Request for Proposals

Charleston School District | Funding Year 2027 (2027–2028) | E-Rate Category Two

FCC Form 470: 270005440 | Issued for competitive bidding

1. Invitation and key dates

Charleston School District invites competitive, itemized proposals for the independent projects below. Vendors may bid on one or more projects; each may be awarded separately. All dates and times are Central Time.

Milestone	Date / time
Cabling walkthrough 1	Thursday, December 3, 2026 • 9:00 a.m.
Cabling walkthrough 2	Wednesday, December 9, 2026 • 1:00 p.m.
Written questions due	Wednesday, December 16, 2026 • 3:00 p.m.
Email bids due	Tuesday, January 5, 2027 • 3:00 p.m.

Bid delivery: Email only to misty.simpson@tigersmail.org. Subject: FY2027 E-Rate - Project [A/B/C/D] - [Vendor Name]. No paper or hand-delivered bids. Proposals must be received by January 5, 2027 at 3:00 p.m. Central Time. Written questions must be received at the same email address by December 16, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. Central Time. Material responses and amendments will be made available to all prospective bidders through the public Form 470/RFP posting process. If the Form 470 allowable contract date falls after the stated bid deadline, the district will extend the deadline by public amendment.

2. Project A — Charleston High School structured cabling

Replace the existing aging structured data cabling and install additional general-purpose network drops serving five network closets. The 80 additional drops listed under Various Additional Locations are not assigned to specific rooms; final locations will be determined by the district during project planning. Only the five additional Library drops have a designated location. Quantities are estimates; vendors should verify field conditions and pathways during a walkthrough. Offer a complete Cat6 base proposal and a separate complete Cat6A alternate using equivalent scope.

Location / serving area	Replace	Add	Total
Library	83	5	88
West Hall	12	0	12
Janitorial Closet Area	103	0	103
Business Lab	96	0	96
Gym	8	0	8
Various additional locations	0	80	80
TOTAL	302	85	387

- Supply and install compliant four-pair structured cabling, compatible jacks, faceplates, patch panels, terminations and needed pathway hardware.
- Include labor, permits where applicable, firestopping, restoration of disturbed finishes, labeling at both ends, and electronic permanent-link certification test reports for all 387 installed network drops.

Cable certification requirement: The contractor shall provide electronic certification test results for all 387 installed network drops using an industry-standard cable certification tester. All connections must pass the applicable Cat6 or Cat6A permanent-link certification requirements. Any failed connections must be corrected and retested at no additional cost to the district. Test reports shall identify each drop by its corresponding label and be delivered before final project acceptance.

- Remove and properly dispose of replaced existing network cabling from accessible pathways and closets; coordinate cutovers so functioning connections remain available until replacements pass testing. Identify inaccessible cable requiring district approval before abandonment.
- Provide itemized pricing by serving area, materials versus labor, old-cable removal as a separate line, and unit prices for adds/deletes. Identify exclusions, assumptions, warranty and proposed completion schedule.
- Mandatory pre-bid walkthrough and registration (Project A only): Vendors submitting a bid for the Charleston High School cabling project must attend at least one of two walkthroughs: Thursday, December 3, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., or Wednesday, December 9, 2026 at 1:00 p.m., Central Time. Vendors are requested to register by emailing misty.simpson@tigersmail.org at least 24 hours before their selected walkthrough. The registration email must provide the company name, representative name, contact information, and preferred walkthrough date. Vendors must check in at the Charleston High School main office and sign the district attendance sheet. Attendance at either walkthrough is mandatory; registration alone does not satisfy this requirement. Project A bids from vendors that attend neither walkthrough will be rejected as nonresponsive. Advance registration is requested for planning purposes, but an otherwise qualified vendor who attends and signs in will not be disqualified solely for failing to register. Walkthrough attendance is not required for Projects B, C, or D. The district will provide equal access to material written clarifications through the public Form 470/RFP bidding process.

3. Project B — Ruckus cloud licensing

Provide three compatible cloud-management subscriptions for existing district-owned Ruckus access points: High School Kitchen (1), High School Room 108 (1), and Middle School outdoor access point (1). Identify exact license SKU, compatibility prerequisites, activation process, start date, term, and any renewal implications. Quote eligible functionality separately from ineligible functionality; do not include new access point hardware.

4. Project C — new firewall and subscriptions

The district specifies the SonicWall NSA 2800 as its preferred firewall platform to maintain consistency with its intended network environment. Quote one new SonicWall NSA 2800, including separately itemized installation, configuration, migration, warranty, and support. Separately quote SonicWall Advanced Protection Security Suite and CSE licensing for 1-, 3-, and 5-year terms, identifying exact SKUs and included features. Clearly separate E-Rate-eligible basic firewall functionality from advanced or potentially ineligible security features. In accordance with E-Rate competitive bidding requirements, functionally equivalent alternatives must also be considered; any proposed alternative must document comparable performance, functionality, interoperability, and support.

5. Project D — optional managed internal broadband services (MIBS)

Provide an optional, separately priced managed service for eligible district-owned internal broadband infrastructure. Quote (A) management/monitoring of Ruckus switches and wireless infrastructure and (B) eligible management of the proposed firewall, separately. Define included assets, remote/on-site response, monitoring hours, maintenance, configuration changes, escalation, reporting, service levels, and monthly/annual fees. Identify and cost-allocate any ineligible general IT support or advanced security services. The district may decline this project.

6. Proposal format and evaluation

- Include vendor legal name, contact information, SPIN or evidence of ability to obtain one, and acknowledgment of E-Rate program requirements.
- Break out eligible and ineligible charges, one-time and recurring charges, installation, taxes, shipping, licensing terms, and optional items. Clearly state any assumptions and proposed contract term.
- Provide technical compliance narrative, equipment/part numbers, warranty, implementation timeline, references for comparable school projects, and a signed price proposal.
- Responsive proposals will be scored separately by project using the district bid evaluation matrix: price of E-Rate-eligible products/services (40 points), technical compliance/compatibility (25), vendor experience/references (15), technical support/warranty (15), and implementation/delivery timeline (5), for 100 possible points. Eligible price is the single most heavily weighted factor. Project A bids must also satisfy the mandatory walkthrough condition.
- The district reserves the right to reject proposals, request clarifications, select individual projects independently, or decline optional work, consistent with applicable procurement rules. No vendor selection or contract execution will occur before the allowable contract date.

7. Procurement and E-Rate conditions

All awards are contingent on district approval, available funding, E-Rate rules and applicable state/local procurement requirements. No promise of USAC funding or minimum purchase is made. Vendors must comply with applicable program rules, including competitive bidding and equipment/service eligibility. Where a requested item combines eligible and ineligible features, provide a defensible cost allocation.

The district may make separate awards by project and may choose not to purchase optional services. All quantities and optional terms are subject to district approval and available funding. Vendors should identify any assumptions and all ineligible charges separately. Bidders are responsible for reviewing the posted FCC Form 470 and any publicly issued amendments.