

Request for Proposals
Northeastern Pennsylvania Regional Wide Area Network
E-Rate Purchasing Consortium
Vendor Questions and Clarifications
Issued 8/5/2026

Questions

Service Providers Webinar - 7/15/2026

Q.1 - Site Addresses - Specific Sites do not match USPS Sites. Can we confirm addresses for sites that do not resolve in the vendors' systems?

A.1 - All sites listed in Appendix B have verified their addresses as current. Should questions remain, please follow the instructions in Section 1.5 Communications of the RFP and email nepawan@liu18.org.

Q.2 - Quoting and contracting multiple sites - will districts be holding individual contracts on their sites?

A.2 - No, as listed in Section 3 of the RFP: "Generally, all contracts will be held by both LIU and NEIU. It is expected that LIU and NEIU will execute a single master agreement with the awarded provider(s) for services to all schools. Each IU will subsequently have its own individualized agreements with participating schools consistent with the master agreements."

Q.3 - New LIU Address - Question was about the new LIU 18 site at Maffett St. and the timeline for construction and availability for July 1, 2027 start.

A.3 - The building is planned for construction; the address provided is the USPS/911 address from the county. Timeline for service start may be delayed from July 1, 2027 due to external factors. We will provide additional information as it becomes available; bidders are asked to treat the site like any other at this point.

Q.4 - Hardcopy Submission - How should vendors submit printed copies of the pricing spreadsheets in the Attachments?

A.4 - Per Section 5 of the RFP, vendors should include a legible printed copy of the pricing spreadsheets with their signed RFP submission.

Q.5 - Installation/Project Start Date - The timeline from contract award in early March to service start is tight for buildout and new work. Is the July 1, 2027, date a firm start date?

A.5 - Yes, as stated in Section 2.5.3 of the RFP, July 1, 2027, is the firm start date for all RWAN Services, with testing and cutover expected to happen in late June 2027. That said, given the tight timeline for vendors, we plan to issue tentative award notifications on December 14, 2026. This will formally begin the process of finalizing contracts and give necessary time for engineering, procurement, and related work.

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Q.6 - Follow up on timelines - Would we be willing to extend current agreements if a build/construction is needed, or make consideration if a vendor needs additional time?

A.6 - Vendors who can meet the July 1, 2027, start date will be scored higher than those unable to meet that date as listed in Section 2.5.3 of the RFP.

Q.7 - DIA/BGP Routing - Will we require BGP routing, and how many IP's would we need?

A.7 - We will need BGP to peer with the vendor; however, we have our own IP addresses and would not need any from the vendor.

Q.8 - Leased Dark Fiber - For Leased Dark Fiber, does the consortium have a preference or specification on equipment used to light the fiber?

A.8 - The procurement seeks the lowest-cost, most effective methods to provide the prescribed service levels, so vendors are free to choose equipment and suppliers that meet that goal. We have no preference on vendor equipment. Bidders should refer to Section 2.2.9.1 Dark Fiber.

Q.9 - 100 GB Connections - Are we open to 100 GB Connections, or do we prefer 10GB?

A.9 - The context of the question was not clearly explained during the webinar; we can accept 100 GB Connections and anticipate a vendor may use that when bringing multiple 10Gb sites to a regional hub.

Q.10 - Lag or Aggregation - Are we comfortable accepting multiple 10GB connections as a LAG?

A.10 - Yes, we can accept a LAG or other aggregated connections from vendors. Please list that a LAG will be required in the response.

Q.11 - Dark Fiber - Do vendors need to provide equipment to light the dark fiber?

A.11 - Yes, as listed in Section 2.2.2 of the RFP, vendors should include essential network equipment required to light the fiber.

Q.12 - Intradistrict - Wayne Highlands spreadsheets only include all sites at 40 GB. Is this an error?

A.12 - No, this is not an error. The sites are currently connected at 40Gb, and the district is only looking for connections at that level.

Q.13 - Site Surveys - Can we (vendors) contact schools to arrange site verifications/surveys?

A.13 - As listed in Section 1.5.2, all site surveys and visits must be arranged and scheduled by the issuing officer via email at nepawan@liu18.org. Vendors are directed not to reach out to site contacts so that the issuing officer can streamline communications and visits for the schools.

End of Pre-Bidders Questions

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Questions received after the Pre-Bidders Conference

Q.14 - Hub Sites - Is the proposal requesting a single circuit between the 2 main hubs or is the request for 2 separate circuits between the main hub sites? If it is 2 separate circuits, how much diversity is required versus preferred?

A.14 - We are requesting a single circuit. To ensure we fully comply with E-Rate procurement guidelines, we have both sites listed as the origination point, but expect bidders to use the same cost for each hub connection.

Q.15 - Last Mile - Is the last mile required to be the bidding provider's service line?

A. 15 - We have no requirements for last mile to be owned by bidders, but do expect that it will be delineated in the proposal. Vendors can indicate on Attachment 1 A Tab A Column V that the circuit may be leased and add additional information in Providers Notes in Column AI.

8/3/2026

Q.16 - DIA to School Sites - Based on the geographic distribution of the schools, we won't be able to provide service to every location. However, there are several schools that are near our network, and we plan to submit DIA proposals for those sites. Could you please confirm the DIA speeds that will be accepted for the schools included in this RFP?

A.16 - The proposed solution of DIA direct to schools is outside of the scope of the technical requirements laid out in the RFP, and therefore proposals of that nature will be disqualified from consideration.

Q.17- LIU 18 Site - For the LIU Site at 154 Maffett St, can you provide GPS coordinates or similar?

A.17 - 41°16'11.0"N 75°51'25.0"W

Q.18 355 Maple is not listed in Att 1 Tab A spreadsheet; 425 N Washington is currently listed (Cell E24). Please confirm 355 Maple is the correct site and provide an updated Tab A spreadsheet.

A.18 -355 Maple Street is the correct address for the Scranton School District. Attachment 1, Tab A has been updated.

Q.19 For Tab A.2 – Regional WAN Upgrade, is it feasible to deliver the requested services as EVPLs, with 100G UNIs deployed at PEO locations requiring more than 10 Gbps of bandwidth and 100G NNIs at the hub locations to provide service aggregation?

A.19 - Yes, 100 Gbps handoffs for speeds greater than 10 Gbps are acceptable. According to Section 2.2.6 of the RFP, our preferred handoff is multimode fiber.

Q.20 Tab A.1 Base – Regional WAN BASE, is it feasible to deliver the requested services as EVPLs, with 100G UNIs deployed at PEO locations at 10 Gbps of bandwidth and 100G NNIs at the hub locations to provide service aggregation for future upgrades above 10G?

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A.20 - According to Section 2.2.2 & Section 2.2.6 of the RFP, our preferred handoff is 10 Gbps multimode fiber and will be scored highest in the "Technical Solution" criteria. 100 Gbps handoffs for speeds greater than 10 Gbps are acceptable.

Q.21 Section 2.2.4 Bandwidth Allocation: pricing for additional bandwidth increments references a 'Choice' tab. Are you referring to the 'Alternate' tab in Attachment 1?

A.21 - Yes, please use the "Alternate" tab for any additional pricing options that could be considered in addition to the Base and Upgrade pricing sheets.

Q.22 Bandwidth Upgrades - Section 2.2.4 - Are you requesting the ability to increase bandwidth in 1 Gbps, 10 Gbps, or 20 Gbps increments at both core hub locations as well as the individual district sites?

For example, if a school is initially provisioned with a 10 Gbps connection and later requires bandwidth above 10 Gbps during the contract term, that site would require 100 Gbps-capable equipment at the beginning of this contract term. In that scenario, would the NEPA WAN infrastructure support multiple 100 Gbps handoffs at the two core hub locations, as well as 100 Gbps handoffs at the district sites where required?

A.22 - The intention in Section 2.8.2.1 of the RFP is to document pricing and an upgrade path for increased future bandwidth if needed. Please note, in Section 1.4.4 of the RFP, we state "The Evaluation Committee need not evaluate Upgrade Proposals." According to Sections 2.2.2 & 2.2.6 of the RFP, our preferred handoff is 10 Gbps multimode fiber and will be given preferential scoring. 100 Gbps handoffs for speeds greater than 10 Gbps are acceptable.

Q.23. Tab A.2 - In Section 2.2.9 Variations in Service: can you provide clarification or supporting details as to what is required in Tab A.2 WAN UPGRADE?

A.23 - To simplify the procurement scenarios, we adopted three pricing tabs for the RFP. Base, Upgrade, and Alternate. Base is the current bandwidth needs as identified by the individual school sites. Upgrade is the next logical upgrade path for each school site based on their current needs. We would want to include pricing in the awarded contracts for all sites to have a viable upgrade path if their needs change over the next 5-year term. The alternative was designed to accommodate vendors who may have different infrastructure that would accommodate an upgrade different from the specified but may be more cost-effective than the prescribed options provided.

Additional Clarifications:

- Section 2.2.4 Bandwidth - When describing the requested expansion increments, we were not as clear as we could have been. "Expansion to 20,000 Mbps per hub-site" should be clarified to "Additional 10,000 Mbps per hub-site." Further, we'd like the ability to increase the bandwidth of current 10Gbps sites in the unlikely scenario that it would become needed. Pricing for an additional 10G10gbps connection with the ability to LAG them together is sufficient unless increasing the line rates would provide a cost savings to PEOs.

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- Section 2.2.9 Variations in Service - When describing the Regional WAN Upgrade Proposal, we overlooked a typo. “2 GB of transport bandwidth” should be clarified to “increased transport bandwidth.”