



INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

RFP-27-002

**Request for Proposals For:
High Bandwidth Metropolitan Area Network Services**

**Proposal Due Date and Time:
November 12, 2026 @ 11:00 AM ET**

Nicole Kenney, Procurement Specialist
cont917nk@myips.org
317.509.7483
Indianapolis Public Schools
Procurement Department
120 E Walnut Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Section One - RFP Overview

I. Introduction

Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) is soliciting competitive proposals through this Request for Proposals (RFP) in accordance with applicable Indiana Code, IPS policies, and IPS administrative guidelines. The district is seeking proposals from qualified telecommunications providers to deliver High Bandwidth Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) Services. This solicitation package is being posted for potential respondents on <https://indigo.bonfirehub.com> as well as publicly advertised in accordance with Indiana Code. Only electronic proposal submissions will be accepted through the Indigo Procurement Portal (<https://indigo.bonfirehub.com>).

II. Summary of Key Dates & Milestones

The following timeline is only an illustration of the RFP process. Some dates are binding as described within this document and others are subject to change. At the conclusion of the evaluation process, all respondents will be informed of the award.

Activity	Date
Issue of RFP, Post 470 Newspaper 9/18, 9/25	September 17, 2026
Deadline to Submit Written Questions	October 8, 2026 at 4:00 PM ET
Target Response to Written Questions	October 15, 2026 by 5:00 PM ET
Deadline to Submit Proposal	November 12, 2026 at 11:00 AM ET
Target Board Approval	December 2026
Installation & Testing Completion Deadline	June 15, 2027
Contract & Billing Effective Start Date	July 1, 2027

III. Background & Scope of Services

The intended initial contract term runs from July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2032, with options for extensions in 12-, 24-, 36-, 48-, or 60-month increments through June 30, 2039.

The network must connect up to sixty-two (62) campus locations to the central IPS administrative facility at the John Morton-Finney Center for Educational Services (JMFCEs). All proposed services must be 100% installed, tested, and fully operational on or before June 15, 2027, to allow cutover prior to the billing/contract start date of July 1, 2027.

Universal Service Funding (E-Rate) & Billing Requirements

This solicitation requests proposals for a contract partially funded by the Schools and Libraries Universal Service Fund (USF / E-Rate). Service providers must comply with all rules and regulations set forth by USAC and the FCC:

- **SPIN Requirement:** Respondents must have and maintain a valid Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN).
- **Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP):** Providers must offer services based on LCP, defined as the lowest price charged to non-residential customers similarly situated for similar services.
- **Invoicing Options:** While IPS has historically filed BEAR forms, the vendor must be capable of directly billing USAC via SPIF form for the discounted portion if requested. Service Provider Invoices (SPI) sent to IPS must be directed to accounting@myips.org on a monthly basis in arrears.
- **Documentation & Audit Support:** Vendors must provide service records, invoices, and compliance documentation within 48 hours of an IPS request at vendor expense.
- **Performance Surety Separation:** Charges for performance bonds (10% requirement for 5-year term) are ineligible for E-Rate reimbursement and must be listed separately.

Technical & System Specifications

- **Demarcation & Speeds:** Service provider-owned and maintained demarcation providing standard IEEE Ethernet interface at each site. Minimum site bandwidth is 1 Gbps, with scaling capability up to 40 Gbps. Anticipated baseline mix: 5–10 Gbps for school sites, 1–4 Gbps for administrative sites.
- **Power Backup / Conditioning:** Vendor electronics placed within IPS facilities must include power conditioning and uninterruptible power supply (UPS) hardware capable of maintaining at least 8 continuous hours of backup power.
- **Service Level Agreements (SLA):** 24/7/365 availability. Immediate emergency outage response required within 2 hours; non-emergency support within 48 hours. Real-time portal/dashboard for monitoring circuits, ticket tracking, and order progress is required.
- **Personnel Security & Badging:** On-site vendor staff must wear IPS HR-issued contractor badges. Vendors must certify annual drug screening and national expanded criminal history checks for all deployed personnel.

Location Schedule (Campus Locations)

Current & Alternate Core/Head-End Sites

Location Name	Type	Address	Zip Code
JMFCES (Head End/Core)	Admin	120 E. Walnut St	46204

Campus Locations for Implementation by June 15, 2027

School / Facility Name	School #	Address	Zip Code
Benjamin Harrison (CFI)	2	725 N New Jersey	46202
Washington Irving	14	1250 E Market	46202
Thomas D. Gregg	15	2302 E Michigan	46201
Frederick Douglass	19	2020 Dawson	46203
Charity Dye (CFI)	27	545 E 19th	46202
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	28	510 Laurel	46203
James A. Garfield	31	307 Lincoln	46225
Eleanor Skillen	34	1410 Wade	46203
William McKinley	39	1733 Spann Ave.	46203
James Whitcomb Riley	43	150 W 40th	46208
Riverside	44	2033 Sugar Grove Ave	46202
Daniel Webster	46	1450 S Reisner	46221
Thomas A Edison	47	777 S White River Pkwy W Dr	46221
Louis B. Russell Jr.	48	3445 Central Avenue	46205
William Penn	49	1720 W Wilkins	46221
James Russell Lowell	51	3426 Roosevelt Avenue	46218
Brookside	54	3150 E 10th	46201
Eliza A. Blaker	55	1349 E 54th	46220
Francis W. Parker	56	2353 Columbia Avenue	46205
George W. Julian	57	5435 E Washington	46219

School / Facility Name	School #	Address	Zip Code
Ralph Waldo Emerson	58	321 N Linwood Avenue	46201
Merle Sidener	59	2424 Kessler Blvd E Dr	46220
William Bell	60	3330 N. Pennsylvania	46205
Clarence L Farrington	61	4326 Patricia	46222
Wendell Phillips	63	1163 N. Belmont	46222
Raymond F. Brandes	65	4065 Ashbury	46227
Stephen Foster	67	653 N Somerset Avenue	46222
Joyce Kilmer Academy	69	3421 N Keystone Avenue	46218
Mary E. Nicholson (CFI)	70	510 E 46th	46205
Theodore Potter	74	1601 E 10th St	46201
Carl Wilde	79	5002 W 34th	46224
Christian Park	82	4700 English Avenue	46201
Floro Torrence	83	5050 E 42nd	46226
Joseph J. Bingham (CFI)	84	440 E 57th	46220
George Washington Carver	87	2411 Indianapolis Avenue	46208
Anna Brochhausen	88	5801 E 16th	46218
Ernie Pyle	90	3351 W 18th	46222
Rousseau McClellan	91	5111 Evanston Avenue	46205
George H. Fisher	93	7151 E 35th	46226
George Buck	94	2701 N Devon	46219
Meredith Nicholson	96	3651 N Kiel Avenue	46224

School / Facility Name	School #	Address	Zip Code
Arlington Woods	99	5801 E 30th	46218
HL Harshman	101	1501 E 10th	46201
Francis Scott Key	103	3920 Baker Dr	46236
Charles Warren Fairbanks	105	8620 Monterey Rd	46226
Robert Lee Frost	106	5301 Roxbury Rd	46226
Lew Wallace	107	3307 Ashway Dr	46224
Jonathan Jennings	109	6150 Gateway Dr	46254
Margaret McFarland	112	3200 E Raymond	46203
Paul I. Miller	Admin	2251 S Sloan Avenue	46203
Cold Spring School	315	3650 Cold Spring Rd	46222
Crispus Attucks	718	1140 Dr Martin Luther King Jr	46202
George Washington	721	2215 W. Washington St.	46222
John Marshall	Admin	10101 E 38th	46236
Shortridge	714	3401 N Meridian	46208
Arsenal Technical	716	1500 E Michigan	46201
Broad Ripple	517	1115 Broad Ripple Avenue	46220
Howe Middle School	520	4900 Julian Ave	46201
Northwest	523	5525 W 34th	46218
Manual High School	715	2405 Madison Ave	46225
Emma Donnan	72	1202 E Troy Ave	46203

School / Facility Name	School #	Address	Zip Code
Arlington Middle School	522	4825 North Arlington Avenue	46226
Warehouse	Admin	3875 Culligan Ave	46218
IPS Food Center	Admin	4125 Producers Drive	46218

IV. Contact & Communication Protocol

All communication, unless stated otherwise in this document, should be directed to the Procurement Specialist on the title page of this RFP. If communication is had with any other district employee, including district board members, the respondent may disqualify themselves from further consideration. No Respondent shall rely upon, take any action, or make any decision based upon any verbal communication with any other district employee, representative, or school board member.

V. Questions & Answer Period

All questions must be submitted through the Messages section of the RFP posting on the Indigo Procurement Portal by the deadline listed in the Summary of Key Dates and Milestones. If the public Q&A feature is enabled, all responses will be posted directly within the portal for all potential respondents to view. Only written responses posted in the system are considered official and binding.

Respondents may not rely on verbal communications, informal conversations with district personnel, or information obtained from media or social media sources.

If any revisions or clarifications to this RFP are required, an Addendum will be issued through the Bonfire portal. IPS may extend the proposal deadline if necessary to accommodate the release of new information.

VI. Proposal Due Date & Time

Respondents must submit a response before the proposal due date and time outlined in the Summary of Key Dates and Milestones. Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Indigo Procurement Portal. Proposals not submitted by the deadline cannot be considered; nor will sending it via email or hand delivery be viable alternatives. The district accepts no obligations for costs incurred by respondents in anticipation of being awarded.

Section Two - RFP Preparation & Submission

I. Proposal Submission Requirements – Requested Information

Vendors must submit a complete proposal through the Indigo Procurement Portal by the deadline listed in the Summary of Key Dates and Milestones. Late submissions will not be considered. Any confidential information must be clearly marked and submitted only through the designated “Confidential Information” upload field. IPS is not responsible for protecting information that is improperly labeled or submitted outside of this field.

- Specification Agreement & Contract Forms A-E
- Total Cost of Ownership – Pricing Proposal
- Quality & Technical Architecture
- Technical Service & Support
- Vendor Capability & 2-3 References with Contact Information
- Contractual Terms - propose any redlines with proposal if required.
- Implementation Plan

II. Access to Public Records Act (APRA)

Respondents are advised that materials contained in proposals are subject to the Access to Public Records Act (APRA), IC 5-14-3 et seq., and, after the contract award, the solicitation file may be posted on the Indigo Bonfirehub website and may be viewed and copied by any member of the public, including news agencies and competitors. The responses are deemed to be “public records” unless a specific provision of IC 5-14-3 protects it from disclosure. Respondents claiming a statutory exception to the APRA must indicate which specific provision applies to which specific part of the response.

Please note citing “Confidential” on an entire section or within the body of a written response is not sufficient or acceptable. Confidential information should ONLY be uploaded in the Confidential Information Section of RFP on the Indigo Bonfirehub website. If the Respondent does not identify the statutory exception, the district will not consider the submission confidential. Furthermore, the district takes no responsibility for disclosing confidential information that is improperly submitted by a Respondent.

Section Three - Proposal Evaluation & Award

I. Proposal Evaluation Overview

Proposals will be evaluated based on the established criteria listed below. IPS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities or irregularities. The district may defer awarding a contract for up to 90 days from the due date, during which time the offer must remain firm. This RFP does not constitute a binding offer. The district may request written clarifications from any respondent at its discretion and will ensure that all requests are handled fairly and consistently. Any clarifications provided will become part of the respondent's official proposal.

II. Evaluation Process & Criteria

A complete review of all information submitted in the RFP package will be utilized by the district evaluation team to determine if the respondent meets the minimum requirements and is considered a responsive and responsible respondent. All respondents who meet the minimum requirements will then be evaluated based on the contents of the proposal based on the criteria below. All proposals will be ranked based on their combined scores.

Evaluation Category	Weight	Key Elements Assessed
Specification Agreement & Forms	Pass / Fail	Compliance with RFP terms and completion of mandatory Attachment A forms.
Total Cost of Ownership (Price)	35	Inclusive cost of all services, products, taxes, fees, and surcharges.
Quality & Technical Architecture	30	Capacity, upgradability, security, scalability, adaptability, reliability, and SLA uptime.
Technical Service & Support	15	Local service presence within 50 miles of downtown Indianapolis, response times, and SLA rebates.
Vendor Capability & References	10	Minimum 5 years experience, local staff, financial strength, and regional reputation.
Disaster Recovery & Contractual Terms	10	Agreement with standard IPS contract provisions, back-up infrastructure, and redundancy.
Implementation Plan	5	Feasibility of turnkey delivery, testing, and operational cutover by June 15, 2022.
Diversity Business Prime Bonus	Bonus 5	Diversity business prime respondent credit (bringing total possible to 105%).

III. RFP Award & Contracting Overview

Respondents will receive notice of the district's intent to award the RFP through the website. All RFP award recommendations are subject to approval by the IPS Board of School Commissioners. Upon board approval, the respondent(s) awarded will complete necessary documentation to finalize and electronically sign the complete contract prior to commencement.

It is necessary for all awarded respondents to complete the following information upon award:

- Provide any proposed changes to the district's standard contract terms and conditions.
- Provide a Certificate of Insurance per district contract terms and conditions.
- Confirm IPS Vendor ID or Register a New Profile in Finance System:
<https://myipsinvendors.munisselfservice.com/Vendors/default.aspx>
 - Completed W9
 - Banking information and valid bank document

Respondents not awarded have up to three business days (from the date of the award) to submit, in writing, a formal protest of the award. The district will only consider protests from prime respondents. All RFP protests should be sent via email to the attention of the IPS Procurement Manager via purchasing@myips.org by 4:00 PM EST on the third business day to be considered.