REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

E-Rate Category One: Internet Access & Data Transmission Services

Funding Year 2027 (July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028)

Issuing Entity: Hinsdale County School District RE-1 Billed Entity Number (BEN): 142413 614 N. Silver Street / PO Box 39 Lake City, CO 81235	**Procurement & Administrative Contact:** Susan Thompson, Business Manager Phone: (970) 944-2314 Email: susant@lakecityschool.org
Technical Contact: Matt Phillimore, IT Coordinator Phone: (970) 944-2314 Email: mattp@lakecityschool.org	**Service Location:** Lake City Community School 614 N. Silver Street Lake City, CO 81235
Key Dates & Schedule: Issue Date: November 19, 2026 Deadline for Vendor Questions: December 18, 2026 at 3:00 PM MST	**Submission & Contract Timeline:** Allowable Contract Date (ACD): December 17, 2026 Proposal Submission Deadline: January 15, 2027 at 3:00 PM MST

1. Purpose and Background

Hinsdale County School District RE-1 ("the District") is soliciting sealed competitive proposals from qualified telecommunications and internet service providers for E-Rate Category One Internet Access and Data Transmission Services. The District operates one PK–12 facility, Lake City Community School, serving approximately 75 students and staff in Lake City, Colorado.

The purpose of this RFP is to secure reliable, scalable, dedicated high-speed internet connectivity (minimum 500 Mbps up to 1 Gbps) to support instructional technology, administrative operations, and statewide digital assessments starting July 1, 2027.

2. Service Location

All services must be delivered to the District's Main Distribution Frame (MDF) / demarcation point at:

- **Lake City Community School:** 614 N. Silver Street, Lake City, CO 81235

3. Scope of Services & Technical Specifications

Vendors are invited to submit proposals for dedicated, symmetrical, unthrottled Internet Access and Data Transmission Services (Leased Lit Fiber or equivalent high-reliability broadband transport).

- **Bandwidth Tiers Requested:** Vendors must provide itemized pricing for symmetrical bandwidth options starting at a minimum of 500 Mbps up to 1 Gbps:
    - Option A: 500 Mbps x 500 Mbps
    - Option B: 750 Mbps x 750 Mbps (optional intermediate tier)
    - Option C: 1 Gbps x 1 Gbps

- **IP Addressing:** Include a minimum block of 5 usable static IPv4 addresses (/29) and native IPv6 support.
- **Service Level Agreement (SLA):** Minimum guaranteed network uptime of 99.9% or higher, 24/7/365 Network Operations Center (NOC) monitoring and technical support, and a Mean Time to Repair (MTTR) target of 4 hours or less for critical outages.
- **DDoS Mitigation (Optional/Separate Line Item):** Vendors may quote basic distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) protection; any E-Rate ineligible security features must be clearly separated and itemized.
- **Demarcation & Equipment:** Specify all carrier-provided Customer Premises Equipment (CPE) or handoff interfaces (e.g., 1G/10G SFP+ optical handoff or RJ-45 Ethernet).

4. Contract Terms and Pricing Requirements

- **Term Options:** Proposals should offer pricing for a 1-year (12-month) contract, a 3-year (36-month) contract, and/or a 5-year (60-month) contract, with up to two (2) optional 1-year voluntary extensions at the District's discretion.
- **All-Inclusive Pricing:** Quotes must clearly detail all Monthly Recurring Costs (MRC), Non-Recurring Costs (NRC) / installation fees, special construction charges, and estimated taxes/surcharges.
- **E-Rate Eligibility Separation:** Proposals must strictly separate and itemize any E-Rate eligible costs from E-Rate ineligible costs.
- **Invoicing Method:** Vendor must agree to support both USAC invoicing methods—Service Provider Invoicing (SPI / Form 474) and Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR / Form 472)—at the District's preference.
- **Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP):** Vendor must comply with FCC Lowest Corresponding Price rules (47 CFR § 54.500).

5. E-Rate Program Compliance

- **SPIN Requirement:** Bidders must possess a valid Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) issued by USAC and must not be on the FCC "Red Light" status list.
- **Contingency Clause:** Any resulting contract shall be contingent upon approval of E-Rate funding by USAC and formal budget approval by the Hinsdale County School District RE-1 Board of Education.

6. Questions and Proposal Submission Instructions

- **Vendor Inquiries:** All administrative and technical questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing via email to Susan Thompson (susant@lakecityschool.org) and Matt Phillimore (mattp@lakecityschool.org) no later than December 18, 2026 at 3:00 PM MST. All questions and official answers will be compiled and posted as an addendum to the Form 470 in the USAC EPC portal.
- **Submission Method:** Proposals must be submitted electronically in PDF format via email to both susant@lakecityschool.org and mattp@lakecityschool.org with the subject line: FY2027 E-Rate Category 1 Proposal – [Vendor Name].
- **Deadline:** Proposals must be received no later than January 15, 2027 at 3:00 PM MST. Late proposals will not be considered.

7. Evaluation Criteria

The District will evaluate all responsive proposals in accordance with FCC E-Rate competitive bidding rules, with the price of eligible products and services serving as the primary factor:

Evaluation Criterion	Weight
Price of E-Rate Eligible Products & Services (Primary Factor)	40%
Technical Capability, Reliability & SLA Commitments	25%
Prior Experience & References with K-12 / Rural Colorado Districts	15%
Completeness of Proposal & E-Rate Compliance (SPIN, SPI/BEAR support)	10%
Total Cost of Ownership (including Ineligible Costs & Installation)	10%
Total	**100%**

Hinsdale County School District RE-1 reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive minor informalities, and select the proposal deemed most advantageous to the District.