# Notice of Request for Proposal

*Wide Area Network services*

---

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to request proposals for Wide Area Network services from qualified providers according to the requirements of this document. E-rate, State, and local requirements govern this procurement.

E-rate Category 1 Services - Wide Area Network
RFP #NCS-270002891-WAN

**Nord Country School**, hereinafter referred to as the Agency

| | |
|---|---|
| Address: | 5554 California St. |
| | Chico, CA 95973 |
| Date RFP published: | October 29, 2026 |
| Proposals are due by: | December 2, 2026 |
| FCC Form 470#: | 270002891 |

# GENERAL INFORMATION

Proposals will be emailed according to the following:

1. Heather Baker - heather@erateadvisors.com
2. Subject line: Response RFP #NCS-270002891-WAN
3. Attach the proposal and all documents as PDF document(s). The pricing document must be stand-alone, separate from all other information.

Please include all components above to avoid disqualification. SPAM and/or robotic responses will not be considered valid bid responses and will be disqualified from consideration.

The AGENCY depends on E-rate and local funding to acquire the services identified in this RFP. Failure to obtain the requisite E-rate or local funding in any contractual year, will make the contract resulting from this RFP voidable at the option of the AGENCY. Each proposal must conform and be responsive to the requirements of this RFP.

The AGENCY reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in received submittals. Also, AGENCY reserves the right to reject all submittals and negotiate contract terms with one or more proposers for one or more work items. The AGENCY retains the sole discretion to determine compliance issues and whether a proposer is responsive, responsible, and qualified.

# Schedule of Events

| EVENT | DATE |
|---|---|
| Post FCC Form 470 and RFP | October 29, 2026 |
| Deadline to submit questions | November 11, 2026 |
| Deadline to submit proposals | December 2, 2026 |
| Notice of Intent to Award | Prior to the close of the FCC Form 471 window |
| Contract begins | July 1, 2027 |

# Questions

Interested proposers should direct questions in writing to Heather Baker at heather@erateadvisors.com **no later than November 11, 2026** . Answers to questions and any addenda, as needed, will be posted in the E-rate Productivity Center website no later than November 18, 2026.

# Submittal Requirements

1. The proposer shall submit one (1) electronic copy in protected PDF format via email to Heather Baker at heather@erateadvisors.com. The subject line must include the following: Response RFP #NCS-270002891-WAN
2. The submittal must include the following:
    - Statement of Requirements
    - Cost detail – including hardware costs, installation, and warranties. Separate costs that are ineligible for E-Rate discount
    - Disclosure of all contract terms, including proof of State Master Contract participation if applicable.
    - Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN)
    - Service level agreement
3. Proposals submitted in response to this RFP shall become the property of the AGENCY and be considered public documents under applicable state law.
4. Any proposer failing to submit information in accordance with the procedures set forth herein may be considered non-responsive.

# Network Requirements

Deliver a point-to-point Ethernet fiber line to each identified site. Wireless solutions will NOT be accepted. The transport must be Layer 2, capable of carrying DOT1Q tagging between sites and an MTU of 1600 or greater. All proposals must include full-time rate with the option to increase speed if needed. Burstable rates are not desired. The District requires the ability to increase OR decrease the circuit speed at any site for the duration of the contract.

Agency circuit handoff location must be at MDF room designated by the Agency. In sites where the MDF room is not at MPoE location, Provider must extend connection/handoff to MDF room.

The point of connection must be extended into the main distribution frame (MDF), which serves the entire campus LAN. Any conduit, conduit support, messengers, supporting components, and cabling required to extend the service shall be provided by the Provider. The equipment shall be rack-mounted and will use space in the existing District-owned racks/enclosures.

*Identified Sites:*

| A Location | Z Location | Bandwidth option |
|---|---|---|
| Nord Country School<br>5554 California St.<br>Chico, CA 95973-9795 | 1859 Bird St.<br>Oroville, CA 95965 | 1 Gbps - 5 Gbps |

*Contract options should include pricing for 12, 36 and 60 months, starting July 1, 2027. The proposals must include all installation charges and monthly pricing. The contract must also allow for adds/moves/changes. Proposals based on a State Master Contract are desired but not required.*

# E-Rate Requirements

1. **E-rate Proficiency:** AGENCY expects the Proposer to be thoroughly familiar with the Proposer's responsibilities as a Service Provider in the E-rate program.
2. **Service Provider Identification Number:** Proposers must possess and provide a valid E-rate Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN).
3. **FCC Registration Number:** Proposers must provide a valid Federal Communications Commission Registration Number (FCCRN) and evidence of "Green Light" status with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
4. **FCC Form 473:** The proposer awarded the services based on this RFP agrees to submit the Service Provider Annual Certification (SPAC) form promptly every year.
5. **FCC Form 474:** The service provider will be responsible for invoicing the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Services Administrative Company (USAC) for the balance, using the FCC Form 474, Service Provider Invoice (SPI) method. The District will not pay more than its share of cost and will not be responsible for invoicing the SLD using the FCC Form 472, also known as the BEAR Form. The District will only be responsible for its percentage of the "eligible" equipment and services and 100% of "ineligible" equipment and services.
6. **Invoicing:** Depending on the resulting contract, invoicing will begin on or after July 1, 2027 , or at the completion of the project.
7. **Lowest Corresponding Price:** The proposal acknowledges that all pricing in the proposal submitted as a result of this RFP is considered the Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP). Any deviation of the LCP must be fully explained in the proposal.

8. **Contingency:** The services/project procured using this RFP may be contingent upon the approval of E-rate funding as requested. Services/Products should not be delivered to AGENCY until a Notice to Proceed has been issued by AGENCY to the Service Provider.

9. **Right to cancel:** The AGENCY reserves the right to cancel the services/project regardless of the status of E-rate funding.

10. **Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review:** The winning proposer agrees to respond to AGENCY or its representatives regarding inquiries from the Universal Services Administrative Company (USAC) or the FCC within five (5) business days.

11. **California Teleconnect Fund (CTF):** The proposer should be an eligible California Teleconnect Fund provider.

# Evaluation and Award

An award will be given to the provider offering the most advantageous proposal for wide area network (WAN) services. The AGENCY shall not be obligated to accept the lowest-priced proposal but will make an award in the AGENCY's best interest after all factors have been evaluated. All proposals in response to this RFP will receive a fair and impartial evaluation by the AGENCY. In conducting this evaluation, the AGENCY may obtain and use information, in addition to that contained in the proposals, from any source desired. Customers on each Provider's reference list may be contacted, as may other customers selected by the AGENCY and listed by the Provider as a reference. The AGENCY shall evaluate at its sole discretion, and its decision shall be final. Public Contracts Code section 20118.2 shall govern the evaluation of proposals, selection of Provider, and contract negotiations associated with this Request for Proposals.

RFP proposals will be rated on the following:

| **Criteria** | **Weight** |
|---|---|
| Pricing | 40% |
| Vendor Experience and Ability to Perform | 20% |
| Implementation and Support Plan | 20% |
| Proposed Network Architecture | 10% |
| Prior Experience with Proposer | 10% |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST
END OF DOCUMENT