The scope of work includes the design and illustration of 30 bilingual Iñupiaq/English storybooks, 32 English informational texts, and the design and production of four English teacher guides supporting the Kindergarten through Grade 3 book sets.

Sprig Learning will also support the printing of classroom sets for district-wide distribution. In coordination with Catherine Noland (Cathy Tagnak Rexford), Sprig Learning will provide project management services, including establishing project schedules and milestones, coordinating with community representatives and the Early Reader project team, managing quality assurance reviews, tracking resources and budgets, and preparing progress reports.



The proposed contract also includes work to input 30 interactive bilingual Iñupiaq/English storybooks to the Sprig Library iOS application. This work includes recording audio with local voice talent, editing and producing digital content, uploading completed resources to the application, and incorporating interactive animations and sounds from the community.

The Sprig Learning contract will complement the work being completed under the FY27 contracts with Ms. Noland and Jon Davis. Together, the contracts provide the editorial, cultural continuity, illustration, design, production, project management, and digital development services needed to move the K–3 Early Reader Series through final production and publication.

Background:

The NSBSD K–3 Iñupiaq Early Reader Series was developed to provide high-quality, place-based literacy materials that reflect the culture, language, experiences, and communities of NSBSD students. The series includes fiction and informational texts for Kindergarten through Grade 3 and supports early literacy development through materials grounded in Iñupiaq culture, language, people, and place.

The project has progressed from manuscript development into the final stages of illustration, design, production, and publication. North Slope Borough Mayor Josiah Patkotak has approved a Mayoral Funding Allocation for this fiscal year to support the final stages of production and publication of the Early Reader Series.

Sprig Learning’s proposed services will support this phase by moving the completed manuscripts through professional illustration, design, formatting, production, printing, and digital development. Classroom sets will be produced for district-wide distribution.

The proposed digital component will provide an additional way for students and educators to access the Early Reader Series. The interactive bilingual storybooks will include recorded local voices and provide students with opportunities to hear and engage with Iñupiaq and English as they use the materials.

Length of Contract:

The length of the contract would be September 23, 2026 through December 30, 2027.

Funding Source and Purchase/Contract Amount:

This contract would come out of the Iñupiaq Education Department Professional & Technical budget, funded by the NSB Mayor’s Initiative through a Memorandum of Agreement. Account Code: pending fully executed MOA, in the amount of and not to exceed \$257,000.00.

Available Budget:

Account Code: pending fully executed MOA.

Compliance with BP 3311.

The administration requests that the competitive procurement requirements of BP 3311 be waived for this contract pursuant to the District’s applicable procurement requirements and 2 CFR § 200.320(c)(2), which permits noncompetitive procurement when the procurement transaction can only be fulfilled by a single source.





The Iñupiaq Education Department has evaluated options for completing the final production and publication of the K–3 Iñupiaq Early Reader Series. The project requires coordinated illustration, design, formatting, production, printing, digital development, and project management across the complete K–3 collection.

Sprig Learning has the capacity and specialized experience to provide the required services under a single coordinated scope of work, including production of the print materials and development of the interactive bilingual digital resources. Based on the District’s review of available options, no other source has been identified that can fulfill the complete scope of the procurement as required.

For these reasons, the administration requests approval of Sprig Learning as a noncompetitive procurement under 2 CFR § 200.320(c)(2) and a waiver of the applicable competitive procurement requirements of BP 3311.

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$50,000 and greater proposal and related contract with Sprig Learning, as described in this memo and related attachments. Contract issuance is contingent upon receipt of a fully executed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the allocated funding from the North Slope Borough Mayor’s Office.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Adivsory Vote _____ Vote _____

Signature: *DS Vadiveloo*

Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: *Mayed*

Email: megan.williams@nsbsd.org

Signature: *Tennessee Judkins*
Tennessee Judkins (Sep 18, 2026 09:05:43 AKDT)

Email: tennessee.judkins@nsbsd.org

