Purpose Preparatory Academy
BEN # 17032390

Fund Year 2027
(July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028)

Form 470 # 270000854

SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS – INTERNET ACCESS

Timeline

Task	Due Date
Form 470 posted in EPC	September 19, 2026
Deadline for vendors to submit questions	October 9, 2026, by 2:00PM CST
Answers to questions posted in EPC	October 12, 2026
Deadline for vendors to submit proposals	October 23, 2026, by 2:00PM CST

Service Request

Purpose Preparatory Academy is requesting proposals for Internet access service to be delivered to the following location(s):

Entity Name	Street Address	Longitude/Latitude
Purpose Preparatory Academy	220 Venture Circle Nashville, TN. 37228	36.19444000630183, -86.79458247517103

The school presently has contracted services through June 30, 2027. The school seeks to have services begin on July 1, 2027. Purpose Preparatory Academy reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any formability defects or clerical errors in any bid proposal package.

All bidders must be capable of providing telecommunication services under the Universal Service Support Mechanism, must be eligible to participate in the E-Rate program, be a registered vendor with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and have a current Service Provider Annual Certification (SPAC) on file with USAC.

Service Requirements

The applicant prefers a dedicated, symmetrical fiber-connected internet circuit with a minimum bandwidth of 1 Gbps. The applicant may require a maximum speed of 5Gbps during the proposed contract term of 36 months. The applicant reserves the right to evaluate bids to determine their equivalence to leased lit fiber. All bids must indicate whether the proposed solution is a dedicated fiber internet service or a shared internet service. All vendors must specify if they are a reseller of the last mile of internet service.

Pricing is requested for speeds of 1Gbps, 2Gbps, 3Gbps, and 5Gbps with firewall and without firewall service. Eligible Internet Services may include features such as a basic firewall if provided as a component of the Vendor's Internet services.

All costs for bundled internet service must be listed as a single line item on both the bid submission and all monthly invoices. If a proposed firewall solution includes content filtering, all costs associated with that service must be clearly itemized and cost-allocated as a separate line item on both the bid and the monthly billing statement. All bidders are required to certify compliance with the Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP) requirements. If an increase in bandwidth is requested during the contract term, the original contract must be amended to reflect the change. A new contract will not be issued for such modifications.

Bidders are requested to provide pricing for consecutive static IP addresses for the school.

Contract Term

The initial contract term is 3 years beginning on July 1, 2027, and expiring on June 30, 2030. The contract will also include two one-year voluntary extensions. The maximum contract period shall not exceed 5 years, starting July 1, 2027, and ending June 30, 2032, including any extensions.

All contracts should allow for bandwidth increases up to 5Gbps throughout the term of the contract. All offers must include all costs associated with delivering the service to the applicant, including, but not limited to, installation charges, special construction costs, a leased managed router (if available), and any other related charges.

Questions

Questions that may arise because of this solicitation must be submitted using the following Microsoft Forms link: Purpose Preparatory Academy C1 Questions.
Inquiries must be received no later than October 9, 2026, by 2:00PM CST. Contact initiated by a Bidder concerning this solicitation with any other applicant representative, not expressly authorized elsewhere in this document, is prohibited. Any unauthorized contact will result in the bidder's disqualification from this open competitive bidding process.

Site visits are currently not being offered.

Proposal Instructions

Proposals must be submitted by the deadline for guaranteed inclusion in the evaluation. Proposals submitted after the bid submission deadline will be considered non-responsive and will not be included in the evaluation.

Proposals must be uploaded to the following ShareFile link:
Purpose Preparatory Academy C1 Bid Submission

All uploaded proposals shall cite the vendor's name, applicant's name, and the associated Form 470 number and be uploaded as a SINGLE PDF UPLOAD. Example: Vendor Name – School Name – 470 Number

Proposals must include **all** the costs related to providing service, including but not limited to:

- monthly service fees
- managed router/modem lease fees (if required for service to function)
- one-time construction, installation, and/or connection charges
- estimated taxes, fees, and/or surcharges

Proposals that do not provide definitive costs for the requested services (including both recurring and one-time charges) will be considered non-responsive and will not be included in the evaluation.

Proposals that include generic/encyclopedic price lists will be considered non-responsive and will not be included in the evaluation.

Proposals requiring applicant-owned hardware to function must provide specifications and, if available, an estimated cost for necessary hardware.

Proposals should include the service provider's terms and conditions.

Proposals shall include the service provider's identification number (SPIN).

Proposals should include references, preferably from schools/libraries similar in size.

Proposals should include a timeline for delivering service to bring all sites online by July 1, 2027. Contracted Service Providers failing to deliver services by July 1 may be subject to termination.

General Terms

Description of Proposal

Bidder will provide a description of their proposal for all services and solutions. Description will include an overview of the proposal, any deviations from the requested architecture, design or requirements, assumptions made, and other detail the school may find useful or necessary (or could differentiate the solution from a competing proposal).

Service Level Agreement (SLA)

In addition to the required services, the proposal should include a Service Level Agreement (SLA) addressing, at minimum, the following:

- Network operations center: Solution will provide customer support functions including problem tracking, resolution, and escalation support management on a 24x7x365 basis. The school has the right and is encouraged to call concerning any problems that may arise relative to its connection with vendor-provided services.
- Trouble reporting and response: Upon interruption, degradation or loss of service, the school may contact Vendor by defined method with a response based on trouble level. Upon contact from the School, the Vendor support team will initiate an immediate response to resolve any School issue. The school will receive rapid feedback on trouble resolution, including potential resolution time.
- Escalation: If service has not been restored in a timely manner, or the school does not feel that adequate attention has been allocated, the school can escalate the trouble resolution by request. A list of escalation contacts will be provided when the implementation schedule is completed.
- Resolution: The school shall be notified immediately once the problem is resolved and will be asked for verbal closure of the incident.
- Trouble reporting, escalation, and resolution: A detailed trouble reporting, escalation and resolution plan will be provided to the school.
- Measurement: Vendor stated commitment is to respond to any outage within two (2) hours and a four (4) hour restoration of service. Time starts from the time the school contacts vendor and identifies the problem. Credits for outages or shortages will be identified.
- Reports: Upon request, an incident report will be made available to the school within five (5) working days of resolution of the trouble.

Timeline

Non-incumbent bidders should include a timeline for delivering Internet service to the school and an explanation of how they will adhere to the school's specified timeline. Bidders with existing infrastructure in the area should be able to bring all sites online by July 1, 2027, the start of the funding year.

Demarcation

Bidder's proposals must terminate service or infrastructure at the demarcation point at the address specified in this RFP. The bidder must specify the specific demarcation setup included in base fees, e.g., wall-mounted CPE and CAT6 at handoff, rack-mount patch panel, etc.

Special Construction Charges

In E-Rate terminology, special construction refers to the upfront, non-recurring costs associated with installing new fiber to or between eligible entities. If no new fiber is being installed, then any installation costs are considered standard non-recurring costs (NRC). Applicants may seek funding for special construction charges in connection with leased lit fiber, leased dark fiber, and self-provisioning. Special construction charges eligible for Category One support consist of three components:

1. Construction of network facilities
2. design and engineering
3. Project management

Note: The term "special construction" does not include network equipment necessary to light fiber, nor the services necessary to maintain the fiber. Charges for network equipment and fiber maintenance are eligible for Category One support as separate services, but not as special construction.

Special Construction Information for Form 471 and PIA Review

All E-Rate applications, including special construction, are subject to detailed questioning during Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review, where the cost of proposed special construction will be reviewed based on the cost of historical fiber builds in the region. Additionally, certain information on necessary special construction is needed to accurately fill out Form 471. Service providers who include special construction charges must be prepared to promptly provide additional information not described in this RFP when requested. Please note that vendors may assist applicants with preparing funding requests or responding to PIA questions and may speak directly with PIA reviewers.

Closure, Consolidation, Relocation, and Site Removal

The resulting contract should permit the Applicant to discontinue service to an individual location without early termination charges if the location closes, consolidates, relocates, loses E-Rate eligibility, or is no longer operated by the Applicant. Unless otherwise agreed, the Applicant will provide at least thirty (30) days' written notice. The bidder must clearly identify any proposed charges, notice requirements, or limitations associated with adding, removing, relocating, or consolidating service locations.

Required Notice to Proceed and Funding Availability

The school will follow the purchasing policies, requirements, and procedures of the FCC's E-Rate program, as administered by USAC, to be eligible for all available funding. The implementation of any associated contracts resulting from this competitive bid process will be dependent on the school's issuance of a written Notice to Proceed. Contract execution or vendor selection does not authorize the vendor to order equipment, begin construction, incur implementation costs, or commence services without a written Notice to Proceed from the Applicant. The school reserves the right to terminate the contract without implementation if appropriate funding is not available.

Public Records, Open Records, and Freedom of Information Laws

Proposals may be subject to disclosure under applicable public records, open records, or freedom of information laws. A bidder claiming that specific information contained within its proposal is confidential, proprietary, or otherwise exempt from disclosure must clearly identify each such portion and provide the legal basis for the claimed exemption. Marking an entire proposal as "confidential" will not be accepted.

Pricing and other information subject to mandatory disclosure may be released notwithstanding a bidder's designation. The Applicant will determine its disclosure obligations in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local law.

Other

The Schools and Libraries program requires that the "cost of eligible services" will be the highest valued criterion in the evaluation process; however, other criteria with lesser value may also be considered.

Bidders must document their ability to participate in the E-Rate program by including their current SPIN (Service

Provider Identification Number) in their proposal.

Proposals for multi-year contracts and contracts with voluntary extensions are encouraged.

Subject to contract restrictions, services may be re-evaluated for cost-effectiveness at any time during the life of the agreement.

Service providers proposing to temporarily loan equipment for product demonstration and/or evaluation purposes are required to clearly state that such loans are of limited duration. Product demos extending beyond thirty (30) days must be explicitly authorized by both parties and provided at a fair market rate.

By submitting a proposal on the requested services herein, the vendor certifies that its equipment and services are compliant with the FCC's recent Order (FCC 19-121) prohibiting the sale, provision, maintenance, modification, or other support of equipment or services provided or manufactured by Huawei, ZTE, or any other covered company posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain.

As required by E-Rate rules, all proposals in response to this Form 470 must offer the Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP). See https://www.usac.org/e-rate/service-providers/step-2-responding-to-bids/lowest-corresponding-price/.

RFP Scoring Rubric

Internet Access/Leased Lit Fiber

Weight	Criteria	Evaluation
40	Price of E-Rate Eligible Products and Services	Evaluation will be based on the total cost of E-Rate eligible products and services. The proposal offering the lowest cost for eligible products and services will receive the highest number of points for this criterion. Price Score = (Lowest Eligible Bid ÷ Bidder's Eligible Bid) × 40
20	Proposal Meets RFP Requirements	Evaluation will consider the bidder's compliance with the requirements and specifications outlined in this RFP, including the completion of the required Appendix A Cost Table, pricing for the requested services and bandwidth options, response to all applicable service specifications, and submission of all required proposal information.
20	References	Evaluation will consider the quality and relevance of references provided by the bidder, with preference given to experience providing comparable services to K-12 schools, libraries, or similarly situated organizations.
10	Prior Experience with the Applicant	Evaluation will consider the applicant's prior experience with the bidder, including quality of service, reliability, responsiveness, communication and overall performance. Bidders without prior experience with the Applicant will not be disqualified from consideration.
10	Project Implementation Timeline	Evaluation will consider the bidder's proposed implementation timeline and demonstrated ability to have all requested services installed, operational and available by the required service start date.

Appendix A: MRC/NRC Cost Tables

Internet Access/Leased Lit Fiber

Bidders are required to complete and submit the provided Appendix A Cost Table for the initial contract term (36 months, with two one-year extension options).

Eligible Monthly Recurring Cost: The fee assessed by the service provider to the applicant for 30 days of internet access/leased lit fiber service, inclusive of taxes and other E-Rate eligible fees.

Ineligible Monthly Recurring Cost: Any fees assessed by the service provider to the applicant for 30 days of internet access/leased lit fiber service that are not E-Rate eligible, for example, monthly administrative fees or any charges not explicitly defined within the service provider's proposal.

Eligible Non-recurring Cost: Any one-time fees assessed by the service provider to the applicant for internet access/leased lit fiber service relating to E-Rate eligible services, such as special construction charges.

Ineligible Non-recurring Cost: Any one-time fees assessed by the service provider to the applicant relating to E-Rate ineligible products or services, including any portion of installation, construction, or other non-recurring charges that is not eligible for E-Rate support.

		Eligible Monthly Recurring Cost without Firewall		**Ineligible Monthly Recurring Cost without Firewall**		**Eligible Non-recurring Cost**		**Ineligible Non-recurring Cost**		**Eligible Monthly Cost with Firewall**		**Ineligible Monthly Cost with Firewall**	
Location	**Band-width**	**36 Months**	**60 Months**	**36 Months**	**60 Months**	**36 Months**	**60 Months**	**36 Months**	**60 Months**	**36 Months**	**60 Months**	**36 Months**	**60 Months**
Purpose Prep Academy	1Gbps												
	2Gbps												
	3Gbps												
	5Gbps												