DEDICATED INTERNET SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS

Applicant:	YES Prep Public Schools
BEN:	223028
Form 470 #:	270004726
Proposal/Question Contacts:	YES Prep Team tech.procurement@yesprep.org Brandi Crubaugh bcrubaugh@e-ratecentral.com

Procurement Timeline

Task	Due Date
Issue Date	Friday, November 20, 2026
Deadline to Submit Questions	Monday, December 7, 2026
Posting of Questions/Clarifications	Monday, December 14, 2026
Proposal Submission Deadline	Monday, January 11, 2027, 10:00 AM Central Standard Time

Communications and Questions

All questions regarding this solicitation must be emailed and received by the "Deadline to Submit Questions" noted in the "Procurement Timeline." Questions should be directed to all "Proposal/QuestionContacts" listed above, with the Form 470 Number included in the subject line. Failure to include all "Proposal/Question Contacts" could result in questions going unanswered. Verbal inquiries are not allowed. Clarifications, when applicable, will be posted as an attachment/addendum to the Form 470.

Each Offeror is responsible for downloading the current version of the Form 470 and attachments, including any addenda.

Contact initiated by an Offeror concerning this solicitation with any other Applicant representative other than those listed as proposal/question contacts is prohibited. Unauthorized contact may result in the Offeror'sdisqualification from this solicitation.

Product demonstration meetings will not be granted during the competitive bidding period – requests for such will be ignored.

Applicant reserves the right to ask vendors clarifying questions during the proposal review process.

Proposal Instructions

Proposals **must** be submitted via email by the Proposal Submission Deadline in the Procurement

Timeline.

Offerors are solely responsible for reviewing the solicitation and complying with all proposal submission requirements, including the designated submission method, deadline, and required documentation.

Applicant has no obligation to respond to requests for alternative submission instructions, provide individualized guidance, or invite resubmission when the solicitation already establishes the required submission procedures.

Statements in a proposal indicating that the Offeror is willing to resubmit through another method, upon request, do not constitute compliance with the solicitation's submission requirements and do not obligate the Applicant to contact the Offeror or provide an opportunity to resubmit.

Proposals submitted through a method other than that specified in the solicitation will be deemed nonresponsive, consistent with the solicitation and applicable procurement requirements.

Proposals should be emailed to ALL Proposal/Question Contacts listed above and include the following:

- YES Prep Public Schools
- Form 470# 270004726
- SPIN (Service Provider Identification Number)
- Service provider's terms and conditions
- Service level agreement (SLA), including uptime and repair-time commitments
- Three (3) references, preferably from K-12 or public-sector customers
- Completed Pricing Attachment in .xlsx format

Proposals **must** include **all** costs associated with providing service, including but not limited to:

- Monthly recurring charges (MRC) include any recurring charge related to delivering the services, such as monthly charges for Internet access, IP addresses, basic terminating equipment, etc.
- Non-Recurring Charges (NRC) include any one-time fee other than special construction charges. This includes but is not limited to installation charges, connection charges, and/or basic terminating equipment charges.
- Special Construction Charges (SPC) include one-time costs for deploying new fiber or upgrading network facilities for eligible entities. These charges are non-recurring and include the following components: construction of network facilities, design and engineering, and project management. Offerors should provide special construction details sufficient to support E-Rate review, including route feet, cost per foot, and plant mix where applicable.
- Failure to identify the monthly recurring, non-recurring, and special construction charges will result in the disqualification of the proposal. Respondents are encouraged to provide the estimated taxes and surcharges associated with the service. Submissions indicating that there may be additional MRC, NRC, or SPC related to delivering the services **WILL** be disqualified.

Submission of the completed Pricing Attachment provided with this solicitation is **required**.

When submitting the Pricing Attachment, offerors shall provide it as a Microsoft Excel-compatible file (.xlsx). Offerors may use any spreadsheet application capable of saving in .xlsx format (e.g., Microsoft Excel, Google Sheets, LibreOffice Calc).

- To ensure all offers are evaluated on an equal basis, Offerors must not alter the Pricing Attachment's structure (rows, columns, line-item descriptions, order, headings, or formulas) and must enter pricing only in the designated cells.
- Offerors may also submit a PDF copy for reference. The .xlsx file will be used for evaluation and will control if there is a discrepancy.

Proposals **must** be in response to the specific requirements of this solicitation. Offers including a generic listing of services beyond the scope of this solicitation and/or encyclopedic price lists will be disqualified. SPAM and/or robotic responses will not be considered valid responses and will be disqualified from consideration.

Existing Contract Agreement

The Applicant currently receives dedicated internet access service at the two (2) locations included in this solicitation, Northside Secondary Annex (to be renamed Northside Secondary during Funding Year 2027) and 5th Ward Elementary, under an existing contract agreement. The Applicant is posting this FCC Form 470 and service specifications to competitively bid these locations under E-Rate program rules.

The existing contract agreement will be considered a standing proposal and evaluated against all other proposals received, using the evaluation criteria in this solicitation. As a result of this solicitation, the Applicant will either:

- Award the services under the **existing contract agreement**, if it is determined to be the most cost-effective offer; or
- Award a **new contract agreement** to the Offeror whose proposal is determined to be the most cost-effective.

The existing contract agreement is not required to be submitted in response to this solicitation. The proposal submission requirements, including the submission method and deadline, the Pricing Attachment, and other required proposal documents, do not apply to it. The existing contract agreement will be evaluated on its documented pricing, terms, and service level agreement, and must meet the Service Requirements of this solicitation.

If the existing contract agreement is selected, the Applicant will confirm the award in writing (by a notice of award, new order form, or amendment under that agreement) after the evaluation is complete and on or after the FCC Form 470 allowable contract date. The term of any award will align with the end date of the existing contract agreement, as described under Contract Term and Modifications.

Service Requirements

Applicant **requires** 5 Gbps download x 5 Gbps upload fully managed Dedicated Internet Access with Transport service to the two (2) locations specified in the Pricing Attachment: Northside Secondary Annex (to be renamed Northside Secondary during Funding Year 2027) and 5th Ward Elementary.

The Northside Secondary Annex location is expected to be renamed Northside Secondary during Funding Year 2027. The service address (2609 Bennington St., Houston, TX 77093) will not change, and the name change will not affect the scope of services requested.

Offerors **should** provide four (4) YES Prep assignable public IP addresses for each location. Any additional charges for IP addresses must be included in the Pricing Attachment.

Router lease is not required. Offerors may provide router lease options and pricing. If a router lease is offered, its E-Rate eligible cost will be included in the bid price used for scoring. Proposals that do not include a router lease option will not lose points for omitting it.

To be considered, services **must** provide a minimum of 5 Gbps of dedicated bandwidth at each location. Refer to the provided Pricing Attachment for the requested service levels and location details.

Submissions meeting any of the three (3) numbered criteria **WILL** be disqualified.

1. Solution does **NOT** offer at least the minimum bandwidth.
2. Solution does **NOT** offer bandwidth dedicated to the applicant but instead, the bandwidth is dependent on the number of other customers on the network or some other factor that does not, generally, guarantee the minimum bandwidth as a committed information rate (CIR).
3. Solution includes caps on data usage or slows speeds based on data usage or other factors.

All solutions must terminate service or infrastructure at the demarcation point within the building, generally, the MDF. Solutions that only bring service to the property line but not to the demarcation point will be disqualified. The agreement must terminate service at an MDF designated by the Applicant. The Offeror should specify the exact demarcation setup included in the base fees, such as wall-mounted CPE and CAT6a handoff, rack mount patch panel, etc.

The Applicant's preferred handoff is 10 Gbps single-mode fiber.

Offerors must accept responsibility for site delivery, construction, permitting, pathway, and right-of-way costs required to deliver service.

Contract Term and Modifications

Services are needed effective July 1, 2027. If the service cannot be guaranteed by this date, this should be indicated in the proposal, along with an estimated timeline for when the service will be available.

Services are requested for a contract term of July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028, to align with the end date of the existing contract agreement for these locations. Offers requiring an initial term extending beyond that date will not be considered. Unless otherwise stated, the Applicant can voluntarily extend the agreement for two (2) additional twelve (12) month terms.

All contracts should permit bandwidth increases during the term. Any such increases, including those during optional renewal periods, will be treated as modifications to the existing agreement rather than new agreements and, therefore, will **NOT** extend the contract's term.

All contracts should include a provision allowing for early termination of circuits without penalty if a location is closed by the Applicant.

All contracts should include a clause allowing additional sites to be added at the existing MRC for the duration of the agreement, with the Applicant covering any one-time charges related to adding the new site to the network. Any additional sites added will have the same end date as the main agreement.

No price increases will be permitted during the term of the agreement.

Service providers proposing equipment whose prices may increase depending upon new U.S. government tariffs imposed on imports are encouraged to (a) identify such products in their offers, and (b) propose an acceptable methodology for limiting price adjustments over the life of the contract.

Subject to contract restrictions, services may be reevaluated for cost-effectiveness at any time during the life of the agreement including renewal periods.

E-Rate Specific Considerations/Information

Offerors must hold a valid, active nine-digit SPIN (498 ID) issued by USAC as of the proposal submission deadline. The SPIN must belong to the legal entity that will contract with and invoice the Applicant. A pending registration, a SPIN assigned to an unrelated entity, or a commitment to obtain one after the deadline will not satisfy this requirement.

Service providers proposing a temporary equipment loan for product demonstration and/or evaluation purposes are **required** to clearly state that such loans are of limited duration. Product demos extending beyond thirty (30) days must be explicitly authorized by both parties and provided at a fair market rate.

By submitting a proposal, the vendor certifies that the proposed products and services comply with 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.9 and 54.10, which prohibit the use of Universal Service Fund support to purchase, obtain, maintain, improve, modify, or otherwise support any equipment or services produced or provided by a company on the FCC's Covered List (including Huawei and ZTE) as posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain. See https://www.usac.org/about/reports-orders/supply-chain/ for more details.

Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.500 and 54.511(b), service providers may not charge applicants a price above the Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP) for supported services. LCP is the lowest price a service provider charges to nonresidential customers similarly situated to a particular school, library, or consortium for similar services. See https://www.usac.org/E-Rate/service-providers/step-2-responding-to-bids/lowest-corresponding-price/ for more details.

Additional Considerations/Information

Applicant is subject to applicable Texas state and local procurement requirements.

The language in this solicitation has been standardized: "must," "shall," "mandatory," and "required" indicate mandatory specifications that the Applicant expects in the proposed solution. Proposals failing to meet these will be disqualified. "Should" and "may" indicate desirable specifications. A mandatory requirement may be waived if all respondents fail to meet a mandatory requirement.

Applicant reserves the right to waive any irregularities or informalities in the proposals received.

Offerors must accept that Applicant obligations are contingent on appropriation and availability of funds and may be reduced or terminated without penalty if funds are unavailable.

Applicant reserves the right to award all, part, or none of the services set forth in this procurement. This procurement does not obligate Applicant until a valid agreement and/or valid Purchase Order is executed.

The Applicant reserves the right to request Best and Final Offers (BAFOs) from one or more Offerors. BAFOs must be received by the date and time specified during discussions or negotiations. If an Offeror does not submit a BAFO by the stated deadline, the Applicant will evaluate that Offeror based on its originally submitted proposal. If BAFOs are requested, the Applicant reserves the right to conduct a subsequent evaluation and scoring of proposals, including any revised pricing and other information submitted in response to the BAFO request, in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth in this solicitation.

Applicant may, at its sole discretion, extend the due date for the submission of proposals and any extensions shall be done via an addendum posted in the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC.)

The vendor submission is subject to open records requests and, as such, the records will be released in accordance with those policies. Vendors are encouraged to mark pages as “Proprietary” or “Confidential” as appropriate, but the entire submission may not be marked as such. Identifying information as “Proprietary” or “Confidential” does not guarantee that the information will not be released but will be considered in determining whether the information is required to be released in accordance with the open records policies. Generally, pricing is not exempt from being publicly released.

By submitting a proposal, the Offeror certifies that no relationship exists between the Offeror and Applicant that would interfere with a fair and open competition or is a conflict of interest.

Evaluation Criteria

All proposals, including the existing contract agreement considered as a standing proposal, will be scored using the criteria and weights below. The existing contract agreement will be scored on its current pricing, terms, and service level agreement. If the incumbent service provider submits a new proposal, that proposal will also be scored.

Criteria		Weight
Price of eligible service/product	Price is scored based on a formula. The lowest price gets the full 10 points (weighted at 30%), and every other bid is scored as (lowest price ÷ bid price) × 10 (max points available). For example, if the lowest bid price is $10,000, it would receive the full 10 points (30%) and a competing bid of $12,500 would receive 8 points (24%). Bid price is the total eligible cost for all locations over the contract term (monthly recurring charges × the number of months in the term, plus non-recurring and special construction charges). For the existing contract agreement, bid price will be calculated using the agreement's current monthly recurring and non-recurring charges over the same term.	**30%**
Long-term cost and district standards	Bidders will be scored using the following criteria: 1 = Bid alignment with spec results in high additional cost; 5 = Bid meets partial spec resulting in some additional cost; 10 = Bid aligns with spec resulting in no additional cost. Additional costs may include but are not limited to those associated with equipment, configuration, or network changes required to implement the proposed solution. The existing contract agreement will be scored on the same basis, using its current service configuration.	**10%**
Vendor installation plan and scope	Bidders will be scored using the following criteria: 1 = no installation plan provided; 5 = installation plan provided but missing one or more key elements (timeline, demarcation setup, or approach to construction, permitting, and right-of-way); 10 = complete installation plan, including a timeline to have service in place by July 1, 2027 (or as soon as practicable for sites not yet ready), the demarcation setup, and the approach to construction, permitting, and right-of-way. Where service under the existing contract agreement is already installed and operating at a location, the existing installation will be scored against these elements.	**10%**

Criteria		Weight
Reputation of vendor and vendor's service and past relationship with vendor	Bidders will be scored using the following criteria: 1 = negative references, including negative references from YES Prep for existing vendors; 3 = no references provided or no reference responses; 7 = positive references from other customers; 10 = positive references from other K-12 or public-sector customers, or an existing relationship with YES Prep in good standing. The existing contract agreement will be scored based on YES Prep's relationship with the incumbent service provider, as described above.	**15%**
Quote accuracy and document completeness	Bidders will be scored using the following criteria: 1 = Quote has several errors or inconsistencies (e.g., pricing doesn't match line items, quantities or part numbers don't match the spec) and needs significant clarification; 5 = Quote has minor errors or omissions that are resolved through clarification; 10 = Quote is accurate and complete, with all requested documents included and no clarification needed. Responses missing required documents will be handled under the disqualification provisions of this solicitation and are not scored here. The existing contract agreement will be scored on the accuracy and completeness of its documented pricing and terms.	**10%**
Service/product meets school needs	Bidders will be scored using the following criteria: 1 = proposal meets the Service Requirements with no additional options; 5 = proposal includes one or two of the following options: a 10 Gbps single-mode fiber handoff, bandwidth increases during the term without extending the term, or the ability to add sites at the same MRC; 10 = proposal includes all three options, meeting or exceeding YES Prep's needs. Proposals that do not meet the Service Requirements are disqualified and are not scored. The existing contract agreement will be scored on the options available under that agreement.	**10%**
Quality of vendor's proposed service	Bidders will be scored using the following criteria: 1 = no service level agreement (SLA) provided, or the SLA has no uptime or repair-time commitments; 5 = SLA includes uptime and repair-time commitments; 10 = SLA includes uptime and repair-time commitments, 24/7 network monitoring and support, and service credits for outages. The existing contract agreement will be scored on the SLA incorporated into that agreement.	**15%**