Request for Proposals (RFP) – E-Rate FY2027 Category 2 Structured Cabling Refresh

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 & Building Intent

Fort Frye Local School District is soliciting competitive proposals for a complete Category 2 structured cabling refresh at Salem-Liberty Elementary School. The scope includes the removal and lawful disposal of legacy copper networking cable, and the turnkey installation, termination, testing, and labeling of new Category 6A (or Category 6 functional equivalent) network infrastructure.

Architectural Considerations & Special Conditions

Salem-Liberty Elementary features plaster and masonry hard-wall construction with non-traditional ceiling spaces and limited drop-ceiling coverage. Bidders must account for surface-mounted latching raceway (Wiremold or equivalent), box enclosures, surface-mount outlet boxes, and wall penetrations. Proposals must include all mounting hardware, raceway, fittings, and accessories required for a clean, secure, and aesthetically compliant installation.

Scope Reserve & Unit Pricing Clause

The District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities, to award the contract in whole or in part, or to adjust final drop counts based on available E-Rate Category 2 budget allocations. Bidders must provide per-drop unit pricing to allow for additions or reductions in scope prior to contract execution.

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 23rd at 4:00 PM EST
Mandatory Site Walkthrough Window	December 1st - December 2nd (By Appointment)

Procurement Event	Date / Deadline
Written Q&A Submission Deadline	December 4th at 4:00 PM EST
District Consolidated Q&A Addendum Issued	December 5th
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 between December 1st and December 2nd. 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 December 1st at 4:00 PM EST. Consolidated answers will be published as an official RFP Addendum in the USAC EPC portal on December 4th.

3. Technical Specifications & Scope of Work

A. Demolition & Abatement

- Removal and proper disposal of all existing, abandoned, or obsolete network data cabling back to the MDF/IDF location.
- Clean extraction of old wall plates, jacks, and non-compliant mounting hardware.

B. Horizontal Cabling Specifications

- **Cable Standard:** Category 6A (or Category 6 equivalent), 4-pair unshielded twisted pair (UTP), CMP (Plenum) or CMR (Riser) rated as required by local building code.
- **Classroom Scope:** Standard baseline of two (2) data drops per classroom (supporting teacher workstation and SIP phone).
- **Office & Common Area Scope:** Data drops installed in administrative offices, guidance, library/media center, workrooms, and cafeteria locations.
- **Wireless Access Point (WAP) Scope:** Dedicated runs to designated high-wall or ceiling wireless access point locations.
- **Raceway & Pathways:** Surface-mounted, high-impact latching raceway (Wiremold or approved equal) matching room trim where wall cavity routing is unfeasible.

C. MDF/IDF Termination, Patch Panels & Accessories

- **Patch Panels:** Installation of new rack-mounted Category 6A/6 RJ45 patch panels in the designated main distribution frame (MDF).
- **Workstation Termination:** Dual or quad RJ45 faceplates, color-coded jacks, and surface-mount boxes where applicable.
- **Patch Cables:** Provisioning of factory-prefabricated Category 6A/6 patch cables for each drop (both workstation end and MDF patch panel end).

D. Testing, Certification & Documentation

- 100% end-to-end copper certification testing (Fluke DTX/DSX or equivalent tester) for 10Gbps/1Gbps compliance.
- Submission of digital certification test results prior to final invoice approval.
- Detailed floorplan schematic showing labeled drop locations matching patch panel jack designations.

4. Pricing Schedule & Cost Breakdown

Bidders must submit pricing using the format below. Both total lump-sum project pricing and per-drop unit pricing are required.

Line Item Description	Estimated Qty	Unit Price ($)	Extended Price ($)
Standard Horizontal Cable Drop (Turnkey incl. cable, jack, faceplate, raceway & testing)	Per Drop	_____	_____
Demolition & Removal of Legacy Cable Infrastructure	Lump Sum	—	_____
Category 6A/6 Rack-Mounted Patch Panels & Cable Management	As Needed	_____	_____
Category 6A/6 Patch Cords (1ft / 3ft / 7ft allocation)	Per Drop x2	_____	_____
TOTAL ESTIMATED TURNKEY PROJECT COST	**TOTAL**	**TOTAL**	**_____**

5. Bid Evaluation Matrix (100 Points Total)

Evaluation Category	Points
1. Cost of E-Rate Eligible Goods & Services (Turnkey Total & Unit Pricing) - Evaluates overall project cost and per-drop unit pricing structure. - Lowest responsive total cost receives 65 points; others scored proportionally.	65
2. K-12 Experience & Regional Presence (Ohio Focus) - Verifiable cabling references from Ohio public school districts (10 pts) - Assigned BICSI-certified technicians / installers in region (5 pts) - Demonstrated E-Rate Category 2 deployment history in Ohio (5 pts)	20
3. Technical Compliance & Construction Methodology - Compliance with Cat6A/6 cabling standards, Fluke certification commitment, surface raceway/Wiremold execution strategy for hard-surface architecture.	10
4. Project Plan & Implementation Timeline - Staging plan, materials availability, summer work window execution schedule, and disruption mitigation strategies.	5
TOTAL SCORE	**100**