REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

E-RATE FUNDING YEAR 2027-2028 (YEAR 30)

CARUTHERS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BEN 199850
FCC Form 470 Number: 270001791
Category One (Lit Fiber WAN)

PROCUREMENT TIMELINE

To ensure a guaranteed evaluation, all interested service providers must adhere strictly to the schedule below.

Event	Date	Time	Submission / Location
Vendor Questions Due	11.23.2026	2pm pst	Via Email
Q&A / Addenda Posted	11.24.2026		Posted via USAC EPC Portal
Bid Submission Deadline	12.9.2026	3pm pst	Via Email

SCOPE OF WORK & TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

The District is requesting a point-to-point connection from the **Fresno County Office** at 1111 Van Ness Ave, Fresno, CA 93721 to the **Monroe Elementary School** located at 11842 S Chestnut, Fresno, CA 93725.

Bandwidth Increments: Vendors must provide specific, incremental pricing for the following speeds:

- **1 Gbps**, **2 Gbps**

Contract Terms:

The current service is under contract through August 26, 2027. The district is seeking quotes for services beginning on August 27, 2027.

Vendors must submit pricing for the following terms:

- **12-Month Term** (technically 10 months) service starting on August 27, 2027, ending on June 30, 2028, to align with the E-Rate Funding Year
- **36-Month Term** service starting on August 27, 2027, through June 30, 2030.
- **60-Month Term** service starting on August 27, 2027, through June 30, 2032.

All proposed contracts must legally permit bandwidth increases up to **2 Gbps** at any time during the active term without penalty.

The District may at any time, at its sole discretion add, change, or delete any of the eligible services requested above.

PROPOSAL & QUOTE REQUIREMENTS

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

- Monthly service fees
- Managed router/modem lease fees (if required for service to function)
- One-time construction, installation, and/or connection charges
- Estimated taxes, fees, and/or surcharges
- All ineligible costs must be clearly identified

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- The vendor must provide easy access to help desk and repair services. A clear, documented procedure must be defined for severe problem escalation with appropriate response times delineated in proposal. The vendor will provide critical alerts to CUSD Business Manger via email, and notification of service outages via telephone to CUSD Business Manager along with status and estimated time of restoral (ETR). This alert service will be maintained for the duration of the contract.
- All equipment including but not limited to switches, cabling, connectors, etc. necessary to provide this connectivity shall be provided by the vendor. Each endpoint must be capable of operating for a minimum of 30 minutes in the event of local power failure. Specifically, the equipment providing the WAN handoff at each site must be protected by a suitably sized uninterruptable power supply (“UPS”).

- Currently CUSD's at the 2 sites has 3U available space for vendor equipment. Vendor is responsible for providing any additional racks or hardware for mounting vendor equipment.
- The network must be fully operational by August 27, 2027. The term "fully operational" is defined as error free network connectivity at the specified CIRs, delivered to all sites without failures for at least 72 hours. Vendor must provide certification reports of CIR, jitter, latency, and interface error metrics for each endpoint.
- Contract must provide cancellation of services without financial penalties if a school is closed. District may cancel services to a school without penalties after a 30-day notice to vendor.

Proposals that do not provide definitive costs for the services requested (including recurring and/or one-time charges) will be considered non-responsive and may not be included in the evaluation.

Proposals requiring applicant-owned hardware in order to function must provide specifications and, if available, an estimated cost for necessary hardware.

Respondents shall document the ability to participate in the E-Rate program by supplying their current SPIN (Service Provider Identification Number) as part of their proposal.

Proposals should include the service provider's terms and conditions.

Proposals that include generic/encyclopedic price lists will be considered non-responsive and will not be included in the evaluation.

SPAM and/or robotic responses will not be considered valid bid responses and will be disqualified from consideration.

APPENDIX A: REQUIRED VENDOR PRICING SHEET

Vendors must complete all fields below, in accordance with the Proposal Requirements.

12-Month Contract Term

Bandwidth Tier	**Monthly Recurring Cost (MRC)**	**Annual Recurring Cost (ARC)**	**One-Time Installation / Construction Costs**	**Estimated Taxes, Fees, & Surcharges**	**Ineligible Cost Allocation (I Any)**

1 Gbps	$				
2 Gbps	$				

Managed Router/Modem Lease Fee: $ _____ / Month *(Enter $0 if included in MRC above)*

36-Month Contract Term

Bandwidth Tier	Monthly Recurring Cost (MRC)	Annual Recurring Cost (ARC)	One-Time Installation / Construction Costs	Estimated Taxes, Fees, & Surcharges	Ineligible Cost Allocation (I Any)
1 Gbps	$				
2 Gbps	$				

60-Month Contract Term

Bandwidth Tier	Monthly Recurring Cost (MRC)	Annual Recurring Cost (ARC)	One-Time Installation / Construction Costs	Estimated Taxes, Fees, & Surcharges	Ineligible Cost Allocation (I Any)
1 Gbps	$				
2 Gbps	$				

CONTACT & SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

All communications and proposals must be delivered digitally.

Phone-based inquiries will not receive responses.

Contacts:

- **Debra Haney (District) •** dhaney@caruthers.k12.ca.us
- **Jessica Olsen (CSM) •** jolsen@csmcentral.com

Email Subject Line Format: 470 270001791 – Caruthers USD – WAN Proposal or Questions

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EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The District, in compliance with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules, will award to the vendor(s) providing the most cost-effective service offering. Per the Sixth Report and Order, FCC 10-175, FCC rules dictate the following:

54.503 (c)(2)(vii): All bids submitted for eligible products and services will be carefully considered, with price being the primary factor, and the bid selected will be for the most cost-effective service offering consistent with 54.511.

54.511 Ordering Services (a) Selecting a provider o eligible services: In selecting a provider of eligible services, schools, libraries, library consortia, and consortia including any of those entities shall carefully consider all bids submitted and must select the most cost-effective service offering. In determining which service offering is the most cost-effective, entities may consider relevant factors other than the pre-discount prices submitted by providers, but price should be the primary factor considered.

Therefore, the District may consider factors other than price alone in the consideration of bids; however, **"price or E-Rate eligible goods and services" will be the highest valued criterion** in the bid evaluation process.

E-RATE SPECIAL TERMS

The District's obligation to procure services under this RFB may be contingent upon approval of E-Rate funding by USAC. If funding is denied or reduced, the District reserves the right to immediately terminate the contract or delay implementation without financial penalty.

Vendors must support both the **SPI Method** (Service Provider Invoice / Form 474) and the **BEAR Method** (Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement / Form 472) at the District's annual discretion.

As a requirement of 47 CFR § 54.511, the vendor certifies that the pricing offered represents the Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP) provided to any similarly situated customer in the geographic region.

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