Girard School District

GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Direct all inquiries concerning this bid to: GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT **Attention: Maggie Taylor** All questions must be submitted via email no later than 12:00 P.M. EST, **January 08, 2027** **WALKTHROUGH DATE:** **December 8, 2026**	**Please return one (1) digital copy of your response to Maggie Taylor, contact for GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT.** **All responses are due by 2:00 P.M. EST, January 19, 2027** **All responses must be signed and have the pricing spreadsheet returned with the response.** **All bids shall be delivered by the specified time with "GIRARD SD CATEGORY 1 RESPONSE" in the email subject line.**
Email Contact for RFP: metaylor@epicinc.org	

NOTE: Questions concerning the specifications in this Request for Proposals will be received until the date and time listed above. ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING BY EMAIL TO THE EMAIL ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE. NO QUESTIONS will be received by telephone. Questions received after the date and time listed above will not be considered. It is the OFFEROR'S responsibility to ensure that all addenda have been reviewed and, if need be, signed and returned.

All bids shall be SENT ELECTRONICALLY to: GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT, c/o Maggie Taylor, metaylor@epicinc.org. All bids shall be delivered by the specified time with "GIRARD SD CATEGORY 1 RESPONSE" in the email subject line.

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT

REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS AND PROPOSALS FOR WIDE AREA NETWORK DIGITAL TRANSMISSION SELF PROVISIONED HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND NETWORK and SERVICES DELIVERED OVER THIRD-PARTY NETWORKS with MULTI-YEAR CONTRACT, INCLUDING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

E-RATE FUNDING YEAR 2027 (JULY 1, 2027 – JUNE 30, 2028)

RFP RELEASE DATE: **November 20, 2026**	**LAST DAY FOR QUESTIONS:** **January 08, 2027**
WALKTHROUGH DATE: **December 08, 2026**	**2:30 PM starting at Girard High School** **1135 Lake Street, Girard, PA 16417**
RFP RESPONSE DATE: January 19, 2027	

GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, or handicap in employment practices or in administration of any of its educational programs and activities in accordance with applicable federal statutes and regulations.

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDER AND GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS 4

II. BUILDING LOCATIONS 11

III. DATES AND ACTIVITIES 11

IV. BID SUBMISSION FORM.....12

V. CUSTOMER EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATION FORM 13

VI. SERVICE DESCRIPTION 14

VII. AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES 25

VIII. E-RATE ELIGIBLE PRICING.....27

IX. WAN REFERENCES 28

X. MAP DATA ©2026 GOOGLE OF SCHOOL LOCATIONS.....29

XI. SECA COST ALLOCATION SCENARIOS FOR SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION ..31

XII. ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES.....36

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT is soliciting proposals for WAN Circuits including Maintenance and Operations proposals from qualified Service Providers for the Schools listed in Section II and the services listed in Section VI.

I. INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDER AND GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- E-Rate instructions: This bid will be issued at the same time the FCC Form 470 is filed; this bid will remain posted for no less than 28 days.
- Funding will be subject to E-Rate eligibility and District Approval. Any Contract entered into by the District will be contingent upon E-Rate funding.
- Proposals must be made in the official name of the firm or individual under which business is conducted (showing official business address) and must be signed by a person duly authorized to legally bind the person, partnership, company or corporation submitting the proposal.
- Offerors are to include all applicable requested information and are encouraged to include any additional information they wish to be considered.
- **SPECIFICATIONS:** Items offered must be in compliance with the specifications. Any deviation from the specifications must be clearly indicated by the bidder. Alternates offered by the bidder as "equal to" the specifications must be clearly defined. A bidder offering an alternate should attach complete specifications and literature to the bid. The Purchasing Director may waive minor deviations to specifications.
- **Lowest Corresponding Price:** Per FCC rules, vendors must offer the Lowest Corresponding Price when submitting proposals. Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP) is defined as the lowest price that a service provider charges to nonresidential customers who are similarly situated to a particular E-Rate applicant (school, library, or consortium) for similar services. See 47 CFR, Part 54, Section 54.500(f). Service providers cannot charge E-Rate applicants a price above the LCP for E-Rate services. See 47 CFR Section 54.511(b). There is a rebuttable presumption that rates offered within the previous 3 years are still compensatory.
- **All bids shall be SENT ELECTRONICALLY to: GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT, c/o Maggie Taylor, metaylor@epicinc.org. All bids shall be delivered by the specified time and date with "GIRARD SD CATEGORY 1 RESPONSE" in the email subject line.**
- It is a REQUIREMENT THAT BID RESPONSE PRICING BE SUBMITTED ON **PRICING SPREADSHEETS. One EMAIL copy is required for district evaluation. The digital version must include pricing in a spreadsheet format and should be included in your response. No PDF format for pricing sheets should be used for the digital submission.** Responsive proposals should provide straightforward, concise information that satisfies the requirements of this RFP. Emphasis should be placed on skills and experience that respond to the needs of the School Board, the requirements of this RFP, and completeness and clarity of content.
- After recording the bids received, the bids will be referred to the appropriate administrative office for tabulation, review, and subsequent recommendations for Board action, if necessary.
- If there are any questions regarding this RFP please direct those to: **metaylor@epicinc.org.** The **deadline for questions will be January 08, 2027 at 12:00 pm EST.** No questions will be accepted after this time.

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

- All entries shall remain firm for a period of not less than **ninety (90) days**. Mistakes may be crossed out and corrections inserted adjacent thereto, and shall be initialed, by the person signing the proposal.
- Unit prices shall prevail in case of any discrepancies.
- Offers, amendments thereto or withdrawal requests must be received by the time advertised for proposal opening to be timely filed. It is the vendor's sole responsibility to ensure these documents are received by the person (or office) at the time indicated in the solicitation document.
- By submission of an offer, you are guaranteeing that all services meet the requirements of the solicitation.
- The document that will form the contract shall include the entire solicitation, all amendments, the winning offeror's proposal and the subsequent "Contract Agreement".
- This solicitation does not commit GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of a proposal, to procure or contract for the articles of goods or services. The District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals received as a result of this solicitation, to negotiate this solicitation in its entirety if it is in the best interest of the District to do so. The offeror shall bear all costs associated with the preparation of the response.
- All vendors will receive EQUAL CONSIDERATION in the bidding procedures.
- Bids will be awarded to the BIDDER who MEETS SPECIFICATIONS, complies with all INSTRUCTIONS AND CONDITIONS, and demonstrates product/service delivery superiority via demonstrations and test runs if required.
- Every effort has been made to ensure that all information needed by the offeror is included herein. If an offeror finds that the proposal cannot be completed without additional information, if there are any questions for this bid, please direct those to: metaylor@epicinc.org. All replies to the questions shall be in writing. All questions and written replies will be distributed to all offerors and will be regarded as a part hereof.
- Ambiguous Offers: Offers, which are uncertain as to terms, delivery, compliance to requirements and/or specifications, may be rejected or otherwise disregarded.
- **Prohibition of Gratuities:** Whoever gives or offers to any public official or public employee any compensation including a promise of future employment to influence his action, vote, opinion or judgment as a public official or public employee or such public official solicits or accepts such compensation to influence his action, vote, opinion or judgment shall be subject to the punishment as provided by Pennsylvania law. The provision of this section shall not apply to political contributions unless such contributions are conditioned upon the performance of specific actions of the person accepting such contribution nor shall they prohibit a parent, grandparent or relative for making a gift to child, grandchild or other close relatives for love and affection except as hereinafter provided.
- **Offeror's Qualifications:** Offers shall be considered only from offerors who are regularly established in the business called for, and who in the judgment of the district, are financially responsible and able to show evidence of their reliability, ability, experience, and have personnel directly employed or supervised in the manner called for under this contract. The district may make such investigation as deemed necessary to determine the ability of the offeror to perform the work, and the offeror shall furnish to the district all such information and data needed for this request, including a detailed list of the equipment which the offeror proposes to use; and a detailed description of the method proposed for service completion/installation. The district reserves the

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

right to reject any offer if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of such offers demonstrates that the offeror is not properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the contract and to complete the work contemplated therein. Conditional offers will not be accepted.

- **Explanation to Prospective Offerors:** Any prospective Offeror desiring an explanation or interpretation of the solicitation, drawings, specifications, etc., must request it in writing soon enough to allow a reply to reach all prospective Offerors before the submission of their offers. Oral explanations or instructions given before the award of the contract will not be binding. Any information given to a prospective Offeror concerning a solicitation will be furnished promptly to all other prospective Offerors as an amendment of the solicitation, if that information is necessary in submitting offers or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective Offeror.
- **Offeror's Responsibility:** Each offeror shall fully acquaint himself with conditions relating to the scope, and restrictions attending the execution of the work under the conditions of this proposal.
- **Competition:** This solicitation is intended to promote competition. If the language, specifications, terms and conditions, or any combination thereof restricts or limits the requirements in this solicitation to a single source, it shall be the responsibility of the interested vendor to notify the district in writing. The solicitation may or may not change, but a review of such notification will be made prior to award.
- **Waiver:** The owner reserves the right to waive any provisions of this solicitation.
- **Pennsylvania Law Clause:** Upon award of a contract under this solicitation, the person, partnership, association, or corporation to whom the award is made, must comply with the laws of the state of Pennsylvania, which require such person or entity to be authorized and/or licensed to do business in this state, by submission of this signed offer, the Offeror agrees to subject itself to the jurisdiction and process of the courts of the state of Pennsylvania, as to all matters and disputes arising or to arise under the contract and the performance thereof, including any questions as to the liability of taxes, licenses, or fees levied by the State/County.
- **Accidents:** The vendors shall hold the owner harmless from any and all damages and claims that may arise by reason of any negligence on the part of the vendor, his agents, or employees in the performance of this contract, and in case of any action brought therefore against the owner of any of its agents or employees, the vendor shall assume full responsibility for the defense therefore, and upon his failure to do so on the proper notice, the owner reserves the right to defend such action and charge all costs thereof to the vendor. The vendor shall take all precautions necessary to protect the public against injury.
- **Affirmative Action:** The successful Offeror shall take affirmative action in complying with all Federal, State and County requirements concerning fair employment, employment of the handicapped and concerning the treatment of all employees, without regards of discrimination by reasons of race, color, sex, religion, and or national origin.
- **Force Majeure:** Neither the District nor the successful offeror shall be considered to be in default of this Agreement if delays in or failure of performance shall be due to Uncontrollable Forces, the effect of which, by the exercise of reasonable diligence, the non-performing party could not avoid. The term "Uncontrollable Forces" shall mean any event which results in the prevention or delay of performance by a party of its obligations under this Agreement and which is beyond the reasonable control of the non-performing party. It includes, but is not limited to fire, flood, earthquakes, storms, lightning, epidemic, war, riot, civil disturbance, sabotage, and governmental actions. Neither party shall, however, be excused from performance if nonperformance is due to forces which are preventable, removable, or remediable and which the non-performing party could have, with the exercise of reasonable diligence, prevented, removed, or remedied with reasonable

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

dispatch. The non-performing party shall, within a reasonable time of being prevented or delayed from performance by an uncontrollable force, give written notice to the other party describing the circumstances and uncontrollable forces preventing continued performance of the obligations of this Agreement. If a force majeure event extends for a period in excess of 30 days in the aggregate, either Party may immediately terminate this Agreement upon written notice.

- **Non-Appropriations:** Any contract entered into by the owner resulting from this solicitation shall be subject to cancellation without damages or further obligation when funds are not appropriated or otherwise made available to support continuation of performance in a subsequent fiscal period or appropriated year.
- **Assignment:** No contract may be assigned, sublet or transferred without written approval of the Director of Technology.
- **Proposal Evaluation:** Proposals received on-time will be evaluated based on the E-Rate criteria as outlined below. The following factors will be used in evaluating bid responses; price is weighted higher than any other single factor. **Contract Terms:** For third-party Networks, the District will sign a contract for one of the following terms: a thirty-six (36) month term with two (2) voluntary one-year extensions, or a sixty (60) month term with two (2) voluntary one-year extensions. Respondents should provide pricing for both terms. Proposals will be scored on the E-Rate eligible cost of the contract term being evaluated (all one-time costs plus the recurring costs for that term).
- **Fixed Evaluation Period:** In accordance with USAC guidance, the District will also compare the total cost of the self-provisioned and third-party network solutions over a fixed evaluation period of fifteen (15) years to determine the most cost-effective solution. For the self-provisioned solution, the fifteen-year total cost includes constructing, owning, operating, and maintaining the network (including special construction, the network equipment needed to light the network and its replacement, and recurring maintenance and operations costs). For services provided over a third-party network, the fifteen-year total cost includes all one-time and recurring costs, assuming a ten percent (10%) reduction in recurring rates at each renewal after the contract term (approximately two percent (2%) per year), consistent with the FCC's two percent annual productivity factor for business data services (FCC 17-43) and documented long-term declines in WAN and school broadband pricing, unless the respondent commits to specific renewal pricing. Respondents proposing a self-provisioned solution must state the expected useful life of the proposed facilities and equipment. The minimum speed configuration of each facility will be used to evaluate the bids provided; however, optional speeds and costs should be provided as part of contract options to permit growth during the terms of the contract.

Factor	Weight
E-Rate eligible recurring and one-time circuit costs (E-Rate eligible costs: the total cost of ownership for the eligible components of the proposed service. Total cost of ownership takes into account all one-time and recurring costs. Note that E-Rate eligible costs refer to the pre-discount cost of the solution, not the post-discount portion of costs that are the responsibility of the Applicant. This criterion must be the highest weighted per E-Rate program rules.)	25
Other Cost Factors (including price of ineligible goods and services, price of changing providers, price for breaking contract, contract terms and conditions, etc.)	20

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

Factor	Weight
Strong and unequivocal evidence that proposing organization's human, organizational, technical, and professional resources (including Education and E-Rate expertise) and abilities can support the proposed project, which will meet the full scope of the requirements specified in the RFP in a timely manner	15
Overall suitability of the proposal for current and future needs of the School District	15
Evidence of prior successful experience is detailed and related to the proposed services; References provide assurance that vendor can deliver the services and/or required products	10
Environmental Objectives[1]	10
Conformance of proposal to instruction for format and contents of proposal	5
Total	**100**

- The District reserves the right to ask clarifying questions of Vendors and to request best and final offers upon review of initial proposals.
- **Arbitration:** Under no circumstances and with no exception will the School District act as arbitrator between the Offeror and any sub-contractor.
- **Change Orders:** No oral statement of any person shall modify or otherwise change, or affect the terms, conditions or specifications stated in the resulting contract. All change orders to the contract will be made in writing by the Appointed Contracting Officer.
- **Special Notation:** The Purchasing Department is acting under that authority given to it in the District Procurement Policy to procure contracts. The resulting contract is between the District and the successful offeror. The Purchasing Department bears no liability for any damages that any party may incur in the execution or enforcement of the contract.
- **Award:** GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to make an award in the best interest of the District.
- **ALL BIDS MUST BE SIGNED.** (See Bid Submission Form). Unsigned bids will not be considered.
- SPIN NUMBER. Please include SERVICE PROVIDER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (SPIN) in Section IV - Bid Submission Form, for E-Rate purposes. **IF YOUR PROPOSAL DOES NOT INCLUDE A SPIN NUMBER, YOUR RESPONSE MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.** Please confirm if you have recently applied for a SPIN number.
- Each response must address the vendor's understanding and capabilities to provide services for all schools. Examples of vendor's successful implementation of these services are required to demonstrate capability. Examples must address service, scope, and reliability as suitable for the solution being proposed.

[1] *See Section XII for a complete listing of Environmental Objectives.*

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

- **Please note:** The bidder does not need to respond to all the requested products and services to be considered. The bidder can respond to any, some, or all of the service/price requests.
- **Notice for Taxes, Travel and Living Expenses:**

  All prices/rates quoted must be inclusive of all taxes (local, state, and federal).

  Please provide a complete proposal, avoiding any hidden items, and include any estimates for labor, equipment delivery, licenses, as well as cost-reimbursable items such as travel and out-of-pocket expenses.
- **References:** Responders must provide a minimum of three (3) current references of similar services/solutions they have provided, including contact information. See section below for references.
- **Contract Negotiations:** The District reserves the right to conduct contract negotiations on details beyond what is specified in this RFP. Additionally, the District may also move to the next highest scoring bidder if contract negotiations aren't concluded to the District's satisfaction.
- **Insurance:** RFPs for Services involving the furnishing of labor, materials, and/or equipment, while said Services are being performed the successful vendor must maintain in full effect the following minimum insurance coverage:
  - Workers' Compensation.
  - Comprehensive public liability in the sum of $100,000 for each person and $300,000 for each accident, including contract liability. Such shall be endorsed with a save harmless clause in favor of the School District, its officers, members, and employees.
  - Property damage in the amount of $50,000.
  - Automobile and truck insurance in an amount not less than $300,000 on account of any one accident, and property damage in amount not less than $50,000.
  - If special hazards, such as might result from blasting, represent a possibility, these shall be covered by a rider to the policy or policies in an amount of not less than $50,000.
  - Prior to the beginning of the Service, etc., to be performed, a certificate of insurance shall be furnished to the School District showing the insurance coverages required above. The Contractor shall assume full responsibility for loss of life and property, injuries to persons, including all employees of the Contractor or Subcontractors.
- **Responders should be aware of the following reasons that may be exercised for bid response disqualification.**
  - GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT may reject an erroneous bid after the bid opening if any, some, or all of the following conditions exist: (1) an error was made; (2) the error materially affected the bid; (3) rejection of the bid would not cause a hardship on the district, other than losing an opportunity to receive commodities at a reduced cost; and (4) enforcement of the part of the bid in error would be unconscionable;
  - Vendor is on Red Light status with the FCC or is delinquent on a debt to a state or federal government agency or entity;
  - Vendor has not been in business for at least 5 years performing the services or furnishing the equipment required in this RFP;

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

- Vendor does not have an E-Rate SPIN number;
- Vendor has not signed the RFP documentation;
- Vendor has not sent the pricing spreadsheet in their response;
- Vendor does not carry the appropriate insurance coverages for any potential liability in the case of a self-provisioned contract.
- Vendor cannot certify that equipment placed in District and school locations does not pose a national security risk, specifically the vendor must certify equipment placed at customer locations is not from the companies listed on the Customer Equipment Certification Form below. (*See FCC News Release: https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain/coveredlist, "List of Equipment and Services Covered By Section 2 of The Secure Networks Act.", FCC, Last visited, November 4, 2026.*)

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

II. BUILDING LOCATIONS

Building Name	Address
Girard SD Admin Office / Girard High School	1135 Lake Street, Girard, PA 16417
High School Stadium (2 connections required at this location)	1135 Lake Street, Girard, PA 16417
Rice Avenue Middle School	1100 Rice Avenue, Girard, PA 16417
Elk Valley Elementary School	2556 Maple Avenue, Lake City, PA 16423
Bus Garage	2856 Maple Ave, Lake City, PA 16423

The District reserves the right, through the life of the contract, to remove buildings and services at no additional charges if the configurations of the entities change within the District in response to budgets, population shifts, enrollment changes, Board of Education decisions, and/or circumstances outside the District's control.

III. DATES AND ACTIVITIES

- **If there are any questions regarding this RFP please direct those to:** metaylor@epicinc.org.
- **WALKTHROUGH TO BE HELD December 8, 2026 at 2:30 PM starting at Girard High School, 1135 Lake Street, Girard, PA 16417.**
- **RELEVANT DATES:**

Event	Date
Release bid to Bidders	November 20, 2026
Walkthrough	**December 8, 2026 at 2:30 PM starting at Girard High School, 1135 Lake Street, Girard, PA 16417**
Deadline for bid Questions	January 08, 2027, 12:00 PM EST
Deadline for Proposal Submission	January 19, 2027, 2:00 PM EST
Dates of E-Rate Service for Services Self-Provisioned	July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2028
Dates of E-Rate Service for Services provided over third-party solutions	July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2030 (36-month term) or June 30, 2032 (60-month term), with two possible voluntary extensions of 12 months each

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

IV. BID SUBMISSION FORM[2]

Company Name

Company Address

City, State, ZIP

E-Rate SPIN Number

Responsible person's name and authorized signature* (may be contacted for questions):

Printed Name

**I certify that this proposal is made without prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a proposal for the same services, materials, supplies, or equipment, and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. I agree to abide by all conditions of this proposal and certify that I am authorized to sign this proposal for the vendor.*

Signature

Date

Contact Telephone

Contact Email

*Signature certifies that the proposed solution and services meet all requirements outlined in the bid and that the vendor will comply with all specified requirements.

[2] *Please return this page with your company's response.*

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

V. CUSTOMER EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATION FORM[3]

(Company Name)

CERTIFIES THAT EQUIPMENT PLACED IN DISTRICT AND SCHOOL LOCATIONS IS NOT FROM THE FCC PUBLISHED LIST OF EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES COVERED BY SECTION 2 OF THE SECURE NETWORKS ACT:
https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain/coveredlist

Responsible person's name and authorized signature:

Printed Name

Title

Signature

Date

The inclusion of producers or providers of equipment or services identified on this list should be read to include the subsidiaries and affiliates of such entities.

Where equipment or services on the list are identified by category, such category should be construed to include only equipment or services capable of the functions outlined in sections 2(b)(2)(A), (B), or (C) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019, 47 U.S.C. § 1601(b)(2)(A)-(C).

[3] *Please return this page with your company's response.*

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

VI. SERVICE DESCRIPTION

GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT is soliciting bids from qualified Carriers (Vendors) for a Wide Area Network for the School District buildings listed above in Section II.

GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT will evaluate network infrastructure proposals for the Wide Area Network solution to replace the current connection. The District will evaluate long-term contract options for both a self-provisioned network and services provided over a third-party network, as defined by the FCC Second E-Rate Modernization Order.

EXISTING NETWORK CONDITIONS AND SCOPE CLARIFICATIONS

- **Scope:** This RFP is for a Wide Area Network (WAN) connecting District buildings, including maintenance and operations. This RFP is **not** requesting Internet access service.
- **Current service / incumbent:** There is no incumbent WAN service provider and no prior E-Rate funding history for this service. The District has operated self-provisioned (District-owned) WAN fiber circuits between its buildings since 1997. This RFP is for a new WAN to replace those existing circuits.
- **Existing fiber and documentation:** The existing fiber infrastructure is more than 30 years old. Formal as-built drawings, current floor plans, and accurate network diagrams are not available due to the age of the installation and will not be distributed. Respondents should base designs on the building locations in Section II, the maps in Section X, and conditions observed during the walkthrough, which is the opportunity to review existing network conditions, building entrances, and termination locations in person.
- **Termination points:** The Admin Office is located within Girard High School (1135 Lake Street) and is the hub for all connections. The Stadium requires two connections (one to the concession building and one from the concession building to the press box). The Bus Garage does not have core switching; the District recommends connecting the Admin Office/HS to Elk Valley Elementary School and extending connectivity from Elk Valley Elementary to the Bus Garage, if possible.
- **Existing fiber reuse:** Respondents may, but are not required to, propose reuse of existing District conduit or pathways where found suitable during the walkthrough. Any proposed reuse must be clearly identified, and respondents remain responsible for verifying its condition.

Qualified Vendors should include the following in their proposals:

- Any Special Construction Costs[4] if necessary.
- The self-provisioned network, and third-party network infrastructure costs.
- Any maintenance cost of the infrastructure proposed.

GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT will consider traditional network designs or alternative proposals that, in accordance with E-Rate guidance, maximize cost effectiveness. Respondents should clearly illustrate proposed network design and construction routes. The District is not advocating or mandating any preconceived network design or construction route and leaves this decision up to the vendor to present their best solution while recognizing the cited termination locations.

[4] *See Section XI: SECA Cost Allocation Scenarios for Special Construction Costs.*

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

OPTION A: Self-Provisioned High-Speed Broadband Network Proposals:

USAC defines a Self-Provisioned Network as: Applicant ownership of a high-speed broadband network. The applicant hires a vendor to construct the network or a portion of the network, and thereafter completely or partially owns and maintains that network or portion. An E-Rate eligible entity may share the services and equipment used to construct and/or operate a self-provisioned network supported by E-Rate funding with an ineligible third-party entity so long as the ineligible third-party entity pays its fair share of the costs, i.e., its pro-rata portion of the undiscounted costs of the network.

The District will accept proposals that provide a special construction project for a District owned High-Speed Broadband network between the Girard School buildings, Bus Garage, and District Stadium. The District will compare the total cost of ownership of any self-provisioned broadband network proposal (construction, the network equipment needed to light the network, and maintenance and operations) against the total cost of service over third-party networks over the fifteen (15) year fixed evaluation period stated in Section I (Proposal Evaluation), in accordance with USAC guidance. In accordance with USAC rules, the cost of any connections not active during the funding year must be allocated out as ineligible charges. GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT desires a fully "turn-key" project so respondents should provide explanation for the District's involvement in the process including ownership and sourcing of permits, etc.

If fiber is being proposed for the self-provisioned network solution, please use the following guidelines for Self-Provisioned Fiber Construction Specifications & Project Management:

- District is requesting a minimum of two (2) strands per building single mode fiber network if fiber is being proposed for the self-provisioned network.
- Specifications for a newly constructed fiber infrastructure are contained in the "Specifications for a Newly Constructed Fiber Infrastructure for Outside Plant Design & Installation" later in this Section VI.
- Selected respondent and its subcontractors will provide all project management to accomplish the installation of all project work as outlined in the "Pricing Spreadsheet" that is included as a separate Excel spreadsheet with this RFP.
- Project management should include all necessary paperwork and permits including but not limited to rights of way, easements, and pole attachments.
- The respondent will provide engineer(s), certified on selected fiber system specifications and procedures to manage all phases of project as outlined in this proposal. This includes ordering and managing the bill of materials as outlined in the "Pricing Spreadsheet" that is included as a separate Excel spreadsheet with this RFP, directing and managing cable placement and restoration, directing and managing splicing crews and providing detailed documentation at the end of the project.
- Selected respondent and its subcontractors will develop a project management plan, which will include a milestone chart. The milestone chart will outline any critical path events and then track these with the appropriate agency/organization whether the selected respondent, subcontractor or the district.

MAINTENANCE FOR SELF-PROVISIONED HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND NETWORK:

The District requires on-going maintenance on self-provisioned solutions. Respondent may offer maintenance services either themselves or through third-party subcontractors. If respondent intends to use third-party subcontractors to deliver a part or all of the service, this should be clearly indicated in the response.

Self-provisioned construction responses are not required to include a maintenance response. Maintenance on self-provisioned networks may be bid as a stand-alone service by anyone, even if they are not bidding

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

on any networking services. Please note that respondents submitting a self-provisioned networking proposal may also bid on maintenance services provided they bid it separately and do not bundle maintenance costs with their networking proposal. Price quotes are requested for 36-month and 60-month terms of service, each with two (2) voluntary 12-month extensions.

Respondents are required to fill out the "Pricing Spreadsheet" that is included as a separate Excel spreadsheet with this RFP. Responses for maintenance on self-provisioned networks must include scheduled routine maintenance as a monthly or annual cost as well as unscheduled break/fix maintenance as an annual time and material cost estimate. Explanation of how the annual scheduled and unscheduled maintenance was estimated should be included.

Maintenance Terms and Conditions

Respondent shall maintain the applicable network seven days per week, twenty-four hours per day. Upon notification from the district of a malfunction relating to the applicable network, respondent shall respond to such malfunction within two (2) hours and thereafter proceed to correct the malfunction with reasonable diligence. When pricing maintenance, the respondent should include an overview of maintenance practices including:

- Routine maintenance and inspection
- Scheduled maintenance windows and scheduling practices for planned outages
- Marker and handhole inspection and repair
- Handling of unscheduled outages and customer problem reports
- What service level agreement is included and what alternative service levels may be available at additional cost
- What agreements are in place with applicable utilities and utility contractors for emergency restoration
- Repair of network breaks
- Mean time to repair
- Replacement of damaged infrastructure
- Post repair testing
- Replacement of infrastructure that no longer meets specifications
- Policies for customer notification regarding maintenance
- Process for changing procedures, including customer notification practices
- Process for moves, adds, and changes
- Process for responding to locate requests

OPTION B: Services Delivered Over Third-Party Networks Proposal:

Services over third-party networks is defined as point-to-point broadband service delivered over a service provider or other third party owned network. This service option is to represent any technology neutral third-party transport mediums including both fiber and non-fiber options. The service is a fully managed service, with the service provider supplying the equipment, provisioning the bandwidth and providing technical support/management of the service. One-time special construction should be bid separately from the monthly recurring cost for the fully managed leased service.

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT must have dedicated, symmetrical transport bandwidth of at least 10Gbps with Service Level Agreement (SLA) guarantees between the designated endpoints. The solution must be scalable to 20Gbps. Respondents are required to fill out the table in "Pricing Spreadsheet" that is provided with this RFP. If special construction is necessary, respondents are required to separate out pricing: Special Construction Pricing. Quoted special construction, one-time and monthly prices may not increase during the contract term (in each pricing cell of the spreadsheet). If an increase in bandwidth is requested during the contract period the contract does not renew. As bandwidth needs are steadily rising, respondents are free to bid higher tiers of bandwidth than what is requested to demonstrate their future scalability.

As stated above, this request is technology neutral and for a fully managed service. Bids are required to include all services and components necessary to make the service operational. Respondent may offer services either themselves or through 3rd party subcontractors. If respondent intends to use third-party subcontractors to deliver a part or all of the service, this should be clearly indicated in the response.

All pricing must be submitted using the "Pricing Spreadsheet" that is included as a separate Excel spreadsheet with this RFP.

Girard School District reserves the right to cancel the contract with the vendor for non-performance at any time during the contract period. Nonperformance includes but is not limited to failure to supply good quality service, failure to provide services for the full term of the contract, installation performance, poor billing and customer service, and failure to maintain status as an authorized representative of services.

The District reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity of product and services to be purchased after the pricing proposals are received.

SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION CONSIDERATIONS:

In E-Rate terminology, special construction refers to the upfront, non-recurring costs associated with the installation of new fiber connections to or between eligible entities. If no new fiber is being installed, then any installation costs are considered standard non-recurring costs (NRC). Applicants may seek funding for special construction charges in connection with self-provisioning. Special construction charges eligible for Category One support consist of three components:

- construction of network facilities
- design and engineering
- project management

Note: The term "special construction" does not include network equipment necessary to activate the connections, nor the services necessary to maintain the connections. Charges for network equipment and maintenance are eligible for Category One support as separate services, but not as special construction.

All options can include special construction or one-time E-Rate eligible non-recurring costs as well as E-Rate eligible recurring circuit costs.

To the extent that the winning service provider installs additional connections for future business ventures, the winning service provider assumes full responsibility to ensure those incremental costs are allocated out of the special construction charges to the district in accordance with FCC rules and orders. If, after the issuance of the FCDL, USAC or the FCC determines that the winning service provider did not cost allocate those charges associated with the additional connections, GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT will not be responsible for reimbursing the winning vendor and the winning vendor will assume all responsibilities deemed ineligible by USAC. For examples of cost allocation, please see document in Section XI as prepared by the State E-Rate Coordinators' Alliance (SECA).

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

If fiber is being proposed for either option A or B above, please see the following specifications for a newly constructed fiber infrastructure for Outside Plant Design & Installation:

Material Requirements:

- Material will comply with those standards as established by UL or NEMA and shall be commercial grade. All materials will be new and free from defects.
- Selected contractor and its subcontractors will provide all material management to ensure that the project remains on track according to the project milestones.
- All due caution will be exercised in transporting and off-loading all materials to prevent any damage during shipping or placement. Any damage to any materials after their initial receipt and inspection by the respondent will be the sole responsibility of the respondent, who will replace such damaged hand holes at no additional expense to the district.
- Buried conduit shall be multi-duct with at least three innerducts. The fitting shall be gland or set screw type, and each conduit shall be equipped with a graduated pull tape or rope.
- Unless specified by right-of-way owner, crossings will be two conduits, PVC-Sch 40 or better.
- The exact requirements for location and type of conduit within the building shall be verified with building owner.
- All Hand Holes shall be (State) DOT approved, 45,000 lb. load rated CDR or comparable enclosures on roadways and railways, and pedestrian rated hand holes for non-roadways and railways.
- Large-radius sweeps shall be provided where required for offset or change in direction of conduit. Bend radius rating of the cable must be adhered to for all conduit bends, pull boxes, and hand holes.
- Fiber must be single-mode with the following specifications:
    - ITU-T G.652.C/D compliant
    - Maximum Attenuation @ 1310nm: 0.34 dB/km
    - Maximum Attenuation @ 1385nm: 0.31 dB/km
    - Maximum Attenuation @ 1550nm: 0.22 dB/km
- Connector types should be LC unless otherwise specified by the district.
- Any warranties associated with the fiber and any other outside plant materials must revert to the district as the fiber owner upon completion of construction.

Specifications:

Survey

- Comply with all ordinances and regulations. Where required, secure permits before placing or excavating on private property, crossing streams, pushing pipe or boring under streets and railways. Pre-survey shall be done prior to each job.
- Respondent will locate underground lines of third parties in cable route area.

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

Permits and Traffic Control

- The respondent must adhere to all applicable laws, rules and requirements and must apply for permits to place infrastructure per specification per county or city ordinance applicable to where the infrastructure is being placed.
- All traffic control, in accordance with local, state, county, or permitting agency laws, regulations, and requirements, will be the respondent's responsibility. The respondent's construction schedule will take into consideration sufficient time for the development and approval of a traffic control plan.

Tracer Wire Installation

- Tracer wire shall be placed with all conduit installed unless armored or traceable cable is used. The respondent will provide the tracer wire and shall install, splice and test (for continuity) the tracer wire. If the tracer wire is broken during installation, the wire should be repaired and tested for continuity after repair.
- For multi-duct installation, install a 5/8" X 8" copper clad ground rod in the hand-hole located on public right–of-way. Place a #12 insulated copper locate wire from the ground rod to the fiber optic termination room or to the outside of the building directly below the pull box and terminate on one side of an insulated indoor/outdoor terminal block to the master ground bar in the fiber optic termination room or place a ground rod on the outside of the building. Locate block in an accessible location. This is for "locate purposes only," not for grounding purposes. Note on as-built where ground is placed and tag located wire as "locate wire."

Depth of Burial

- Except where otherwise specified, the cable shall be placed to a minimum depth of 36" along roadways and 24" on private property. Greater cable depth will be required at the following locations:
    - Where cable route crosses roads, the cable shall be placed at a minimum depth of 48" below the pavement or 36" below the parallel drainage ditch, whichever is greater, unless the controlling authority requires additional depth, in which case the greatest depth will be maintained.
    - Where cable crosses existing sub-surface pipes, cables, or other structures: at foreign object crossings, the cable will be placed to maintain a minimum of 12" clearance from the object or the minimum clearance required by the object's owner, whichever is greater.

Highway, Railroad, and Other Bored Crossings

- All crossings of state or federal highways and railroads right-of-way shall be made by boring and placing a pipe casing. The cable shall be placed through the pipe casing. County road and other roadways shall be bored, trenched, or plowed as approved by the appropriate local authority.
- All work performed on public right-of-way or railroad right-of-way shall be done in accordance with requirements and regulations of the authority having jurisdiction there under.
- Respondent shall give all notices and comply with all laws, ordinances, rules and regulations bearing on the conduct of the Work as drawn.
- Where the cable route crosses railroad right-of-way, the cable shall be placed at a minimum depth of 60" below the railroad surface or 36" below the parallel drainage ditch, whichever is greater, unless the controlling authority requires additional depth, in which case the greatest depth will be maintained.

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

Cable Markers

- Cable markers shall be placed within 48 hours of cable installation. Unless the right-of-way or property owner specifies otherwise, cable markers shall be placed at all change in directions, splices, fence line crossings, at road and stream crossings, and other points on the route not more than 1,000 feet apart.
- In addition, on highway right-of-way, the markers shall be located at the highway right-of-way line. Markers shall always be located so that they can be seen from the location of the cable.

Hand Holes

- Hand holes will be placed in accordance with standard industry practice following the specifications provided in the construction plans, typical drawings, and detail drawings. Special attention and planning must be exercised to ensure accessibility by other groups after construction has been completed.
- All hand holes unless otherwise stipulated by the drawings will be buried with 12” to 18” of cover at final grade.
- Immediately after placement, the soil around and over the hand hole will be tamped and compacted. Should any washouts occur, the respondent will be responsible for correcting the problem immediately without additional cost to the district.
- After cable placement, all ducts will be sealed.
- All splice hand holes/manholes will be grounded.
- A minimum of 100’ coil of cable shall be left in each hand hole/building for splicing use.

Splicing

- Fiber to fiber fusion splicing of optical fibers at each point including head ends is required.
- Complete testing services, such as end to end, reel testing, and splice loss testing, ORL, power meter/laser source testing and WDM testing is required.
- Individual splice loss will be 0.10 dB for single-mode unless after 3 attempts these values cannot be achieved, then the fibers will be re-spliced until a splice loss within 0.05 dB of the lowest previous attempts is achieved. Splice loss acceptance testing will be based on the fusion splicer’s splice loss estimator.
- All cables to buildings shall be fusion spliced within a minimum of 50’ of entering a building at a location to be determined by the owner with an existing single mode fiber and terminated at customer’s rack.

Aerial Plant

- District is open to aerial fiber runs using existing utility poles, but respondent must adhere to pole owners’ requirements for clearances, spans, grounding, guys and attachments.

Testing Cable

- The respondent shall be responsible for on-reel verification of cable quality prior to placement.
- Completed test forms on each reel shall be submitted to the district.
- Respondent assumes responsibility for the cable after testing. This responsibility covers all fibers in the cable.

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

- The respondent shall supply all tools, test equipment, consumables, and incidentals necessary to perform quality testing.
- The cable ends shall be sealed upon completion of testing.
- In addition to splice loss testing, selected respondent will perform end-to-end insertion loss testing of single-mode fibers at 1310 nm and 1550 nm from one direction for each terminated fiber span in accordance with TIA/EIA-526-7 (OFSTP 7). For spans greater than 300 feet, each tested span must test to a value less than or equal to the value determined by calculating a link loss budget.

Restoration

- All work sites will be restored to as near their original undisturbed condition as possible, all cleanup will be to the satisfaction of the district and any permitting agencies.
- Respondent shall provide a brief description of restoration plan in the response, with the expectation that a more detailed restoration plan will be delivered before construction begins.
    - Work site restoration will include the placement of seed, mulch, sod, water, gravel, soil, sand, and all other materials as warranted.
    - Backfill material will consist of clean fill. Backfilling, tamping, and compaction will be performed to the satisfaction of the district, the representative of any interested permitting agency, and/or the railroad representative.
    - Respondent will be responsible for any restoration complaints arising within one year after the district's final acceptance.
    - Excess material will be disposed of properly.
    - Debris from clearing operations will be properly disposed of by the respondent/subcontractors as required by permitting agencies or the railroad. Railroad ties, trees, stumps or any foreign debris will be removed, stacked, or disposed of by the respondent as per requirements by other interested permitting agencies, and/or the district.
    - Road shoulders, roadbeds, and railroad property will be dressed up at the end of each day. No payment for installation will be permitted until cleanup has been completed to the satisfaction of any permitting agencies, and/or the district.
- Site clean-up will include the restoration of all concrete, asphalt, or other paving materials to the satisfaction of the other interested permitting agencies, and/or the district.

Documentation

As-built drawings will include:

- Fiber cable routes
- Drawings, site drawings, permit drawings, and computerized design maps and electronically stored consolidated field notes for the entire route must include:
    - Verification of as-built and computerized maps
    - Splicing locations
    - Optical fiber assignments at patch panels
    - Optical fiber assignments at splice locations

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

- Installed cable length
- Date of installation

- Aerial installation documents should include:
  - Pole attachment inventories
  - Pole attachment applications
  - Pole attachment agreements between respondent and other utilities
  - GPS points of reference for utility poles
  - Photo images of poles to which fiber is attached
- Underground installation documents should include:
  - Conduit design and detailing
  - Manhole detailing
  - Preparation of all forms and documentation for approval of conduit construction and/or installation
- Fiber details will include:
  - Manufacturer
  - Cable type and diameter
  - Jacket type: singlemode
  - Fiber core and cladding diameter
  - Fiber attenuation per kilometer
  - Fiber bandwidth and dispersion
  - Index of refraction
- OTDR documentation will include:
  - Each span shall be tested bi-directionally from endpoint to endpoint.
  - Each span's traces shall be recorded and mapped. Each splice loss from each direction and the optical length between splices as well as any of the information required by Span Map.
  - Reel acceptance
  - Individual fiber traces for complete fiber length
  - Paper and computer disk records of all traces
  - Losses of individual splices
  - Anomalies
  - Wavelength tests and measurement directions
  - Manufacturer, model, serial number, and date of last calibration of OTDR

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

- Power Meter documentation will include:
    - Total link loss of each fiber
    - Wavelengths tested and measurement directions
    - Manufacturer, model, serial number, and date of last calibration for all equipment used

References, Standards, and Codes

Specifications in this document are not meant to supersede state law or industry standards. Respondents shall note in their response where their proposal does not follow the requested specification to comply with state law or industry standard. The following standards are based upon the *Customer-Owned Outside Plant Design Manual* (CO-OSP) produced by BICSI, the *Telecommunications Distribution Methods Manual* (TDMM) also produced by BICSI, ANSI/TIA/EIA and ISO/IEC standards, and NEC codes, among others.

It is required that the respondent be thoroughly familiar with the content and intent of these references, standards, and codes and that the respondent be capable of applying the content and intent of these references, standards, and codes to all outside plant communications system designs executed on the behalf of the district.

Listed in the table below are references, standards, and codes applicable to outside plant communications systems design. If questions arise as to which reference, standard, or code should apply in a given situation, the more stringent shall prevail. As each of these documents are modified over time, the latest edition and addenda to each of these documents is considered to be definitive.

Table 1 — References, Standards, and Codes

Standard/Reference	Name/Description
BICSI CO-OSP	BICSI Customer-Owned Outside Plant Design Manual
BICSI TDMM	BICSI Telecommunications Distribution Methods Manual
BICSI TCIM	BICSI Telecommunications Cabling Installation Manual
ANSI/TIA-758	Customer-Owned Outside Plant Telecommunications Cabling Standard
TIA/EIA - 568	Commercial Building Telecommunications Cabling Standard
TIA/EIA - 569	Commercial Building Standard for Telecommunication Pathways and Spaces
TIA/EIA - 606	The Administration Standard for the Telecommunications Infrastructure of Commercial Buildings
TIA/EIA - 607	Commercial Building Grounding and Bonding Requirements for Telecommunications
TIA/EIA - 455	Fiber Optic Test Standards
TIA/EIA - 526	Optical Fiber Systems Test Procedures
IEEE 802.3 (series)	Local Area Network Ethernet Standard, including the IEEE 802.3z Gigabit Ethernet Standard
NEC	National Electric Code, NFPA
NESC	National Electrical Safety Code, IEEE

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

Standard/Reference	Name/Description
OSHA Codes	Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1910 - General Industry, and 1926 - Construction Industry, et al.

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

VII. AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES

In the case of **Services Delivered over Third-Party Networks:**

- Proposed services must meet the following specifications:
    - The provider will make all reasonable efforts to ensure 99.99% network availability of each circuit.
    - .25% frame/packet loss commitment
    - 25ms network latency commitment
    - 10ms network jitter commitment
    - There is no right of the provider to limit or throttle the capacity of the circuit at any time for any reason.
    - Vendor stated commitment is to respond to any outage within two (2) hours and a four (4) hour restoration of service.
- Network operations center: Solution will provide customer support functions including problem tracking, resolution and escalation support management on a 24x7x365 basis. Customer has the right and is encouraged to call concerning any problems that may arise relative to its connection with vendor provided services.
- Trouble reporting and response: Upon interruption, degradation or loss of service, Customer may contact Vendor by defined method with a response based on trouble level. Upon contact from the Customer, the Vendor support team will initiate an immediate response to resolve any Customer issue. Customer will receive rapid feedback on trouble resolution, including potential resolution time.
- Escalation: In the event that service has not been restored in a timely manner, or the Customer does not feel that adequate attention has been allocated, the Customer can escalate the trouble resolution by request. A list of escalation contacts will be provided when implementation schedule is completed.
- Resolution: The Customer will be notified immediately once the problem is resolved and will be asked for verbal closure of the incident.
- Trouble reporting, escalation and resolution: A detailed trouble reporting, escalation and resolution plan will be provided to the district.
- Measurement: Time starts from the time the Customer contacts vendor and identifies the problem. Credits for outages of a certain duration or longer will be identified. Credits for outages should be the following:

Length of Service Outage	Credit is the following percentage of monthly recurring cost
Less than 2 hours	No Credit
Greater than two (2) hours and less than four (4) hours	5%
Greater than four (4) hours and less than eight (8) hours	10%
Greater than eight (8) hours and less than twelve (12) hours	15%

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

Length of Service Outage	Credit is the following percentage of monthly recurring cost
Greater than twelve (12) hours and less than sixteen (16) hours	20%
Greater than sixteen (16) hours and less than twenty-four (24) hours	35%
Greater than twenty-four (24) hours	50%

- Reports: Upon request, an incident report will be made available to the Customer within five (5) working days of resolution of the trouble.
- Link performance per segment: The service will maintain the proposed link performance throughout the term of the contract.
- Historical uptime: Provide aggregate uptime statistics for your proposed service in the geographic area encompassing Applicant.

System and services must be installed, tested, and fully operational to all specified sites at least 48 hours prior to 7:00 am, July 1, 2027. Unless otherwise negotiated with the District, the District reserves the right to terminate the contract and award services to the next qualified vendor if the system and services are not available at the time and date specified above.

Service activation must be transparent and any down time required to activate the system and services must be approved by District personnel.

The vendor must provide documentation on the resources they will use to manage, monitor, and repair equipment and infrastructure at all locations.

GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT reserves the right to cancel the contract with the vendor for non-performance at any time during the contract period. Nonperformance includes but is not limited to failure to supply good quality service, failure to provide services for the full term of the contract, installation performance, poor billing and customer service, and failure to maintain status as an authorized representative of services.

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

VIII. E-RATE ELIGIBLE PRICING

All pricing must be submitted using the "Pricing Spreadsheet" that is included as a separate Excel spreadsheet with this RFP.

OPTION A: Self-Provisioned High-Speed Broadband Network - Provide a proposal with a District owned network based on a special construction project with associated costs (right-of-way, easements, pole attachments, maintenance, repair and service of the network, etc.).

OPTION B: Services Delivered Over Third-Party Networks – GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT must have dedicated, symmetrical transport bandwidth of at least 10Gbps with Service Level Agreement (SLA) guarantees between the designated endpoints. The solution must be scalable to 20 Gbps. Pricing is requested for both a 36-month term and a 60-month term, each with two (2) voluntary 12-month extensions.

Maintenance for Self-Provisioned High-Speed Broadband Network (if bidding separately): The District is requesting pricing for on-going maintenance of the network components on self-provisioned solutions. Please note that respondents submitting proposal may also bid on maintenance services provided they bid it separately. Price quotes are requested for 36-month and 60-month terms of service, each with two (2) voluntary 12-month extensions.

Special Construction[5] Information for Form 471 and PIA Review:

All E-Rate applications including special construction are subject to detailed questioning during PIA review where the cost of proposed special construction will be reviewed based on the cost of historical builds in the region. Additionally, certain information on necessary special construction is needed to accurately fill out the Form 471. Respondents are required to fill out the table in "Pricing Spreadsheet" that is provided with this RFP. Additionally, respondents are encouraged (but not required) to submit the additional information in the "Pricing Spreadsheet" that is provided with this RFP that will likely be requested during PIA review. **If respondents do not submit this additional information with their bid, and their solution is chosen, they must be prepared to promptly provide that information and any additional information not described in this RFP when requested.** Please note that vendors may assist applicants with preparing funding requests or responding to PIA questions and may speak directly with PIA reviewers.

Special Construction Payment Plan Option:

Depending on the overall cost of the solution, GIRARD SCHOOL DISTRICT requests that the respondents consider allowing the District to pay the non-discount share of special construction costs (portion of costs that are the responsibility of the applicant) to be paid in equal annual installments over three years from Funding Year 2027 to Funding Year 2029 inclusive. Respondents are not required to offer installment payments. Responses must include agreement or non-agreement of this request. Respondents are required to fill out the table in "Pricing Spreadsheet" that is provided with this RFP indicating their willingness to consider the payment plan option.

[5] *See Section XI: SECA Cost Allocation Scenarios for Special Construction Costs.*

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

IX. WAN REFERENCES[6]

REFERENCE #1:

Name of Reference (Organization)

Contact Name

Phone Number

Email Address

REFERENCE #2:

Name of Reference (Organization)

Contact Name

Phone Number

Email Address

REFERENCE #3:

Name of Reference (Organization)

Contact Name

Phone Number

Email Address

[6] *Please return this page with your company's response.*

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

X. MAP DATA ©2026 GOOGLE, OF DISTRICT ADMIN OFFICE TO DISTRICT LOCATIONS:

Any route that is deemed cost-effective may be used to provide a connection by the service provider.



Figure 1: Admin office/HS to Rice Avenue Middle School, District Stadium, District Bus Garage, and Elk Valley Elementary School.

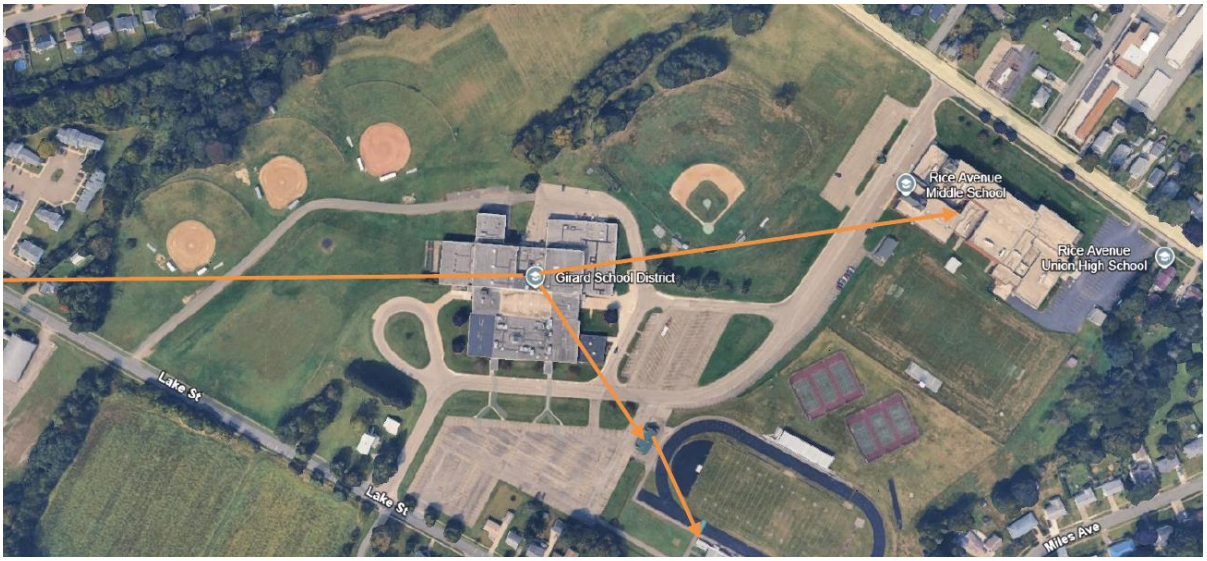


Figure 2: Close up of Admin office/HS to Rice Avenue Middle School and District Stadium. (Bus Garage and Elk Valley Elementary School are south of the Admin office/HS.) Two connections are required at the stadium: one to concession and one from concession to press box.

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

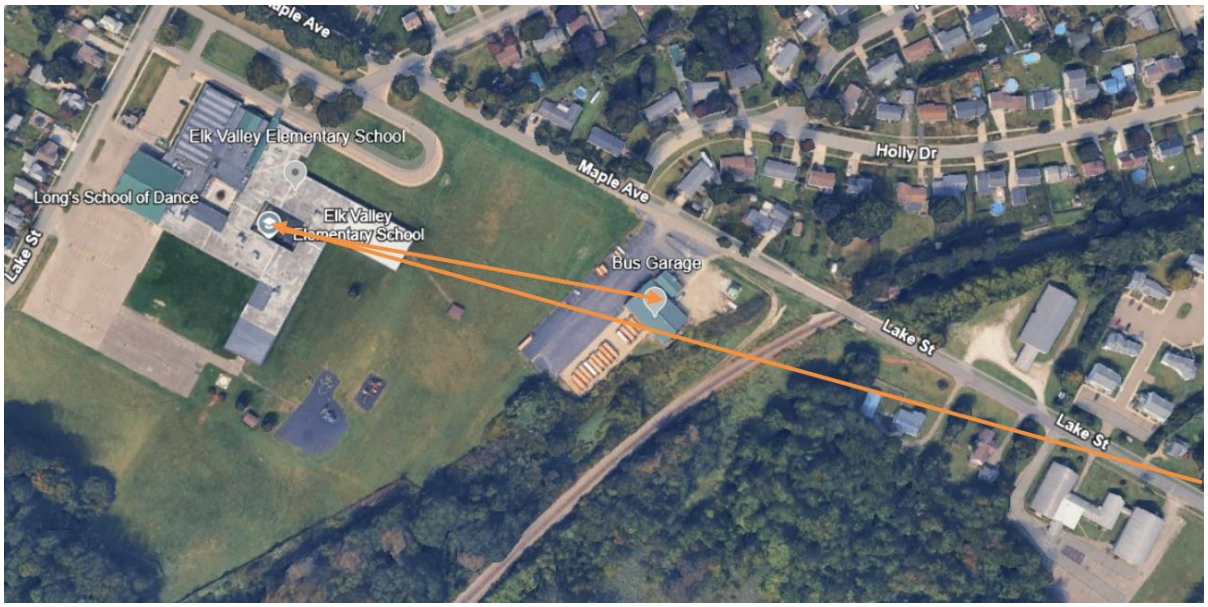


Figure 3: Close-up view of the District Bus Garage and Elk Valley Elementary School (the Administration Office/HS is located north of both buildings). The Bus Garage does not have core switching capabilities; therefore, the District recommends that the Administration Office/HS should connect directly to Elk Valley Elementary School, and then connectivity extended from EVES to the Bus Garage, if possible.

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

XI. E-RATE SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS – EXCESS STRANDS COST ALLOCATION

Prepared by the State E-Rate Coordinators' Alliance - October 23, 2017

A. LEASED LIT FIBER AND LEASED DARK FIBER

1. Excess Strands for Applicant's Future Use

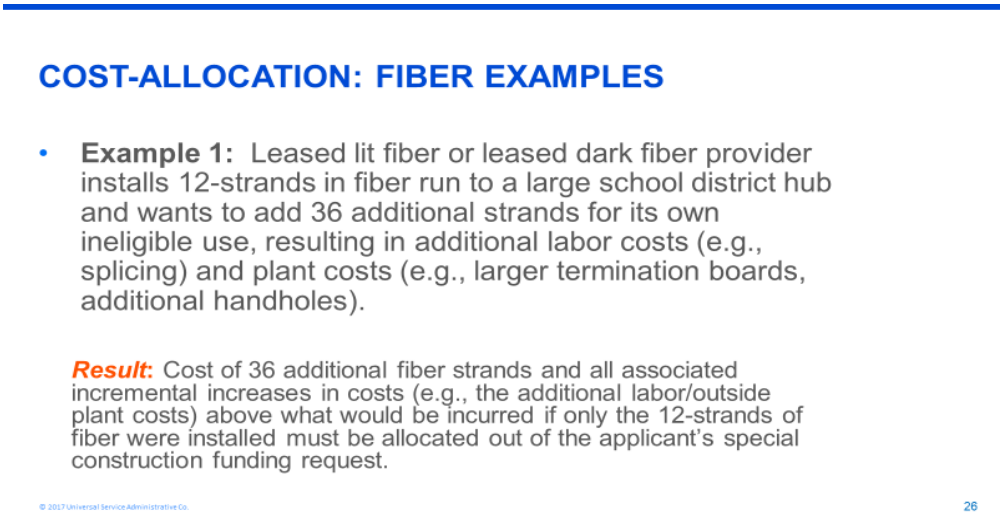
If the service provider installs additional strands for the applicant's exclusive future use in a leased dark fiber or leased lit fiber special construction project, and if the applicant can show documentation that buying a cable containing the number of strands placed in the fiber system for the applicant's future use is more cost effective than buying a fiber cable with the number of strands the applicant plans to place into service the first year, no cost allocation of the excess strands is required and no other special construction charges would need to be cost allocated.

If the service provider installs excess strands for the applicant's exclusive future use in a leased dark fiber or leased lit fiber special construction project where the excess strands will remain dormant until they are lit for the applicant in the future, and if the applicant cannot show that it is not more cost effective than buying the exact number of fiber strands being lit in the first year, the applicant must cost allocate the costs associated with the excess strands only. No other special construction charges would need to be cost allocated.

2. Excess Strands for Service Provider's Future Use

For lit services special construction and leased dark fiber special construction, if the service provider wishes to place extra strands in the build for its own use, the E-Rate applicant must cost allocate the cost of the service provider-owned extra strands, as well as all incremental costs of those extra strands from the special construction E-Rate funding request. It is not a pro-rata share, but an incremental cost calculation that must be backed by detailed documentation.

Example 1 from Funding Year 2018 USAC Fiber Training Slides applies:



Applicants should seek documentation from the provider which outlines the added incremental costs attributable to designing, managing and constructing a fiber system with a 48-strand cable instead of a 12-strand cable. Such costs should include (but are not limited to):

- Splice Labor. If any fibers over the applicant's fibers are spliced, the labor for these additional splices must be cost allocated.

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

- Splice Enclosures are placed to protect splices. If any fibers over the applicant's fibers are spliced and require an enclosure, the enclosures for these additional splices must be cost allocated.
- Fiber Installation Labor. This represents the incremental cost of pulling a larger cable through the buried conduit.
- Structured materials installation. This represents the additional cost of burying a larger conduit to support the additional fibers.

Note that the costs associated with installing a larger cable strand than what is required by the applicant are ineligible and the service provider should not include such costs in their special construction billing to the applicant but should be prepared to show evidence during PIA review that it did not charge the applicant for these incremental costs.

Figure 1: Here is a table outlining some possible incremental costs:

Item	12 Strand cable construction	48 strand cable construction	Cost Allocation Amount that service provider should remove from the special construction request
Fiber Cable	38 cents per foot	$1.04 per foot	66 cents per foot
Design and Engineering	$2.12 per foot	$2.42 per foot	30 cents per foot to depict additional splices at A and Z locations
Project Management	$1.18 per foot	$1.18 per foot	0
Splice labor*	$11.00 per splice	$11.00 per splice	$11 per splice over 12 splices at any splice site
Splice enclosures	$205 per enclosure	$205 per enclosure	$205 per enclosure for every enclosure over 12
Fiber Patch Panel	$71.43 per panel	$218.60 per panel	$147.17 per panel
Conduit and other structured materials	1.25" conduit required $1.95 per foot; Handhole (40,000 lb rated) $2695 per unit; Fiber Marker $30 per unit	1.5" conduit required $2.35 per foot; Handhole (40,000 lb rated) $2695 per unit; Fiber marker $30 per unit	40 cents per foot; No cost difference for handhole; No cost difference per marker
Fiber Installation Labor *	25 cents per foot	28 cents per foot	3 cents per foot
Structured Materials Installation (conduit, markers, handholes)	$2.85 per foot	$3.10 per foot	25 cents per foot
Markers	Place every 500'	Place every 500'	No cost difference

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

Item	12 Strand cable construction	48 strand cable construction	Cost Allocation Amount that service provider should remove from the special construction request
Handholes	Place every 1000’	Place every 1000’	No cost difference

B. SELF-PROVISIONED (APPLICANT-OWNED) FIBER:

There are different cost allocation rules that apply, depending on whether fiber is only being purchased and used by:

- A single, eligible entity (school or library)
- A consortium of all eligible entities
- A consortium of eligible and ineligible “NON-public sector, municipal entities”
- A consortium of eligible and ineligible “public sector, municipal entities”

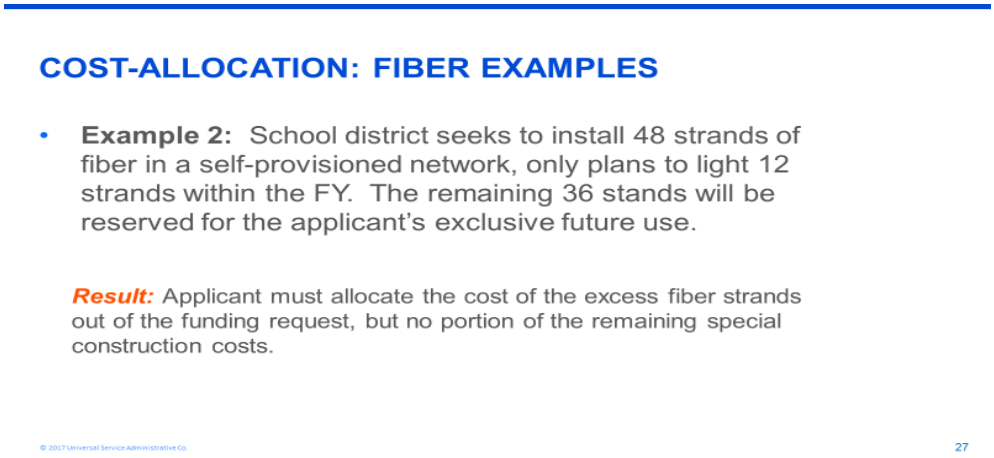
1. Single, Eligible School or Library

- If the applicant installs the exact number of fiber strands that they will light in the first year, and no extra fibers are installed, all fiber strands and special construction charges are eligible and no cost allocation is required.
- If the applicant installs more fiber strands than it will light in the first year, E-Rate will pay for the number of strands being lit in the first year, but not the additional strands. No cost allocation is required for the special construction charges. E-Rate applicants can only receive E-Rate funding for self-provisioned fibers that are lit within the funding year. If they request excess strands that will remain dormant until the applicant lights the excess strands for their exclusive future use, then they would need to cost allocate the cost of the unlit strands in the applicable funding year.

If the applicant can show documentation that buying a cable containing the number of strands placed in the fiber system for the applicant’s future use is more cost effective than buying a fiber cable with the number of strands the applicant plans to place into service the first year, no cost allocation for excess strands by the applicant is required.

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

Example 2 from the Funding Year 2018 USAC Fiber Training Slides applies:



Item	12 Strand Cable	48 Strand Cable	Cost Allocation Amount that applicant should remove from the one-time special construction reimbursement request
Fiber Cable	$.38 per foot	$1.04 per foot	$.66 per foot

2. Consortium Comprised of All E-Rate Eligible Entities

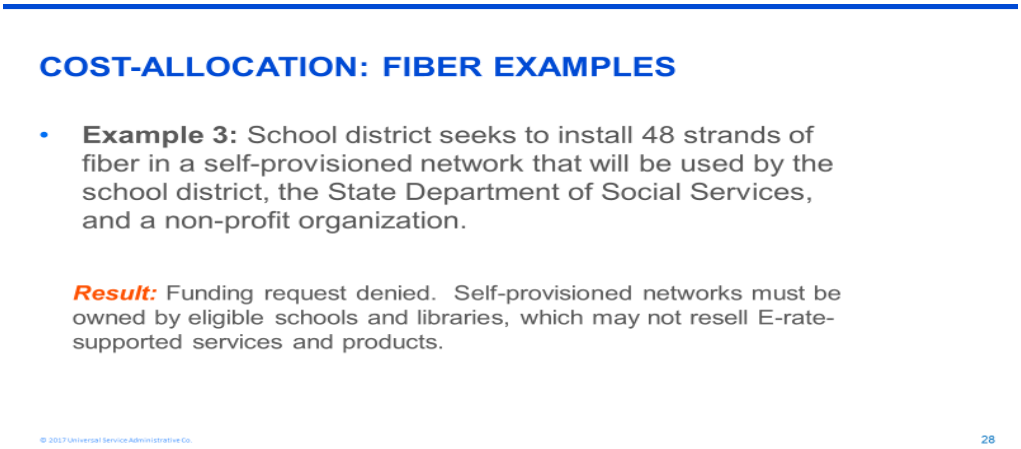
As with Example 2, all fiber (lit and unlit in the first year) must be dedicated to eligible entities only and the cost of strands not lit in the first year must be cost allocated.

3. Consortium of Eligible and Ineligible Entities (NON-public sector, municipal)

If the eligible entity purchases and installs fiber for the usage of the eligible entities and the ineligible (non-public sector) entities, the funding request will be denied. E-Rate funded self-provisioned fiber is exclusively owned by the E-Rate applicant consortium and is for the exclusive use of the E-Rate eligible applicant.

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

In this case, Example 3 from the Funding Year 2018 USAC Fiber Training Slides applies:

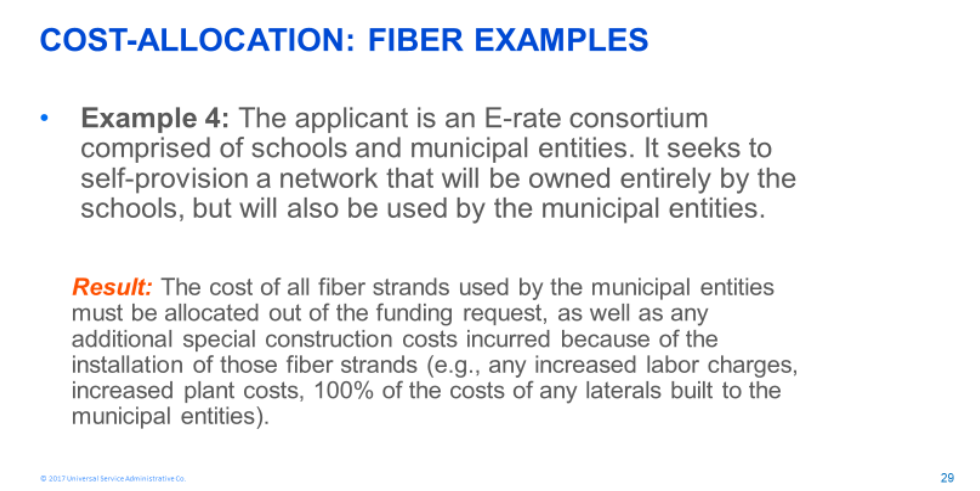


4. Consortium of Eligible Entities and Ineligible "Public Sector, Municipal Entities"

For a self-provisioning consortium that includes a public-sector partner, the special construction cost-allocation rules are the same as the Leased Lit Fiber services with special construction or Leased Dark Fiber services with special construction. The cost of the ineligible fibers must be deducted from the funding request, but only the incremental costs related to labor, materials, engineering, project management, and design must be cost allocated.

For the purposes of E-Rate, "public sector partner" is defined as health care providers and public sector (governmental) entities, including, but not limited to state colleges and universities, state educational broadcasters, counties and municipalities.

For this type of consortium, Example 4 from the Funding Year 2018 USAC Fiber Training Slides applies:



Note: The eligible applicant should be prepared to show evidence during PIA review that it has deducted all incremental costs associated with design, engineering, project management, construction, procurement of fiber and procurement of structured materials of the larger strand cable when compared to the costs associated with design, engineering, project management, construction, procurement of fiber and procurement of structured materials of the fiber strand cable only used by the eligible applicant.

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.

XII. ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

The following Environmental Objectives are provided for your review and consideration. They will be used in the evaluation of responses to this bid and Form 470 associated with this bid.

- **Quality and Responsiveness of Proposal –** the degree to which responder answered the bid questions; completeness and clarity of response; conformance to instructions; conformance to terms and conditions; conformance to bid specifications.

- **Technical Merit of the Proposed Solution –** Did the responder demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the project and familiarity with the requirements and specifications?

- **Substantial Responsiveness –** Does the proposal fulfill the requirements and the technical specifications or propose a different design that does not offer substantial equivalence in critical performance parameters or in other requirements?

- **Technology Evaluation –** The technology platform and architecture being proposed needs to be evaluated to make sure that the equipment can meet the application and service demands that will be placed on the services requested.

- **Relevant Experience –** Does the responder have experience in the configuration and installation of services similar to the scale and scope that you intend for your district?

- **Availability of Technical Support –** Are there readily available technicians who will provide troubleshooting?

- **Check References –** Contact references to verify quality and technical performance of WANs installed by responders.

- **Reliability of Service/Continuance of Service –** What is the responder's record of reliability? What is the maximum length of downtime for transition, upgrade, and repair (the period of time during which service is not provided) of the services requested?

- **Flexibility –** Responder's willingness and experience in adapting to mid-course corrections.

- **Scalability –** Is the solution architecture scalable for future growth and enhancements?

- **User Experience –** Ease of use; compatibility with existing systems/hardware.

- **Open Standards –** Does the solution utilize Proprietary or Open Standards based equipment?

- **Review of Terms and Conditions –** Does the responder have SLAs? What is their detailed plan that will enable them to meet the SLA?

- **Vendor's Financial Stability –** Review the financials of the bid responders to ensure they have the financial livelihood to deploy the project.

- **Warranty –** Extended warranty offer; length of time on individual components, replacement components and parts; quick and efficient exchange and replacement process.

©2026 Epic Communications, Inc.