Cecil County Public Schools
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CECIL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

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CCPS RFQ Elk Neck Elementary School Internet Service (E-RATE)

ADDENDUM #1

This addendum answers questions regarding the CCPS RFQ Elk Neck Elementary School Internet Service (E-RATE).

Proposers and related parties will be responsible to have read and understand all documents, the scope of work, addenda and all related solicitation documents issued. These documents will become attached to and part of the solicitation and award of contract.

1. Does CCPS require dedicated Internet access (DIA), or will business-grade broadband Internet service be acceptable?
A: Business-grade Internet is acceptable, so long as the other specifications listed below are met.
2. Must the requested bandwidth be symmetrical, providing equal download and upload speeds?
A: Yes, we do expect symmetrical bandwidth delivery with the same upload and download speed.
3. Are bandwidth options of 500 Mbps, 600 Mbps, 750 Mbps, and 1 Gbps acceptable, or does CCPS prefer specific increments?
A: We prefer the fastest symmetrical speeds for the least amount of cost. We will accept a minimum of 500 Mbps and a maximum of 1 Gbps.
4. Are there minimum requirements for uptime, latency, packet loss, availability, or service restoration?
A: Uptime on 3-nines standard (99.9% and excluding scheduled maintenance, Force Majeure events and customer-side equipment failures), latency <=20ms, packet loss of 0.1%, service restoration (Mean Time to Restore) within 24 hours.
5. Does CCPS require static public IP addresses? If so, how many?
A: Yes, we only require 1 static IP address.
6. Is fiber-optic connectivity required, or may vendors propose other technologies that meet the required performance?
A: All medium delivery options are acceptable, so long as other specifications are met.
7. What network handoff interface and customer-premises equipment are required at the school?
A: We require an Ethernet hand-off.
8. Does CCPS require 24/7 technical support, proactive monitoring, or a dedicated service escalation contact?
A: 24/7/365 phone support with a 4-hour response time.

9. Is there existing Internet infrastructure at the school that a new provider may use?
A: No. Note the school district does not own a conduit pathway from the street into the building.
10. Is a site visit required or recommended before submitting a quotation?
A: No. There should be no expectation of a site visit prior to providing a quote.
11. What is the anticipated service activation date?
A: July 1, 2027, as listed in the RFQ.
12. Are there restrictions on installation work, school access, cabling, construction, or maintenance windows?
A: No restrictions and the school district will assign a project resource at time of quote acceptance.
13. Must installation, activation, and standard equipment be included in the quoted price?
A: Yes. The monthly recurring cost should be inclusive of all one-time and recurring fees.
14. Should vendors submit separate pricing for each available bandwidth option between 500 Mbps and 1 Gbps?
A: Please provide a fixed monthly recurring cost for each available bandwidth level.
15. Will CCPS evaluate the lowest total cost over the proposed contract term, the monthly recurring charge, or another pricing measure?
A: CCPS prefers 3 and 5 year options at a fixed monthly recurring cost for the length of the agreement. The monthly recurring cost will be used, in conjunction with bandwidth, to determine best value.
16. Should vendors provide both three-year and five-year pricing, or is one contract term sufficient?
A: CCPS prefers 3 and 5 year options at a fixed monthly recurring cost. Please provide both terms.
17. Are fixed prices required throughout the entire contract term, or may vendors propose annual price adjustments?
A: CCPS prefers 3 and 5 year options at a fixed monthly recurring cost for the length of the agreement.
18. Should equipment, installation, support, regulatory fees, surcharges, and other charges be itemized separately?
A: CCPS prefers 3 and 5 year options at a fixed monthly recurring cost for the length of the agreement. The monthly recurring cost should be inclusive of all one-time and recurring fees.
19. Does CCPS expect the vendor to invoice the district for the full service cost and separately support any applicable E-Rate funding process?
A: CCPS prefers to be invoiced/billed monthly for the full cost of the service and CCPS will seek reimbursement through E-Rate. CCPS is not seeking E-Rate pre-discounted rates.
20. Are there additional pricing forms or cost breakdowns beyond the signed quotation requested in the vendor questionnaire?
A: No.
21. What E-Rate funding year or service period applies to this procurement?
A: This service will start in the funding year 2027, running from July 2027 through June 2028.
22. Are there specific E-Rate service-provider registration, bidding, invoicing, discount, or documentation requirements that the successful vendor must satisfy?
A: Yes. Vendors must be registered with USAC and have a valid SPIN at the time of proposal submission. Please see the USAC E-Rate website for eligibility requirements.
23. If E-Rate funding is denied, reduced, or delayed, how will the district communicate any required scope or bandwidth changes?
A: CCPS prefers to be invoiced/billed monthly for the full cost of the service and CCPS will seek reimbursement through E-Rate. CCPS is not seeking E-Rate pre-discounted rates. This way, if the commitment request is denied, delayed or reduced, the provider will still be paid to deliver the service.
24. Can CCPS clarify how the no-penalty cancellation provision applies to installation expenses, equipment commitments, and supplier agreements?

A: CCPS will only be responsible for allowable, documented costs actually incurred by the vendor up to the effective date of cancellation.
25. Are there additional cybersecurity, network security, insurance, or vendor qualification requirements that are not listed in the RFQ?
A: No.
26. Are any addenda, technical specifications, or supplemental documents available for this solicitation?
A: No.
27. Are vendors required to provide references or evidence of prior K–12 school Internet service deployments?
A: No.
28. Are there mandatory minimum qualifications, licenses, certifications, or service-provider authorizations?
A: Vendors must meet all federal, state, local and USAC qualifications to provide this service through the E-Rate funding process. There are no mandatory requirements issued by the school district for this procurement. Vendors must be registered to do business in the State of Maryland and be in good standing with the Maryland Department of Assessments & Taxation.
29. Will CCPS consider proposals from resellers or vendors working with an established Internet Service Provider?
A: Yes, so long as the reseller is registered with USAC and can meet all other obligations for providing the service.
30. Is there a prescribed format for the signed quotation, or will a vendor-prepared pricing schedule be accepted?
A: CCPS prefers 3 and 5 year options at a fixed monthly recurring cost for the length of the agreement. The monthly recurring cost should be inclusive of all one-time and recurring fees. Yes, a pricing schedule that clearly delineates speed, all-inclusive fixed monthly recurring cost and term will be considered. Any pricing schedule that requires additional communication to arrive at the actual desired request will be deemed as non-responsive.
31. Will CCPS publish answers to vendor questions or issue clarifications through the OpenGov portal?
A: Yes
32. Are there any other mandatory requirements that vendors should address to ensure their quotations are considered responsive?
A: Vendors must meet all federal, state, local, and USAC qualifications to provide this service through the E-Rate funding process.
CCPS prefers 3 and 5 year options at a fixed monthly recurring cost for the length of the agreement. The monthly recurring cost should be inclusive of all one-time and recurring fees. Yes, the will consider any pricing schedule that clearly delineates speed, all-inclusive fixed monthly recurring cost and term. Any pricing schedule that requires additional communication to arrive at the actual desired request will be deemed as non-responsive.
33. Who is the school's current Internet Service Provider (ISP)?
A: Comcast
34.Is the requested service replacing the existing internet connection or providing a secondary/redundant connection?
A: Replacing.
35. Does the school currently have fiber-optic infrastructure installed from the street to the building?
A: CCPS does not own a structured pathway into the building, but there is a penetration point for incoming services. Anything running from pole to Demarc is vendor-provided.
36. Is there an existing fiber termination point or demarcation location available for the new provider?
A: Yes. See answer to question 7.

37. Is the selected ISP expected to deliver and terminate the circuit directly in the school's Main Distribution Frame (MDF)/telecommunications room?
A: Yes.
38. Will the ISP be responsible for all outside-plant cabling, conduit, building penetration, permits, and fiber termination?
A: Yes.
39. Are there any known construction restrictions, conduit limitations, or site-access requirements?
A: See answer to question 12.
40. Does the school prefer a fiber-optic or copper Ethernet handoff?
A: Yes. See answer to question 7.
41. If fiber is preferred, what connector type (LC or SC) and fiber type (single-mode or multimode) are required?
A: SC for termination, and either single-mode or multimode is acceptable.
42. If copper is preferred, is an RJ-45 Ethernet connection acceptable?
A: Yes. See answer to question 7.
43. Is the required handoff interface 1 Gbps or 10 Gbps?
A: Handoff is 1 Gbps.
44. Will the ISP be responsible for providing the necessary transceivers (SFP/SFP+) and connecting to the school's existing equipment?
A: No. CCPS will provide its own transceivers for hand-off.
45. Does CCPS require dedicated, symmetrical internet access, or is business-class broadband acceptable?
A: Yes. See answer to question 2.
46. Are there minimum SLA requirements for uptime, latency, packet loss, and repair response times?
A: Yes. See answer to question 4.
47. Are static public IP addresses required? If so, how many?
A: Yes. See answer to question 5.
48. Will CCPS provide its own firewall/router, or must the ISP supply managed equipment?
A: CCPS will provide the firewall/router. No additional equipment is required at the hand-off.
49. If E-Rate funding is denied, reduced, or delayed, does CCPS intend to maintain service using local funding, or would the agreement be terminated?
A: See answer to question 23.
50. Would CCPS consider contract provisions addressing the provider's underlying wholesale carrier commitments if the agreement is terminated due to E-Rate funding?
A: See answer to questions 3 & 23.
51. Are authorized internet service resellers permitted to bid as prime contractors using an underlying carrier's network?
A: Yes.
52. Is an E-Rate SPIN required at proposal submission, or can it be obtained before the funding commitment?
A: See answer to question 22.
53. What is the anticipated service commencement date and required activation deadline?
A: See answer to question 11.
54. How will CCPS evaluate three-year versus five-year pricing options?
A: See answers to questions 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, & 19. Answer to question 15 specifically addresses evaluation.
55. Are separately itemized installation and construction charges permitted, and how will they be evaluated?
A: See answer to question 18

56. Will CCPS allow prospective bidders or their carrier representatives to conduct an on-site infrastructure survey before the bid deadline?
A: No. See answers to questions 10 & 12.
57. If a site survey is unavailable, can CCPS provide MDF location details, network diagrams, or photographs of the existing demarcation equipment?
A: In reviewing the target location using online map resources (i.e. Google Maps), the main entrance faces southwest toward Racine School Road. On the southeast side, facing Oldfield Point Road, is the loading dock. The building's service demarc is adjacent to the loading dock. This should provide a good approximation of where the service needs to be run.