Whitley County Consolidated Schools

Request for Proposals – Internal Connections

11-20-2026

Whitley County Consolidated Schools (the "Applicant") is seeking proposals for a project to supply and install network equipment at its eligible locations. Bidders are advised that this project will be contingent upon the successful obtaining of Category 2 E-Rate funding, and the contract agreement between the district and the successful bidder must recognize that contingency.

The Applicant seeks an agreement that allows it to work with the selected vendor to adjust quantities and/or scale back or cancel the project entirely as needed based upon funding availability and/or the best interests of the Applicant.

Project Scope

The Applicant seeks eligible equipment as outlined in Appendix A. Equipment shall be new, factory-sealed equipment currently available from the manufacturer; the Applicant will not accept proposals of used, remanufactured, refurbished, "B stock", returns, open-box, discontinued, "gray market," or equipment in any other condition other than new and factory-sealed with all original manufacturer warranties.

Installation will be in place of existing equipment and the requested equipment will be integrated into the existing environment. Each bid should include all labor necessary for staging, installation, testing, and documentation of equipment. Equipment staging will consist of (but not be limited to) ensuring firmware version consistency, configuration loading, and hardware preparation for mounting. Software and firmware version for components will be agreed upon at time of deployment, and configurations will be coordinated with the Applicant's staff. Installation by the selected vendor shall include the removal of the existing equipment and placement of the new equipment. Equipment testing should verify access to internal resources and the Internet. Documentation should include configuration and summary reports of installations. Installation can be performed from a ladder in most cases; for a small number of APs, a lift will be required.

Questions/Site Visits

No informational meetings or building visits will be scheduled. Any questions related to the technical aspects of this document should be directed to Seth Slater, Assistant Superintendent at slatersa@wccsonline.com, no later than 3:00 pm (EST) on 12-04-2026. Answers to any written questions or any additional information, revisions, or clarifications to the RFP will be provided in the form of an addendum to be posted with the FCC Form 470 on the Universal Service (E-Rate) website. It is the sole responsibility of the Service Provider to check for any addenda that may be issued.

Response Format

Responses should include the following, if applicable:

- Applicable items should include all related software and hardware components that enable the functionality of the equipment (including any necessary mounting brackets, software licenses, multi-year licenses, and basic maintenance).

- If applicable, vendor is to specify all fees, shipping charges, taxes, surcharges and contingency fees for eligible equipment.
- If applicable, vendor is to specify the manufacturer's warranty provided as an integral part of an eligible component without separately identifiable cost.
- Any ongoing subscription pricing must be listed separately.

Your response **must** include the following information:

1. Line-item pricing for each item listed in Appendix A. Any discounting applied to your proposal must be reflected at the line-item level.
2. In the case of proposed equivalent products, a thorough technical description of how each product from the manufacturer being bid meets each of the required functionalities of the product listed herein.
3. Information outlining your company's certifications and connections regarding the manufacturer's equipment being bid, and length of time your company has provided equipment from the manufacturer being bid.
4. Two (2) reference sites where your company has performed a similar installation of the equipment being bid, including business name, contact name and contact information. It is preferable that at least one reference should be for a school corporation or library system within 90 miles of the Applicant.
5. Your E-Rate SPIN Number. (You must have a current SPAC form on file with USAC.)
6. A ready-to-execute contract which includes the proposal requirements and the E-Rate contingencies outlined herein.

The Applicant's review of information will be primarily focused on the substance of the details provided in response to the requirements herein including but not limited to technical details, pricing and terms, experience, references, and adherence to the response format provided. Per E-Rate rules, the cost of eligible goods and services will be the most heavily weighted evaluation factor.

Proposals must be prepared with specificity with regard to the equipment and/or services listed herein. Bids merely listing a general menu of equipment and/or services available from a vendor, bids appearing to be automatically generated without specificity in relation to the requirements of this RFP, and bids missing substantial information but inviting the applicant to contact the bidder to refine the bid and/or discuss specifics will not be considered valid bid responses and will be disqualified from consideration. This includes any SPAM and/or robotic responses. For more information, please review the USAC E-Rate News Brief of February 15, 2024.

Proposal Delivery

The Applicant reserves the right to reject each and every bid, and to waive informalities, irregularities, and errors in the bidding to the extent permitted by law. This includes the right to extend the date and time for receipt of bids. In the event that a responsible bid is not received or if it is determined that the low bid received is too high, the bid received will be rejected and the project will be cancelled or re-bid.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of School Trustees of the Whitley County Consolidated Schools, will receive sealed bids at the Ralph Bailey Administration Center, 107 N Walnut Street, Columbia City, IN 46725, until 9:00 am EST, on 01-08-2027 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Envelopes containing bids hall be plainly marked "BID for Upgrading Network Infrastructure." Bids received after the designated time will be returned unopened.
Bidders must submit a hard copy of their bid and any required forms, AND an electronic version of the bid response (including any required forms) on a USB flash drive in a sealed envelope, with their firm's name and address clearly indicated on the envelope. Note that FAXED bids are not acceptable and will be rejected

as non-responsive. Bids are to be addressed as follows: ATTN: Seth Slater, Ralph Bailey Administration Center, 107 N Walnut Street, Columbia City, IN 46725.
The Whitley County Consolidated Schools Board of School Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive informalities, irregularities, and errors in the bidding to the extent permitted by law. This includes the right to extend the date and time for receipt of bids. In the event that a responsible bid is not received or if it is determined that the low bid received is too high, the bid received will be rejected and the project will be cancelled or re-bid. Bids may not be withdrawn during the sixty (60) day period immediately following the date of receipt of the bids without the consent of Whitley County Consolidated Schools.

APPENDIX A

Below is a reference of the type of equipment and capacities (or their equivalent) to be supplied. Bidders should price separately and clearly indicate any ineligible costs for all services and equipment associated with this RFP. For any part numbers that have been updated or replaced by the manufacturer, bidders should offer the most similar current part.

Installation of switches must be priced separately from the equipment price, and installation of wireless access points must be priced separately from the equipment price.

Part Number	Description	Quantity
C9500-16X	Cisco Catalyst 9500 Series 16-port 1/10 Gigabit Ethernet switch with SFP/SFP+	2 +/-
C9500-DNA-E-3Y	Meraki Enterprise License; 3-Year	2 +/-
C9200L-48P-4X	Cisco Catalyst C9200L-series 48-port distribution switch with 1/10G fixed uplinks	30 +/-
C9200L-STACK-KIT	Cisco Catalyst 9200L Stack Module	30 +/-
LIC-C9200L-48E-3Y	Meraki Essentials License for C9200L 48-Port, 3-Year	33 +/-
LIC-C9200L-24E-3Y	Meraki Essentials License for C9200L 24-Port, 3-Year	7 +/-
LIC-C9200-48E-3Y	Meraki Essentials License for C9200 48-Port, 3-Year	30 +/-
CW9174-MR	Catalyst 9174I AP	75 +/-
LIC-ENT-3YR	Meraki MR Enterprise License, 3YR	75 +/-
SFP-10G-SR-S-EO	10G Fiber SFP Short Range	30 +/-
SFP-10G-LR-S	10G Fiber SFP Long Range	30 +/-