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September 22, 2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 27-FFC8-ISP

PROPOSAL DATE DUE: October 22, 2026 10am MST

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Internet Service For El Paso County School District 8

General Information

El Paso County School District No. 8 - Fountain has a membership of approximately 7,200 students in preschool through grade 12. The District has one preschool, eight elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school, and one alternative high school, as well as other school district sites.

The current total bandwidth for the entire district is capped at 8Gbps. Current bandwidth usage is peaking at **1.8 Gbps** on a regular basis.

Purpose of Request

El Paso County School District No. 8 is requesting proposals for Internet Service to effectively support the instructional and business needs of the District.

Service Provider Responsibility

The Service Provider(s) must provide a justification for their proposed hardware, product and/or service solution(s) along with costs thereof. Service Providers are encouraged to present explanations of benefits and merits of their proposed solutions together with any accompanying services, maintenance, warranties, value added services or other criteria identified herein. Explanations should include a description of the method of support, including but not limited to:

SLA / Support Requirement	Vendor Response
Support/NOC hours of operation	
Physical location of support staff	
Service availability guarantee	
Critical incident initial response time	
Critical incident restoration/resolution commitment	
Method(s) for reporting issues/requesting support	
Escalation process and intervals	
Planned maintenance notification method and advance notice	
Standard planned maintenance window	
SLA/service credit remedy	
Annual support fee, if applicable	
Charges outside annual support fees, if applicable	
Utilization reporting available and frequency	

Proposal Requirements - Format and Content

Sections: The Proposal shall be divided into the following:

- A. Proposal Transmittal Letter
- B. Mandatory Proposer Qualifications
- C. General Proposer Qualifications, Experience
- D. Technical Approach
- E. Contract Sample
- F. Cost Proposal

If a proposal fails to detail and address each of the requirements detailed herein, the District may determine the proposal to be non-responsive and reject it.

Proposal Transmittal Letter

The letter shall provide the name, mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number of the person the District should contact regarding the proposal. The letter shall state whether the Proposer intends to use subcontractors. If so, clearly identify the names of the subcontractors along with complete mailing addresses and the scope and portions of the work the subcontractors shall perform. The letter shall state whether the Proposer or any individual who shall perform work under the contract has a possible conflict of interest (e.g., employment by District) and, if so, the nature of that conflict. The District reserves the right to cancel an award if any interest disclosed from any source could either give the appearance of a conflict of interest or cause speculation as to the objectivity of the offer. Such determination regarding any questions of conflict of interest shall be solely within the discretion of the District.

Mandatory Proposer Qualifications

The service provider must be a certified service provider for these products and have a Schools and Libraries (E-rate) ***SPIN number included with the quote***. The service provider must also agree to the SPI (Service Provider Invoice) invoicing method/FCC Form 474.

General Qualifications and Experience

Technical Proposals shall provide the following information (referencing the subsections in sequence) to demonstrate the Proposer's experience in delivering services similar to those required by this RFP:

1. A brief descriptive statement indicating the Proposer's credentials to deliver the services sought under this RFP.
2. A brief description of the Proposer's background and organizational history.
3. Number of years in business.
4. A brief statement of how long the Proposer has been performing the services required by this RFP.
5. Three relevant references including: 1) Contact name, 2) Company Name, & 3) Company address and phone numbers. References supplied must be utilizing the equipment and/or services included in the service provider's submittal. Colorado school district references are preferred.
6. Location of Proposer's offices.
7. A description of the Proposer organization's number of employees, longevity, and client base.
8. Whether there are plans or negotiations for merger, acquisition or sale of the Proposer company.
9. Form of business (i.e., individual, sole proprietor, corporation, non-profit corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, et cetera).

Technical Approach

El Paso County School District No. 8 is seeking bids for *scalable* internet services delivered to the District 8 Technology Service Center located at 425 W. Alabama Ave., Fountain, CO 80817.

Contract Sample

The Service Provider shall furnish a complete sample contract that will be the actual proposed contract between the District and the Service Provider, should the Service Provider be awarded the contract.

Cost Proposal

The service provider shall furnish a complete cost proposal. Proposal shall not include any Federal, State or Local taxes. Proposal should indicate any E-rate ineligible costs.

Vendors shall provide recurring and non-recurring costs separately for each proposed bandwidth level and contract term. Pricing shall clearly identify all mandatory charges required to provide the proposed service.

Service Plan Requirements:

Current ISP services expire on December 21, 2027. Cutover and service commencement must occur on or before December 21, 2027 without internet service interruption. Preference will be given to contracts that end on June 30 of the final year of the contract.

Proposals must include competitive pricing for bandwidth levels that are *scalable during the contract period*. All quotes must include pricing for bandwidth starting at 8Gbps and should include additional levels that range up to 20Gbps (e.g., 8Gbps, 10Gbps, 15Gbps, 20Gbps). Contract language must allow for bandwidth beyond 20Gbps within the first contract term if needed by the District. Contract proposals of at least 3 years are preferred (e.g., 3, 5, 8 years), but are subject to annual appropriation by the Board of Education (see Terms and Conditions below). A contract that includes the option for voluntary contract extensions at the completion of the first contract term is preferred.

Proposers shall complete the following pricing table for each proposed contract term:

Bandwidth	Monthly Recurring Cost	Non-Recurring Cost	E-Rate Ineligible Costs	Upgrade Lead Time
8 Gbps				
10 Gbps				
15 Gbps				
20 Gbps				

For each bandwidth level, proposers shall identify whether an increase during the contract term would require additional construction, equipment replacement, a contract amendment, extension of the contract term, or other charges or conditions.

IP Address Space

- The selected Service Provider must provide one contiguous, publicly routable IPv4 /25 address block for exclusive District use.
- Preservation of the District's existing public IPv4 address space is *strongly preferred*. Proposers shall state whether the existing address space can be retained if their service is selected.
- If preservation of the existing address space is not possible, the proposer shall clearly identify the need for readdressing and describe required migration activities, dependencies, expected service impact, and associated costs.
- The District's current topology does not support IPv6.

Optional DDoS Mitigation or Other Services

If available, proposers may include optional DDoS mitigation or other services. DDoS mitigation and other services **must be priced separately** from the base Internet service and identified separately for E-Rate eligibility purposes. Optional DDoS or other services will not be included in the base price evaluation. Final E-Rate eligibility is subject to applicable E-Rate rules and the Eligible Services List for the relevant funding year.

Timeline

- September 22, 2026: Issue Request for Proposals
- October 8, 2026 by 10am MST: Last day for questions regarding proposal
 - Send questions to rfp@ffc8.org
- October 22, 2026 by 10am MST: Proposal Due Date
- October 23, 2026 or later: Proposal evaluation commences
- November 20, 2026 or later: Notification of Award

Terms and Conditions

1. By submitting a proposal, the respondent certifies that it has fully read and understood the RFP and has full knowledge of the scope, nature, quantity, and quality of the services to be performed; the detailed requirements of the services to be provided; and the terms and conditions under which the services are to be performed.
2. The fulfillment of all contracts are contingent upon the funding approval and appropriation of monies by the Universal Service Administrative Company. The School district is not obligated to purchase equipment or services if the funding request is denied by the Universal Service Administrative Company.
3. Proposals, once received, become the property of the District and will not be returned to the respondent. The District reserves the right to retain all proposals submitted and to use any ideas in a proposal regardless of whether that proposal is selected.
4. All bid responses to this RFP shall be considered confidential and will not be disclosed to unsuccessful bidders.
5. Costs incurred by a respondent in responding to the RFP will be borne by the respondent.
6. Discussion with other school district personnel or officials, board members, members of the RFP evaluation and selection committee, and/or any consultant or advisor of the district in relation to this RFP is strictly prohibited (until the contract is fully executed).
7. The District retains the right to reject any or all proposals; to waive any irregularities in any proposal; and/or to accept or reject a proposal in whole or in part.
8. The award will be made to the respondent whose proposal is in compliance with the minimum qualifications and the terms and conditions set forth in the RFP; and the best proposal taking into consideration all aspects of the respondent's proposal and the District's needs. Once a vendor is selected, that vendor will receive a Letter of Intent from the District. A Purchase Order with the District's billing instructions will be provided at a later date (not before July 1, 2027). If multiple purchase orders are requested, the total of all purchase orders shall equal the proposal total.
9. The District may terminate the contract by giving thirty (30) calendar days written notice. The respondent will not be reimbursed for any anticipated profit after the date of termination.
10. The selected respondent shall not assign or transfer any or all of its rights, burdens, duties or obligations without the prior written consent of the District.
11. All contracts are required to contain our district ANNUAL APPROPRIATION clause: "Any financial commitment of the District arising out of this contract is subject to annual appropriation by the Board of Education. This contract is not intended to create a multiple fiscal year debt or other obligation and the District's obligations hereunder shall be interpreted and limited in such a manner as to avoid creation of a multiple fiscal year debt or other obligation under the terms of Article X, Section 20, Paragraph 4(b) of the Colorado Constitution."

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Price of E-Rate Eligible Products and Services	30
Specification Compliance • Compatibility with existing systems • Ease of interoperability with existing systems • Operational compatibility and implementation impact, including required District configuration changes, migration complexity, training requirements, and operational disruption. • Ability to preserve the District's existing public IPv4 /25 address space; if readdressing is required, associated migration complexity and operational impact • Compliance with required technical specifications	25
Scope of Work • Completeness and suitability of the proposed Internet service solution • Ability to meet or exceed the District's technical and service requirements • Scalability during the contract period • Bandwidth upgrade requirements, lead times, and associated dependencies or conditions • Overall responsiveness to the requested scope of services	15
Past Performance and References • Past performance for similar requirements • Past experience with vendor and/or reference feedback • Relevant references - school districts, public entities, municipalities or other industries for compensation experience • Financial report information	15
Bidder's capabilities • Description of firm and organization • Company size and background • Terms and conditions compliant • Ability to perform services • Customer service • Expertise, capability • Service Level Agreement • Ability to provide reporting, including utilization (daily, weekly, monthly) • Additional services offered (i.e., DDoS mitigation services, user portal/dashboard)	10
Schedule and project implementation • Ability to meet District implementation and service-delivery timelines • Quality and completeness of the proposed implementation/transition plan • Ability to minimize service disruption during transition • Ability to coordinate migration activities with District staff • Readiness to meet required service commencement dates • Ability to complete implementation and transition before expiration of the District's current Internet service agreement on December 21, 2027	5
Total points possible	100

Proposal Submission

- Answers to questions received via email will be added to the end of this document.
- **Send a digital copy of the proposal to rfp@ffc8.org prior to the deadline.**
- Proposals received after the due date and time or not submitted correctly may be disqualified.
- Faxed or mailed proposals will not be accepted.

