

Catherine Noland	tagnak@gmail.com
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Writer & Consultant Contract

North Slope Borough School District

SY 2026-2027

NSBSD & Catherine Noland (Cathy Tagnak Rexford)

Contract Details 2026-27

(September 23, 2026 – June 30, 2027) Contract to include up to 90 Contract Days at \$531.78/day and 110 Contract Days at \$550. This contract will not exceed \$108,361

Catherine Noland (Contractor) Duties will include:

- Creating a work plan to meet deadlines as set forth in the NSBSD Master Timeline for the writing, production, pilot testing, and publishing stages of the K-3 *Early Reader Series*;
- Administering timely communication, feedback, and necessary permissions to move forward with the project phases as set forth in the agreed upon Early Reader Series (ERS) Master Timeline.
- Refining, writing, and editing of (up to) 12 Kindergarten-level informational texts, 12 First-grade informational texts, and 18 Second-grade informational texts in coordination with NSBSD IED;
- Coordinating, collaborating, and final-stage copyediting in the production and publishing stages of (up to) 9 Third-grade fiction manuscripts, 6 Kindergarten-level fiction manuscripts, 6 First-grade fiction manuscripts and 9 Second-grade fiction manuscripts for the *Early Reader Series*;
- Creating and facilitating a process for Cultural Continuity Checks and Approvals for the Early Reader Team as manuscripts advance with illustrations, design and publishing. These checks and approvals are critical to promote authenticity and accuracy of Iñupiaq culture, language, and peoples within the project and;
- Providing consulting and project management services for the Iñupiaq Education Department on as-needed basis for requests including but not limited to coordinating with NSBSD IED and contractors (editors, designers, illustrators, translators, publishers, and curriculum specialists) to ensure timelines are fulfilled as set forth by the NSBSD. Such requests and responsibilities will be accepted on an as-needed basis for up to 55% of this contract, not to exceed 121 days.

NSBSD (Client) Duties will include:

- Delivering an Early Reader Series (ERS) Master Timeline for all contractors on the Early Readers Team;
- Securing contracts for the Early Readers Team to include, but not limited to: Iñupiaq Language Expert(s), Curriculum Specialist(s), Editor, Printer, Publisher, Designer, and Illustrator(s) for *Early Reader Series*;
- Facilitating technical support as needed, such as a zoom license to host team meetings, secure digital file storage; access and/or permissions to any platforms the manuscripts may be housed and;
- Administering timely communication, feedback, and necessary permissions to move forward with the project phases as set forth in the agreed upon Master Timeline.*

*CONTRACTOR CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COST OVERRUNS OR PROJECT DELAYS CAUSED BY CLIENT'S FAILURE TO DELIVER MATERIALS BY AGREED-UPON DATES.

NSBSD & Catherine Noland (Cathy Tagnak Rexford)

Project Description Details 2026-27

EARLY READER SERIES PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The NSBSD, via the Inupiat Education Department, is working with Cathy Tagnak Rexford (MFA, Creative Writing) to create a Placed-Based K-3 Early Reader Series.

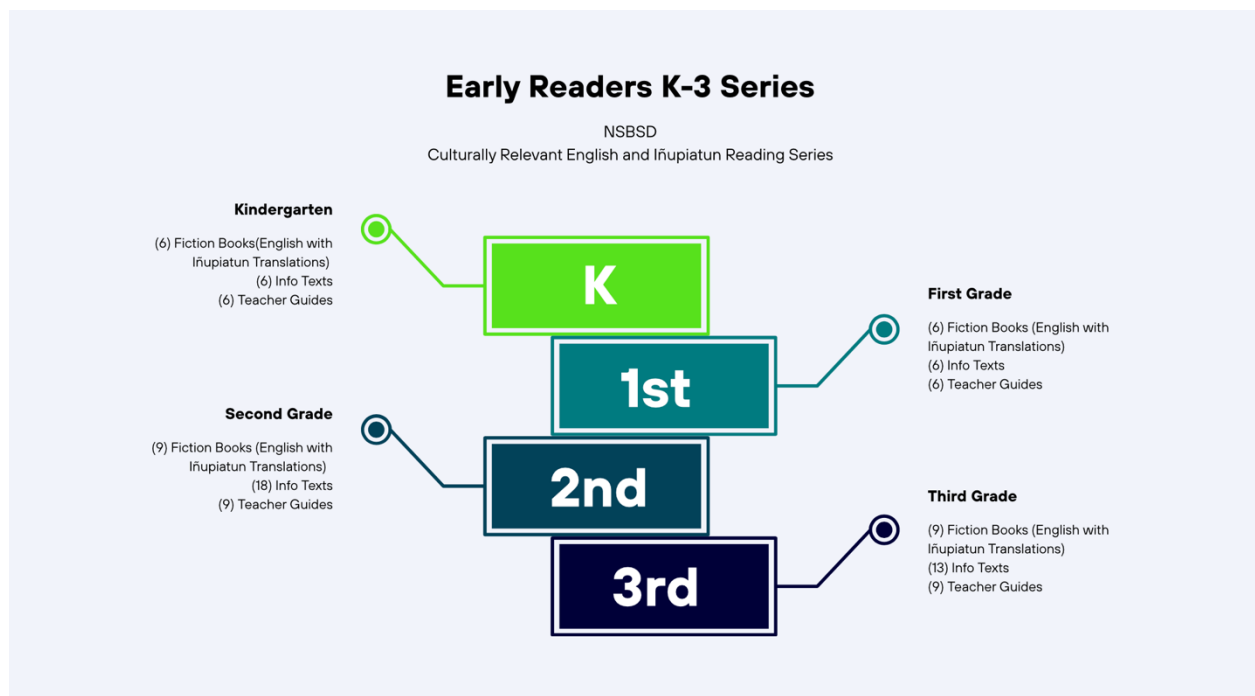
Literature, especially in the early years, that reflects our students' cultures, heritage and identities is important. Engaging students in reading at an early age has been shown to bolster academic achievement for many years in a student's academic life. A place-based series of this scale, scope and continuity has never been published or available at a district-wide level.

Each grade level has a set of fiction books and two accompanying non-fiction informational texts for each fiction book.

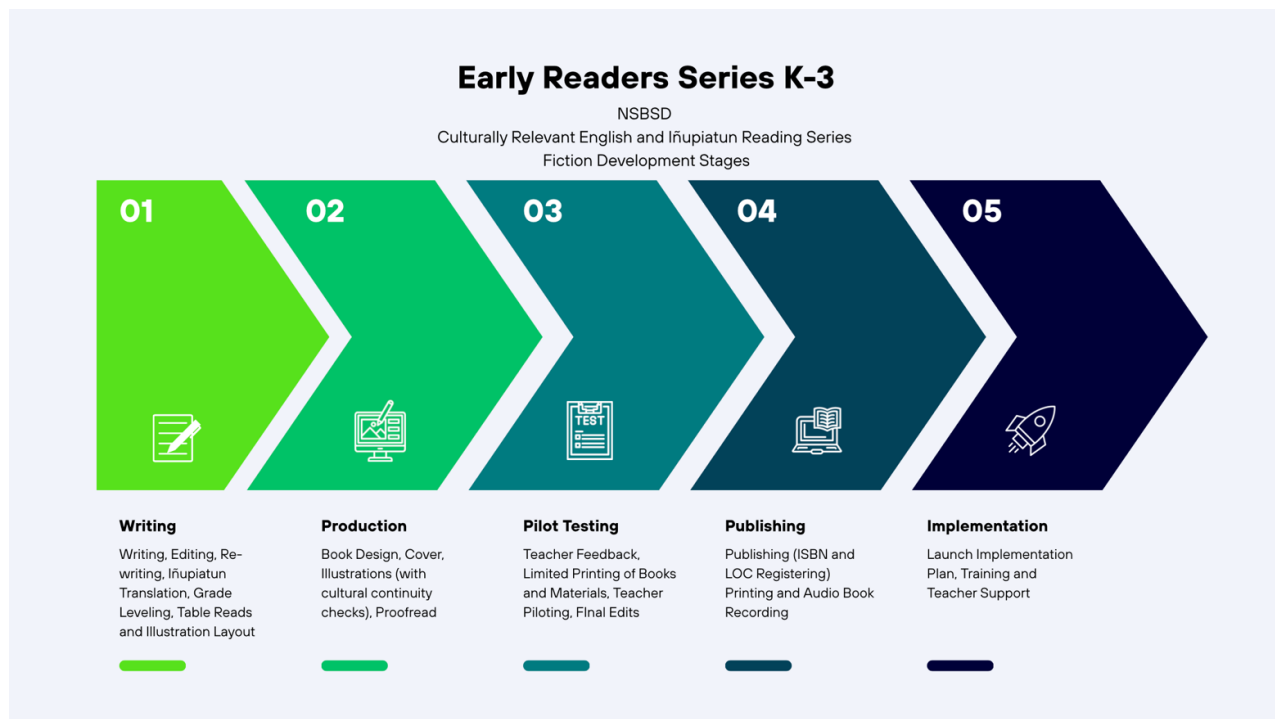
Cathy Tagnak Rexford retains the series' copyright, like most authors' work.

The NSBSD holds a license in perpetuity to publish and use these books in classrooms. Final approval from both NSBSD and Cathy Tagnak Rexford are required for illustrations and design/layout before final manuscript goes to print.

Writing & Editing Services (\$531.78/day) for K-3 Manuscripts:



Project Management Services (\$550/day):



Progress Update: Phase 1 of the project is complete.

