University Academy Cat2 YR 2027 Q&A

Q: Do you have a specific model or needs for the Aggregation switch listed in the RFP? We want to be sure we quote the correct specs. Also, I'm working with my team to see when we will be available to schedule a site visit with you. Would you recommend we visit all 3 campuses?

A: Our need can be met with a 10G SFP+ 8-port aggregation switch (or functional equivalent). We are currently using two different 48-port switches to get more SFP ports. We are using 5 SFP ports so 8 ports would be sufficient.

Regarding campus visits, a site visit for Tyler UA is highly recommended. There are several unique infrastructure requirements, such as ceiling-to-wall rack relocations and building-to-building connections that are best understood through an in-person walkthrough.

For Longview UA, the primary focus for a site visit is the main networking closet in Building 1, which requires cable management and closet work to accommodate the removal and installation of active equipment.

For Palestine UA, because the scope is strictly limited to active hardware replacements, a site visit is primarily useful for vendors wanting to familiarize themselves with the campus layout, building access, and working environment.

Q: During site visits, it was asked whether copper cabling could be submitted as an alternative option in addition to fiber optic cabling.

A: Upon review of our technical requirements and Form 470 specifications, all proposed backbone/uplink runs must be fiber optic as specified in the original RFP. Please submit proposals for the fiber optic scope only; alternative copper proposals will not be evaluated.

Q: During site visits, it was asked what speed the fiber runs should be (i.e, 1Gbps versus 10Gbps).

A: Upon revisiting the RFP and networking equipment requested, the district requires fiber run speeds that can support 10Gbps.

Q: During site visits, it was asked what type of fiber connection (i.e, single-mode or multi-mode) should be used for inter-building connections.

A: The district requires single-mode OS2 fiber.

Q: During site visits, it was asked if we would be providing our own SFP modules.

A: No, the district will not be supplying SFP modules. Vendors bidding on the networking switches/equipment must include compatible 10G SFP+ optical transceivers and corresponding fiber patch cables.

Q: During site visits, it was asked if we would be providing our own copper patch cables for IDF locations.

A: Vendors bidding on networking gear placement/relocation must include new Cat6 copper patch cables (appropriately sized for clean cable management) for all active connections at:

1. Any IDF/MDF location receiving a new rack, and

2. The Longview UA building 1 networking closet (to remediate existing cable congestion).

All other locations that are merely receiving switch upgrades without rack installations will reuse existing copper patch cables.

Q: During site visits, it was asked if we needed vendors to manage the adoption process of new networking equipment such as access points and switches.

A: No, the district will oversee the network adoption and configuration of all new networking equipment. (vendors bidding on installation are responsible for physical mounting/racking and cabling connections only).