

DARK OR LIT FIBER SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS

Applicant: PUEBLO RURAL SCHOOL DIST 70
BEN: 142327
Form 470 #: 270000897
Form 470 Contacts: Monroe Robinson mrobinson@district70.org
Diana Coleman dzarillo@e-ratecentral.com

Procurement Timeline

Task	Due By
Issue Date	October 19, 2026
Deadline to Submit Questions	October 23, 2026, no later than 3:00pm MDT
Posting of Questions/Clarifications	October 26, 2026
Proposal Submission Deadline	November 24, 2026, no later than 3:00pm MDT

Communications and Questions

All communication with the Applicant regarding this solicitation **must** be emailed and received by the “Deadline to Submit Questions” noted in the “Procurement Timeline.” Questions should be directed to all “Form 470 Contacts” listed above, with the Form 470 Number included in the subject line. Failure to include all “Form 470 Contacts” could result in questions going unanswered. Verbal inquiries are not allowed. Clarifications, when applicable, will be posted as an attachment/addendum to the Form 470. Each Offeror is responsible for downloading the current version of the Form 470 and attachments, including any addenda. Applicant reserves the right to ask vendors clarifying questions during the proposal review process.

Contact initiated by an Offeror concerning this solicitation with any other Applicant representative other than those listed as Form 470 contacts is prohibited. Unauthorized contact may result in the offeror's disqualification from this solicitation.

Pre-Proposal Meeting or Site Visit

For this solicitation, a pre-proposal meeting or site visit is: ☐ Required ☐ Optional ☒ Not Offered

Please see below for an explanation of the district’s current network topology.

Proposal Instructions

Proposals **must** be submitted by the Proposal Submission Deadline in the Procurement Timeline.

Proposals should be emailed to ALL Form 470 Contacts listed above and include the following:

- Applicant name

- Form 470 number
- SPIN (Service Provider Identification Number)
- Clear indication of service offering (Dark Fiber, Managed Lit Service, or both Dark Fiber and Managed Lit Service)
- Service provider's terms and conditions
- Completed Pricing Attachment

Proposals **must** include **all** costs associated with providing service, including but not limited to:

- Monthly recurring charges (MRC) include any recurring charge related to delivering the services, such as monthly charges for Internet access, IP addresses, basic terminating equipment, etc.
- Non-Recurring Charges (NRC) include any one-time fee other than special construction charges. This includes but is not limited to installation charges, connection charges, and/or basic terminating equipment charges.
- Special Construction Charges (SPC) include one-time costs for deploying new fiber or upgrading network facilities for eligible entities. These charges are non-recurring and include the following components: construction of network facilities, design and engineering, and project management. Offerors should provide special construction details sufficient to support E-Rate review, including route feet, cost per foot, and plant mix where applicable.
- Failure to identify the monthly recurring, non-recurring, and special construction charges will result in the disqualification of the proposal. Respondents are encouraged to provide the estimated taxes and surcharges associated with the service. Submissions indicating that there may be additional MRC, NRC, or SPC related to delivering the services **WILL** be disqualified.

Proposals **must** be in response to the specific requirements of this solicitation. Offers including a generic listing of services beyond the scope of this solicitation and/or encyclopedic price lists will be disqualified. SPAM and/or robotic responses will not be considered valid responses and will be disqualified from consideration.

Applicant reserves the right to consider its existing service as a standing proposal and evaluate it against the other submitted proposals.

District's Current Network Topology

The District currently operates a hub-and-spoke network with its core at the D70Online/Baxter site located at 301 28th Lane, Pueblo, CO 81006. Most District schools connect to the core over 10 Gbps dark fiber, either directly or through one of three hub sites: Administrative Services Center South, Pueblo County High School and Pueblo West High School.

Pueblo West High School also connects to a provider facility in Colorado City over a lit circuit under a separate existing contract. The District owns a switch at that facility, which serves as the hub for the Colorado City-area schools:

- Craver Middle School, Rye Elementary and Rye High School are each connected by 1 Gbps dark

fiber from the District's switch at the Colorado City facility to a District-owned switch at each school.

- The Beulah schools are served by a transport service. The service runs from the Colorado City facility through a switch owned by a third-party provider which then connects to the Beulah site.

Hub sites

- Pueblo West High School (BEN 151891): 661 W Capistrano Dr, Pueblo West, CO 81007
- Pueblo County High School (BEN 94590): 1050 35th Ln, Pueblo, CO 81006
- Administrative Service Center South (BEN 16032332): 24951 US-50 BUS, Pueblo, CO 81006
- D70 Online/ Baxter: 301 28th Lane, Pueblo, CO 81006

Services Requested

The District requests connections from any of the above listed hub sites to four locations:

1. Beulah Schools: 8734 Schoolhouse Lane, Beulah, CO 81023
 - Beulah Elementary School (BEN 190002)
 - Beulah Middle School (BEN 94603)
2. Craver Middle School (BEN 94599), 4850 Crow Cut Off Rd, Colorado City, CO 81019
3. Rye Elementary School (BEN 94662), 8120 Highway 165, Rye, CO 81069
4. Rye High School (BEN 94661), 1 High School Drive, Rye, CO 81069

Each connection must terminate at a District-owned switch at the school and at whichever hub site it originates. Bidders may propose any of the following service options, priced separately on the Pricing Attachment so the District can compare them:

- Lit fiber service. The bidder provides and manages the circuit, including all equipment needed to light it.
- Leased dark fiber. The bidder leases fiber strands the District lights with its own equipment. Bidders may also price modulating electronics and maintenance as separate line items.
- Alternative designs. For example, a ring, a shared aggregation point, or a different routing back to Pueblo West High School or one of the hub sites. Describe the design and show how each site reaches the hub site.

If new fiber construction is needed to reach any site, price the special construction separately from the recurring service charges.

Service Requirements

Applicant is seeking proposals for Wide Area Network (WAN) Transport services between the Applicant's Internet hub site (A) and all endpoint (Z) locations listed on the pricing attachment. The district currently has a leased dark fiber network with 2 strands of fiber connected to each location. The district encourages prospective bidders to provide pricing that enables each location to be scaled up to 10Gbps. Offerors may propose solutions for one or more acceptable modes of transport.

A Network Map has been attached to the Form 470 to show how the district's current network is set up.

The district is open to any technology or topology that can meet the bandwidth and service level requirements. Offers for transport services must include all locations listed in the Pricing Attachment – partial bids **WILL NOT** be considered.

The District's Wide Area Network (WAN), including its existing Dark Fiber WAN service, is part of the District's critical infrastructure. Continuity of operations is essential to the success of this project. Accordingly, vendors must demonstrate the ability to turn up services no later than July 1, 2027. Failure to provide documentation showing that the vendor can either (a) currently deliver service to the specified address or (b) deliver service to the address by July 1, 2027, will result in rejection of the proposal. Vendors that cannot currently provide service must include a detailed plan and timeline for establishing connectivity by the required date.

All solutions must terminate service or infrastructure at the demarcation point within the building, generally, the MDF. Solutions that only bring service to the property line but not to the demarcation point will be disqualified. The agreement must terminate service at an MDF designated by the Applicant. The Offeror should specify the exact demarcation setup included in the base fees, such as wall-mounted CPE and CAT6a handoff, rack mount patch panel, etc.

Respondents are required to complete the attached Pricing Attachment. If special construction is necessary, respondents are also required to detail that component.

Option 1: Leased Dark Fiber

1) Leased Dark Fiber

Offers will be accepted for the provision of a leased dark fiber network solution which is terminated at both ends. The Applicant currently owns hardware to light the fiber; therefore, new modulating equipment **is not** a required component of proposed dark fiber solutions. The solution should include the lease of two (2) strands (1 pair) of **single-mode / multi-mode fiber** from the A Location(s) to each eligible Z location listed in the Pricing Attachment.

- a. **Excess Fiber Strands:** To the extent that the Successful Offeror installs additional strands of fiber for future business ventures, the Successful Offeror assumes full responsibility to ensure those incremental costs are allocated out, as applicable, of the special construction charges to the Applicant in accordance with FCC rules and orders.
- b. **Note:** If, after the issuance of the FCDL (Funding Commitment Decision Letter), USAC or the FCC determines that the Successful Offeror did not cost allocate those charges associated with any additional, excess strands, the Applicant will not be responsible for reimbursing the Successful Offeror, and the Successful Offeror will assume all responsibilities and costs deemed ineligible by USAC.

2) Maintenance for Dark Fiber

All dark fiber responses require maintenance as part of the response, even if maintenance is subcontracted out to a third party. In the case of the 3rd party maintenance, the respondent must hold and manage the subcontract and is ultimately responsible for the SLA. It is assumed that the

dark fiber network is part of the service provider's more comprehensive fiber infrastructure. The respondent will include only the portion of maintenance that is required to support the Applicant fiber segments versus overall network maintenance. If the fiber serves multiple customers, the maintenance cost should be shared among all the recipients. For leased dark fiber offerings, maintenance costs shall be assumed to be included in the monthly lease fee. Fee structures that separate maintenance costs must explicitly state this and provide itemized costs.

Service Requirements – Option 2: Leased Lit Fiber

1) Leased Lit Fiber

Offers will be accepted for leased lit fiber WAN transport services. The service must include fully managed symmetrical bandwidth connections (minimum 10 Gbps) between the A Location(s) and each of the Z Locations listed in the Pricing Attachment. The service must include connection between the applicant's existing switches and the provided fiber interface. Current switches are Ruckus 7000 series.

To be eligible for consideration, all proposed solutions must be within the specified bandwidth range from the Pricing Attachment. In addition to the specified minimum and maximum bandwidths, Service Providers are encouraged to offer various bandwidth options within this range. Refer to the Pricing Attachment for the requested service levels. Vendors should include their closest comparable service level for consideration if the exact bandwidths listed are unavailable.

Offerors should provide router lease options and pricing.

Submissions meeting any of the three (3) numbered criteria **WILL** be disqualified.

1. Solution does **NOT** offer at least the minimum bandwidth.
2. Solution does **NOT** offer bandwidth dedicated to the applicant but instead, the bandwidth is dependent on the number of other customers on the network or some other factor that does not, generally, guarantee the minimum bandwidth as a committed information rate (CIR).
3. Solution includes caps on data usage or slows speeds based on data usage or other factors.

Offerors must accept responsibility for site delivery, construction, permitting, pathway, and right-of-way costs required to deliver service.

Contract Term and Modifications

Services are needed effective July 1, 2027. If the service cannot be guaranteed by this date, this should be indicated in the proposal, along with an estimated timeline for when the service will be available.

Offers of month-to-month or contracted services will be considered. Service providers submitting proposals for contracted service are requested to provide 60-month pricing. Unless otherwise stated, the customer can voluntarily extend the agreement for two (2) additional twelve (12) month terms. Offers

requiring an initial term of more than 60 months will not be considered.

All contracts should permit bandwidth increases during the term. Any such increases, including those during optional renewal periods, will be treated as modifications to the existing agreement rather than new agreements and, therefore, will **NOT** extend the contract's term.

All contracts should include a provision allowing for early termination of circuits without penalty if a location is closed by the Applicant.

All contracts should include a clause allowing additional sites to be added at the existing MRC for the duration of the agreement, with the Applicant covering any one-time charges related to adding the new site to the network. Any additional sites added will have the same end date as the main agreement.

No price increases will be permitted during the term of the agreement.

Subject to contract restrictions, services may be reevaluated for cost-effectiveness at any time during the life of the agreement including renewal periods.

E-Rate Specific Considerations/Information

FCC rules require vendors to offer discounted SPI billing. The applicant **requires** SPI discount method for these services. Vendors that do not offer SPI billing will be disqualified.

Per USAC E-Rate rules, “cost of eligible services” will be the highest valued criterion in the evaluation process; however, other criteria with a lesser value may also be considered.

Service providers proposing a temporary equipment loan 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 its proposed services and/or products comply with Parts 47 Section 54.9 and 54.10 of the FCC rules which prohibits 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. See <https://www.usac.org/about/reports-orders/supply-chain/> for more details.

As required by Section 54.500(f) of Part 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations all bids in response to this RFP **must** offer the lowest corresponding price (LCP) which is defined as the lowest price that a service provider charges to nonresidential customers who are similarly situated to a particular E-Rate applicant (school, library, or consortium) for similar services. See <https://www.usac.org/E-Rate/service-providers/step-2-responding-to-bids/lowest-corresponding-price/> for more details.

Additional Considerations/Information

Applicant is subject to Colorado STATE/LOCAL policy restrictions.

A Colorado constitutional amendment prohibits public schools and libraries from entering into multiple-year financial obligations, such as multi-year contracts, without pre-allocation of the funds unless the local voters have previously approved such an obligation. [Colo. Const. Article X, Section 20(4)(b)] However, funding agreements, including multiyear contracts, that are subject to annual appropriations by a governing board, such as a school board, generally are allowed and are not subject to this constitutional provision since the governing board decides each year to make a particular expenditure.

The language in this solicitation has been standardized: "must," "shall," "mandatory," and "required" indicate mandatory specifications that the Applicant expects in the proposed solution. Proposals failing to meet these will be disqualified. "Should" and "may" indicate desirable specifications. A mandatory requirement may be waived if all respondents fail to meet a mandatory requirement.

Applicant reserves the right to waive any irregularities or informalities in the proposals received.

Offerors must accept that Applicant obligations are contingent on appropriation and availability of funds and may be reduced or terminated without penalty if funds are unavailable.

Applicant reserves the right to award all, part or none of the services set forth in this procurement. This procurement does not obligate Applicant until a valid agreement and/or valid Purchase Order is executed.

The Applicant reserves the right to request Best and Final Offers (BAFOs) from one or more Offerors. BAFOs must be received by the date and time specified during discussions or negotiations. If an Offeror does not submit a BAFO by the stated deadline, the Applicant will evaluate that Offeror based on its originally submitted proposal. If BAFOs are requested, the Applicant reserves the right to conduct a subsequent evaluation and scoring of proposals, including any revised pricing and other information submitted in response to the BAFO request, in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth in this solicitation.

Applicant may, at its sole discretion, extend the due date for the submission of proposals and any extensions shall be done via an addendum posted in the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC.)

The vendor submission is subject to open records requests and, as such, the records will be released in accordance with those policies. Vendors are encouraged to mark pages as "Proprietary" or "Confidential" as appropriate, but the entire submission may not be marked as such. Identifying information as "Proprietary" or "Confidential" does not guarantee that the information will not be released but will be considered in determining whether the information is required to be released in accordance with the open records policies. Generally, pricing is not exempt from being publicly released.

By submitting a proposal, the Offeror certifies that no relationship exists between the Offeror and Applicant that would interfere with a fair and open competition or is a conflict of interest.

Evaluation Criteria

The criteria below shall be utilized in the evaluation of offers for both Leased Lit and Leased Dark solutions. Individual criteria have been assigned a weight to reflect relative importance. Vendors are encouraged to provide details in their proposals that address the following criteria.

Criteria	Description	Weight
E-Rate Eligible Costs	E-Rate eligible recurring and non-recurring costs (formula based)	35%
E-Rate Ineligible Costs	E-Rate ineligible recurring and non-recurring costs (formula based)	5%
Technical Merit / Capability	Ability of the proposed solution to meet the scope, specifications, and requirements of this solicitation	25%
Prior Experience	Applicant's previous experience with the vendor, including performance history and quality of past service	20%
Transition and Operational Continuity Considerations	Evaluating the proposed solution's ability to meet the requested service start date	10%
Proposal Responsiveness	Completeness and clarity of the proposal submission, including all required forms and attachments (e.g., Pricing Attachment)	5%