

FORT BRAGG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR
Broadband Connectivity
to be funded Under E-Rate Year 30 (2027-2028)
Issued September 24, 2026

1 SUMMARY

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to define the Fort Bragg Unified School District's minimum requirements, solicit proposals and gain adequate information by which the Fort Bragg Unified School District may evaluate the services offered by the Proposer.

Fort Bragg Unified School District, is a public-school district in Mendocino County, oversees public primary and secondary education in Fort Bragg, California and the surrounding area, accountable to both the local voters and the California Department of Education. It was organized in 1895, shortly before the town formally incorporated, for the families of the fast-growing number of men moving to the area to work for Union Lumber Company or one of the other local lumber mills during the logging boom.

Fort Bragg Unified School District, herein after referred to as the District, seeks proposals for all E-Rate Category One eligible services to provide broadband connectivity between Fort Bragg High School and both Fort Bragg Middle and Redwood Elementary schools. The District will accept responses for Lit Fiber Service, Dark Fiber Lease that meet the requirements as defined in Section 3 of this RFP.

The District discourages lengthy and costly proposals. Proposals should be prepared simply, economically and provide a straightforward, concise description of the Proposer's service design and capabilities to satisfy the requirements of the RFP. Emphasis should be on completeness and clarity of content.

For a proposal to be valid, it must address all aspects of desired network upgrade and be received by the District's representative no later than Friday, October 30, 2026.

2 PROPOSAL EVALUATION

All valid proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria and weighted scores:

Price of E-Rate eligible recurring and non-recurring costs	30%
Network Architecture/Scalability/Ease of Management	20%
Service Level Agreements	15%
Implementation/Post Implementation Support Structure	15%
Vendor participation in SPI	10%
References	10%

2.1 EVALUATION CLARIFICATION

- Price - E-Rate eligible circuit cost is the total cost of ownership that includes special construction and Non-Recurring Charges in addition to Monthly Recurring Charges and includes any and all services that will be applied on a monthly recurring basis.

3 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

3.1 SITES

- | | | |
|-------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 3.1.1 | Fort Bragg Unified School District Office
321 S. Lincoln St., Fort Bragg | (Informational only, not part of RFP) |
| 3.1.2 | Dana Gray Elementary
1197 Chestnut St., Fort Bragg | (Informational only, not part of RFP) |
| 3.1.3 | Fort Bragg High School
300 Dana St., Fort Bragg | |
| 3.1.4 | Fort Bragg Middle School
500 North Harold St., Fort Bragg | |
| 3.1.5 | Lighthouse Community Day School
250 S. Sanderson Way, Fort Bragg | (Informational only, not part of RFP) |
| 3.1.6 | Noyo High School
250 S. Sanderson Way, Fort Bragg | (Informational only, not part of RFP) |

3.1.7 Redwood Elementary
324 S. Lincoln St., Fort Bragg

3.1.8 Shelter Cove Community Day School (Informational only, not part of RFP)
740 North Spring St., Fort Bragg

3.2 GENERAL INFORMATION

The District currently utilizes an Ethernet dedicated circuit at 10GB provided through the Mendocino County Office of Education District's for access to Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (ENIC) Network and the Internet.

Existing internal District network topology:

- Fort Bragg High School Location 3.1.3 is hub of the District network:
 - o District owned fiber exists from Fort Bragg High School to:
 - Dana Gray Elementary, Location 3.2.3
 - o District owned conduit exists from Fort Bragg High School, Location 3.1.3 to Alternate Education Campus which houses Lighthouse Day School and Noyo High School, Locations 3.1.5 and 3.1.6, respectively.
- Ethernet dedicated circuit provided under contract at 1GB from Fort Bragg High School, Location 3.1.3 to:
 - o Fort Bragg Middle School, Location 3.1.4
 - o Redwood Elementary School, Location 3.1.7
- Existing Ethernet dedicated circuit contract will expire June 30, 2027.

3.3 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- Point to Point Connectivity
 - o Fort Bragg High School, Location 3.1.3 to Fort Bragg Middle School 3.1.4
 - o Fort Bragg High School, Location 3.1.3 to Redwood Elementary School, Location 3.1.7
- Specific Requirements for Lit Fiber Service identified in Section 3.5 of this RFP
- Specific Requirements for Dark Fiber Service/IRU identified in Section 3.6 of this RFP.

3.4 E-RATE ELIGIBILITY

E-Rate support is available for leased lit fiber, leased dark fiber, dark fiber IRU and self-provisioned broadband networks as described in the 2014 Second E-Rate Order (FCC 12-189). Eligible costs include monthly charges, special construction, installation and activation charges, modulating electronics and other equipment necessary to make a Category One broadband service functional ("Network Equipment"), and maintenance and operation charges. Network Equipment and maintenance and operational costs for existing network are eligible. All equipment and services, including maintenance and operations must be competitively bid.

Applicants that seek bids for leased dark fiber must also seek bids for leased lit fiber service and fully consider all responsive bids. Similarly, applicants that seek bids for self-provisioned broadband networks must also seek bids for the needed connectivity via services provided over third-party networks, and fully consider all responsive bids.

Applicants may seek special construction funding for the upfront, non-recurring costs for the deployment of new or upgraded facilities. The eligible components of special construction are construction of network facilities, design and engineering, and project management.

If the proposer wishes to place extra strands in the build (strands beyond those that will be for the applicant's current or future exclusive use), the E-Rate applicant will be required to cost allocate all incremental costs of the extra strands from the special construction request for E-Rate support. It is not a pro-rata share, but an incremental cost calculation that must be backed by detailed documentation.

If Proposer's solution (whether leased lit fiber or leased dark fiber) includes 'additional' fiber strands as previously described, it is the responsibility of the Proposer to perform the cost-allocation as described and propose a net cost to the District.

3.5 THE DISTRICT'S DESIRED BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY (Lit Fiber Service)

- Fiber based Ethernet Service fully compliant with IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Standards
 - o Proposed service shall comply with IEEE Standards:
 - Point to Point circuits as identified in Section 3.2 of this RFP.
 - 1GB upon installation
 - Capable of bandwidth increase to 10GB upon request with no additional installation other than bandwidth increase.
 - Service to be installed and available to the District by July 1, 2027.
 - Contractual Term of three (3) years with ability to extend for two (2) additional one-year terms.
 - Services sought by the District are to be:
 - Eligible for E-Rate Category 1 discounts
 - Eligible for California Teleconnect Fund discounts

3.6 THE DISTRICT'S DESIRED BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY (Dark Fiber Lease/IRU)

- Leased Dark Fiber
 - o Point to Point Circuits as identified in Section 3.2 of this RFP.
 - o Single bi-directional fiber OR two strands of fiber
 - Installed into MDF at each location
 - Placement of fiber into each location is the responsibility of the Proposer
 - Anticipated date for completion of service install is July 1, 2027.

- District will confirm following receipt of approved Funding Commitment Decision Letter
- Contractual Term of ten (10) years.
- Eligible for E-Rate Category 1 discounts
- Eligible for California Teleconnect Fund discounts

4 PROPOSER'S RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS AND COMMITMENTS

4.1.1 PROPOSED BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY SOLUTION

- Identify proposed solution as Lit Fiber Service, Dark Fiber Lease.
- Requirements for each solution follow:

4.1.2 PROPOSER'S RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS AND COMMITMENTS (Lit Fiber Service)

- **Proposers responses are required in PDF file format and shall be emailed to the District's Consultant: rich@aagiconsulting.com**
 - o Hard copy responses are not required.
- Confirm that proposer will complete FCC Form 473 Service Provider Annual Certification Form for Funding Year 2024-2025.
- Specify fiber network design to be implemented demonstrating
 - Point to Point Connectivity from the District's locations as identified in Section 3.2 of this RFP.
- Provide contractual pricing for services, which identifies minimum annual dollar commitment for network services to be provided at three and five-year terms.
 - o Contractual pricing should:
 - Identify recurring and non-recurring rates for bandwidth to be provided at installation, as previously specified by the District
 - Include pricing for available bandwidth increments:
 - 1GB
 - 10GB
 - Special construction charges,
 - o Identify any FCC, CPUC surcharge/fees and taxes to be applied to monthly billing.
 - If proposed service is exempt from any FCC and/or CPUC surcharges/fees and taxes, provide documentation of exemption.
 - **Responses that fail to include surcharge/fee information as requested may be considered non-compliant.**
- Should proposer elect to, identify E-Rate Eligible Special Construction Costs in its proposal,
 - o Proposer shall confirm ability of the District to amortize non-discounted portion of Special Construction costs over a four-year term.

- o If successful bidder, Proposer agrees to provide the following information to support Special Construction costs:
 - Aerial Build Cost
 - Average Cost per foot for material
 - Average Cost per foot for placement, structure material, structure placement.
 - Direct Buried Build
 - Average Cost per foot for material
 - Average Cost per foot for placement, labor, conduit. Handholes, vaults etc.
 - o Any additional information that may be requested during E-Rate Program Integrity Assurance process.
- Submit network design illustration of proposed services to deliver bandwidth and network configuration as outlined by the District.
 - o Identify design components which contribute to increased bandwidth utilization across the proposed network.
 - If proposed solution is a managed network in which provider will install network equipment to support the solution, provide manufacturer's name, model and SKU number for equipment to be installed at each site.
 - o State network latency to which provider will commit to deliver
- Identify implementation plan for Lit Fiber Services
 - o Include timeline for District to submit firm order to proceed to meet District's anticipated installation date of February 15, 2021.
 - Responses that fail to include timeline as requested may be considered non-compliant.
 - o Should proposer's implementation plan include utilization of sub-contractors
 - Identify work to be completed by proposer's personal
 - Identify work to be completed by sub-contractor
 - o Identify any external influences which are out of proposer's control which could impact ability to meet stated installation timelines.
 - o Provide description of facilities to be installed by provider and handoff at each location, including any rack space or electrical requirements to be provided by the District.
 - o Confirm ability to provide the District with as built documentation of network components including but not limited to circuit identification numbers and network routing information
- Define support resources available to the District which will:
 - o Identify process and interval to increase bandwidth or modify network
 - Provide organization chart with contact information for sales and support organization
 - Interval should be stated in business days from receipt of firm order from the District to complete bandwidth increase or network modification.
 - Provide mask of service order which highlights specific information required from the District to be considered a firm order.
 - Define timeline for confirmation of firm order from the District.

- Responses that fail to include process and interval for bandwidth or network modification may be considered non-compliant.
 - o Identify process for resolution of service interruptions
 - Provide organization chart with contact information for repair/maintenance organization.
 - Identify number of personnel located in Mendocino County available to support proposed service.
 - If repair/maintenance is to be provided by sub-contractor, so state and:
 - Provide location of sub-contractor's offices and number of personnel available to support proposed service.
 - Define major and minor service interruptions and mean time to resolution
- Provide
 - o Minimum of three references for proposed services.
 - Identify reference contact and provide contact information
 - Responses that fail to provide reference information as requested may be considered non-compliant.
 - o SPIN numbers for services to be provided.
 - o Sample Billing Statement
 - o Identify process for obtaining approved E-Rate discounts following receipt of Funding Commitment Decision Letter and submission of Form 486
 - Provide organization chart with contact information for E-Rate support organization.
 - Confirm organization ability to provide Service Provider Invoicing.

4.1.3 PROPOSER'S RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS AND COMMITMENTS (Dark Fiber Lease)

- **Proposers responses are required in PDF file format and shall be emailed to the District's Consultant: rich@aagiconsulting.com**
 - o Hard copy responses are not required
- Confirm that proposer will complete FCC Form 473 Service Provider Annual Certification Form for Funding Year 2027-2028.
- Specify fiber network design to be implemented demonstrating
 - Point to Point Connectivity from the District's locations as identified in Section 3.2 of this RFP.
- o Include generic network diagram of service to be deployed which identifies any customer provides structures to facilitate placement of fiber facility.

- o Identify any contingencies for implementation of proposed service or the impact on proposed contract pricing should the District elect to remove a/n location/s from inclusion the proposed Dark Fiber Lease.
- Provide contract pricing schedule, including:
 - Leased Dark Fiber for three and five years.
 - o Installation Costs for service
 - o Annual maintenance costs
 - o Special Construction cost
 - o Identify any FCC, CPUC surcharges/fees and taxes to be applied to monthly billing.
 - If proposed services is exempt from any FCC and/or CPUC surcharges/fees and taxes, provide documentation of exemption.
 - Responses that fail to include surcharge/fee information as requested may be considered non-compliant.
- Should proposer elect to, identify E-Rate Eligible Special Construction Costs in its proposal,
 - o Proposer shall confirm ability of the District to amortize non-discounted portion of Special Construction costs over a four-year term.
 - o If successful bidder, Proposer agrees to provide the following information to support Special Construction costs:
 - Aerial Build Cost
 - Average Cost per foot for material
 - Average Cost per foot for placement, structure material, structure placement.
 - Direct Buried Build
 - Average Cost per foot for material
 - Average Cost per foot for placement, labor, conduit. Handholes, vaults etc.
 - o Any additional information that may be requested during E-Rate Program Integrity Assurance process.
- Identify implementation plan for Dark Fiber
 - o Include timeline for District to submit firm order to proceed to meet District anticipated installation date of February 15, 2021.
 - Responses that fail to include timeline as requested will be considered non-compliant.
 - o Should proposer's implementation plan include utilization of sub-contractors
 - Identify work to be completed by proposer's personal
 - Identify work to be completed by sub-contractor
 - o Identify any external influences which are out of proposer's control which could impact ability to meet stated installation timelines.
 - o Provide description of facilities to be installed by provider and handoff at each location, including any rack space or electrical requirements to be provided by the District.

- o Confirm ability to provide the District with as built documentation of network components.
- Identify any portion of proposed service costs that are ineligible for E-Rate discounts, if applicable.
- Identify any available support resources committed to the District during construction process.
 - o Include organization charts with contact information for sales support, repair/maintenance and project implementation team.
 - Identify number of personnel located in Mendocino County available to support proposed service.
 - If repair/maintenance is to be provided by sub-contractor, so state and:
 - Provide location of sub-contractor's offices and number of personnel available to support proposed service.
- Provide
 - o Minimum of three references for proposed services.
 - Identify reference contact and provide contact information
 - Responses that fail to provide reference information as requested may be considered non-compliant.
 - o SPIN numbers for services to be provided.
 - o Sample Billing Statement
 - o Identify process for obtaining approved E-Rate discounts following receipt of Funding Commitment Decision Letter and submission of Form 486
 - Provide organization chart with contact information for E-Rate support organization.
 - Confirm organization ability to provide Service Provider Invoicing.

5 SERVICE LEVEL/MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS

5.1 SERVICE LEVEL/MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS MUST BE INCLUDED IN PROPOSAL TO BE CONSIDERED A VALID RESPONSE.

5.1.2 LIT FIBER SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

- Service Level Agreement should identify support services to be provided, including but not limited to:
 - o Performance guarantees
 - o Network Monitoring
 - o Fault Isolation and Resolution
- Service Level Agreement shall be an industry standard 24/7 agreement to ensure the following objectives are maintained:

- No other Services Provider's customers will have any physical or logical access to District traffic.
- Network Availability – 99.00%
- Packet Delivery – 99.99%
- Network Latency: As identified and committed to in proposal
- Mean Time to Repair – 4 Hours – end-to-end, including local loop

5.1.3 DARK FIBER LEASE MAINTANCE/SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

DARK FIBER MAINTENANCE SPECIFICATION Operations and Maintenance

Practices:

The District will require on-going maintenance and operations of the fiber for the term of the lease. When pricing maintenance and operations, the respondent should include an overview of fiber maintenance practices including:

- Call before you dig locate services
- Routine maintenance and inspection
- Scheduled maintenance windows and scheduling practices for planned outages
- Fiber monitoring including information on what fiber management software is used, what fiber monitoring system is used, and who performs the monitoring
- Handling of unscheduled outages and customer problem reports?
 - o What service level agreement is included, and what alternative service levels may be available at additional cost
- What agreements are in place with applicable utilities and utility contractors for emergency restoration
- Repair of fiber breaks
- Replacement of damaged fiber
- Replacement of fiber which no longer meets specifications
- Policies for customer notification regarding maintenance

DARK FIBER MAINTENANCE SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT RESPONDENTS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Commitment to proactively monitor fiber 24/7/365
- In case of outage or service impacting incident, commitment to inform fiber lessee of any fiber outage or cut within **_State timeframe to which provider will commit_**
- In case of outage or service impacting incident, commitment to present lessee with plan for service restoration or improvement within **_ State timeframe to which provider will commit _**

- In case of outage or service impacting incident a mean time to repair of State timeframe to which provider will commit
- Provide an escalation list with qualifications summary of each person on the escalation list
- Provision of a 24/7/365 phone number in case lessee is first to discover outage or service impacting incident
- Provision of financial or service credit penalty if this service level agreement is violated.

6 RFP TERMS

The District requires RFP submittals no later than 5:00pm, Friday, October 30, 2026. Proposals must be valid through the E-Rate Funding Year 2027-2028.

The District requests email responses to this RFP.

Email responses to: rich@aagiconsulting.com

Received responses will be opened and read by the District's evaluation team, following the close of the submission window. The District reserves the right to make an award without further discussion of any proposal submitted. Therefore, each proposal should be initially submitted on the most favorable terms the vendor can offer.

All proposals, Lit Fiber Service and Dark Fiber Lease will be evaluated based upon the evaluation matrix identified in Section 2 and the network requirements identified in Section 3 of this document.

Cost-effectiveness evaluation will utilize proposed network costs at 1GB upon installation.

After the evaluation of proposals, consideration of all pertinent information available and cost-effectiveness evaluation, the District shall issue a written notice which shall identify the apparent best evaluated Proposer. The notice shall not create rights, interests or claims of entitlement in the apparent best evaluated Proposer or any vendor.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted and waive any formality in the proposals received.

The contract(s), if awarded, will be to the vendor(s) considered to be the best value to the District. Best value will be considered based upon the proposal evaluation matrix identified in Section 2 and network requirements identified in Section 3.

7 CONTRACT TERM

Contract term to be identified following evaluation of the service which provides best value to the District and lowest pre-discounted recurring cost.

Contractual agreement shall restate service provider's commitments as identified in Section 3.5 of this RFP.

The District requires all contractual agreements to be reviewed by the District's legal representative and approval of the Fort Bragg Unified School District Board of Trustees.

Contract and implementation of successful proposal are contingent upon full E-Rate funding.

8 CONTACT INFORMATION

Direct contact with District personnel during RFP process is prohibited and will result in disqualification of potential service providers that ignore this prohibition.

Direct contact between District personnel and existing service providers to discuss ongoing projects initiated prior to the release of this RFP does not constitute a violation of the previously stated prohibition.

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Last date to submit questions is Friday, October 2, 2026.