ELAN ACADEMY

BEN: 17012357

Funding Year 2027
(July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028)

FCC Form 470: #270003742 - Request for Proposals

SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS – CATEGORY TWO: INTERNAL CONNECTIONS & MIBS

Timeline

Task	Due Date
FCC Form 470 certified and posted in EPC	November 18, 2026
Deadline for vendors to submit questions	November 27, 2026, at 2:00pm Central Time
Answers to questions posted in EPC	November 30, 2026
Deadline for vendors to submit proposals	December 23, 2026, at 2:00pm Central Time

Entity Name	Current Bandwidth	Street Address	Longitude/Latitude
Elan Academy Charter School	1 GBPS	6501 Berkley Drive, New Orleans, La 70131	29.917054693900088, -89.98506172083003

1. Solicitation Overview

Elan Academy requests competitive proposals for the Category Two service categories selected below.

- Internal Connections
- Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS)

Élan Academy requests proposals for Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS) using either vendor-leased network equipment or school-owned network equipment. Vendors may propose either or both approaches. The school also requests separate pricing for Internal Connections purchases, as applicable to each proposed solution.

Élan Academy is a tuition-free public college preparatory charter school in New Orleans, Louisiana, serving approximately 450 students in Pre-K4 through eighth grade. Its current MIBS agreement, including equipment leased from the incumbent vendor, expires June 30, 2027. Proposals are requested for service beginning July 1, 2027. The equipment below is an inventory of the current environment, not a representation that the school owns the equipment or that the equipment will be available to a successor vendor.

Existing School Network Equipment – Leased Through Incumbent Vendor

Description	Manufacturer	Model	Quantities
Firewall	Sophos	Sophos XG330	1
Switch	Cisco	WS-C3750X-48P	1
Switch	Cisco	WS-C3750X-24P	2
Switch	Cisco	WS-C2960X-24PS-L	2
Access Point	Aruba	AP-515	24

2. General Bid Instructions and E-Rate Requirements

- Proposals must be submitted as PDF to the following link: Elan Academy C2 bids by December 23, 2026, at 2:00pm CST. Written questions go to Elan Academy Q/A. Material answers and addenda will be shared equally with bidders using the USAC portal.
- Each vendor must provide legal business name, address, contact, valid SPIN, applicable certifications, relevant manufacturer authorization and insurance information, and up to three comparable school or library references (or explain unavailability).
- Proposals must identify all E-Rate eligible and ineligible elements, with a reasonable documented cost allocation for partially eligible items. E-Rate funding is subject to USAC/FCC rules and the applicable FY2027 Eligible Services List.

- Where a manufacturer or model is named, equivalent equipment meeting or exceeding stated functional requirements is acceptable. Provide specifications and a clear equivalency explanation.
- Provide firm unit prices and the manufacturer suggested retail price (MSRP) for each proposed SKU when published. If MSRP is unavailable, mark N/A and explain the basis for comparison. Identify discount from MSRP, all fees, freight, taxes, tariffs, and potential adjustments separately.
- Pricing validity: All proposed pricing must remain valid for at least 120 calendar days from the proposal submission deadline. State manufacturer quote expiration separately. No unilateral price increases, tariff surcharges, or substitutions are permitted after award without prior written Elan Academy approval and applicable E-Rate compliance review.
- Any proposed substitution must be equivalent or better, approved in writing before implementation, and processed through USAC where a service substitution is required.
- Bidders must provide realistic lead times, proposed implementation schedule, staffing, warranty terms, installation/testing scope, and exclusions. No undisclosed or unapproved additional charges are authorized.
- Equipment must be new and genuine unless expressly authorized otherwise. Elan Academy receives asset list (manufacturer, model, SKU, serial number, location), as-built drawings, configuration documentation, administrative credentials, cable test results, and acceptance records.
- Bidder shall retain and furnish records needed for E-Rate review and audits for the applicable retention period (generally at least 10 years from the last date of service or delivery, as applicable).
- Elan Academy may reject all bids, award by service category or line item, adjust estimated quantities within the advertised scope, or decline to proceed, consistent with competitive bidding rules and applicable law.

3. Evaluation and Award

The price of eligible goods and services is the primary evaluation factor and has more weight than any other individual criterion. The school will evaluate responsive bids using the published criteria and use separate scorecards for IC and MIBS; for the lease-versus-purchase comparison, document the combined costs and assumptions for each complete solution.

Criterion	Maximum points
Eligible price	40
Technical compliance and solution	25
Comparable experience and references	15
Implementation and delivery	10
Previous Experience with applicant	10

4. General Contract and Invoicing

Contract award is subject to Élan Academy's approval and may be contingent upon E-Rate funding. Equipment purchases, equipment leases, and Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS) may be awarded separately, as applicable. No award is guaranteed.

Élan Academy requests an initial three-year contract term beginning July 1, 2027, and ending June 30, 2030, with two optional one-year extensions for recurring services and equipment leases, as applicable. Vendors must provide pricing for each contract year and optional extension period.

Invoicing

Vendors must separately itemize E-Rate eligible and ineligible charges and provide supporting documentation as required. Élan Academy prefers the Service Provider Invoice (SPI) method, consistent with E-Rate program requirements. Vendors must indicate their ability to support this invoicing method.

All contract terms and conditions, including insurance and bond requirements, governing law, termination provisions, data access, and subcontractor arrangements, are subject to Élan Academy review and approval. Submission of a proposal does not constitute a binding agreement or guarantee of award.

5. Scope of Services

5.1. Internal Connections Specifications

Élan Academy requests separate pricing for the following school-purchased Internal Connections items, as applicable to the proposed solution:

- five (5) Vertiv PSI5-2200RT120N UPS units or equivalent;
- one (1) firewall to replace the Sophos XG330 or equivalent, if a school-owned firewall is proposed;
- one (1) caching server Dell R470 or equivalent; and
- any required licenses or subscriptions based on proposed equipment.

Vendors proposing a school-owned network solution must also price the switches, access points, and other equipment required for that solution. Identify E-Rate eligible and ineligible charges separately.

The existing equipment inventory provided in Section 1 serves as a baseline for evaluating proposed solutions. Vendors may propose equivalent or better equipment and must explain any changes in equipment quantities, specifications, or functionality. All proposals must identify E-Rate eligible and ineligible components and provide appropriate cost allocations. No separate fiber or Cat6 construction project is requested under this solicitation; any cabling necessary for equipment installation or transition must be separately identified and itemized.

- Provide manufacturer, model, SKU, quantity, technical specifications, required software and licensing, and compatibility information, as applicable.

- Price equipment, installation, configuration, licenses, support, freight, taxes and ineligible components separately in the applicable pricing tables.
- Provide delivery timelines, warranty information, applicable test results and acceptance documentation relevant to the awarded scope.

5.2 Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS) Specifications

Provide MIBS pricing for a vendor-leased equipment solution and/or a school-owned equipment solution. Describe the equipment and services included, and identify monthly management charges, lease charges (if applicable), licensing, and one-time costs separately. Identify whether the firewall is school-owned or vendor-leased, and state whether management of the firewall, school-purchased UPS units, and caching server is included, where eligible.

The vendor shall describe how it will administer, monitor, and maintain the day-to-day availability, performance, and configuration of eligible switches, routers, wireless access points, controllers, and related internal broadband components.

Vendors shall separately itemize applicable firewall equipment, licensing, and management costs in the appropriate pricing schedules.

Management services must be limited to functions necessary to distribute broadband connectivity within Elan Academy's facilities.

- Managed services scope: Identify each covered site/BEN and device by manufacturer, model, SKU, quantity, location, ownership (Elan Academy-owned or vendor-provided) and management platform. Specify proactive availability and performance monitoring, event alerts, fault isolation, incident handling, wireless and switch configuration administration, approved change management, capacity/performance reporting, and network configuration backup/restoration, as applicable. Distinguish included activities from separately billable work.
- Operational responsibilities: State monitoring hours, staffed help desk hours, service-request channels, ticket tracking, severity definitions, acknowledgment and remote-response times, on-site dispatch arrangements, escalation contacts, planned maintenance windows, school approval requirements for changes, and responsibilities during school testing and instructional hours. Provide an SLA with measurable availability/response targets, reporting frequency and remedies for persistent nonperformance.
- Access and security: Specify Elan Academy read-only and administrative access, handling of network credentials, role-based permissions, configuration documentation, backups, incident notifications, data ownership, and procedures for transferring management to Elan Academy or successor provider at contract expiration. Any cybersecurity, content filtering, surveillance, end-user support, or general IT services beyond eligible internal broadband management must be separately identified and cost-allocated as appropriate.
- Pricing and eligibility: Separately itemize monthly recurring managed-service charges, any one-time transition/onboarding charges, vendor-provided equipment, software or cloud-management licenses, and ineligible activities. List each license SKU, term, covered equipment, ownership and renewal obligation, and identify any costs already requested as Internal Connections. No service or license may be

charged twice under IC, MIBS, or BMIC. Provide a transition plan, contract term, renewal options, price-escalation provisions, and exit assistance.

6. Pricing Tables and Cost Allocations

Provide itemized prices for equipment, installation, licenses, and managed services. Separate E-Rate eligible and ineligible costs. Do not duplicate school-purchased equipment costs in leased-equipment charges.

Use the pricing schedules in Appendix A. Vendors may expand rows or attach matching itemized schedules. Provide all equipment and service details, quantities, eligible and ineligible amounts, cost-allocation rationale, taxes, shipping, one-time charges, recurring charges, licensing and annual price changes. MSRP is required where published; otherwise enter N/A and explain. Proposed pricing must remain valid for at least 120 calendar days after the proposal deadline.

The school will compare total eligible price using consistent contract periods and documented assumptions. Proposals for equipment purchase and managed services may be combined for comparison even if offered by different vendors.

Provide documentation supporting partially eligible allocations. Elan Academy and vendor remain responsible for confirming eligibility under the applicable Eligible Services List and USAC guidance.

7. Contract Protections and Project Acceptance

No award is effective until a separately signed agreement or purchase order is approved by Elan Academy. Elan Academy may condition performance on E-Rate funding and applicable budget approval and may terminate or reduce the project as expressly stated in the final contract. Include a non-appropriation/funding-out clause where permitted by applicable law.

Bidder must identify required insurance, subcontractors, permits, prevailing wage obligations if any, and warranty terms. Performance bonds are required only if expressly specified in the school-specific solicitation and consistent with applicable law. Vendor remains responsible for subcontractor performance and safe work at occupied school sites.

Elan Academy may reject defective, substituted, incomplete, or nonconforming work; require correction at vendor expense; and withhold final acceptance until documented testing and closeout are completed, subject to the executed contract. State cancellation, cure period, termination, refunds, and dispute procedures in the final agreement.

IC acceptance documentation, as applicable to the awarded scope, includes equipment and serial-number inventory by site, configurations and credentials, as-built drawings, cable test results, wireless verification, firmware versions, licenses, warranties, punch list and signed acceptance.

Invoicing must reconcile to awarded line items and distinguish eligible/ineligible costs and the school share. Invoices must show service dates and sites, and the vendor shall provide supporting records for PIA and audits.

APPENDIX A

Complete only the applicable pricing schedules. Price the firewall under Internal Connections only if school-owned; otherwise include any firewall lease charges under A-2. Include any transition or installation costs with the applicable proposal.

A-1. Internal Connections

Equipment / scope	Make / model / SKU	Qty	MSRP	Unit price	Ext. price	Ineligible $	Eligible $
Firewall -	replacement for Sophos XG330, or equivalent	1					
UPS	Vertiv PSI5-2200RT120N UPS or equivalent	5					
Caching server -	Dell PowerEdge R470 or equivalent	1					
Required Licenses		As needed					
48-port switch							
24-port switches							
Wireless access points							
Installation / transition							
Other eligible items							
TOTAL							

A-2. MIBS - Managed Leased

Recurring component	Equipment / SKU	Qty	Monthly Lease $	Monthly Managed $	Ineligible $	Eligible $	Total Monthly $	Total Annual $
Switch								
Access Point								
Firewall (if proposed)								
TOTAL								

A-3. MIBS for School-Owned Equipment

Recurring component	Covered devices / SKU	Quantity	Monthly Mgmt $	Ineligible $	Eligible $	Annual $
Switch						
Access Points						
Firewall						
TOTAL						

A-4. Three-Year Comparison Summary

Provide the same three-year comparison period for both options. Quote optional extension years separately. Clearly state whether figures include taxes, freight, licenses, transition charges and ineligible amounts.

Cost component	Option A: Manage Leased MIBS	Option B: School Owned MIBS
One-time equipment purchase		
One-time installation / transition		
Three-year equipment lease		N/A
Three-year managed services		
Three-year eligible licensing		
Three-year total eligible cost		
Three-year total ineligible cost		
Three-year total proposed cost		