McLean County School District
Request for Proposals
High Speed Wide-Area Network
Products and Services

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I. Introduction

The McLean County School District is soliciting bids from reputable service providers. The selected vendor will be our primary source for the following:

> Products, installation, configuration, and maintenance of a Wide-Area Network in accordance with Universal Service Fund (hereafter to be called USF or E-Rate) rules.

Please note that the term Universal Service Fund (hereafter to be called USF or E-Rate) is used throughout this RFP for defining all eligible products and services for which school systems can receive discounts from the providers of these products and services. Bidder must be an approved Telecommunications Provider per USF rules at the time the bidder submits their bid to be considered.

II. RFP Instructions

A. Completing the RFP

Please provide pricing in the form of monthly lease rates and non-recurring charges for completing, operating, maintaining, and monitoring of the Wide-Area Network components listed in the RFP.

Quoted prices must be based on a multi-year contract agreement starting July 1, 2027 and could extend through June 30, 2030. McLean County is seeking a (3) three-year contract with an additional option of two (2) 1 year extensions if agreeable to the district and provider as the original contract expiration date approaches.

The successful vendor will be required to participate in the Universal Service Fund and will provide the appropriate discounts if applicable to this project. If the McLean County School District does not receive USF funding for this project or if district priorities and needs change, the McLean County School District may choose not to lease these products and services.

Bidder must provide USF Service Provider Identification Number and proof that the bidder is an approved Telecommunications Services Provider as recognized by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) for E-Rate in their bid response.

B. Format, Due Date

Proposals are due no later than 3 p.m. CST, December 11, 2026. Late responses will not be considered. Submit responses to:

Jason Bowman
District Technology Coordinator
McLean County Board of Education
P.O. Box 245
410 State Route 136 East
Calhoun, KY 42327
Phone: 270-273-5257
Fax: 270-272-5259
Email: jason.bowman@mclean.kyschools.us

All submitted proposals would be considered the property of the McLean County School District.

Any and all addenda for this bid please contact Jason Bowman via email listed above.

Copies of your completed proposal can be submitted electronically in PDF format to Jason.bowman@mclean.kyschools.us or by mail using the address above.

Responders shall name one person to be the coordinator for your RFP response and for any clarification activities that might be necessary.

C. Contract

The proposal should include a contract for all proposed products and services. If the vendor does not wish to submit an actual contract with the proposal, due to different alternatives proposed and pending choices from those alternatives, a sample contract should be submitted with the proposal.

D. Confidentiality

All material submitted by The McLean County School District must be treated as confidential and cannot used for any other purpose than the response to this RFP.

Information submitted by any vendor will be considered confidential to the McLean County School District and will not be used for any other purpose than evaluating vendor responses.

E. Selection Process

A number of factors will influence the McLean County School District's decision in selecting the vendor. These factors include a technical evaluation based upon the vendor's ability to deliver these products and services in a timely manner. Equally important is a vendor evaluation based upon vendor reputation, past performance with similar projects in the school district, service and support resources, knowledge of USF policies and procedures, etc.

Please note that the McLean County School District will select the vendor based upon the best overall solution and value, and is not obligated to select the lowest price bidder. Cost will be the highest weighted factor but it will not be the only factor considered. Other factors considered include: Prices of the eligible products and services. Prior experience with the vendor. Prices for ineligible services, products and fees. Local or in-state vendor.

F. Disclaimer

This RFP does not commit the McLean County School District to any specific course of action. The McLean County School District reserves the right to not select any vendor or purchase any goods or services resulting from this RFP.
It is our intention to provide these services to all our schools;

III. Vendor Background

A. Company Information

List your company's legal name, address, and telephone number. Include parent company information if applicable.

B. References

Provide a minimum of 3 references for customers with operations similar to ours that your company has worked with in the past two years. Include contact names, telephone numbers, and addresses.

IV. Wide-Area Network Specifications

The following is a list of specifications for providing Wide-Area Network (WAN) products and services to the McLean County School District (hereinafter called McLean County Schools):

1. WAN should be capable of passing data of at least 10Gbps between each site. Please provide pricing for 10Gbps for each site in your proposal.

   The outlying school locations are:

   a. **Calhoun Elementary** – 755 Main Street, Calhoun, KY 42327 Phone: 270-273-3264
   b. **Livermore Elementary** –110 8th Street, Livermore, KY 42352 Phone: 270-278-2522
   c. **Marie Gatton Philips Elementary** (Sacramento) – 640 Main Street, Sacramento, KY 42372 Phone: 270-736-2343
   d. **McLean County Board of Education** – 410 State Route 136 East, Calhoun, KY 42327 Phone: 270-273-5257

2. Service provider must activate the high-speed connections in each building, with devices that are dedicated to WAN functions and are included in the overall lease agreement. Hand offs should be Multi-mode Fiber Transceivers capable of 10Gbps to match McLean County Schools equipment

   McLean County Schools may never own this equipment.

3. Preferred method of connections will be at least (2) strands of fiber spliced so that there is a dedicated point-to-point link between the Hub Site **(McLean County Middle School – 1901 State Route 136 East, Calhoun, KY 42327 Phone: 270-273-5191)** core router and each location listed above.
   McLean County Schools will consider lit-fiber or dark-fiber options.
4. Provider will provide on-site service in a link down situation with a 4-hour maximum response time.
5. McLean County Schools must be able to pass all standard Ethernet protocols to any point in their network. However, firewall products included in the lease will be considered.

6. WAN must be capable of passing voice and video traffic as well if the traffic is converted to data.
7. If routers are provided, they must be able to pass all Kentucky Educational Technology System (KETS) traffic. Same with transceivers.
8. All maintenance and support costs must be included in the lease costs or identified in the non-recurring cost.