



Laredo Independent School District
Procurement Department
2400 San Bernardo Avenue, 3rd Floor, Rm. D322
Laredo, Texas 78040
Tel: 956-273-1080

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Laredo Independent School District invites you to submit a Proposal for:

RFP 26-019 E-Rate FY2027 Internet Access Services

REFERENCE NUMBER	RFP #26-019 (the "RFP")
RESPONSE MUST BE DELIVERED BY	October 6, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. Central Standard Time (the "Deadline") (Note: Without exception – Proposal must be timely submitted in the District's Bonfire Portal or time and date stamped by the Procurement Department. Proper and complete submission of the Respondent's Proposal in the District's Bonfire Portal is at the risk of the Respondent. Timely physical delivery is at the risk of the respondent.)
RESPONSE MUST BE DELIVERED TO	Laredo Independent School District Procurement Department 2400 San Bernardo Avenue 3 rd Floor, Room D322 Laredo, Texas 78040 OR in the District's Bonfire Portal
ESTIMATED CONTRACT PERIOD	July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2030 with the possibility of extending the contract for a fourth and fifth year. Subject to change based on approval timelines by the LISD Board of Trustees and annual evaluation review.
PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING	N/A
QUESTIONS DUE DATE	N/A
DISTRICT BUYER IN CHARGE OF PROPOSAL	All questions regarding this proposal should be in writing and sent to Margaret Boswell, Buyer at mboswell@laredoisd.org
PROCUREMENT DIRECTOR	Hector M. Mejia 

LAREDO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

I. PURPOSE:

Laredo Independent School District ("LISD" or the "District") is soliciting proposals from qualified E-Rate service providers for a complete, turnkey dedicated Internet access service supporting the District's instructional and operational network environment. The base requirement is a 20 Gbps Internet service delivered to the District's primary core data center in Laredo, Texas, including all transport, port capacity, routing, optical handoff, service activation, monitoring, support, and other components required to place the service into production.

The District intends to procure a 36-month base contract beginning July 1, 2027, with two optional one-year renewals. All respondents must carefully review and acknowledge each requirement in this RFP. A proposal that omits requested information, materially conditions its response, or does not provide complete and comparable pricing may be deemed non-responsive.

Faxed responses will not be considered. By submitting a response, Responder certifies to the best of his/her knowledge that all information is true and correct. All responses must be received prior to established deadline.

Responses must be submitted via the Laredo Independent School District's online [Bonfire e-bid system](#) or physically time and date stamped by the Procurement Department. Proper and complete submission of the Respondent's Proposal in the District's Bonfire Portal is at the risk of the Respondent. Only responses received by the date and time specified will be considered.

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Laredo Independent School District (LISD) was established in 1882. LISD is a district sprawling more than 13 square miles. The Laredo Independent School District is made up of 33 educational institutions: 20 elementary schools, four middle schools, and four high schools including Hector Garcia Early College High School located on the campus of Texas A&M International University, the Lara Academy, our alternative education campus, and the Jose Valdez Non-Traditional High School, and four magnet schools. The four magnet schools are the Vidal M. Treviño School of Communications and Fine Arts, located across the street from Nixon High School, Esther G. Buckley Early College High School, located at Martin High School, Sabas Perez School for Engineering and Technology Education, located at Cigarroa High School and the new Business, Industry and Public Service Early College Academy at Nixon High School. The district has a yearly average student enrollment of 19,400 and over 4,000 employees striving for academic excellence.

At LISD, learning is the key to a bright and successful future. By setting high standards, the district plays a crucial role in preparing the students to meet the challenges and demands of today's high-tech and multicultural workplace.

III. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Laredo Independent School District is a public school district serving the Laredo community in South Texas. Reliable Internet connectivity is a mission-critical service supporting instruction, cloud applications, communications, cybersecurity operations, administrative systems, and District business functions.

Project objectives include the following:

- Provide a reliable, dedicated 20 Gbps Internet access service with enterprise-class availability and support.
- Maintain resilient routing and multihoming capability using standards-based BGP and District-controlled public address resources.

- Provide a scalable service architecture that can support future bandwidth growth without unnecessary redesign or replacement of the service demarcation.
- Provide transparent, fixed, comparable pricing that clearly separates E-Rate eligible, partially eligible, and ineligible costs.
- Establish enforceable service-level commitments, proactive outage communication, 24x7 support, and useful utilization/reporting tools.
- Minimize operational risk through a single accountable service-provider relationship for the complete Internet access service.

IV. E-RATE FUNDING AND PROCUREMENT CONDITIONS

This procurement is anticipated to support Laredo ISD's E-Rate Funding Year 2027 Category One request for Data Transmission Services and/or Internet Access. E-Rate funding is not guaranteed and does not obligate the District to award, purchase, or continue any service beyond authorized funding, appropriations, Board approval, and District needs.

- This RFP is intended to be uploaded with or referenced by LISD's applicable FY2027 FCC Form 470. The competitive bidding period must remain open for at least the period required by FCC/USAC rules and applicable state/local procurement requirements.
- All communications during the solicitation period must occur through the official Purchasing Department/Bonfire process. Respondents must not seek non-public project information from District employees, Board members, consultants, or other representatives.
- The price of E-Rate eligible services will be the most heavily weighted single factor in the District's E-Rate bid evaluation.
- Respondents must comply with the Lowest Corresponding Price requirement and all applicable E-Rate competitive bidding, gift, free-services, record-retention, invoicing, and audit requirements.
- The successful respondent must maintain a valid 498 ID/SPIN, current FCC Form 473/SPAC as applicable, good standing with the FCC/USAC, and all registration or payment credentials required by USAC during the contract term.
- The District may elect the Service Provider Invoicing (SPI) or Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR) method as permitted by E-Rate rules. Respondents must state whether they support SPI billing and describe any administrative requirements.
- LISD may proceed with all, part, or none of the service based on E-Rate funding, local appropriations, Board action, technical requirements, and other factors permitted by law and program rules.

V. SERVICE SCOPE AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

5.1 Service Location and Demarcation

The base Internet access service must be delivered to the following location:

Site	Address	Service Requirement
Core Data Center 1 - Technology Services	2001 Cedar Avenue, Laredo, Texas 78040	Dedicated 20 Gbps Internet Access

5.2 Base Internet Access Service

- Provide a dedicated, symmetric 20 Gbps Internet access service. The base proposal must not rely on burstable, usage-metered, or oversubscription-based billing in place of the committed 20 Gbps service.

- Pricing must be turnkey and include all recurring and non-recurring costs necessary to deliver the service to the District demarcation, including access/transport, Internet port, provider equipment, optics where provider-furnished, installation, activation, testing, and standard support.
- LISD will contract for a complete end-to-end service from the selected respondent. If the respondent uses third-party underlying facilities, the respondent must disclose that arrangement and remain fully accountable for the complete service, SLA, escalation, billing, and repair process.
- Optional higher-capacity alternatives may be offered as separately priced alternates, but they must not replace the required 20 Gbps base proposal.

5.3 Routing, BGP, and Public Addressing

- Support standards-based BGP routing for IPv4 and IPv6. The service must support advertisement of District-controlled prefixes and a multihomed architecture with other Internet providers.
- Support full Internet routing information and/or another routing design approved by LISD Technology Services. The respondent must describe route-policy capabilities, maximum-prefix controls, community support, and route filtering practices.
- Support routing of District-registered public IPv4 address space through ARIN or other applicable registry resources.
- Include a contiguous provider-assigned public IPv4 /24 block (256 addresses) unless LISD directs otherwise. The provider-assigned block must be usable with the District's multihomed design to the extent permitted by routing policy and registry rules.
- Provide native IPv6 service and a provider-assigned IPv6 prefix suitable for enterprise addressing and multihoming. Base response should include at least a /48 allocation; any limitation on portability or advertisement through another provider must be clearly disclosed.
- The respondent must support coordinated routing changes, prefix advertisements, and troubleshooting throughout the contract term without unreasonable recurring engineering charges.

5.4 Physical Handoff and Layer 2 Requirements

- Base handoff: two 10 Gbps Ethernet optical interfaces using 10G-LR single-mode optics and LC connectors, configured as a standards-based link aggregation group to District-owned routing equipment, or a District-approved higher-capacity optical handoff providing equivalent or better service.
- Support IEEE 802.1Q VLAN tagging when required and standards-based Ethernet link aggregation (IEEE 802.1AX/LACP or equivalent interoperable method).
- Clearly identify the Network Interface Device (NID), managed CPE, optical transceivers, cross-connects, demarcation responsibilities, power requirements, rack-space requirements, and ownership of all provider-furnished equipment.
- No equipment may create an undisclosed throughput bottleneck below the contracted service capacity.

5.5 DNS Services

- Provide authoritative primary and secondary DNS hosting for District domains if requested by LISD as part of the service.
- Support forward and reverse DNS zones for District-assigned public IPv4 and IPv6 resources, including timely change requests and delegation coordination.
- If DNS hosting is separately priced or not E-Rate eligible, clearly identify and cost-allocate that component.

VI. NETWORK ARCHITECTURE, RESILIENCY, AND PEERING

Respondents must describe the network architecture that will support the proposed service. The response must be specific to the Laredo service location and should allow LISD to evaluate diversity, repair risk, upstream resiliency, and operational accountability.

- Provide a route/facility diagram showing the service path from the LISD demarcation to the respondent's serving point of presence and the first major upstream/Internet exchange locations. Proprietary details may be marked confidential as permitted by law.
- Describe local access diversity, backbone diversity, upstream transit/peering diversity, and any single points of failure that could affect the proposed service.
- Identify the number and geographic diversity of domestic Internet exchange or major peering locations directly supporting the service. LISD prefers connectivity to at least two geographically diverse domestic peering/Internet exchange locations.
- Describe direct peering relationships and upstream transit arrangements relevant to District traffic, including how routing is engineered during maintenance or major outages.
- Describe disaster recovery, business continuity, backbone capacity management, congestion management, maintenance windows, and customer notification procedures.
- Disclose any third-party last-mile, transport, cross-connect, or colocation dependency that is material to the service.

VII. SERVICE LEVEL AND PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

The selected respondent must provide a written SLA applicable to the proposed service. At minimum, the base proposal must address the following performance objectives and the measurement/credit methodology used by the provider:

Metric	Minimum / Target Requirement	Respondent Detail
Service Availability	99.99% monthly availability or better	
Packet Delivery / Loss	Packet delivery performance consistent with 99.99% service objective; disclose packet-loss SLA and measurement method	
Bit / Error Performance	Disclose provider error-rate commitment and monitoring method; proposed service must support clean line-rate Ethernet operation	
Domestic Backbone Latency	Target <35 ms one-way and <80 ms round trip across applicable U.S. provider backbone paths	
International Backbone Latency	Target <140 ms one-way and <280 ms round trip across applicable international provider backbone paths	
Mean Time to Repair	4-hour MTTR objective for service-affecting outages	
Support Coverage	24x7x365 network operations / trouble reporting	
Maintenance Notification	Advance notice for planned maintenance; disclose standard notification interval	

Respondents must explain how SLA metrics are measured, what events are excluded, how credits are requested/applied, and the maximum service credit available. A proposed SLA that materially weakens the stated objectives must be clearly identified as an exception.

VIII. MONITORING, SUPPORT, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- Provide a 24x7 trouble-reporting process with phone and electronic/web ticket submission.
- Provide a customer portal or equivalent reporting method showing circuit status, bandwidth utilization, ticket status, and service history. Include sample screenshots or reports in the proposal.
- Provide proactive notification of service-affecting events, major incidents, and planned maintenance.
- Provide defined escalation procedures, including operations, engineering, management, and executive escalation contacts after award.
- Describe local/regional field support resources, outside-plant maintenance resources, engineering capabilities, average response times, and dispatch procedures supporting Laredo, Texas.
- Provide monthly utilization reporting at a useful interval and retain historical data for trend analysis. Respondent should state the data retention period available to LISD.
- Provide a sample invoice and describe billing delivery formats, cost-center/reference options, dispute procedures, and E-Rate discount presentation.

IX. CONTRACT, PRICING AND BILLING REQUIREMENTS

9.1 Contract Term and Renewal

- Base term: 36 months, anticipated July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2030.
- Renewal options: two additional one-year terms, exercisable solely by LISD in writing and subject to Board approval, appropriations, E-Rate rules, and District needs.
- Pricing must remain fixed for the applicable contract term unless a reduction is required by Lowest Corresponding Price rules or a mutually agreed amendment produces a lower District cost.
- The proposed agreement must include an E-Rate funding contingency and a non-appropriation provision that allows LISD to terminate or reduce services without prohibited penalty if funding or lawful appropriations are unavailable.
- Respondents must disclose all auto-renewal provisions, notice deadlines, early-termination charges, minimum commitments, and other contractual restrictions.

9.2 Pricing Requirements

- Complete the District-provided Excel Pricing Tabulation Worksheet. The worksheet is part of the proposal and must reconcile to the proposal narrative and contract pricing.
- Separate E-Rate eligible, partially eligible, and ineligible recurring and non-recurring charges. Any allocation methodology must be explained.
- Identify all taxes, surcharges, regulatory fees, cross-connect fees, construction charges, installation charges, activation charges, equipment charges, and optional feature charges. LISD is tax-exempt where applicable.
- Provide a one-time move/relocation fee or pricing methodology applicable if the service must be moved during the contract term.
- Identify any optional bandwidth-upgrade pricing or upgrade methodology. Optional alternates must not be used to obscure or replace the required base price.
- If the proposal includes contingency charges or pass-through fees, they must be clearly identified, reasonably supported, and not embedded in an undisclosed manner.

9.3 Billing and E-Rate Invoicing

- Invoices must separately identify eligible and ineligible amounts and provide sufficient detail to reconcile to the approved contract and Funding Request Number(s).

- Respondent must state whether it supports SPI invoicing. LISD reserves the right to select the invoicing method allowed by E-Rate rules.
- The service provider must timely assist LISD with Program Integrity Assurance (PIA), audit, invoicing, appeal, or other USAC/FCC inquiries related to its proposal, contract, pricing, network, and invoices.
- The respondent must retain E-Rate-related records for the period required by FCC/USAC rules and provide requested supporting documentation to LISD when reasonably necessary for program compliance.

X. SERVICE PROVIDER QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIRED DISCLOSURES

- Provide legal company name, headquarters address, primary proposal contact, E-Rate contact, 498 ID/SPIN, and current SPAC status.
- Describe E-Rate experience and provide at least three current customer references for comparable high-capacity Internet access services; K-12 public-sector references are preferred.
- Identify all subcontractors or underlying carriers that will perform a material portion of the service and describe the respondent's accountability for their performance.
- Describe network engineering, implementation, NOC, field operations, and escalation capabilities supporting the proposed service.
- Disclose material exceptions to this RFP, the District's standard terms, or E-Rate requirements in a clearly labeled Exceptions section. Silence will be interpreted as acceptance to the extent permitted by law.
- Provide evidence of required insurance after award and any other forms/certifications required by LISD Purchasing.

XI. IMPLEMENTATION, ACTIVATION, AND ACCEPTANCE

- Within ten business days after Notice to Proceed, provide a project plan identifying contacts, milestones, dependencies, site-readiness requirements, construction/transport activities if any, turn-up testing, routing coordination, and target service-ready date.
- Coordinate all changes affecting the District routing environment with LISD Technology Services and perform production changes only during approved maintenance windows.
- Before acceptance, demonstrate contracted bandwidth, optical/link status, routing adjacency, route advertisement/receipt, public address reachability, DNS functions if included, monitoring access, and ticket/escalation procedures.
- Provide final as-built/service documentation including circuit ID(s), provider demarcation, NID/CPE information, support numbers, escalation matrix, routing parameters, IP allocations, and SLA reference.
- LISD may conduct independent throughput, routing, failover, and operational testing before final acceptance. Any material deficiency must be corrected before service acceptance and billing start, subject to the executed contract.

XII. EVALUATION AND AWARD

LISD intends to select the proposal that provides the best value to the District while complying with E-Rate requirements and applicable Texas procurement law. The District may evaluate proposals initially submitted without discussion, request clarification when permitted, request a Best and Final Offer when appropriate, conduct reference checks, and reject any or all proposals.

A proposal may be deemed non-responsive for reasons including late submission, absence of specific pricing, failure to provide a valid SPIN, material failure to address the requested service, prohibited conditions, or an automated/SPAM response that does not constitute a good-faith proposal. LISD will document disqualification decisions as required by its procurement and E-Rate records.

Evaluation Factor	Points
Purchase Price	55 points
Reputation of the vendor and of the vendor's goods or services.	10 points
Quality of the vendor's goods or services	10 points
Extent to which the goods or services meet the District's needs	10 points
Vendor's past relationship with the District	5 points
Impact on the ability of the District to comply with laws and rules relating to historically underutilized businesses	N/A
Total long-term cost to the District to acquire the vendor's goods or services	5 points
For a contract for goods and services, other than goods and services related to telecommunications and information services, building construction and maintenance, or instructional materials, whether the vendor's ultimate parent company or majority owner: - Has its principal place of business in this state, or - Employs at least 500 persons in this state	Yes/No Yes/No
Any other relevant factor(s) specifically listed in these specifications: Customer Service	5 points
TOTAL	100

XIII. DISTRICT RIGHTS AND PROJECT CONDITIONS

- Quantities and service requirements stated in this RFP represent current needs. LISD reserves the right to reduce, defer, or cancel the procurement when permitted by law, E-Rate rules, funding availability, or District needs.
- The District may waive minor informalities when legally permissible, but is not obligated to waive material deviations or omissions.
- The selected respondent is responsible for all supervision, labor, tools, equipment, transportation, coordination, and other resources necessary to deliver the contracted service unless expressly identified as a District responsibility.
- LISD is a governmental entity and is tax-exempt to the extent provided by law. Respondents should not include taxes from which the District is exempt.
- Proposal preparation costs are the sole responsibility of the respondent.
- Proposal materials are subject to the Texas Public Information Act. Respondents should clearly mark information they contend is confidential or proprietary; final disclosure determinations will be governed by Texas law.
- No oral statement or informal communication will modify the RFP. Only written addenda or formal responses issued through the authorized procurement process are binding.
- This base procurement is intended as an all-or-none award for the required 20 Gbps Internet access service, unless LISD expressly states otherwise in an addendum.

Submittal Checklist

Listed below are the required documents and information needed to complete your submission. Failure to properly complete and submit any of the required documents may subject your proposal to disqualification.

1. Signed proposal/ cover letter with authorized representative information, 498 ID/SPIN and current SPAC status
2. Completed Pricing Tabulation Worksheet (Appendix A)
3. Completed Technical Compliance Matrix (Appendix B)
4. Complete technical proposal for the required 20 Gbps service (Appendix C)
5. Network route/ facility diagram and resiliency / peering description
6. Written SLA and service-credit methodology
7. Implementation/ activation plan and site-readiness requirements listing all subcontractors or underlying carriers that will perform a material portion of the service
8. Support, NOC, ticketing, escalation, and utilization-reporting information
9. Sample invoice and billing method description
10. SPI billing support statement
11. E-Rate eligibility allocation identifying eligible, partially eligible, and ineligible costs
12. Three references for comparable services
13. Proposed contract and all exceptions/ deviations
14. Federal/ State Certifications
15. Laredo ISD Vendor Packet

Other Information

- a) Proposals received via phone, facsimile, email or other medium will not be accepted or considered.
- b) Proposals must be timely submitted in the District's Bonfire Portal or received and date stamped in the Procurement Department on or before the time and date stated above.
- c) The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received, waive any or all irregularities, choose the most advantageous price, discount and warranty for each service, and to award a contract only upon availability of funding.
- d) Visitor Badges: Vendor must provide all their workers with a company ID, showing company name, and photograph of employee. Company ID shall be worn visibly at all times while on District property.
- e) This RFP is an "all" or "none" proposal.

Estimated Time Schedule

- 1st Advertisement: August 29, 2026
- 2nd Advertisement: August 30, 2026
- RFP Deadline: October 6, 2026 @ 2:30pm Central Standard Time
- Evaluation committee recommendation presented for Board approval on November 12, 2026 (tentatively)