Request for Proposal: Switches

November 11, 2026

Final

Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools
300 Wyoming Street
Murdock, NE 68407

E-Rate Identifier: Cat2.2027 Switches

Table of Contents

Overview 3
1.1 Product Specifications. 4
2.1 Pricing and Payment Structure 4
3.1 Evaluation Process. 4
4.1 Discrepancies and Omissions. 4
5.1 Contingencies 5
Appendix A 6
Appendix B 7

Final

Overview

Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools is seeking proposals for eight (8) network switches.

All proposals which are highly equivalent to Fortinet FortiSwitch 448E and 424E networks switches will be considered. (Part numbers provided in Section 1.1)

Top two Resellers may be asked to present their proposal to the district technology staff in person.

Vendors will have 24 hours after vendor selection is announced to raise any questions. Questions will be addressed via the web site posting answers to all questions. The District will have the final authority to the resolution of all questions.

Cabling, installation and implementation is not part of this RFP. Equipment will be drop shipped to Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools, 300 Wyoming Street, Murdock, NE 68407.

All bidding vendors must be E-Rate eligible and have an updated Form 473 (SPAC) on file to provide the services requested and provide their Service Provider's Form 498 ID (formally known as SPIN) as part of this RFP. **Vendors are required to state if any proposed equipment and/or services are ineligible for E-Rate funding as part of their proposal documentation.**

Proposals are due in either hardcopy or in electronic form (PDF format) on or before **Tuesday, December 15, 2026 at 3:00 pm CST** at Educational Service Unit 3, Attn: Bill Pulte – RFP Response, 6949 South 110th Street, Omaha, NE 68128 or emailed to wpulte@esu3.org. Emailed proposal documents will be time-stamped from the receiving computer. Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools is not responsible for electronic proposals delivery, including lost or garbled proposals. SPAM and/or robotic responses will not be considered valid bid responses and will be disqualified from consideration.

Proposals will be available for inspection, at the District Office (300 Wyoming Street, Murdock, NE) by Noon on January 11, 2027.

Questions should be addressed, no later than December 2, 2026, to:

Bill Pulte
wpulte@esu3.org

Questions and Answers will be posted on district website (http://www.emknights.org/) by December 4, 2026.

Final

1.1 Product Specifications.

All proposals which are highly equivalent to Fortinet FortiSwitch 448E-FPOE and 424E-FPOE network switches will be considered. All equipment bid must be new.

Description	Model	Qty
Fortinet FortiSwitch 448E-FPOE	FS-448E-FPOE	4
Fortinet FortiCare Premium Support	FC-10-S448F-247-02-12	1
Fortinet FortiSwitch 424E-FPOE	FS-424E-FPOE	4
Fortinet FortiCare Premium Support	FC-10-S424F-247-02-12	1
Fortinet Multimode Fiber SFP (62.5 micron; OM1; 1 Gbps)	FG-TRAN-SX	4
Fortinet Singlemode Fiber SFP (62.5 micron; OM1; 1 Gbps)	FG-TRAN-LX	2
DAC Cables (1 meter; 10 Gbps)	FN-CABLE-SFP+1	3

2.1 Pricing and Payment Structure.

Vendors are required to breakdown equipment as outlined in the table in Appendix A. Vendors are required to complete Appendix A as part of their proposal.

Contracts will be awarded only after receiving a funding commitment and decision letter from SLD or agreed upon by the district. This RFP will automatically become part of any contract awarded to a vendor. The District requests vendors to file a Form 474 (Service Provider Invoice; SPI) to request reimbursement directly from USAC for the eligible E-Rate portion of the contract.

3.1 Evaluation Process.

Please refer to Appendix B for further details regarding the evaluation process.

4.1 Discrepancies and Omissions.

Vendors finding discrepancies or omissions in the RFP or having any doubts as to the meaning or intent of any part thereof shall submit such questions or concerns to Paul Dwyer, Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools, pdwyer@emknights.org. Addenda issued in

Final

correspondence to this RFP shall be considered a part of this RFP and shall become part of any final Contract that may be derived from this RFP. This RFP and its addenda will be part of any possible future contract with successful vendor(s).

5.1 Contingencies.

This RFP should not be considered as a Contract to purchase goods or services, but is a Request for Proposal in accordance with the Terms and Conditions herein and will not necessarily give rise to a contract. However, RFP responses should be as detailed and complete as possible to facilitate the formation of a contract based on the RFP response(s) that are pursued should Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools decide to do so. Proposals stating that pricing is valid dependent upon availability and/or subject to prior sale will be considered as non-responsive. Completion of this RFP form and its associated Appendices are a requirement. Failure to do so will disqualify your RFP response submittal. Vendors must submit sealed RFP responses by the due date and time as specified herein. Electronic submissions will be accepted if create in PDF format and e-mail pdwyer@emknights.org by the due date and time as specified herein. Date and time stamp of receiving computer will govern all e-mails. Vendors will be considered nonresponsive if the above requirements are not submitted as requested. The Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools has the right to reject all submitted proposals and resubmit for new proposals through a revised RFP.

Final

Appendix A

Required Form for RFP Response.

TABLE 2.1: ELMWOOD-MURDOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS			
E-Rate Eligible Services			
Description	**Qty**	**Unit**	**Total**
Fortinet FortiSwitch 448E-FPOE	4		
Fortinet FortiCare (FC-10-S448F-247-02-12)	1		
Fortinet FortiSwitch 424E-FPOE	4		
Fortinet FortiCare (FC-10-S424F-247-02-12)	1		
Fortinet Multimode Fiber SFP (62.5 micron; OM1; 1 Gbps)	4		
Fortinet Singlemode Fiber SFP (62.5 micron; OM1; 1 Gbps)	2		
DAC Cables (1 meter; 10 Gbps)	3		

I acknowledge Section 2.1 Pricing and Payment; Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools will only accept discount on invoices; therefore, the winning vendor will file a Form 474 (Service Provider Invoice Form) to request payment of the discount amount for eligible services after billing the applicant for the non-discount share of the cost of the equipment and/or services.

Vendor Name: _____

E-Rate Form 498 ID (SPIN): _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Final

Appendix B

Evaluation Rubric
Elmwood-Murdock Public Schools
E-Rate: Cat2.2027 Switches

1. Cost of eligible equipment and/or eligible maintenance ..... 25 points

Cost of Equipment will be released at time of proposal opening. Points will be awarded during the evaluation of the proposal(s).

2. Compatibility with currently owned district devices ..... 20 points

Compatibility is very important. Points will be awarded during the evaluation of the proposal(s) and determination of compatibility with existing equipment will be done at that same time. Zero (0) points will be awarded for non-compatible devices and twenty (20) points will be awarded for full 100% compatibility.

3. Features included ..... 15 points

All documented features of the device in the RFP will be evaluated and points award as such. Points will not be awarded for features that are not included in the cost of the device as presented in the RFP.

4. Support of hardware ..... 10 points

Technical support will be contacted and will be evaluated on its technical knowledge, English as the primary language, and ease of use.

5. Reliability ..... 10 points

Reliability score will be determined using the following criteria:

a. References given in the RFP
b. Known other users of the device
c. Personal experiences

6. User Interface ..... 10 points

The user interface will be evaluated and points awarded on the ease of use and the completeness of the interface to the device.

7. References ..... 10 points

References will be contacted and points awarded on their responses.

Final