



**TROUP COUNTY
SCHOOL SYSTEM**

TROUP COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

100 North Davis Road, LaGrange, GA 30241

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Dedicated Internet Access — 2 Gbps Symmetrical

Secondary Datacenter, 75 Gordon Road, LaGrange, GA 30240

E-rate Funding Year 2027 (July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028)

Item	Detail
RFP Number	[TCSS-FY2027-IA-01]
FCC Form 470 Number	270001136
Billed Entity Number (BEN)	127310
Issue Date	9-24-26
Proposals Due	10-28-26, 2:00 PM ET
Point of Contact	[Gary Stansbury, Director of Technology] Technology Department stansburygw@troup.org

1. Introduction and Purpose

The Troup County School System ("TCSS" or "the District") is a public K-12 school district in Troup County, Georgia. The District is issuing this Request for Proposals ("RFP") to solicit proposals from qualified service providers for dedicated Internet access service delivered to the District's secondary datacenter.

This RFP is issued in conjunction with FCC Form 470 [Form 470 #270001136], posted through the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") E-rate Productivity Center ("EPC"). The District intends to seek Schools and Libraries Program ("E-rate") Category One support for the services described herein.

Summary of requested service:

- Service: Dedicated Internet Access (Category One — Internet Access)
- Bandwidth: 2 Gbps symmetrical (2 Gbps download / 2 Gbps upload), dedicated and not oversubscribed
- Delivery location: TCSS Secondary Datacenter, 75 Gordon Road, LaGrange, GA 30240
- Term: Sixty (60) months, July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2032

1.1 Funding Contingency

Any award, contract, and service resulting from this RFP are expressly contingent upon the District's successful application for, and USAC's subsequent approval of, E-rate funding for the services. Issuance of a Funding Commitment Decision Letter ("FCDL") approving the funding request is a condition precedent to the District's obligations under any resulting contract. If E-rate funding is denied, reduced, or not committed in a timely manner, the District may, at its sole discretion, cancel the award or contract, reduce the scope, or proceed at its own expense, without penalty or termination liability of any kind. See Section 8.1 for full contract language.

2. Schedule of Events

The following schedule is tentative and may be modified by the District through written addendum. All times are Eastern.

Event	Date
FCC Form 470 certified and RFP released	9-24-26
Proposals due (no earlier than 28 days after Form 470 certification)	10-28-26, 2:00 PM ET
Evaluation and vendor selection	10-29-26
Board of Education approval (if required)	November Board Meeting
Contract execution (before Form 471 filing)	12-1-26
FCC Form 471 filed (FY2027 filing window)	12-15-26
Service delivery date	July 1, 2027

Proposals will not be opened or evaluated, and no vendor will be selected, before the 28th day after the Form 470 is certified. The District will not sign a contract before that date, and will sign a contract before certifying its FCC Form 471.

3. E-rate Program Requirements

Respondents must comply with all applicable E-rate Program rules and requirements, including 47 C.F.R. Part 54, Subpart F, FCC orders, and USAC procedures. Failure to meet these requirements may result in disqualification.

- 3.1 **Service Provider Identification Number.** Respondents must hold a valid Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN / FCC Form 498 ID) and an FCC Registration Number (FRN) at the time of proposal submission, and must include both in their response.
- 3.2 **Red Light Rule.** Respondents must not be on "red light" status with the FCC. A respondent on red light status at the time of evaluation or Form 471 filing may be disqualified.
- 3.3 **Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP).** Respondents must offer the District prices no higher than the lowest price charged to similarly situated non-residential customers for similar services, consistent with 47 C.F.R. § 54.511(b).
- 3.4 **Gift Rules.** Respondents must comply with FCC gift rules (47 C.F.R. § 54.503(d)) and applicable Georgia and District ethics policies. No gifts, meals, or items of value may be offered to District personnel involved in the procurement.
- 3.5 **Fair and Open Competition.** Respondents shall not participate in preparation of this RFP or the Form 470 and shall not have contact regarding this RFP with District personnel other than the Point of Contact during the bidding period. All bidders will receive the same information.
- 3.6 **Eligible vs. Ineligible Costs.** Proposals must clearly itemize and separate E-rate-eligible costs from any ineligible components (e.g., DDoS mitigation, managed security, equipment not essential to the transmission of data). Any ineligible cost must be cost-allocated and priced separately.
- 3.7 **Invoicing.** The awarded provider must support both invoicing methods: Service Provider Invoice (SPI, FCC Form 474) and Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR, FCC Form 472). The District will select the method at its discretion. If SPI is used, the provider will bill the District only for the non-discounted share.
- 3.8 **Form 473 (SPAC).** The provider must have a current Service Provider Annual Certification on file for each funding year of the contract.
- 3.9 **Document Retention and Audits.** The provider must retain all records related to the procurement, provision, and billing of services for at least ten (10) years after the latest of the last day of service delivery or the invoice deadline, and must cooperate with any USAC, FCC, or other audit or Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review, including timely responses to information requests.
- 3.10 **Service Substitution / SPIN Change.** Any service substitution or change requires prior USAC approval and shall be handled in accordance with Program rules.
- 3.11 **Multi-Year Eligibility.** This 60-month contract is intended to cover FY2027 through FY2031 so that the District need not rebid the service annually. The District will file an FCC Form 471 each funding year of the term.

4. Scope of Services

4.1 Service Location

Site	Address	Entity Number
TCSS Secondary Datacenter at Ethel Kight Elementary School	75 Gordon Road LaGrange, GA 30240	32786

Demarcation point: Media Center MDF. Site access for surveys and installation is available weekdays 8am-4pm by appointment with the Point of Contact.

4.2 Service Requirements

Proposed service must meet or exceed the following minimum requirements. The District is technology-neutral; any delivery technology that meets these requirements will be considered.

Requirement	Specification
Service type	Dedicated Internet Access (DIA); not a shared, best-effort, or broadband-class service
Bandwidth	2 Gbps symmetrical (2 Gbps down / 2 Gbps up), committed information rate equal to full port rate
Oversubscription	None on the access circuit; provider must describe upstream capacity and peering
Handoff	Ethernet, 10GBASE-LR (single-mode fiber) or 10GBASE-SR; provider to specify. Circuit rate-limited to 2 Gbps
IPv4 addressing	Minimum /28 static public block; larger block available upon justification
IPv6 addressing	Native IPv6 with a minimum /56 (preferred /48)
Routing	Static routing required.
Availability	99.9% or greater monthly availability (state proposed SLA)
Latency	Round-trip ≤ 20 ms to provider's nearest Internet exchange / backbone point (state proposed)
Packet loss / jitter	Packet loss $\leq 0.1\%$; jitter ≤ 5 ms (state proposed)
Monitoring & support	24x7x365 NOC with direct phone access; proactive monitoring and outage notification to the District
Mean time to repair	4 hours or less for service-affecting outages
Reporting	Online portal or monthly reports showing utilization, availability, and trouble tickets
Bandwidth scalability	Ability to increase bandwidth during the term without a new circuit; price tiers per Attachment A

4.3 Installation and Special Construction

- Service must be fully installed, tested, and accepted no later than July 1, 2027. Installation and testing may occur before July 1, 2027; however, recurring charges shall not begin before July 1, 2027.
- Any special construction, installation, or other non-recurring charges must be itemized separately on Attachment A. The District reserves the right to request that special construction charges be amortized.
- Respondents must describe the proposed physical path (including whether facilities currently exist to the site), any entrance or building work required, and an installation timeline.
- Provider is responsible for all permits, right-of-way, and restoration associated with construction to the demarcation point.

4.4 Optional Services (Price Separately)

The following items may be proposed as options and must be priced separately. Items not eligible for E-rate support will be paid entirely by the District if selected.

- Diverse/redundant physical path or entrance
- DDoS detection and mitigation (E-rate ineligible)
- Additional IP address space

5. Contract Term

The initial contract term shall be sixty (60) months, beginning **July 1, 2027** and ending **June 30, 2032**. Pricing must remain fixed for the full term; no escalation will be permitted except for government-mandated taxes and surcharges.

Consistent with Georgia law governing multi-year obligations of local boards of education, the District's financial obligations for each fiscal year beyond the current fiscal year are subject to the appropriation of funds by the Troup County Board of Education. The contract may terminate without penalty at the end of any fiscal year in which funds are not appropriated.

6. Proposal Submission Requirements

6.1 Questions

All questions must be submitted in writing by email to the Point of Contact (stansburygw@troup.org) with the subject line "RFP [TCSS-FY2027-IA-01] Question." Answers will be posted at the TCSS RFP website. Oral responses are not binding.

6.2 Submission Method

Proposals must be received by the due date and time listed in Section 2 via email to stansburygw@troup.org . Late proposals will not be considered.

6.3 Required Proposal Contents

Organize the proposal in the following order:

1. **Cover letter** signed by an authorized representative, including company legal name, address, and contact.

2. **E-rate identifiers:** SPIN / Form 498 ID and FCC Registration Number (FRN).
3. **Technical solution:** description of service, delivery technology, network diagram, handoff, upstream capacity, and peering.
4. **Service Level Agreement:** availability, MTTR, performance metrics, escalation procedures, and credit schedule.
5. **Installation plan:** physical path, construction required, and timeline to meet July 1, 2027.
6. **Experience and references:** minimum three (3) references for comparable services, preferably K-12 or public sector in Georgia.
7. **Pricing:** completed Attachment A. Pricing must not be included elsewhere in a way that conflicts with Attachment A.
8. **Proposed contract / Master Service Agreement** and any exceptions to this RFP, stated clearly.
9. **Required forms:** Attachment B (Respondent Information and Certifications), Attachment C (Non-Collusion Affidavit), Attachment D (Georgia E-Verify Contractor Affidavit), IRS Form W-9, and certificate of insurance.

7. Evaluation and Award

Proposals will be evaluated using the criteria below. In accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 54.511(a), **the price of the eligible services is the primary factor and is weighted more heavily than any other single factor.** The District will select the most cost-effective proposal, considering price and the other factors listed.

Criterion	Weight
Cost of E-rate-eligible services (total 60-month cost)	40%
Technical solution and ability to meet requirements	20%
Service level agreement, support, and network reliability	15%
Experience, references, and prior service to the District	15%
Installation plan and ability to meet the July 1, 2027 date	10%
Total	100%

Price scoring: the lowest total eligible cost receives the maximum points; other proposals receive points in proportion (lowest price ÷ proposal price × maximum points).

The District reserves the right to: reject any or all proposals; waive informalities; request clarification or a best-and-final offer from any or all respondents; and award based on the proposal that is most advantageous to the District. The District will retain all proposals, evaluation matrices, and selection documentation in accordance with E-rate record retention requirements.

If no responsive proposals are received, the District reserves the right to take any action permitted by E-rate rules, including re-posting the Form 470.

8. Terms and Conditions

8.1 E-rate Funding Contingency

This contract is contingent upon the District's successful petition for, and USAC's approval of, E-rate funding for the services described herein. The District shall have no obligation to accept or pay for services, and the provider shall not begin recurring billing, unless and until USAC issues a Funding Commitment Decision Letter approving the District's funding request for the applicable funding year, or the District provides written notice to proceed without E-rate funding. If funding is denied, reduced, cancelled, or not committed for any funding year of the term, the District may terminate the contract, or the affected portion, without penalty, early-termination fees, or further liability. The provider shall not be entitled to recover any unamortized construction or other costs upon such termination.

8.2 General Terms

- **Governing law:** Laws of the State of Georgia; venue in Troup County, Georgia.
- **Open Records:** Proposals are subject to the Georgia Open Records Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 et seq.). Respondents must clearly mark any trade secret information and include the affidavit required by that Act for trade secret claims.
- **Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act:** The awarded provider must comply with O.C.G.A. § 13-10-90 et seq. and execute the contractor affidavit (Attachment D).
- **Insurance:** Provider shall maintain commercial general liability of at least [\$1,000,000 per occurrence / \$2,000,000 aggregate], and workers' compensation as required by Georgia law, naming the District as additional insured.
- **Indemnification:** Provider shall indemnify and hold harmless the District, its Board, officers, and employees from claims arising from the provider's performance or negligence.
- **Termination:** The District may terminate for cause upon [30] days' written notice and failure to cure. Termination for non-appropriation or E-rate funding contingency is governed by Sections 5 and 8.1.
- **Taxes:** The District is exempt from Georgia sales tax; tax-exempt documentation available on request. Respondents must list all applicable federal and regulatory fees and surcharges.
- **Contract precedence:** In the event of conflict, the order of precedence is (1) the executed contract, (2) this RFP and addenda, (3) the provider's proposal. Provider terms that conflict with E-rate rules or this RFP are void.
- **Costs of response:** The District is not liable for any cost incurred by respondents in preparing proposals.

Attachment A — Pricing Form

Respondent Name: _____

SPIN / 498 ID: _____ FRN: _____

A.1 Required Service — 2 Gbps Symmetrical DIA, 75 Gordon Road

Line Item	E-rate Eligible? (Y/N)	Monthly Recurring (MRC)	Non-Recurring (NRC)	60-Month Total
2 Gbps symmetrical dedicated Internet access		\$	\$	\$
Installation		—	\$	\$
Special construction (itemize on separate sheet)		—	\$	\$
IPv4 /28 and IPv6 addressing		\$	\$	\$
Required equipment at demarcation (describe)		\$	\$	\$
Taxes, fees, surcharges (estimate; itemize)		\$	\$	\$
Total — Eligible Services		\$	\$	\$
Total — Ineligible Services		\$	\$	\$

A.2 Bandwidth Upgrade Pricing (MRC, fixed for term)

Bandwidth Tier	Monthly Recurring Cost
5 Gbps symmetrical	\$
8 Gbps symmetrical	\$
10 Gbps symmetrical	\$

A.3 Optional Services

Option	E-rate Eligible? (Y/N)	MRC	NRC	60-Month Total
Diverse / redundant path or entrance		\$	\$	\$
DDoS detection and mitigation	N	\$	\$	\$
Additional IPv4 space (specify size)		\$	\$	\$

Pricing is firm and valid for [180] days from the proposal due date and, upon award, for the full 60-month term.

Authorized Signature: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Attachment B — Respondent Information and Certifications

Field	Response
Company legal name	
Address	
Contact name / title	
Phone / email	
SPIN / FCC Form 498 ID	
FCC Registration Number (FRN)	
Federal Tax ID (EIN)	
Current FCC red light status (Y/N)	
24x7 NOC phone number	

By signing below, the respondent certifies that:

- It is not currently on FCC red light status and holds a valid SPIN and FRN.
- Prices offered are at or below the Lowest Corresponding Price, as defined by 47 C.F.R. § 54.500 and § 54.511(b).
- It has complied with FCC gift rules and has not offered anything of value to District personnel.
- It did not participate in preparing this RFP or the associated FCC Form 470.
- It will comply with all E-rate Program rules, including record retention for a minimum of ten (10) years and cooperation with audits and reviews.
- It acknowledges that any contract is contingent upon the approval of E-rate funding as set forth in Section 8.1.
- It has received and acknowledges Addenda Nos. _____.

Authorized Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Attachment C — Non-Collusion Affidavit

The undersigned, being duly authorized, certifies that this proposal is made without prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a proposal for the same services, and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. The undersigned further certifies that no District employee or Board member has a financial interest in this proposal, except as disclosed below.

Disclosures (if any): _____

Authorized Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me this ____ day of _____, 20____.

Notary Public: _____ My commission expires: _____

Attachment D — Georgia E-Verify Contractor Affidavit

Contractor Affidavit under O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91(b)(1)

By executing this affidavit, the undersigned contractor verifies its compliance with O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91, stating affirmatively that the individual, firm or corporation which is engaged in the physical performance of services on behalf of Troup County School System has registered with, is authorized to use and uses the federal work authorization program commonly known as E-Verify, or any subsequent replacement program, in accordance with the applicable provisions and deadlines established in O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91. Furthermore, the undersigned contractor will continue to use the federal work authorization program throughout the contract period and the undersigned contractor will contract for the physical performance of services in satisfaction of such contract only with subcontractors who present an affidavit to the contractor with the information required by O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91(b). Contractor hereby attests that its federal work authorization user identification number and date of authorization are as follows:

_____ Federal Work Authorization User Identification
Number

_____ Date of Authorization

_____ Name of Contractor

_____ Name of Project

TROUP COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM _____ Name of Public Employer

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on _____, __, ____ in _____.

_____ Signature of Authorized Officer or Agent

_____ Printed Name and Title of Authorized Officer or
Agent

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME ON THIS THE _____ DAY OF _____, 20____.

_____ Notary Public

My Commission Expires: _____