Request for Proposals (RFP) – E-Rate FY2027 Category 2 Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS)

Billed Entity: Fort Frye Local School District (BEN: 130071)
Form 470 Number: [To be assigned by Treasurer upon filing]
E-Rate Discount Rate: 80% Category 2
Technical Contact: Dallas Schwendeman - Technology Director

1. Project Overview & Intent

Fort Frye Local School District is soliciting competitive proposals for Category 2 Managed Internal Broadband Services (MIBS) for network infrastructure across district facilities. The District seeks operational management, automated monitoring, configuration support, firmware maintenance, and network architecture migration assistance.

Multi-Option Bidding & Scope Reserve Clause

This RFP is structured into distinct service options. Bidders may bid on Option A, Option B, or Option C (Combined). The District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities, and to award individual options independently based on cost-effectiveness, operational necessity, and Category 2 budget availability. The District explicitly reserves the right to award Option A (Switches) while declining Option B (Wireless Access Points).

2. Procurement Schedule & Walkthrough Rules

RFP Procurement Schedule

Procurement Event	Date / Deadline
FCC Form 470 / RFP Release Date	November 10th
Mandatory Walkthrough Booking Deadline	November 16th at 4:00 PM EST
Mandatory Site Walkthrough Window	November 17th (By Appointment)
Written Q&A Submission Deadline	November 23rd at 4:00 PM EST
District Consolidated Q&A Addendum Issued	December 1st
Bid Submission Deadline	**December 11th at 4:00 PM EST**
Bid Evaluation & Contract Review Period	December 14th

Mandatory Site Walkthrough Rules

- **Appointment Requirement:** Mandatory site tours will be conducted by appointment only on **November 17th**. Bidders must request an appointment via email to the technical contact by **November 16th at 4:00 PM EST**.
- **No Verbal Q&A During Tours:** District escorts will provide physical building access only and are strictly prohibited from answering technical, scope, or procurement questions during tours.
- **Written Inquiries:** All inquiries resulting from site visits must be submitted in writing via email by **November 23rd at 4:00 PM EST**. Consolidated answers will be published as an official RFP Addendum in the USAC EPC portal on **December 1st**.

3. Managed Infrastructure Scope & Options

Option A: Switch Infrastructure Management & VLAN Re-Architecture (Primary Scope)

Covers the operational management, monitoring, configuration maintenance, and architectural upgrade support for the District's enterprise switch inventory (20 Core/Closet Switches listed below):

Core Switch Inventory Baseline

- **6x** Cisco Catalyst 9300 Multi-Gigabit Switches (36x 2.5G + 12x 10G)
- **13x** Cisco Catalyst 9300 48-Port Gigabit PoE+ Switches
- **1x** Cisco Catalyst 9200CX Compact Switch

Option A Required Services

- **Network Segmentation & VLAN Migration Support:** Assisting District staff with the design, implementation, subnetting, and trunk configuration required to transition from a flat network architecture to a segmented VLAN topology (Voice, Instructional, Admin, Management, IoT, Security).
- **Monitoring & Telemetry:** 24/7 automated health monitoring, port status tracking, uplink utilization, and alert notification.
- **Configuration & Firmware Maintenance:** Scheduled firmware/OS patching, automated configuration backups, and restoration support.
- **Operational Change Management:** Routine Configuration Changes (VLAN port assignments, PoE profiles, port security adjustments).
- **Hardware RMA & Vendor Coordination:** Assisting District personnel with hardware failure diagnostics and manufacturer RMA dispatch.
- **Stacked Switch Pricing Tier:** Bidders must specify any applicable fee reductions or tier discounts for switches operating in a physical or logical StackWise / stacked configuration managed under a single management plane.

Option B: Wireless Access Point Management (Alternate Scope)

Covers operational management and cloud portal oversight for up to 102 wireless access points across district facilities.

- **24/7 Portal & RF Monitoring:** Monitoring AP status, client density, channel utilization, and rogue AP detection.
- **Firmware & Security Updates:** Scheduled cloud firmware maintenance.
- **Basic Technical Support:** Remote assistance for SSID/VLAN adjustments and coverage troubleshooting.

Option C: Combined Infrastructure Management (Options A + B)

Bundled management of both switch infrastructure (Option A) and wireless access point infrastructure (Option B). Bidders must provide any bundled discount incentive in their Option C pricing line item.

4. Pricing Schedule

Bidders must submit monthly and annual pricing for each option. All contracts must be structured on a 1-year agreement with options for voluntary annual renewals.

Service Option	Billed Unit	Monthly Rate ($)	Annual Eligible Total ($)
Option A: Switch Management (Standalone Switch Rate)	Per Switch / Mo	$_____	$_____
Option A: Switch Management (Stacked Switch Discounted Rate)	Per Stacked Switch / Mo	$_____	$_____
Option B: Wireless AP Management	Per AP / Mo (102 APs)	$_____	$_____
Option C: Combined Bundle (Switches + Wireless)	Total Bundle / Mo	$_____	$_____

5. Bid Evaluation Matrix (100 Points Total)

Evaluation Category	Points
1. Cost of E-Rate Eligible Goods & Services - Evaluates overall annual cost of the selected service option(s).	**65**

Evaluation Category	Points
- Lowest responsive total cost receives 65 points; others scored proportionally.	
2. K-12 Experience & Regional Presence (Ohio Focus) - Verifiable MIBS references from Ohio public school districts (10 pts) - Certified network engineering staff located in region (5 pts) - Demonstrated E-Rate Category 2 MIBS management history in Ohio (5 pts)	**20**
3. Scope of Service & Architecture Support Capabilities - Ability to assist with VLAN segmentation, subnetting, Cisco Catalyst 9300 StackWise management, and SLA response times.	**10**
4. Service Level Agreement (SLA) & Incident Escalation Plan - Quality of ticket response window (under 4 hrs for outage), escalation procedures, and portal visibility.	**5**
TOTAL SCORE	**100**