Blackford County Schools
BEN: 130600
470: 270004038

Request for Proposals – Category 2 Internal Connections

11/9/2026

Blackford County Schools (the "Applicant") is seeking proposals for a project to supply and install network equipment at its eligible locations. Bidders are advised that this project will be contingent upon the successful obtaining of Category 2 E-Rate funding, and the contract agreement between the district and the successful bidder must recognize that contingency.

The Applicant seeks an agreement that allows it to work with the selected vendor to adjust quantities and/or scale back or cancel the project entirely as needed based upon funding availability and/or the best interests of the Applicant.

Project Scope

The Applicant seeks eligible equipment as outlined in Appendix A. Equipment shall be new, factory-sealed equipment currently available from the manufacturer; the Applicant will not accept proposals of used, remanufactured, refurbished, "B stock," returns, open-box, discontinued, "gray market," or equipment in any other condition other than new and factory-sealed with all original manufacturer warranties.
Installation will be in place of existing equipment and the requested equipment will be integrated into the existing environment. Each bid should include all labor necessary for staging, installation, testing, and documentation of equipment. Equipment staging will consist of (but not be limited to) ensuring firmware version consistency, configuration loading, and hardware preparation for mounting. Software and firmware version for components will be agreed upon at time of deployment, and configurations will be coordinated with the Applicant's staff. Installation by the selected vendor shall include the removal of the existing equipment and placement of the new equipment. Equipment testing should verify access to internal resources and the Internet. Documentation should include configuration and summary reports of installations.

Questions/Site Visit Information

Vendors can attend a **voluntary** pre-bid meeting to be held at Blackford County Jr-Sr High School, 2392 N State Road 3, Hartford City, IN 47348 during the week of 11/30/2026 through 12/4/2026 from 9:00am to 3:00pm EST. Vendors must email Director of Technology Chris Painter at cpainter@blackfordschools.org to schedule a date and time.

This will be the only opportunity to ask questions or to receive answers to questions related to this RFP. Respondents choosing not to attend in so doing acknowledge their understanding that they were offered and voluntarily declined the opportunity.

Response Format

Responses should include the following, if applicable:

- Applicable items should include all related software and hardware components that enable the functionality of the equipment (including any necessary mounting brackets, software licenses, multi-year licenses, and basic maintenance).
- If applicable, vendor is to specify all fees, shipping charges, taxes, surcharges and contingency fees for eligible equipment.
- If applicable, vendor is to specify the manufacturer's warranty provided as an integral part of an eligible component without separately identifiable cost.
- Any ongoing subscription pricing must be listed separately.

Your response **must** include the following information:

1. Line-item pricing for each item listed in Appendix A. Any discounting applied to your proposal must be reflected at the line-item level.
2. In the case of proposed equivalent products, a thorough technical description of how each product from the manufacturer being bid meets each of the required functionalities of the product listed herein.
3. Information outlining your company's certifications and connections regarding the manufacturer's equipment being bid, and length of time your company has provided equipment from the manufacturer being bid.
4. Two (2) reference sites where your company has performed a similar installation of the equipment being bid, including business name, contact name and contact information. It is preferable that at least one reference should be for a school corporation or library system within 90 miles of the Applicant.
5. Your E-Rate SPIN Number. (You must have a current SPAC form on file with USAC.)
6. A ready-to-execute contract which includes the proposal requirements and the E-Rate contingencies outlined herein.

The Applicant's review of information will be primarily focused on the substance of the details provided in response to the requirements herein including but not limited to technical details, pricing and terms, experience, references, and adherence to the response format provided. Per E-rate rules, the cost of eligible goods and services will be the most heavily weighted evaluation factor.

Proposals must be prepared with specificity with regard to the equipment and/or services listed herein. Bids merely listing a general menu of equipment and/or services available from a vendor, bids appearing to be automatically generated without specificity in relation to the requirements of this RFP, and bids missing substantial information but inviting the applicant to contact the bidder to refine the bid and/or discuss specifics will not be considered valid bid responses and will be disqualified from consideration. This includes any SPAM and/or robotic responses. For more information, please review the USAC E-Rate News Brief of February 15, 2024.

Proposal Delivery

The Applicant reserves the right to reject each and every bid, and to waive informalities, irregularities, and errors in the bidding to the extent permitted by law. This includes the right to extend the date and time for receipt of bids. In the event that a responsible bid is not received or if it is determined that the low bid received is too high, the bid received will be rejected and the project will be cancelled or rebid.

Bids should be emailed to the office of Chris Painter, Director of Technology at cpainter@blackfordschools.org, no later than 12:00pm EST on Wednesday, 1/6/2027.

Please copy E-Rate Consultant Steve Renzino at steve.renzino@adtecerate.com on all communications.

APPENDIX A

Below is a reference of the type of equipment and capacities (or their equivalent) to be supplied. Bidders should price separately and clearly indicate any ineligible costs for all services and equipment associated with this RFP. If a product includes mixed functionality, please indicate the allocation for each function (i.e. "60% Internal Connections and 40% BMIC"). For any part numbers that have been updated or replaced by the manufacturer, bidders should offer the most similar current part.

HS PAC		
Part Number	**Part Name/Description**	**Qty**
J9150D	10G SFP+ LC SR 300 m OM3 multimode transceiver (use if the backbone is multimode) or Equivalent	3
R0M46A	50G SFP56 direct attach copper cable, 0.65 m (VSF stack links) or Equivalent	2
R0M47A	50G SFP56 direct attach copper cable, 3 m (ring wrap-around) or Equivalent	1
C6APC28-BL-02	Black Box Slim-Net patch cable - 2 ft - blue OR Similar	100
R8S90A	HPE Aruba Networking CX 6300M 48p HPE Smart Rate 1/2.5/5G Class8 PoE 2p 50G 2p 25G Switch	3
H63W4E	Aruba 1Y FC NBD Exch E/R 6300M 48p SR5 PoE SVC [for R8S90A]	3
JL087A	X372 54VDC 1050W 110-240VAC power supply (two per switch) or Equivalent	6
JL087A ABA	INCLUDED: Power Cord - U.S. localization	6
JL714A	X741 port-to-power fan tray (spare, field replaceable) or Equivalent	3
	48-port Cat6 patch panels, 144 ports total	3
	Cat6 patch cables, 1 to 2 ft, switch to panel	110
	2U horizontal cable managers	3
	LC-LC duplex fiber jumpers, OS2 or OM4 to match the backbone	4
	J9583B X414 1U universal 4-post rack mount kit (one per switch)	3
	R9J33A USB-C to USB-C console cable (optional)	1
GXT5-2000LVRT2UXL	Vertiv GXT5-Liebert 1800W, 48A Lithium Ion UPS	1
	Fiber Gateway	1
	Corning Fiber box enclosure (1 in rack, 1 in MDF)	2
	12 strand OM3/OM4 fiber run to the MDF (200 ft estimate)	1
	Fiber Patch Panel	1
	Honeywell Door Access Controller	1

	HP Aruba AP 720 Series + Licensing or Equivalent	12
	HP Aruba AP 750 Series + Licensing or Equivalent	4
Labor/Service Fee	Complete installation of all hardware and re-wire existing punch downs to patch panels in rack, patch into switches	1

Blackford JSHS		
Part Number	**Part Name/Description**	**Qty**
J9150D	10G SFP+ LC SR 300 m OM3 multimode transceiver (use if the backbone is multimode) or Equivalent	3
R0M46A	50G SFP56 direct attach copper cable, 0.65 m (VSF stack links) or Equivalent	2
R0M47A	50G SFP56 direct attach copper cable, 3 m (ring wrap-around) or Equivalent	1
C6APC28-BL-02	Black Box Slim-Net patch cable - 2 ft - blue OR Similar	100
R8S90A	HPE Aruba Networking CX 6300M 48p HPE Smart Rate 1/2.5/5G Class8 PoE 2p 50G 2p 25G Switch	2
H63W4E	Aruba 1Y FC NBD Exch E/R 6300M 48p SR5 PoE SVC [for R8S90A]	2
R8S89A	HPE Aruba Networking CX 6300M 24p HPE Smart Rate 1/2.5/5/10G Class6 PoE 2p 50G 2p 25G Switch	1
H63H3E	Aruba 1Y FC NBD Exch E/R 6300M 24SR PoE SVC [for R8S89A]	1
JL087A	X372 54VDC 1050W 110-240VAC power supply (two per switch) or Equivalent	6
JL087A ABA	INCLUDED: Power Cord - U.S. localization	6
JL714A	X741 port-to-power fan tray (spare, field replaceable) or Equivalent	3
	48-port Cat6 patch panels, 144 ports total	3
	Cat6 patch cables, 1 to 2 ft, switch to panel	100
	2U horizontal cable managers	3
	LC-LC duplex fiber jumpers, OS2 or OM4 to match the backbone	4
	J9583B X414 1U universal 4-post rack mount kit (one per switch)	3
	R9J33A USB-C to USB-C console cable (optional)	1
Labor/Service Fee	Complete installation of all hardware and re-wire existing punch downs to patch panels in rack, patch into switches	1

Blackford County Schools Access Points		
Part Number	**Part Name/Description**	**Qty**
S4A25A	HPE Aruba Networking AP-725 (US) Tri Radio 2x2 Wi-Fi 7 Internal Antennas Campus Access Point	12
S1G85A	HPE Aruba Networking AP-755 (US) Tri Radio 4x4 Wi-Fi 7 Internal Antennas Campus Access Point	4
S4K79A	HPE Aruba Networking AP-MNT-U Campus Access Point Type U Universal Mount Bracket Kit	16
Q9Y60AAE	HPE Aruba Networking Central AP Foundation 5-year Subscription SaaS or Equivalent	16
Labor/Service Fee	Complete installation and configuration of all access points in PAC, no cable installation necessary	1
S4K19A	HPE Aruba Networking HPE Aruba Networking AP-765 (US)	2
R6W11A	HPE Aruba Networking AP-270-MNT-H3 Outdoor AP Hanging Dual-Tilt Pole/Wall Mounting Bracket	2
Q9Y60AAE	HPE Aruba Networking Central AP Foundation 5-year Subscription SaaS or Equivalent	2
S4K19A	HPE Aruba Networking HPE Aruba Networking AP-765 (US)	1
R6W11A	HPE Aruba Networking AP-270-MNT-H3 Outdoor AP Hanging Dual-Tilt Pole/Wall Mounting Bracket	1
Q9Y60AAE	HPE Aruba Networking Central AP Foundation 5-year Subscription SaaS or Equivalent	40
S4K19A	HPE Aruba Networking HPE Aruba Networking AP-765 (US)	1
R6W11A	HPE Aruba Networking AP-270-MNT-H3 Outdoor AP Hanging Dual-Tilt Pole/Wall Mounting Bracket	1
Q9Y60AAE	HPE Aruba Networking Central AP Foundation 5-year Subscription SaaS	31
S4K19A	HPE Aruba Networking HPE Aruba Networking AP-765 (US)	1
R6W11A	HPE Aruba Networking AP-270-MNT-H3 Outdoor AP Hanging Dual-Tilt Pole/Wall Mounting Bracket	1
Q9Y60AAE	HPE Aruba Networking Central AP Foundation 5-year Subscription SaaS or Equivalent	1

S4K19A	HPE Aruba Networking HPE Aruba Networking AP-765 (US)	1
R6W11A	HPE Aruba Networking AP-270-MNT-H3 Outdoor AP Hanging Dual-Tilt Pole/Wall Mounting Bracket	1
Q9Y60AAS	HPE Aruba Networking Central AP Foundation 5-year Subscription SaaS or Equivalent	1