

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Category 2 Internal Connections & Basic Maintenance

Applicant Entity: Essex Fells Elementary School

FCC Form 470 Number: [Pending]

Project Title: Wireless Infrastructure Upgrade & Installation

Funding Year: 2026-2027

1. Executive Summary & Project Purpose

Essex Fells Elementary School is seeking competitive proposals from qualified network equipment vendors and system integrators to upgrade its wireless network infrastructure. The goal of this project is to enhance high-density Wi-Fi coverage, expand network capacity across learning environments, and ensure reliable multi-gigabit wireless connectivity for students, faculty, and administrative operations.

All equipment and services requested in this RFP fall under USAC E-Rate Category 2 (Internal Connections and Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections). All equipment models and part numbers specified herein are provided as benchmark technical standards. Responding vendors may propose equivalent or superior products from any manufacturer, provided they meet or exceed the performance and functional criteria outlined.

2. Technical Specifications & Equipment Scope

All proposed hardware must be brand new, factory-sealed, current generation, and supported by full manufacturer warranties. Refurbished, remanufactured, or gray-market equipment will be rejected.

Item #	Functional Requirement & Specification	Benchmark Reference Part (or Equivalent)	Quantity	E-Rate Category
1	Enterprise Wireless Gateway / Controller supporting up to 32 APs and 2,000 active clients, with 4-Port GbE RJ45 interface.	HPE Aruba 9004 Gateway (R1B20A) or functional equivalent	1	Category 2 (Internal Connections)
2	19-inch Rack Mount Kit for	HPE Aruba 9004-MNT-19	1	Category 2 (Internal

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	Gateway unit.	(R1B30A) or functional equivalent		Connections)
3	AC Power Cord (125V/10A, 1.8m C13 to NEMA 5-15P).	HPE Aruba PC-AC-NA (JW124A) or functional equivalent	1	Category 2 (Internal Connections)
4	1-Year Hardware Support & 4-Hour Hardware Exchange Service for Wireless Gateway.	Aruba 1Y FC 4H Exch 9004 Gateway SVC (HN5K7E / PAVTAC) or functional equivalent	1	Category 2 (Basic Maintenance)
5	Enterprise Wi-Fi 6E Campus Access Points with Dual Radio Tri-Band 2x2 multi-gigabit capabilities and internal antennas.	HPE Aruba AP-615-US (R7J50A) or functional equivalent	28	Category 2 (Internal Connections)
6	Solid Surface Ceiling / Wall Mount Bracket Kits for Access Points.	HPE Aruba AP-MNT-D (R3J18A) or functional equivalent	28	Category 2 (Internal Connections)
7	On-Site Physical Mounting Services (per Access Point).	Professional Installation Services	28	Category 2 (Internal Connections)
8	System Configuration,	Professional Installation	1 Job	Category 2 (Internal

Item #	Functional Requirement & Specification	Benchmark Reference Part (or Equivalent)	Quantity	E-Rate Category
	Controller Setup, AP Provisioning, System Integration, and Final Testing.	Services		Connections)

3. Detailed Scope of Services (Installation & Implementation)

The awarded vendor will provide turnkey delivery, installation, configuration, and verification services as defined below:

- **Staging & Logistics:** Receive, unbox, inspect, inventory, and record serial/MAC address data for all incoming hardware.
- **Physical Mounting & Cable Connection:** Securely install twenty-eight (28) Wi-Fi 6E Access Points at designated ceiling/wall drop locations across Essex Fells Elementary School facilities.
- **Gateway & Controller Configuration:** Program network routing, VLAN tags, security policies, guest access, RADIUS/WPA3 enterprise authentication, and SSIDs as directed by the school technology leadership.
- **RF Tuning & Provisioning:** Adopt and provision all access points, conduct post-installation RF coverage checks, and optimize channel power and roaming boundaries.
- **As-Built Documentation:** Deliver complete post-deployment documentation detailing IP address tables, physical location maps, controller backup configurations, and manufacturer warranty certificates.

4. Mandatory USAC E-Rate & Compliance Provisions

All respondents must comply strictly with FCC and USAC rules governing the E-Rate program:

1. **SPIN Requirement:** Bidders must possess a valid Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) and an active Form 498 on file with USAC.
2. **FCC Red Light Status:** Bidders must be in good standing with the FCC and not subject to Red Light collection status.
3. **Cost Allocation & Itemized Pricing:** Bidders must submit an itemized quote identifying unit pricing and extending totals. Any ineligible costs must be separately itemized.
4. **28-Day Bidding Period:** Proposals must remain open and valid for at least 28 days following the publication of the accompanying Form 470 in the USAC EPC portal.
5. **Invoicing Method Support:** The winning vendor must support both Service Provider Invoice (SPI - Form 474) and Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR - Form 472) billing options at the choice of Essex Fells Elementary School.
6. **Open & Fair Bidding:** All inquiries and response modifications must be published equally

to all potential bidders without preferential treatment.

5. Proposal Evaluation Criteria

In accordance with FCC regulations (47 C.F.R. § 54.504), the price of E-Rate eligible goods and services will serve as the primary factor in evaluating all submitted proposals.

Evaluation Factor	Max Score / Weight	Description
Cost of E-Rate Eligible Goods and Services	40 Points	Primary Factor: Evaluates total cost of eligible hardware, software, and labor.
Technical Specifications & Product Equivalence	25 Points	Quality, reliability, and functional adherence of proposed equivalent equipment.
Vendor Experience & E-Rate Track Record	20 Points	Demonstrated success in similar school/library deployments and E-Rate program mastery.
Implementation Plan & Service Support	15 Points	Clarity of implementation schedule, warranty terms, and local technical support availability.

6. Submission Instructions & Deadlines

- **Delivery Method:** Sealed PDF proposal submitted via email to mpannull@efsk-6.org
- **Subject Line Format:** "Proposal - Category 2 Wireless Upgrade - [Vendor Name]"
- **Questions & Clarifications:** Written questions regarding this RFP may be submitted up to 10 days prior to the bidding deadline. All responses will be issued as published addenda.