REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NWCSD_FY2027_C2_IC

E-rate Funding Year 2027

DEFINITION OF TERMS

28-DAY WAITING PERIOD: The minimum time period an applicant is required to wait after posting the FCC Form 470 before entering into any contract with a service provider.

APPLICANT: The entity applying for universal service support. In the Schools and Libraries Program the entity is a school, library, consortium, or other eligible entity that files program forms.

BILLED ENTITY NUMBER (BEN): A unique number assigned by USAC to each billed entity (school, library, or consortium) that pays for services.

BILLED ENTITY: The entity that receives the bill and pays for the supported service. A billed entity may be different from the physical location being supported.

CATEGORY TWO BUDGET: Starting with FY2015, applicants applying for category two services will be limited to a five year pre-discount budget for those services.

CATEGORY TWO SERVICES (Cat 2): Internal connections services needed to enable high-speed broadband connectivity and broadband internal connections components. Category two includes local area networks/ wireless local area networks (LAN/ WLAN), internal connections components, basic maintenance of internal connections components, and managed internal broadband services.

CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (CIPA): A law that mandates certain internet safety policy and filtering requirements for recipients of E-rate Program discounts for services other than telecommunications services.

DARK FIBER INCLUDING INDEFEASIBLE RIGHTS OF USE (IRU): The E-rate applicant leases capacity (i.e. a specific number of fiber strands) on a provider-owned and maintained fiber network. The applicant pays separately for modulating equipment to light the fiber in order to transmit data over that fiber. The maintenance and operations (M&O) charges related to leased dark fiber service can be the responsibility of the service provider or the applicant dependent on the terms of the contractual agreement.

DOCUMENT RETENTION: Applicants and service providers must retain documentation related to the application for, receipt, and delivery of discounted services for at least 10 years from the last date of service delivery.

FCC FORM 470: The description of services requested and certification form is an FCC form that schools and libraries complete to request services and establish eligibility.

FCC FORM 471 FILING WINDOW: The period generally between mid- January and mid-March (prior to the start of the funding year) when forms filed are treated as having been received on the same day and are considered for funding before any other forms filed after the window closes.

FCC FORM 471: The services ordered and certification form is an FCC form that schools and libraries use to report services ordered and discounts requested for those services.

FCC FORM 472 (BEAR): The billed entity applicant reimbursement form is an FCC form that schools and libraries submit to USAC after paying for services in full, to request reimbursement for the discount on those services.

FCC FORM 474 (SPI): The service provider invoice form is an FCC form that service providers submit to request reimbursement for discounted eligible services already provided to the schools or libraries on their customer bills.

FUNDING YEAR: The funding year is a time during which program support is being provided. The Funding Year begins July 1 and ends June 30 of the following calendar year.

INVOICE: A statement or document that (1) service providers submit to USAC after they have provided or completed service to the applicant or (2) applicants submit to USAC after they have paid for services in full. Invoices are submitted using FCC Form 474 (service providers) or FCC Form 472 (applicants).

LIT FIBER: A fiber-based broadband service where the service provider owns and manages the network, and the E-rate applicant pays a recurring fee to have data transported over the network.

LOCAL AREA NETWORK (LAN): A voice, data, and/or video network that provides connections generally within an eligible school or library to other locations within the school or library.

LOWEST CORRESPONDING PRICE (LCP): The lowest price that a service provider charges to non-residential customers who are similarly situated to a particular E-rate program applicant (school, library, or consortium) for similar services.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL FACILITY (NIF): A school building without classrooms or a library building without public areas. Examples of school NIFs include administrative buildings, bus barns, and cafeteria facilities. Examples of library NIFs include administrative buildings, bookmobile garages, and interlibrary loan facilities.

POINT OF DEMARCATION (Demarc): A demarcation refers to the point where a service provider's network ends and where an applicant's local area network (LAN) begins.

PROPOSER: A service provider that provides a formal response to the request for proposal.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP): A form of solicitation for products or services that provides detailed information regarding those products or services and any additional details necessary for potential proposers to respond. Program applicants may issue RFPs in addition to filing the FCC Form 470.

SELF-PROVISIONED NETWORK (Applicant Owned Fiber): Complete applicant ownership of a high-speed broadband network. The applicant hires a service provider to construct the network or a portion of the network, and thereafter owns and maintains that network or portion, including all the fiber strands and conduit.

SERVICE PROVIDER: A company that participates in the Schools and Libraries Program and provides telecommunications or internet services, equipment, hardware, or software to applicants.

SERVICE PROVIDER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (SPIN): A unique number that USAC assigns to each service provider once that service provider has submitted the FCC Form 498 to USAC.

WIDE AREA NETWORK (WAN): A voice, data, and/or video network that provides connections from within an eligible school or library to other locations beyond the school or library.

OBJECTIVE

North Wasco County School District, hereafter referred to as Applicant, is requesting proposals for Category Two Internal Connections.

SCHEDULE

Issue Date:	11/17/2026
Questions Due Before:	12/11/2026
Responses Due:	12/18/2026

DISTRICT INFORMATION

District Name:	North Wasco County School District
BEN:	16020099
Cat 1 Discount Rate:	TBD, currently 80%
Cat 2 Discount Rate:	TBD, currently 80%
Address:	3632 W 10th St.
	The Dalles, OR 97058
Telephone:	(541) 506-3420

SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT FOR BID SUBMISSION AND QUESTIONS

Contact Name:	Ben Feil
Telephone:	(541) 506-3355
Email:	erate@nwasco.k12.or.us And cc erate@lblesd.gov

E-RATE REQUIREMENTS

Work Contingent upon Funding

Work offered in this RFP may be contingent upon receiving a funding commitment from USAC for the specified services. If the funding request is denied, the project may be canceled. Such cancellations shall not constitute any financial obligation on the part of the applicant.

E-rate Eligible Provider

The work awarded as a result of this RFP must qualify for E-rate funding. Bidding service providers must have a relationship in good standing with FCC/USAC/SLD and qualify as an E-rate eligible provider. Information about E-rate and eligibility is available at the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) website: http://www.usac.org/sl.

Service Provider Identification Number

Bidding service providers must have a valid Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN). Information about E-rate and eligibility is available at the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) website: https://www.usac.org/sl/service-providers/step01/default.aspx

E-rate Contact

The service providers must provide an E-rate contact for the applicant who understands the E-rate process and can answer related questions at the time of bidding.

In the field provided, list the name, phone number and email address for the E-rate contact that will be assigned to the Applicant's account.

Public Information

The successful service provider may not require any language in the final agreement that restricts publication of pricing data. Information, other than trade secrets contained in a response to this RFP and resulting contract, is public record and subject to disclosure.

Signed Contract

The successful service provider must be willing to enter into the agreement before the end of the E-rate filing window for the indicated funding year to meet E-rate requirements.

Favorable Pricing

Pricing offered under this RFP must not be higher than the lowest price offered to nonresidential customers who are similarly situated, for similar E-rate program services.

Period of Contract

Contract period will correspond with the E-rate funding year. Category one recurring services will be contracted in increments of one year that start July 1 of each funding year through June 30 of the following year. Category two services will be from July 1 of the funding year through September 30 following the end of the funding year. Extensions to the contract will be allowed according to E-rate rules and must clearly be identified in the proposal.

Contract Term Modification

The applicant will reserve the right to extend or abbreviate the contract period if such extension or abbreviation is necessary to make the contract term coincide with an E-rate funding year, there is a delay in a funding commitment from USAC, or an extended service end date for an E-rate funding year pursuant to a service delivery deadline extension, as those terms are defined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and/or the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC).

Category Two Budgets

If the combined total for all products and services exceeds the remainder of an entity's category two budget, the applicant may choose to only purchase products and services offered up to the amount remaining in the category two budget. Information about E-rate category two budgets is available at the Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) website:
https://www.usac.org/sl/applicants/step03/category-two-budget.aspx

Product Substitutions

No change in the products and/or services specified in this document will be allowed without prior written approval from the applicant and a USAC service substitution approval with the exception of a global service substitution.

Free Service Advisory

Services offered must be in full compliance with USAC's free service advisory. No free services may be offered that would predicate an artificial discount and preclude the applicant from paying its proportionate non-discounted share of costs.

Service Delivery Dates

The E-rate funding year begins on July 1st and expires on June 30 of the following year, resulting in a period of 12 months. Category two services may be purchased and installed as early as April 1st prior to the start of the funding year, although the equipment must not be operational until July 1st. Reimbursement (Form 472 or Form 474) may not be requested until July 1st. Installation of category two services must be completed by September 30th following the conclusion of the funding year.

Advance Installation Dates

Category Two Non-Recurring Services: Installation of Category Two non-recurring services may begin April 1st prior to the July 1 start of the funding year. No invoices (FCC Form 472 or FCC Form 474) can be certified prior to July 1 of the funding year.

Refurbished Equipment

No refurbished equipment will be accepted unless stated in the scope of work section of this RFP.

Equivalent Products and Services

All items are to be bid as shown on accompanying specifications but may exceed minimal specifications. The use of manufacturer names and model numbers in the RFP are for the convenience of establishing functionality and compatibility only. The District will accept and consider alternate manufacturers and models with the same functionality. Service providers should provide specification sheets that clearly identify the alternate item as being equivalent to the one specified.

Determination of Invoicing Method

The successful service provider must accept either Billed Entity Application Reimbursement (BEAR) FCC Form 472, or Service Provider Invoice (SPI) FCC Form 474, invoicing per E-rate rules. The invoicing method chosen will be at the discretion of the applicant.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Submission Guidelines

Proposals shall be delivered electronically to the single point of contact. All proposals need to be clearly identified as a proposal for this Request for Proposal (RFP). Email subject lines should reference the Form 470 number.

Single Proposal

This RFP is limited to one response per proposer. Applicant is not requesting alternate proposals and will not evaluate more than one offer per proposer.

Late Submissions

The proposer is solely responsible for ensuring its proposal is received by the applicant in accordance with the RFP requirements before the response due date. Applicant is not responsible for any delays in mail or by common carriers or by transmission errors or delays or mistaken delivery. Proposals submitted by any means not authorized may be rejected. Proposals received after the response due date are considered LATE and will NOT be accepted for evaluation. Late proposals will be returned to the respective proposer or destroyed.

Modification or Withdrawal of Proposals

Any proposer who wishes to make modifications to a proposal already received by the applicant shall submit its modification to the single point of contact and must denote the specific change(s) to the proposal submission. All proposal modifications must be completed prior to closing.

If a proposer wishes to withdraw a submitted proposal, it shall do so prior to closing. The proposer shall submit a written notice signed by an authorized representative of its intent to withdraw its proposal.

Partial Bids

Partial bids will be accepted; however, bids that meet the full requirements outlined in the “Line Items” portion of the RFP will be scored higher during the evaluation process. If only partial bids are received, the applicant may choose not to award the contract, or award the contract to multiple service providers.

Product Eligibility

The proposer must include E-rate eligibility percentages for each product and/or service listed in the bid.

Additional Fees

Taxes, fees and shipping costs must be clearly identified in the bid.

Addenda to Solicitation

Addenda to the proposal shall be posted in the same manner as the proposal. Service provider is responsible for monitoring proposal for addendum and adjusting proposals.

Confirm your understanding of the submission requirements. _____
Initial

SCORING CRITERIA

Cost of Eligible Services
30 points possible
Vendors must provide clear itemized pricing for all eligible services, along with the eligibility percentage for each item. Pricing must include every component required for the service to function as proposed. Any service, equipment, or component that is not eligible for E-rate funding must be clearly identified and separated in the response.

Cost of Ineligible Services
25 points possible
Vendors must provide clear, itemized pricing for all services, equipment, and components that are not eligible for E-Rate funding. All ineligible costs must be clearly identified and separated from eligible services, including any optional features, installation, maintenance, or other associated expenses. Pricing must identify any costs necessary to fully implement the proposed solution that falls outside E-Rate eligibility. Vendors must ensure that all ineligible charges are transparent, accurate, and not included in the eligible service pricing.

Compatibility and Ease of Integration
20 points possible
The equipment bid is equivalent to the items requested in the Form 470 and/or RFP, and will work seamlessly in the district's network environment, including with any online management tools utilized by the district.

Experience Providing Similar Services of a Similar Scope
15 points possible
Vendors must demonstrate experience delivering services of similar scope and complexity, including experience with E-rate funded projects. Provide information describing work with at least three entities of similar size or complexity. Include reference contact information for verification.

Prior Experience with Vendor
10 points possible
Vendors who have provided services to the applicant in the past can be awarded up to 10 points based on the quality of work performed, and the working relationships between the applicant and the service provider while that work was being performed.

Total Possible Score: 100

Confirm your understanding of the Scoring Criteria. _____
Initial

PROPOSAL REJECTION/DISQUALIFICATION CRITERIA

Agency may reject or disqualify a proposal for any of the following reasons:

The proposer fails to substantially comply with all prescribed RFP procedures and requirements, including but not limited to the requirement that proposer's authorized representative sign the proposal.

The proposer makes any contact regarding this RFP with applicant staff other than the single point of contact or those the single point of contact authorizes, or inappropriate contact with the single point of contact.

Proposed attempts to inappropriately influence a member of the evaluation committee.

Proposal is conditioned on applicant's acceptance of any other terms and conditions or rights to negotiate any alternative terms and conditions that are not reasonably related to those expressly authorized for negotiation in the RFP or addenda.

The proposal does not include the eligibility percentage of each product and/or service listed.

Proposals received after the response due date are considered LATE and will NOT be accepted for evaluation.

Proposal not relevant to services requested.

SPAM and/or robotic responses will not be considered valid bid responses and will be disqualified from consideration.

Confirm your understanding of Rejection/Disqualification Criteria. _____

Initial

AWARD PROCESS

Notice of Award

Applicant will notify all proposers in writing that applicant is awarding a contract to the selected proposer(s) subject to successful negotiation of any negotiable provisions. Applicant reserves the right to award multiple vendors at their own discretion.

Protests

Protests of bid specifications shall be presented to the single point of contact in writing within five calendar days prior to bid closing. Such protest shall include the reason(s) for protest and any proposed changes. If, in the opinion of the applicant, a change is required for the request for proposal, an addendum will be issued.

Protests of award shall be presented to the single point of contact in writing within five calendar days after the notice of award, or in the event of meeting E-rate deadlines, five (5) business days before the end of the E-rate FCC Form 471 filing window. Such protest shall include the reason(s) for protest and any proposed changes. If, in the opinion of the applicant, a change is required for the award, a new notice of award will be issued.

Confirm your understanding of Award Process. _____
Initial

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

Contract

The successful service provider, if one is selected, will be required to enter into a written agreement in a form approved by the applicant. The agreement shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following terms and conditions:

Incorporation of Bid Documents

All specifications, terms and conditions contained in the RFP shall be incorporated by reference and made a part of a contract awarded to the successful service provider.

Compliance with Laws

Vendor shall comply with all applicable Federal, State and Local laws and ordinances and all lawful orders, rules and regulations hereunder, including the applicable provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, and all regulations and standards and any amendments issued pursuant thereto. The applicant shall have the right to terminate immediately this agreement if the Vendor fails to comply with such acts and regulations.

Failure to Perform

If a contract is awarded to a service provider and that service provider fails to perform, the service provider shall be liable for all costs and damages incurred by applicant in procuring and obtaining any similar equipment, article, material or service from other providers, and the contract awarded to the successful service provider shall be in full force and effect to the extent not terminated. Applicant reserves the right to revoke and terminate a contract award upon the service provider's failure to perform, which termination shall not affect any right, obligation or liability of the service provider that accrued before such termination. In addition to the rights set forth in this paragraph, the applicant reserves all other rights and remedies at law and in equity.

Termination

If a contract is awarded and the service provider breaches a term or condition of the contract, applicant may terminate the contract after providing five (5) days' written notice of termination to the service provider. In addition to the right to terminate under the contract, applicant reserves all its rights and remedies at law and in equity available due to the breach, including but not limited to the recovery from the service provider any damages, costs, expenses and attorney fees (including fees incurred on appeal) arising out or as a result of a breach.

If the applicant breaches a term or condition of the contract, the service provider's sole remedy shall be termination of the contract and receipt of payment by applicant for any equipment, article, material or service provided by the contractor up to and including the effective date of termination.

Confirm your understanding of these requirements. _____
Initial

Invoicing

The successful service provider shall itemize, price, and invoice separately any materials or services that are ineligible for E-rate funding. Service provider must include the following information on all invoices to the applicant for E-rate eligible equipment and/or services:

- Date of invoice
- Date(s) of service
- Funding Request Number (FRN)
- SPIN
- Detailed description of services performed and materials supplied that matches Applicant's contract specifications, Form 470 and Form 471 descriptions of same
- Clear, concise breakdown of amount(s) to be billed to USAC (discounted portion of eligible charges) and amount(s) to be billed to the applicant (non-discounted amount of eligible charges)
- Invoice on service provider's letterhead or on a service provider-generated form
- If using SPI invoicing, the proper E-rate discount percentage as set forth by the applicable FRN and USAC Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL)
- For equipment, documentation indicating shipping and/or delivery dates. For installation, the last date of work performed is documented

The service provider must ensure that applicant-approved substitute services or products are prominently noted on invoices submitted to USAC and the applicant.

The successful service provider shall be solely responsible for timely filing invoices with USAC. Accordingly, service provider understands and agrees that applicant will NOT be liable to service provider and service provider shall have no recourse against the applicant for any discounted amount that service provider submits late to USAC for payment, if USAC refuses to pay the invoice due to late filing.

The successful service provider understands and agrees that applicant shall not be liable to service provider and service provider shall have no recourse against the applicant for any discounted amount that service provider submits to USAC for payment if service provider is at fault for USAC's refusal to pay; if the applicant is at fault, the applicant shall not be liable to service provider and service provider shall have no recourse against the applicant for the amount at issue until both the applicant and the service provider have exhausted their administrative remedies of appeal to USAC and/or the FCC.

In the event of a delayed funding commitment the successful service provider shall invoice USAC for the discounted amount the applicant is owed retroactive to July 1st of the funding year or to whenever approved service to the applicant began, whichever date is later.

Products and services must be delivered before billing can commence. At no time may the service provider invoice before the start of the aforementioned funding year.

Documentation

Service provider shall provide to applicant all of the information and documentation that the service provider has, or that service provider can reasonably acquire, that the applicant may need to prepare its E-rate applications and/or to meet the documentation standards required to receive E-rate support. This includes identifying the eligibility percentage of each product and/or service.

Service provider shall maintain all bids, quotes, records, correspondence, receipts, vouchers, delivery information, timesheet, memoranda and other data relating to service provider's services to the applicant. All such records shall be retained for a minimum of ten (10) years following completion of services and shall be subject to inspection and audit by the applicant. Service providers shall include all subcontractor agreements for services, provisions requiring subcontractors to maintain the same records and allowing the applicant the same right to inspect and audit those records.

Confirm your understanding of the E-rate requirements. _____
Initial

TECHNICAL ENVIRONMENT

Recipients of Service related to this RFP

#	Entity	Address	NIF
1	Chenowith Elementary School	922 Chenowith Loop Road, The Dalles, OR 97058	
2	Colonel Wright Elementary School	610 West 14th, The Dalles, OR 97058	
3	Dry Hollow Elementary School	1314 East 19th Street, The Dalles, OR 97058	

SCOPE OF WORK

Definition

North Wasco County School District seeks to upgrade its campus network for three of its schools. This will include wireless access points (WAPs) and network switches. A detailed list is below. This is an equipment-only bid; no installation costs should be included.

Proposals should include equipment, necessary software, taxes and fees, shipping fees, and must be priced on their own line item within the bid. All equipment and hardware supplied must be new or refurbished and must have make and model numbers within the quote. Should license cost be necessary, please include this at a 5-year term.

Vendors may propose different equipment, but all equipment must meet specifications and have equal or better feature sets than models listed below.

Line Items

#	Item	Make or Model, or equivalent*	Quantity or Capacity	For Vendor: Eligibility Percentage
1	Indoor Omni-Directional Wi-Fi 7 Access Point ● Cloud-managed preferred ● must work with PoE+ 803.2at ● must be at least tri-band 2x2 or 2x2 2.4Ghz, 4x4 5/6 Ghz	Ruckus R575, Meraki CW9172I, Juniper AP36, Extreme AP4020, UniFi U7 Pro Max, OR Equivalent	85	
2	5-year support contract including any cloud licensing + priority device replacement for Wi-Fi Access Points	Matching equipment referenced in line 1 above	85	

3	Layer 2 managed network switch ● Cloud managed preferred ● 48 x 1 or 2.5 GbE ports ● 4 x SFP+ uplink ports ● 803.2at PoE+ on all GbE ports ● Max mounting depth of 15.5 inches	Ruckus ICX 8200-48PF or 48ZP2, Meraki MS130-48X, Juniper EX4100-F-48P, Extreme 4220-48P-4X or 4220-8MW-40P-4X, UniFi USW-Pro-Max-48-PoE, or Equivalent	16	
4	5-year support contract including any cloud licensing + priority device replacement for 48 port switch	Matching equipment referenced in line 3 above	16	
5	Layer 2 managed network switch ● Cloud managed preferred ● 24 x 1 or 2.5 GbE ports ● 4 x SFP+ uplink ports ● 803.2at PoE+ on all GbE ports ● Max mounting depth of 15.5 inches	Ruckus ICX 8200-24P or 8200-24ZP, Meraki MS130-24X, Juniper EX4100-F-24P, Extreme 4220-24P-4X or 4220-4MW-20P-4X, UniFi USW-Pro-Max-24-PoE, or Equivalent	14	
6	5-year support contract including any cloud licensing + priority device replacement for 24 port switch	Matching equipment referenced in line 5 above	14	
7	Layer 2 Managed Network Switch ● Cloud managed preferred ● 8 x 1 GbE ports ● 2 x SFP+ uplink ports ● 803.2at PoE+ on all GbE ports	Ruckus ICX 8200-C08PF, Meraki MS130-8P, Juniper EX2300-C-12P, Extreme 4220-12P-4X, UniFi USW-Enterprise-8-PoE or Equivalent	11	
8	5-year support contract including any cloud licensing + priority device replacement for 8 port switch	Matching equipment referenced in line 7 above	11	
9	Layer 2 managed network switch ● 24 x SFP+ ports ● 2 to 4 x SFP28 or QSFP+ uplink ports ● Dual power supplies (hot swappable preferred)	Ruckus 8200-24FX, Meraki C9300X-24Y, Juniper EX4400-24X, Extreme 5120-24X-4Y, UniFi Pro XG Aggregation, or Equivalent	3	
10	5-year support contract including any cloud licensing + priority device replacement for switch on line 9	Matching equipment referenced in line 9 above	3	

PROPOSER INFORMATION AND CERTIFICATION

Company Name: _____
SPIN: _____
Contact Name: _____
Address: _____
_____
Telephone: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____

By submitting a response, you certify that you are authorized to represent your company.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____