REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
CATEGORY TWO – INTERNAL CONNECTIONS
E-RATE FUNDING YEAR 2027

PROJECT 1 – WIRELESS LICENSES | PROJECT 2 – SWITCHING | PROJECT 3 – FIREWALL AND LICENSES

FCC FORM 470#: 270002901
APPLICANT NAME: SPEARMAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
BILLED ENTITY NUMBER: 141869

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

The Applicant identified above hereby solicits competitive proposals from qualified Service Providers for the provision of E-Rate eligible Category Two equipment, products, and/or services pursuant to the Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism (E-Rate Program) as administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under authority of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

This procurement is subject to all applicable federal, state, and local procurement laws, FCC regulations, USAC program requirements, and any Applicant-specific policies.

Service Providers responding to this solicitation are solely responsible for ensuring full compliance with all applicable E-Rate competitive bidding, pricing, equipment eligibility, invoicing, and record retention requirements.

This RFP contains three (3) separate Projects. Each Project will be evaluated, scored, and awarded independently. Offerors may respond to one, two, or all three Projects. Submitting a proposal for more than one Project does not entitle an Offeror to an award of every Project bid. See the Scope of Work and Evaluation Criteria sections for details.

RFP TIMELINE

- **RFP Issued:** 11/17/2026
- **Deadline for Submission of Questions:** 12/4/2026
- **Responses to Questions / Addenda Issued By:** 12/8/2026
- **Proposal Submission Deadline:** 1/5/2027

Mandatory Compliance Notice:
In accordance with FCC rules, the proposal submission deadline shall allow for no fewer than twenty-eight (28) full days from the posting date of the associated FCC Form 470 and/or RFP, whichever is later.

RFP CONTACTS

All communications regarding this procurement must be directed exclusively to all designated contacts below:

- LeeAnn McGraw: leeann.mcgraw@spearmanisd.net
- Claudia Soto: claudia.soto@spearmanisd.net
- Skylands E-Rate Operations Team: bids@e-rate.org

COMMUNICATION AND PROCUREMENT INTEGRITY REQUIREMENTS

Authorized Communications:

- All questions, requests for clarification, and correspondence must be submitted in writing via email to **all** designated RFP contacts.
- Responses to material questions shall be issued through formal written addenda. If no questions are received as outlined in the RFP timeline, an addenda will not be posted for question-and-answer purposes.
- Verbal communications, informal discussions, and individual interpretations will not and shall not be binding.

Strict Prohibition on Unauthorized Contact:
Offerors are expressly prohibited from contacting any employee, representative, or agent of the Applicant not expressly authorized in this RFP. This includes, but is not limited to Board members, Superintendents/Directors, IT personnel not listed herein, Procurement staff not listed herein, Consultants other than designated contacts.

Violation of this restriction will result in immediate disqualification.

Duty to Monitor:
Offerors bear sole responsibility for monitoring the following on a regular basis:

- FCC Form 470 postings
- EPC updates
- Applicant communications
- Addenda
- Procurement portals, where applicable

Failure to monitor updates shall not relieve Offerors of compliance obligations.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Submission Instructions:

- Proposals **must** be submitted electronically to **all** listed RFP contacts.
- Late submissions shall be automatically disqualified.
- Applicant receipt timestamp shall control submission timeliness.
- Partial submissions may be rejected unless expressly permitted.
  Offerors are solely responsible for ensuring timely and complete delivery of proposals, including mitigation of technical failures or transmission delays.

Mandatory Proposal Components:

Each proposal must include, at minimum:

- Applicant name
- BEN
- FCC Form 470 number
- Service Provider Name
- Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN)
- Service Provider contact information
- Terms and conditions
- Completed pricing attachment for each Project bid (Attachment A, B, and/or C)
- Proof of manufacturer authorization for each product bid (e.g., manufacturer letter or partner ID) and a signed certification that all products are new, genuine, sourced through authorized channels, and eligible for full manufacturer warranty and support in the Applicant's name (see Minimum Vendor Requirements)

Each proposal is encouraged to include the following. Failure to provide the following may adversely affect the scoring of your proposal.

- SPI invoicing capability certification
- E-Rate compliance certifications (broad compliance with FCC rules, USAC procedures, LCP, Gift Rules, Record Retention, etc.)
- Supply chain compliance certification (ensures compliance with FCC Order 19-121)
- Debarment/suspension certification (confirms vendor is not FCC barred, Federal debarred, SAM excluded, etc.)
- FCC Red Light Rule Compliance Certification. Offerors should certify that they are not currently subject to the FCC's Red Light Rule (47 C.F.R. § 1.1910), are in good standing with all FCC financial obligations, and are not delinquent on any debts owed to the FCC.
- Conflict of interest disclosure (vendor disclosure statement that ensures no unfair bidding advantage or relationships have improperly influenced the procurement process, proposal development, or bid submission).
    - Failure to fully disclose relevant conflicts may result in disqualification, contract termination, or referral to appropriate regulatory authorities.

Proposal Validity:
Proposals must remain valid for a minimum of 180 days from submission unless otherwise stated.

Proposal Exceptions / Deviations:
By submitting a proposal, the Offeror acknowledges that it has reviewed and agrees to comply with the terms, conditions, and requirements set forth in this RFP unless specific exceptions are clearly identified in the proposal submission.

Any proposed exceptions, deviations, or alternative terms must be explicitly disclosed in writing as part of the proposal response.

The Applicant reserves the sole right to determine the acceptability of any exceptions, may require withdrawal of unacceptable exceptions, and may consider exceptions or deviations in proposal evaluation and scoring.

Failure to clearly disclose exceptions may result in proposal disqualification or rejection.

PRE-BID MEETING / SITE VISIT
No pre-bid conference or site visit will be conducted.

SCOPE OF WORK

The Applicant seeks proposals for E-Rate eligible Category Two equipment, licenses, and/or services, organized into the three (3) separate Projects described below.

References to any specific manufacturer, brand name, make, or model number within this Request for Proposal (RFP) are provided strictly to establish a baseline standard of quality, performance, and technical specifications, and are not intended to limit competition. Unless explicitly noted otherwise, the phrase 'or equivalent' is implied after every brand or model reference. Bidders are encouraged to propose functionally equivalent equipment or services from alternative manufacturers.

Project 1 – Wireless Licenses (Pricing Attachment A)
Renewal of ninety-two (92) Cisco Meraki MR Enterprise licenses for the Applicant's existing, installed Meraki wireless access points. The existing access points are supported by the manufacturer through December 31, 2031, and the current licenses expire on September 27, 2027. **No new access points are requested under this RFP.** Licenses must be applied to the Applicant's existing Meraki dashboard organization so that coverage continues without a lapse. Offerors must quote 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year license terms.

Project 2 – Switching: Switches and Cabling (Pricing Attachment B)
Network switches, network modules, 1G SX transceivers, and OM1 fiber patch cables for Spearman High School and Spearman Junior High School. Gus Birdwell Elementary School is not part of this Project; its switching was addressed under a prior-year procurement.

Project 3 – Firewall and Licenses (Pricing Attachment C)
One (1) Netgate 8300 MAX firewall appliance, or functional equivalent, to replace the Applicant's existing Palo Alto VM-100 virtual firewall, together with the associated software/support subscription. Offerors must quote 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year subscription terms.

- **No Installation:** Installation, configuration, staging, and other on-site or remote labor services are not requested under this RFP for any Project. Offerors shall not include installation, configuration, or other labor charges in their proposals; any such charges will not be evaluated and will not be included in any award. This is a delivery-only (equipment) and activation-only (licenses/subscriptions) procurement; the Applicant will install and configure all equipment. Offerors must provide delivery documentation for all equipment, including make, model, serial number, and delivery location. Equipment shall be delivered to the Applicant, and licenses/subscriptions shall be delivered electronically and applied to the Applicant's existing accounts.
- **Partial Bids:** will not be accepted at the Project level. Offerors may respond to one, two, or all three Projects; however, each Project response must be complete, including every line item in that Project and, for Projects 1 and 3, all three license term options.

Separate Project Evaluation and Award
- Each Project will be evaluated, scored, and awarded independently of the other Projects.
- Offerors must not assume that pricing submitted for any Project, or for multiple Projects, constitutes or implies an award of all Projects. Pricing for each Project must stand on its own and may not be conditioned on the award of any other Project.
- Bundled, "all-or-nothing," or multi-Project discounts that depend on the award of more than one Project will not be considered in the evaluation.
- A single Offeror may be awarded one, more than one, or all three Projects only if that Offeror receives the highest evaluation score on each Project individually.
- The Applicant may award one, some, or none of the Projects.

License Term Options (Projects 1 and 3)
- Offerors must quote each license/subscription term (1-year, 3-year, and 5-year) separately, with per-unit pricing and extended pricing for the requested quantity, on the lines provided in the pricing attachment.
- The term options are alternatives. They are not cumulative and will not be added together.
- The Applicant will select one (1) license term for Project 1 and one (1) subscription term for Project 3 after reviewing pricing. The selected term will be applied uniformly to every responsive proposal for that Project for cost evaluation.

- For Project 3, the firewall appliance is priced once. The evaluated cost for Project 3 is the appliance plus the selected subscription term.
- Offerors must state the proposed license start date and how the term will be co-termed with, or follow, the existing license expiration so that there is no gap in coverage.

Project 2 Technical Requirements – Transceivers and Fiber Patch Cables

- The existing building fiber is 62.5/125-micron (OM1) multimode, which supports 1G only. Transceivers must be 1000BASE-SX SFPs (Cisco GLC-SX-MMD or functional equivalent), and fiber patch cables must be OM1 62.5/125 multimode, duplex LC-LC, in the lengths listed.
- **Offerors shall not substitute 10G optics or 50-micron (OM2/OM3/OM4) patch cables. Any such substitution will be treated as failing to meet specifications for that line item.**

Proposals must be based on the specified manufacturer makes and models or functionally equivalent equipment that meets or exceeds the technical specifications set forth in this solicitation. All proposed equipment must be suitable for use in the Applicant's Category 2 internal connections environment and fully compatible with existing infrastructure where applicable.

If proposing alternative makes or models, the Offeror must submit complete technical specifications, product data sheets, and any supporting documentation sufficient to demonstrate functional equivalency, including equivalency in performance, capacity, interoperability, and intended use. The Applicant retains sole, final, and absolute discretion to determine whether any proposed alternative meets the requirements of this solicitation and qualifies as functionally equivalent.

Quantities identified in this Scope of Work are estimates provided for bidding and evaluation purposes only and reflect the Applicant's reasonable anticipated Category 2 needs at the time of posting. Actual quantities may be modified prior to award based on final design validation, site surveys, engineering recommendations, funding constraints, or E-Rate eligibility determinations.

The Applicant reserves the right to increase, decrease, substitute, or eliminate quantities or items in whole or in part.

This solicitation is issued in accordance with FCC E-Rate competitive bidding requirements (including Form 470 procedures) and does not constitute a commitment to purchase any minimum or maximum quantity of goods or services. The Applicant reserves the right to award all, part, or none of the proposals received, to make multiple awards if deemed in the best interest of the Applicant, or to cancel this solicitation in its entirety, consistent with applicable E-Rate program rules.

Project 1 – Wireless Licenses

Quote all three term options. The Applicant will select one term.

Location	Description	Make	Model	Qty
District-wide (existing APs)	Option A – MR Enterprise license, 1-year term	Meraki	LIC-ENT-1YR	92
District-wide (existing APs)	Option B – MR Enterprise license, 3-year term	Meraki	LIC-ENT-3YR	92
District-wide (existing APs)	Option C – MR Enterprise license, 5-year term	Meraki	LIC-ENT-5YR	92

Project 2 – Switching (Switches and Cabling)

Location	Description	Make	Model	Qty
Spearman High School				
Spearman High School	48-port PoE+ switch	Cisco	C9300-48P	1
Spearman High School	8-port 10G SFP+ network module	Cisco	C9300-NM-8X	1
Spearman High School	4-port 10G SFP+ network module	Cisco	C9200-NM-4X	1
Spearman High School	48-port PoE+ switch, 4x10G uplinks	Cisco	C9200L-48P-4X	6
Spearman High School	24-port PoE+ switch, 4x10G uplinks	Cisco	C9200L-24P-4X	1
Spearman High School	12-port compact PoE+ switch	Cisco	C9200CX-12P-2X2G	1
Spearman High School	1000BASE-SX SFP transceiver (1G, multimode)	Cisco	GLC-SX-MMD	19
Spearman High School	Fiber patch cable, 3 ft, OM1 62.5/125 MM duplex LC-LC	Any	3 ft OM1 LC-LC	8
Spearman High School	Fiber patch cable, 20 ft, OM1 62.5/125 MM duplex LC-LC	Any	20 ft OM1 LC-LC	1
Spearman Junior High School				
Spearman Junior High	48-port PoE+ switch, 4x10G uplinks	Cisco	C9200L-48P-4X	2
Spearman Junior High	48-port PoE+ switch	Cisco	C9200-48P	2
Spearman Junior High	1000BASE-SX SFP transceiver (1G, multimode)	Cisco	GLC-SX-MMD	4
Spearman Junior High	Fiber patch cable, 3 ft, OM1 62.5/125 MM duplex LC-LC	Any	3 ft OM1 LC-LC	2

Project 3 – Firewall and Licenses

The appliance is priced once. Quote all three subscription term options; the Applicant will select one term.

Location	Description	Make	Model	Qty
District (core)	Firewall appliance – replaces existing Palo Alto VM-100	Netgate	8300 MAX	1
District (core)	Option A – software/support subscription, 1-year term	Netgate	8300 MAX subscription, 1-yr	1
District (core)	Option B – software/support subscription, 3-year term	Netgate	8300 MAX subscription, 3-yr	1
District (core)	Option C – software/support subscription, 5-year term	Netgate	8300 MAX subscription, 5-yr	1

PRICING REQUIREMENTS

All proposals must include:

- Itemized unit pricing
- Extended totals
- Separate eligible/ineligible cost allocation
- MRC (Monthly Recurring Charges)
- NRC (Non-Recurring Charges)
- Shipping/freight
- Taxes and fees
- Warranty costs
- Licensing fees (if applicable)
- A separate pricing attachment for each Project bid (Attachment A – Project 1, Attachment B – Project 2, Attachment C – Project 3)
- For Projects 1 and 3, separate per-unit and extended pricing for each license/subscription term (1-year, 3-year, and 5-year)
- Installation, configuration, and other labor are not requested under this RFP and must not be included in pricing.

Pricing Integrity:

- Pricing must remain firm for full contract duration.
- No unilateral price escalations permitted.
- Promotional pricing exceeding 90 days must be reflected where applicable.
- Pricing must comply with Lowest Corresponding Price rules.

Tariffs / Import Costs:

If tariff exposure exists, Offeror must clearly disclose:

- Affected products
- Proposed adjustment methodology
- Contractual limitations

Applicant retains sole discretion over acceptance.

MINIMUM VENDOR REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must meet each of the following minimum vendor requirements, which will be reviewed on a pass/fail basis before any scoring. Any proposal that fails to meet and document every requirement will be deemed non-responsive, will be disqualified, and will not be scored. These requirements apply to each Project bid and are not scored criteria.

- The vendor must be a manufacturer-authorized reseller for each product it bids (Cisco, Meraki, Netgate, or the manufacturer of any proposed equivalent), with proof included in the proposal, such as a manufacturer letter or partner ID.
- All products must be new, genuine, sourced through authorized channels, and eligible for full manufacturer warranty and support in the Applicant's name. The Offeror must include a signed certification to this effect in its proposal.

CONTRACT CONDITIONS

- Applicant intends to enter into a legally binding written agreement.
- Month-to-month proposals will not be accepted.
- Annual appropriation/non-appropriation provisions may apply.
- Written amendments are mandatory for all changes.
- Equipment substitutions require mutual written approval.
- FCC service delivery deadline extensions may be incorporated where applicable.
- Applicant is not obligated to purchase full quoted quantities.
- Contract award may be whole or partial. Awards will be made separately by Project.

The Applicant intends to enter into a multi-year agreement. Proposals must include an initial contract term commencing April 1, 2027 and concluding September 30, 2028, with the option, at the Applicant's discretion, to extend the agreement for one additional one-year term through September 30, 2029. The 1-, 3-, or 5-year license/subscription term selected for Projects 1 and 3 is a product term and is independent of the contract term.

BEST AND FINAL OFFER (BAFO)

The Applicant reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to request Best and Final Offers (BAFO) from all responsive and responsible Offerors.

If BAFO is utilized:

- All eligible Offerors shall receive equal notice
- Uniform submission requirements shall apply
- Identical deadlines shall be enforced
- BAFO requests shall preserve full FCC competitive bidding compliance

Nothing herein obligates Applicant to request BAFO.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

In full compliance with FCC requirements, the cost of E-Rate eligible products and services shall be the single highest weighted evaluation factor.

The Applicant will carefully consider all responsive proposals received in response to this RFP and the associated FCC Form 470. Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the following:

Governing Requirements

- **47 C.F.R. §§ 54.503 and 54.511**, under which the Applicant must select the most cost-effective offering, with the price of the eligible products and services as the primary factor in that determination;
- **Texas Education Code § 44.031(b)**, under which the Applicant shall consider the statutory factors set out in the scoring matrix below in determining to whom to award a contract;
- **Texas Education Code § 44.0351 or § 44.0352**, as applicable to the procurement method used, and the Applicant's adopted board policy governing purchasing and acquisition (Policy CH).

Price Weighting

The price of the eligible products and services is weighted more heavily than any other single criterion. The price of any ineligible products and services is scored as a separate criterion and is weighted less heavily than the price of eligible products and services. The Applicant is not obligated to select the lowest-priced proposal, but will select the most cost-effective offering as determined by the scoring matrix below.

Separate Scoring by Project

Each Project (Project 1 – Wireless Licenses, Project 2 – Switching, Project 3 – Firewall and Licenses) will be scored independently, out of 100 points, using only that Project's pricing attachment and proposal content. For Projects 1 and 3, price will be scored using the license/subscription term selected by the Applicant, applied uniformly to every responsive proposal; for Project 3, evaluated price includes the firewall appliance plus the selected term.

Pass/Fail Screening and No Installation: Only proposals that pass every Minimum Vendor Requirement will be scored. Manufacturer authorization and product authenticity are pass/fail requirements and are not awarded points. Installation, configuration, and other labor services are not requested under this RFP and are not evaluated under any criterion.

Scoring Matrix

Evaluation Criterion	What Will Be Evaluated	Points
1. Price of Eligible Products and Services *Tex. Educ. Code § 44.031(b)(1); 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.503, 54.511*	• Total pre-discount cost of the E-Rate eligible equipment, licenses, and subscriptions for the Project, as stated on that Project's pricing attachment. • For Projects 1 and 3, the cost of the license/subscription term selected by the Applicant (plus, for Project 3, the firewall appliance), applied uniformly to every Offeror. • Eligible shipping/freight charges, itemized separately on the pricing attachment.	**50**

Evaluation Criterion	What Will Be Evaluated	Points
2. Price of Ineligible Products and Services *47 C.F.R. § 54.504(e); USAC bid evaluation guidance*	• Cost of any ineligible components, features, or functionality included in the proposal (for example, advanced security, threat-prevention, or content-filtering features on the firewall). • Whether ineligible components are separately and independently priced from eligible components. • The cost allocation methodology proposed for any item containing both eligible and ineligible functionality, supported by manufacturer documentation.	**5**
3. Extent to Which the Goods or Services Meet the Applicant's Needs *Tex. Educ. Code § 44.031(b)(4)*	• Conformance to the technical specifications, quantities, and locations stated in this RFP and the associated FCC Form 470. • Compatibility and interoperability with the Applicant's existing network: licenses applied to the existing Meraki dashboard organization and 92 installed MR access points (Project 1); compatibility with existing Cisco switching and the existing OM1 62.5/125-micron fiber plant using 1G SX optics (Project 2); compatibility with the Applicant's existing Internet/WAN circuits, VLANs, and routing (Project 3). • Functional equivalency of any alternate makes or models, supported by complete data sheets. • Capacity and scalability: switch port density, PoE+ power budget, and uplink capacity; firewall throughput with required features enabled, sufficient for the Applicant's current and anticipated use over the license/support term. • Continuity of service: license start and co-termination with no lapse at the September 27, 2027 expiration • Completeness of the response and the number and materiality of any exceptions taken to the specifications.	**15**
4. Quality of the Vendor's Goods or Services *Tex. Educ. Code § 44.031(b)(3)*	• Manufacturer warranty, technical support (TAC), and RMA/advance-replacement terms. • Product lifecycle: published end-of-sale and end-of-support dates relative to the expected service life, and continued software/firmware support. • Demonstrated performance of the proposed models in comparable K-12 networks. • Quality of the proposed delivery and license activation plan.	**10**
5. Reputation of the Vendor and of the Vendor's Goods or Services *Tex. Educ. Code § 44.031(b)(2)*	• References from comparable K-12 or public-sector clients for similar Category Two network projects, and the outcome of reference checks. • Financial stability and capacity to perform for the full contract term. • Experience with the E-Rate program, including Category Two projects. • Current, valid SPIN and standing to participate in the E-Rate program (including FCC Red Light Rule status). • History of suspension, debarment, or unresolved FCC or USAC compliance findings, and compliance with the FCC Covered List/supply chain rules.	**5**

Evaluation Criterion	What Will Be Evaluated	Points
6. Vendor's Past Relationship with the Applicant *Tex. Educ. Code § 44.031(b)(5)*	• Documented performance on prior contracts with the Applicant, including delivery accuracy and timeliness, product quality, and warranty/RMA handling. • Accuracy and timeliness of prior billing and E-Rate invoicing (SPI or BEAR support documentation). • Responsiveness of assigned account and technical personnel. • A bidder with no prior relationship with the Applicant will receive a neutral score on this criterion and will not be penalized.	**5**
7. Total Long-Term Cost to Acquire the Goods or Services *Tex. Educ. Code § 44.031(b)(7)*	• Lifecycle cost of the proposed solution, including license, subscription, and support renewal costs after the selected term, and any renewal price protection offered. • Expected refresh or replacement timing based on published end-of-support dates. • Costs of items the proposal requires the Applicant to supply that are not quoted (for example, additional licenses, optics, power, or rack space). • Any minimum commitments, early termination charges, or buyout obligations. • Consistency of long-term cost with the Applicant's FY2026–FY2030 Category Two budget and E-Rate funding horizon.	**5**
8. Impact on Compliance with Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Laws and Rules *Tex. Educ. Code § 44.031(b)(6)*	• Whether the bidder is a certified HUB under Texas rules. • Proposed HUB subcontracting participation, if any, and the plan supporting it. • Effect of an award to this bidder on the Applicant's ability to comply with applicable HUB laws and rules.	**2**
9. Texas Principal Place of Business / Texas Employment *Tex. Educ. Code § 44.031(b)(8)*	*Not scored. This factor applies only to contracts for goods and services other than goods and services related to telecommunications and information services. It is included in this RFP so the District can identify if the offeror has a principal place of business in Texas.*	**Not Scored**
10. Other Relevant Factors Specifically Listed in This Request *Tex. Educ. Code § 44.031(b)(9)*	• Delivery and activation schedule: equipment delivered and licenses/subscriptions activated within the FY2027 Category Two service delivery window and, for Project 1, before the existing licenses expire. • Named account personnel and their qualifications. • Willingness to invoice USAC directly (SPI) or support the Applicant's BEAR filings, and to provide documentation required for PIA review and audit. • Willingness to contract subject to the Applicant's receipt of E-Rate funding, including a funding contingency clause. • Compliance with the Applicant's insurance, data privacy, and network security requirements	**3**
TOTAL	**Sum of all weights assigned above (scored separately for each Project)**	**100**

Award Determination

- For each Project, the responsive proposal with the highest total score will be considered the most cost-effective offering for that Project.

- If two or more proposals receive the same total score for a Project, the proposal with the higher score on Criterion 1 (Price of Eligible Products and Services) will be ranked higher.
- Evaluation and ranking will be completed in relation to the published selection criteria above, consistent with Texas Education Code § 44.0352 where competitive sealed proposals are used.
- Completed scoring sheets, the bid evaluation matrix, and all proposals received will be retained for at least ten (10) years after the last date of service, consistent with 47 C.F.R. § 54.516.

Applicant reserves sole discretion in proposal evaluation consistent with applicable law.

DISQUALIFICATION FACTORS

Proposals will be disqualified for the following reasons:

- Late submission
- Unauthorized communications
- Does not have a SPIN at the time of proposal submission
- Failure to meet specifications
- Generic or non-responsive pricing
- Submission of a response generated by Artificial Intelligence that contains materially incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading information and/or is not tailored specifically to the Applicant and/or needs of the RFP.
- Inclusion of generic or overly broad pricing lists that do not reflect the specific requirements of this RFP.
- Failure to comply with procurement instructions
- Failure to provide the required pricing attachment for each Project bid
- Failure to provide proof that the Offeror is a manufacturer-authorized reseller for each product bid (see Minimum Vendor Requirements).
- Proposal of any product that is not new, genuine, sourced through manufacturer-authorized channels, and eligible for full manufacturer warranty and support in the Applicant's name.

INVOICING REQUIREMENTS

The Applicant reserves the sole right to select the invoicing method for the requested products and/or services. By submitting a proposal, the offeror acknowledges and accepts the Applicant's right to choose between the Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR) method or the Service Provider Invoicing (SPI) method.

BEAR Method (FCC Form 472): If the BEAR method is selected, the offeror shall invoice the Applicant for the full cost of the eligible products and/or services. The Applicant will then seek reimbursement for the discounted portion directly from USAC using FCC Form 472.

SPI Method (FCC Form 474): If the SPI method is selected, the Applicant's E-rate discount will be reflected on the FCC Form 471 and confirmed in the Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL), if issued. The offeror shall invoice USAC directly for the discounted portion using FCC Form 474 and agrees not to invoice the Applicant for any amount covered by the E-rate discount.

Vendor Obligations:

- Timely invoicing cooperation
- Documentation support
- USAC compliance
- No disruption due to billing disputes

ADMINISTRATIVE, PROCUREMENT, AND E-RATE COMPLIANCE PROVISIONS

- Procurement Rights and Reservation of Authority
    - The Applicant reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to award contracts in whole, in part, to multiple vendors, or not at all, based on the Applicant's needs, available funding, and the requirements established in this solicitation.
    - The Applicant further reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive informalities or minor irregularities, request clarifications, and make award decisions determined to be in the best interest of the Applicant and consistent with all applicable E-Rate and public procurement requirements.
    - In the event of conflict between this RFP and applicable state/local procurement laws, applicable law shall control.
    - The Applicant may, at its sole discretion, extend proposal deadlines, amend procurement schedules, or cancel this solicitation in whole or in part if deemed necessary or advantageous.
- Proposal Submission, Public Disclosure, and Confidentiality
    - Submission of a proposal does not create any binding contractual obligation for the Applicant unless and until a formal written agreement and/or authorized purchase order has been fully executed.
    - Following contract award and execution, proposal documents may be subject to public inspection in accordance with applicable public records laws.
    - Offerors may designate specific portions of their proposals as "Proprietary" or "Confidential," provided such information is clearly identified and readily separable from non-confidential content. The Applicant will make reasonable efforts to protect properly designated confidential information to the extent permitted by law.
    - Pricing, service costs, and other cost-related information shall not be considered proprietary or confidential and may be publicly disclosed.
- Contract Formation and Financial Protections

    - The Applicant reserves the right to reevaluate the cost-effectiveness of contracted services throughout the contract term, consistent with contractual rights and E-Rate program requirements.
    - Offerors proposing products potentially subject to price fluctuations due to tariffs, import restrictions, or other governmental actions must clearly disclose affected products and provide a defined methodology for controlling or limiting future pricing adjustments.
- Conflict of Interest and Competitive Integrity
    - By submitting a proposal, each Offeror certifies that no actual or potential conflict of interest exists that would compromise the fairness of this procurement or create an unfair competitive advantage.
    - The Applicant will conduct this procurement in a fair, open, and competitive manner consistent with FCC E-Rate rules. No vendor, including incumbents, shall receive preferential treatment or improper advantage.
    - Any proposal determined to involve collusion, undisclosed conflicts, or improper competitive influence will be disqualified.
- E-Rate Compliance Requirements
    - This procurement is subject to all applicable Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), and E-Rate program rules.
    - All participating vendors must comply with all E-Rate requirements, including but not limited to:
        - Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) eligibility
        - FCC Red Light Rule compliance
        - Lowest Corresponding Price requirements
        - Debarment and suspension certifications
        - Gift rule compliance
        - Eligible services compliance
        - SPI invoicing capability, if required
        - Record retention obligations
    - Failure to maintain E-Rate compliance may result in proposal disqualification or contract termination.
- Product Demonstrations and Trial Equipment Restrictions
    - To preserve the integrity of the competitive bidding process, product demonstrations, vendor meetings, or equipment evaluations during the active procurement window may be restricted or denied.
    - Following the close of the competitive bidding period, temporary equipment loans for evaluation purposes may be permitted only if:
        - The duration is clearly limited
        - Terms are documented
        - No improper competitive advantage is created
        - Demonstrations or evaluation equipment may only be accepted where permitted by law and where such activities do not compromise competitive fairness.

- Supply Chain Compliance Certification
    - By submitting a proposal, the Offeror certifies compliance with FCC Order 19-121 and all related federal supply chain security requirements.
    - Offerors further certify that proposed equipment and services do not include any equipment, services, or components from entities identified on the FCC's Covered List, including but not limited to Huawei Technologies Company, ZTE Corporation, or any successor-designated covered entities.
    - The Offeror acknowledges that non-compliance may result in proposal disqualification, contract cancellation, or other remedies as permitted by law.
- Delivery Deadline
    - All products and services must be delivered, and all licenses/subscriptions activated, in accordance with applicable E-Rate service delivery deadlines unless officially extended by FCC or USAC.

RECORD RETENTION / AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.516, Service Providers are required to adhere to the following obligations regarding document retention, records production, and audits.

- Service Providers must retain all documents related to the delivery of discounted telecommunications and other supported services for a minimum of ten (10) years following the final day of service delivery. Additionally, any records that demonstrate compliance with statutory or regulatory requirements under the schools and libraries support mechanism must also be retained. Detailed guidelines on document retention can be found in the FCC's Fifth Report and Order (FCC 04-190).
- Upon request, Service Providers shall produce relevant records to any authorized representative, including auditors appointed by state education departments, the program Administrator, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), or any local, state, or federal agency with jurisdiction over the matter.
- Service Providers shall be subject to audits and investigations to verify compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements applicable to the schools and libraries universal service support program. This includes compliance concerning the procurement, delivery, and usage of services and products.
- Service Providers may protect confidential information except where disclosure is required by FCC, USAC, governmental auditors, or applicable law.
- Service Providers are responsible for ensuring that any subcontractors they engage also comply fully with the FCC's requirements related to document retention, records production, and audits.

LOWEST CORRESPONDING PRICE

In accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 54.511, Service Providers are prohibited from submitting bids or charging schools and libraries prices that exceed the Lowest Corresponding Price

(LCP) for supported services. Exceptions apply only if the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for interstate services, or the relevant state commission for intrastate services, determines that the LCP is not compensatory. Additionally, promotional rates offered by a Service Provider for periods longer than 90 days must be factored into the comparable rates used to establish the LCP.

All proposals submitted in response to this Form 470 must comply with the E-rate program requirement to offer the Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP). For further details, please refer to the official USAC guidance regarding Lowest Corresponding Price requirements.

COST OF PROPOSALS

All costs and expenses associated with the preparation and submission of proposals in response to this Scope of Work shall be borne exclusively by the vendor.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A – Project 1: Wireless Licenses Pricing Worksheet
- Attachment B – Project 2: Switching (Switches and Cabling) Pricing Worksheet
- Attachment C – Project 3: Firewall and Licenses Pricing Worksheet

******* END OF RFP *******