



**NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Esther Evikana, President
Members of the Board

THROUGH: David Vadiveloo, Superintendent *DS Vadiveloo*

THROUGH: Megan Williams, Director of Finance *MW*

FROM: Michael Hautala, Director of Student Services *MH*
MH

DATE: September 15, 2026

SUBJECT: Contract \$50K and Over –
Access Behavioral Services

Memo No. SB27-030
(Action Item)

NSBSD Policy Manual:

BP 3311, Bids: All bids under federal awards must be made in accordance with the standards set forth in 2 CFR 200.320.

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

NSBSD Strategic Plan Summary:

Student Social & Emotional Wellbeing

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

Staff Support & Professional Development

Goal 6: Build and sustain a thriving workforce aligned with the mission of this District

Issue Summary:

Approval is requested for a one-year agreement with **Access Behavioral Services** to provide comprehensive behavior analytic and social-emotional (SEL) services across all North Slope Borough School District (NSBSD) schools. The contractor will travel to district sites to analyze existing SEL and behavioral processes, train local staff, work directly with students, and conduct Functional Behavior Assessments (FBAs) and Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs) with full implementation support. Contracting with Access Behavioral Services ensures the district meets essential student behavioral needs and regulatory compliance without requiring full-time, on-site specialized staff in every village. Furthermore, all service delivery, SEL materials, and intervention plans will be grounded in **Iñupiaq values** and local community norms, offering a culturally responsive, cost-effective alternative to lower-48 behavioral models.

Background:

- **Procurement & Context:** This item comes before the Board to establish contracted behavioral and SEL services with Access Behavioral Services for the upcoming school year.



- **Scope & Justification:** Access Behavioral Services will conduct on-site visits across all NSBSD schools to evaluate current systems and directly support high-needs students through FBAs and BIPs.
- **Capacity Building & Sustainability:** To ensure long-term sustainability within village schools, the provider will utilize a **train-the-trainer model** to equip local village-based paraprofessionals, aides, and resident teachers to implement BIPs day-to-day. Additionally, services will integrate a **tele-behavioral infrastructure** featuring structured virtual check-ins to maintain momentum during travel or weather delays, while coordinating with local tribal councils, Elders, and regional health organizations (such as ASNA and Maniilaq) for holistic care.

Financial Terms: Billed monthly post-service:

- **On-Site Rate:** \$900 per day per consultant (includes direct contact, travel days within district, and weathered-in transit delays).
- **Distance-Based Rate:** \$700 per day per consultant (covers remote consultations, team meetings, document/BIP development, and travel to/from Utqiagvik/Barrow).
- **Travel:** Arranged and paid upfront by the vendor, then reimbursed by NSBSD post-trip.
- **Expected Results:** Improved school climate, built local staff capacity to handle complex behaviors, and direct compliance and support for students requiring individualized behavioral interventions.
- **Board Reporting:** Contract performance, completed FBAs/BIPs, and service utilization metrics will be reported to the Board as part of the department's regular student support updates.

Length of Contract:

1 Year: September 22, 2026 – June 30, 2027

Funding Source and Contract Amount:

This contract is funded through the General Fund account code 100.200.200.000.410 in the amount of and not to exceed \$80,000.00 (including excess hours and travel costs).

Compliance with BP 3311:

This action item requests exemption from formal competitive bidding under NSBSD Board Policy 3311 based on the following distinct criteria:

- **Specialized Expertise / Sole Source Exemption:** Access Behavioral Services provides highly specialized behavioral health, FBA/BIP, and SEL processes tailored to Alaska village contexts. Their unique expertise, demonstrated qualifications, and established familiarity with remote Alaska operations ensure continuity of practice and standardized care across district sites.
- **Emergency Need Exemption:** There is an immediate, time-sensitive need for FBA and BIP training, student data collection, and plan execution for a high-needs student presenting severe behavioral concerns. As an established Alaska company with proven remote deployment experience, this vendor can deploy immediately to safeguard health, safety, and regulatory compliance.

Recommendation:





The administration recommends the Board of Education approve the contract award for Access Behavioral Services to provide behavior analytic and social-emotional services in the amount of and not to exceed \$80,000.00.

Proposed Motion:

“I move that the NSBSD Board of Education approve the above \$50,000 and greater proposal and related contract for Access Behavioral Services, in the amount of and not to exceed \$80,000.00 as described in this memo and related attachments.”

Moved by _____ Seconded by _____

Vote _____

Signature: *DS Vadiveloo*

Email: david.vadiveloo@nsbsd.org

Signature: *Megan Williams*

Email: megan.williams@nsbsd.org

Signature: *Michael Hautala*

[Michael Hautala \(Sep 18, 2026 16:01:25 AKDT\)](#)

Email: michael.hautala@nsbsd.org

