REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
E-Rate Category 2 Internal Connections

Applicant: Gilmer County Board of Education
Billed Entity Number (BEN): 127364
Funding Year: 2027–2028 (FY2027)

1.0 General Information & Intent

The Gilmer County Board of Education (the "District") is seeking competitive proposals for E-rate Category 2 Internal Connections. The project encompasses two major components: comprehensive structured cabling for a new construction facility (Ellijay Elementary) and the procurement and installation of HPE Aruba network electronics across multiple existing district schools.

Partial Bidding Permitted: To encourage specialized and competitive bids, the District is dividing this RFP into two distinct packages. Vendors may submit proposals for Cabling, Network Equipment, or both. If bidding on both, vendors must provide itemized, separate pricing for each package.

Equivalent brands or models may be proposed, provided the vendor supplies documentation proving functional equivalency to the requested specifications.

2.0 Scope of Work & Equipment Specifications

Cabling: Structured Cabling & Installation (New Construction)
Location: Ellijay Elementary School Vendors bidding on this package must provide a turn-key installation, including providing all materials, pulling cable, termination at the wall/ceiling and the patch panel, labeling, and full certification testing. Enterprise-grade manufacturers (e.g., Panduit, CommScope, APC, Chatsworth) are required for cabling and rack hardware.

- Cabling specifications are defined in each spreadsheet.

Network Equipment: Network Electronics, Licensing & Installation (District-Wide)
Locations: Gilmer High School, Clear Creek Elementary, Mountain View Elementary, Clear Creek Middle School, Ellijay Elementary. Vendors bidding on this package must provide the hardware, licenses, and full physical installation (racking, patching) and configuration of all access points and network switches to integrate with the District's existing HPE Aruba environment. Outdoor APs (e.g., AP-765) must include appropriate mounting kits.

- Equipment specifications are provided in the attached documentation

3.0 Timeline & Inquiries

- **Bid Submission Deadline:** Bids are due exactly 28 days following the posting date of the associated FCC Form 470 on the USAC EPC portal.
- **Project Schedule:** Work is anticipated to be performed during the Summer and/or Fall of 2027. No work or billing may commence prior to July 1, 2027.

4.0 E-Rate Compliance & Disqualification Criteria

To be considered for award, vendors must strictly adhere to E-rate program rules. Bids will be subjected to a Pass/Fail preliminary review. **Bids will be automatically disqualified if any of the following criteria are met:**

1. **No SPIN:** The vendor failed to provide a valid USAC Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) with their proposal.
2. **Late Submission:** The bid was received after the exact date and time specified in this RFP.
3. **Incomplete Package Bid:** The vendor failed to bid on an entire package they selected (e.g., bidding on providing the cable but refusing to bid on termination/installation).
4. **Red Light Status:** The vendor is currently on Red Light Status with the FCC.

Implementation of this project is strictly contingent upon the approval of E-rate funding and the District's governing board. The District reserves the right to choose between the Service Provider Invoice (SPI) or Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR) method of E-rate invoicing.

5.0 Evaluation Criteria

The District will evaluate compliant proposals based on the following matrix. As mandated by E-rate rules, the price of eligible E-rate goods and services will act as the primary, highest-weighted factor. If a vendor bids on only one package, they will be evaluated only against other vendors for that specific package.

Criteria	**Weight**
Price of E-Rate Eligible Goods & Services	**40 Points**
Technical Compatibility & Solution Suitability	25 Points
Prior Experience & Vendor References	20 Points
Completeness and Quality of Proposal	15 Points

Total	**100 Points**

6.0 Submission Guidelines

Proposals must be submitted by hard copy. Hard copies should mailed to:

Gilmer County Schools
John Call
134 Industrial Blvd
Ellijay, Ga 30540