E-RATE YEAR 2027-2028

Aggregation Switch and Wireless Access Points
For Richland Library
Columbia, SC

E-Rate Category 2: Aggregation Switch and Wireless Access Points

Richland Library, Columbia, SC wishes to take advantage of E-Rate funding discounts for two (2) library locations:

Richland Library Main
Richland Library Lower Richland

To that end, Richland Library is seeking proposals for the upcoming E-Rate year for Category 2 items (April 1, 2027 – September 30, 2028) with provisions for one or more voluntary extensions.

Service Provider Criteria and Contract Requirements

- The successful bidder will be responsible for participating in the Federal E-Rate program.
- Prices must be held firm for the duration of the E-Rate funding year for Category 2 items, ending September 30, 2028, or until all work associated with the project is complete, including any SLD approved extensions.
- Proposals must include a completed Product/Services Cost Form.
- Proposals must include prices for all requested equipment on the Product/Services Cost Form.
- Proposals must also include a list of potential ineligible or partially ineligible products/services, if applicable.
- Proposals must be submitted by email in PDF format.
- Proposals must be received by 6 pm on Friday, December 4, 2026. Late proposals will not be accepted.

All questions should be submitted via e-mail to Amy Teramoto at ateramoto@richlandlibrary.com by 6 pm on Friday, November 20, 2026. Phone calls will not be accepted.

Submit proposals with required Product/Services Cost Form to:
Amy Teramoto, Richland Library IT Director, ateramoto@richlandlibrary.com.

Scope of Bid for Aggregation Switch
The following are specific requirements for an aggregation switch.

Provide quote for the purchase of:

- One (1) Cisco Catalyst 9300X-24Y aggregation switch, or functional equivalent
- One (1) Cisco Catalyst 9300X-NM-8Y module, or functional equivalent
- One (1) 5-Year Cisco Switching Essentials License for Cisco Catalyst 9300X-24Y, or functional equivalent

The library has a standardized cloud-controlled Cisco network switching platform. However, the Library will entertain proposed solutions from other manufacturers if it can be shown that a non-Cisco product is functionally equivalent or better.

Specifications for Aggregation Switch
Switch must utilize centralized management via the cloud, with capability of "hands-off" switch provisioning, network-wide visibility and control, and automatic firmware updates. Management interface should be browser-based and be capable of providing a 'single pane of glass' user interface for switches located at all library locations.

Additionally, aggregation switch should provide:

- Configuration: 32 port 10GbE/25GbE
- Hardware platform: 32 x 10GbE/25GbE SFP+ Fiber
- Hardware platform: 2 x 40GbE/100GbE QSFP+ Fiber uplink/stacking ports
- Hardware platform: 1 x 10/100/1000 RJ45 management port
- Hardware platform: Includes lifetime warranty
- Switch capabilities: 802.1p Quality of Service prioritization
- Switch capabilities: 802.1Q VLAN tagging for up to 4095 VLANs
- Switch capabilities: 802.1D Spanning Tree Protocol STP) and 802.1w Rapid Spanning Tree Broadcast storm control
- Memory and Storage: 16GB RAM and 16GB Flash Memory
- Layer 3 capabilities: Dynamic routing (OSPFv2)
- Layer 3 capabilities: Static routing
- Layer 3 capabilities: DHCP relay
- Layer 3 capabilities: DHCP server
- Layer 3 capabilities: DHCP failover
- Redundant Power Supply

Aggregation Switch Installation Requirements

- Installation is **NOT** requested
- Initial configuration is **NOT** requested

Cabling is listed on the 470 to only cover any power cords or connector cords that may be needed for the equipment.

Scope of Bid for Wireless Access Points

The following are specific requirements for Wireless Access Points.

Provide quote for the purchase of:

- Up to fifty-five (55) Cisco Catalyst 9164I Access Points for indoor use, or functional equivalent
- Up to fifty-five (55) 5-Year Cisco Wireless Essentials Licenses for Cisco Catalyst 9164I, or functional equivalent

The library has standardized on the cloud-controlled Cisco wireless networking platform. However, the Library will entertain proposed solutions from other manufacturers, if it can be shown that a non-Cisco product is functionally equivalent or better.

Specifications for Wireless Access Points

Access Points must utilize centralized management via the cloud, without the need for onsite wireless controllers, also capable of "hands-off" access point provisioning, network-wide visibility and control, cloud-based RF optimization, and automatic firmware updates. Configuration should utilize a browser-based user interface, without the need for extensive training or dedicated installation staff.

Access Points must be 3-stream: 2.4 GHz 802.11b/g/n, 5 GHz 802.11a/n/ac, and one dedicated for dual-band WIPS & spectrum analysis; which deliver an aggregate max data rate of 2.5 Gbit/s and MU-MIMO. Access Points should have integrated omni-directional antennas.

Access Points should provide:

- AES hardware-based encryption and WPA2-Enterprise authentication with 802.1X and Active Directory integration
- Internet-only access for customers
- Application-aware traffic shaping
- Self-configuring and self-maintaining
- Integrated layer 7 packet inspection, classification and control, to allow for QoS policies based on traffic type
- Secure and easy to manage guest access, without extra appliances, licenses, or complex VLAN configurations. Access Points should include a built-in firewall and DHCP server to provide a complete guest Wi-Fi solution, that protects staff LANs and other clients. Guest access should be configurable for bandwidth limits (throttling).
- PCI compliance

All quotes must be from a Cisco Meraki gold, silver, or premier partner, or equivalent.

Wireless Access Point Installation Requirements

- Installation is **NOT** requested
- Initial configuration is **NOT** requested

Cabling is listed on the 470 to only cover any power cords or connector cords that may be needed for the equipment.

Proposal Scoring and Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated using the following matrix.

Factor	Points Available
1. Price of Eligible Products/Services	40
2. Suitability of Proposal	30
3. Prior Experience	20
4. Vendor Location	10
Total	**100**

1. Price of Eligible Products/Services
Scoring is awarded using the formula: the lowest vendor's pre-tax cost divided by the vendor's pre-tax cost multiplied by 40, rounded to a whole number. The vendor with the lowest pre-tax cost will receive 40 points.

2. Suitability of Proposal

To what extent does the proposal match RFP specifications?

30 points = Meets all requirements

1-29 points = Acceptable but does not completely meet all requirements/has ineligible or partially ineligible products/services

0 points = Vendor has not completed requirements of RFP.

3. Prior Experience

20 points = Library has prior satisfactory experience with vendor.

0 points = Library has no prior experience with vendor or poor experience with vendor.

4. Vendor Location

10 points = Vendor office is located in Richland County.

5 points = Vendor office is located in South Carolina.

0 points = Vendor office is located outside of South Carolina.

Evaluator scores from three IT staff members will be tallied for total vendor scores with a maximum of 300 points.

Product/Services Cost Form

Site	QTY	Description	Unit Cost	Ineligible Cost	Total Price
Main	1	Cisco Catalyst 9300X-24Y aggregation switch or functional equivalent			
Main	1	Cisco Catalyst 9300X-NM-8Y module or functional equivalent			
Main	1	5-Year Cisco Switching Essentials License for Cisco Catalyst 9300X-24Y or functional equivalent			
Main	53	Cisco Catalyst 9164I or functional equivalent			
Main	53	5-Year Cisco Wireless Essentials Licenses for Cisco Catalyst 9164I or functional equivalent			
Lower Richland	2	Cisco Catalyst 9164I or functional equivalent			
Lower Richland	2	5-Year Cisco Wireless Essentials Licenses for Cisco Catalyst 9164I or functional equivalent			

Subtotal	
Tax	
Shipping	
TOTAL Project Cost	

_____ _____

Offeror's / Authorized Signature Vendor SPIN #

_____

Date