FY2027 RFP Category 2 – Independent School District #756 of Minnesota

E-rate BEN: 133711 · Form 470 # 270003328

BID SUBMISSION
Bids must be emailed to **Bids2027@eratecomplete.com** and received by 12/3/2026 at 9:00 am Applicant time. Bids not sent to this email address will be disqualified.

1. Project Summary

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to solicit bids for Independent School District #756 of Minnesota ("Applicant"). Applicant is seeking proposals for Managed Internal Broadband Services for existing network infrastructure. Their current agreement expires mid-funding year; 2/18/2028. This project is being requested under E-rate Category Two Managed Internal Broadband Services for E-rate Funding Year 2027.

2. Timeline

Task	To	Due Date
Form 470 & RFP Posted	EPC Portal	11/5/2026
Clarifying Questions Due	E-rateBloomingPrairie@blossoms.k12.mn.us and cc to erate@eratecomplete.com	11/19/2026 9:00 am Applicant time
Q&A RFP Addendum Posted	EPC Portal	11/23/2026
Site Visit – None required	—	Not applicable
Bids Due	**Bids2027@eratecomplete.com**	12/3/2026 9:00 am Applicant time

These are the only dates for this RFP. Any change will be issued as an addendum posted to the Form 470 in EPC.

3. Bidder Communication & Submission Requirements

To ensure fairness, transparency, and proper documentation, all bidder communication must adhere to the following requirements:

- **Email Only:** No phone calls or texts are permitted. All communication must occur via email to the contacts specified above for documentation purposes.
- **Adherence to RFP Instructions:** Failure to comply with any RFP instructions may result in disqualification or point deductions during bid evaluation.
- **Point of Contact:** All communication regarding this RFP must be directed to the designated contact/s listed above. Communication with any other individual, department, or board member may result in disqualification.
- **Scope of Inquiries:** Questions or suggestions involving products or services not included in the Form 470 or RFP will not be considered legitimate inquiries or proposals. Questions

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requesting information already contained within the Form 470 or RFP will not receive a response.

- **Incomplete or Non-Responsive Proposals:** A response will be disqualified if it does not include itemized pricing for the requested items, only asks the Applicant to contact the vendor, or does not address the scope of the Form 470. Spam, robotic, generic, or encyclopedic submissions will not be considered valid and will be disqualified. The reason for each disqualification will be documented in the bid evaluation file.
- **Bid Submission Address:** Bids must be sent to **Bids2027@eratecomplete.com**. Bids not sent to this email address will be disqualified.
- **Late Submissions:** The applicant reserves the right to reject any bids submitted after the published deadline.
- **Addenda:** It is the bidder's responsibility to follow the Form 470 in the E-rate EPC portal to receive any updates and addenda. A Q&A addendum will be posted by the date in the Timeline, even if no questions are received. Vendor questions and responses, as well as any clarifications or other addenda, will be posted to ensure equal access to information. Bidders are responsible for monitoring the EPC Form 470 for updates. Proposals submitted after an addendum is posted must acknowledge it.

Clarifying Questions are due from vendors ***to E-rateBloomingPrairie@blossoms.k12.mn.us and cc to erate@eratecomplete.com*** by the date and time in the Timeline above. Questions received after that deadline may not be answered.

Bids must be submitted via email to Bids2027@eratecomplete.com and received by the date and time in the Timeline above. Applicant reserves the right to reject late submissions. Bidders who submitted a bid before the Q&A addendum was posted may submit a revised bid based on the addendum by the bid due date. A revised bid must acknowledge the addendum and should clarify if it replaces that bidder's earlier bid.

All responses must be labeled **ATTN: ERATE Category 2 FY2027 Response – C2 Blooming Prairie MN**

4. Description of Proposal

Respondent will provide a description of their proposal for all services and solutions. Description will include an overview of the proposal, any deviations from the requested architecture, design or requirements, assumptions made, other detail the Applicant may find useful or necessary (or could differentiate the solution from a competing proposal).

5. References

For each response, the respondent must provide 3 references from current or recent customers (preferably K-12 schools) with projects equivalent to the size of the applicant.

6. Required Notice to Proceed and Funding Availability

Applicant will follow the purchasing policies of the Board and requirements and procedures of the FCC’s E-rate program as administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company to be eligible for all available funding. The implementation of any associated contracts resulting from this competitive bid process will be dependent on the applicant’s issuance of a written Notice to Proceed/Purchase Order. E-rate funding notification alone will not signify Notice to Proceed. The

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Applicant will have the right to allow the contract to expire without implementation if appropriate funding does not come available.

No Work Without Written Authorization. Vendor shall not order equipment, schedule labor, perform services, or incur costs on behalf of the Applicant until the Applicant issues a written Purchase Order/Notice to Proceed. Any work performed or costs incurred without written authorization are at the Vendor's sole risk and expense.

Invoicing: Respondents agree to conform to all E-Rate guidelines for the billing of discounts to the SLD/USAC. Bidders must be willing to provide E-Rate discounted billing (form 474/SPI invoicing) if requested by the applicant.

Prices to remain firm through E-rate approval, execution, and duration of the proposed contract. In the event of a price decrease for service or from the manufacturer, said decrease shall be passed on to the Applicant and documented with new price sheet sent to the contacts listed here.

7. Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS)

1. Service Requested

The Applicant is requesting proposals for Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS), defined as third-party operation, management, and monitoring of the Applicant's eligible broadband internal connections using Applicant-owned (existing) equipment.

The managed service covers 2 buildings serving approximately 1000 users.

The managed service must use and support the Applicant's existing Meraki Dashboard, Arctic Wolf, Barracuda, Cisco Umbrella management platform.

2. Scope of MIBS (Applicant-Owned Environment)

The Offeror must include, at minimum, the following services for the equipment listed below:

- Monitoring and alerting of managed components, 24x7
- Incident response and troubleshooting, including fault isolation and restoration coordination (24x7 coverage)
- Operational management and configuration management (performed at Applicant direction and subject to Applicant change control)
- Performance management and optimization of the managed components
- Documentation and reporting, including ticket summaries and service activity reporting (monthly)
- Installation and initial configuration of new eligible equipment added to the managed environment during the term
- On-site training for Applicant staff on the managed equipment

Any items that resemble warranty, support subscription, software upgrades/patches, or other potentially mixed-eligibility services must be clearly described and separately priced to support E-Rate eligibility review and any required cost allocation.

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Components Covered by MIBS Agreement (existing or future planned)

Component Type	Qty	Manufacturer	Model Number	Location	Existing or Planned	Equipment Owner
Switch	8	Meraki	MS125, 225, 350	High School	Existing	Applicant
Switch	5	Meraki	MS125, 225	Elementary School	Existing	Applicant
Access Point	39	Meraki	MR33, 36 52, 44, 52, 56	Elementary School	Existing	Applicant
Access Point	50	Meraki	MR33, 36 52, 44, 52, 56	High School	Existing	Applicant
Firewall	2	Meraki	MX250	High School	Existing	Applicant
Firewall	1	Artic Wolf	202	High School	Existing	Applicant

8. Bidder Acceptance of RFP Terms

Submission of a proposal constitutes the Vendor's agreement to comply with the requirements of this RFP, including the Applicant's contracting process, order of precedence, and written PO/NTP requirement.

9. Applicant Requirements

Vendor acknowledges the Applicant is a public entity and may be subject to additional requirements related to board approval, appropriation/budget availability, audit/public records, and limitations on indemnification, venue, governing law, and attorney fees. Vendor agrees to execute Applicant-required clauses as a condition of award. Vendor acknowledges that the Applicant cannot make advance payments, deposits, or prepayments for undelivered goods or services.

10. Contractor Requirements

- Must comply with all E-rate program rules
- Must have experience in K–12 environments
- Must provide three K–12 project references
- Must offer the Applicant its lowest corresponding price for the same or similar goods and services, as required by 47 C.F.R. § 54.511(b)
- Must hold a valid SPIN (FCC Form 498 ID), must not be in Red Light status with the FCC, and must file FCC Form 473 (Service Provider Annual Certification) for FY2027. Failure to meet these requirements may result in disqualification.
- By submitting, the Vendor certifies it did not help prepare this RFP or the Form 470, and has offered no gifts to Applicant staff.
- Must identify, by legal name, any affiliate or subcontractor that will perform any part of the work. The bidder of record (the SPIN holder) remains responsible for all work and invoicing.

11. E-rate Program Compliance

Bidder acknowledges their equipment and services are compliant with FCC's Order (FCC 19-121) prohibiting the sale, provision, maintenance, modification, or other support of equipment or services provided or manufactured by Huawei, ZTE or any other "covered company" deemed a national security threat, and that no equipment or service proposed is on the FCC Covered List (47 CFR 54.10).

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Service providers are reminded of the E-Rate gift restrictions in 47 CFR 54.503(d).

12. Proposal Submission

Deadline: see the Timeline above. Submit to **Bids2027@eratecomplete.com**. Bids not sent to this email address will be disqualified.

All proposals must include:

- Itemized pricing separating E-rate eligible and ineligible costs
- Completed Pricing Form (posted with this RFP)
- Vendor SPIN (Service Provider Identification Number / Form 498 ID)

13. Evaluation Criteria

Price of eligible goods and services is the primary factor and will be weighted most heavily. Proposals will be scored as follows:

Criterion	Weight	How it is scored
Price of eligible goods/services	40%	Scored proportionally: 5 × (lowest eligible price received ÷ the bidder's eligible price). Eligible items only.
Meets requirements	25%	The bid itself: quotes what the RFP/Form 470 asked for (or a documented equivalent); itemizes eligible vs. ineligible costs; includes part numbers, installation, SPIN and required documents; follows the bid submission instructions.
Understanding of needs	20%	The solution: fits the applicant's environment; compatible with existing equipment and management software; sound design; addresses the timeline / installation window.
Prior experience with vendor	10%	The applicant's past experience with this vendor, plus the references requested in this RFP.
Local presence	5%	Office within 150 miles of the applicant.

All criteria other than price are scored 1–5.

14. Contract Terms

A service term of February 19, 2028 – June 30, 2032. Bidders should quote 3 and 5-year terms. Price each term on its own (for example, separate 1-, 3- and 5-year prices); bids are compared only with bids for the same term. If extensions are offered, state the price for each extension year.

The contract is contingent on:

- E-rate funding approval.
- Final approval of next year's fiscal budget;
- Board approval, if required
- Issuance of PO/Notice to Proceed

The Applicant reserves the right to make reductions or changes based on available budget and/or funding.

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15. Order of Precedence

Any contract resulting from this RFP will be governed only by: (1) the Applicant's written award/contract document (or board-approved contract), (2) the Applicant's Purchase Order and written Notice to Proceed, (3) this RFP and any published addenda, and (4) the Vendor's proposal/quote only to the extent expressly incorporated by the Applicant in writing. Vendor boilerplate terms, template or commercial agreements, and terms incorporated by link (for example, website terms referenced on a quote) are expressly excluded unless the Applicant affirmatively adopts them in writing. Vendor agrees that any proposed contract or terms submitted with the bid are considered non-binding unless affirmatively adopted by the Applicant.

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