Fort Wayne Community Schools

Request for Proposals – Internet Access
RFP #101918
470 #270005672

November 23, 2026

Fort Wayne Community Schools seeks Internet Access and Data Transmission Services. We seek symmetrical bandwidth at 20 Gbps with guaranteed throughput to the Applicant's head-end located at 1200 S. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802, beginning July 1, 2027. Please provide laddered pricing in all bids and contracts. Bidders are advised that this project will be contingent upon the successful obtaining of E-Rate funding, and the contract agreement between the Applicant and the selected vendor must recognize that contingency.

The Applicant seeks a 3 or 5-year contract with or without voluntary extensions; other terms will be considered. All cost proposals must reflect the LCP (Lowest Corresponding Price), GSA pricing, and any available governmental unit discounts including existing state purchasing agreements or contracts. Any proposal referencing an existing state purchasing agreement or contract must include that information in the proposal. Bid prices must be complete for the services proposed and shall include all associated costs, even if the amounts are estimated based upon current applicable taxes, surcharges, or fees. The Applicant requires that the selected vendor be willing to utilize the E-Rate SPI form of invoicing (discounted invoices).

Your proposal must include any service provider owned onsite equipment necessary to hand off service to the Applicant's head-end equipment, and you should describe your proposed hand-off as part of your response. Additional features included or available, such as resiliency, basic firewall service, and DDoS protection, should also be described in your proposal.

Each respondent must provide a proposed Service Level Agreement (SLA) with their response. The proposed SLA must include a description of the services provided, and where applicable, describe how these services will be measured. At a minimum, the SLA should describe that the vendor will make all reasonable efforts to ensure 99.99% network availability of each circuit, and it should provide frame/packet loss, network latency, and network jitter commitments. Additionally, each SLA should describe 24x7x365 trouble-reporting procedures, offer commitments with regard to the time to repair outages, and describe provisions offered in the event of chronic trouble. The minimum commitment to be guaranteed is a two-hour diagnosis and a four-hour temporary or permanent repair. Respondents should describe monthly and annual service reports offered, showing peak usage, downtime, and impaired performance versus the SLA, for each link. The services described in the SLA shall be maintained to the specifications of these commitments throughout the term of the contract, and the selected Service Provider shall remediate any deficiencies at no cost to the Applicant.

With your response, please provide information and separate pricing for any advanced firewall services, separately available DDoS services, and/or CIPA-compliant Internet filtering services that you can provide. While not eligible for E-rate support at the time of the publication of this RFP, the District is interested in information and pricing for these services should they become eligible during the life of this agreement. This pricing must be separate from the E-rate eligible services bid.

If there are any separate installation or special construction costs necessary to bring a service to our headend, the cost proposal must clearly describe those costs separately from monthly recurring costs, and the service provider must be prepared to assist with any USAC review questions concerning those costs. We may request that the undiscounted portion of any upfront, nonrecurring costs be paid in installments as allowed by Section II.A.2. of FCC 14-189 (AKA the Second E-Rate Modernization Order). However, please note that the Applicant prefers a fixed monthly recurring charge with no separate up-front installation or construction costs.

Questions

No informational meetings or building visits will be scheduled. Any questions related to the technical aspects of this document should be directed to Trevor Frohberg, Coordinator of Cybersecurity and Disaster Recovery at Erate@fwcs.k12.in.us, with the subject of the E-mail including, "**2027 E-Rate Internet Access Request for Proposal**", no later than 10:00 AM EST on December 11, 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.

Compliance with Specifications

By submitting a proposal, the Service Provider certifies that it has read and agrees to the following terms and conditions. Failure to meet any requirement outlined herein is an adequate cause to reject your proposal.

- The Service Provider has clearly listed any exceptions to any requirements or conditions set forth in this RFP with which it is unable or unwilling to comply and has included all relevant standard or additional contract terms and conditions with its proposal. Such exceptions, terms, and conditions must be set forth with specificity and may not be incorporated by reference.

- The Service Provider agrees that the final contract shall incorporate and not override any terms or conditions set forth in this RFP, minus any agreed-upon exceptions, and that the RFP will be incorporated into the final contract.

- The Service Provider agrees to follow and abide by the rules of the E-Rate program as promulgated by USAC and the FCC and certifies that it has not been suspended, debarred, or placed on Red Light Status within the prior three years. Service Provider further agrees that any costs not funded

by the E-rate Program due to Service Provider violations of Program rules will be the sole responsibility of the Service Provider.

Response Format

All bids must include the following information:

1. A description of services to be provided with detailed information regarding any required construction, including a timeline for completion of every phase of work necessary to demonstrate service delivery by July 1, 2027.
2. Complete pricing for the services described herein. Your proposal must clearly indicate nonrecurring costs, recurring costs, and fees for the service being proposed, for each service tier. If your proposed agreement has a built-in "price escalator" clause, that escalator must be detailed within your bid response (not merely mentioned in your sample agreement).
3. Proposed Service Level Agreement.
4. Three (3) reference sites where your company has performed a similar service, including business name, contact name, and contact information. It is preferable that at least one reference should be for a school district of similar size within 200 miles of the Applicant.
5. Your E-Rate SPIN Number. (You must have a current SPAC form on file with USAC.
6. A sample contract which includes the proposal requirements and the E-Rate contingencies outlined herein. (Failure to provide a contract in a timely fashion may be considered grounds for disqualification.)

The District'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 pricing and terms, technical details, SLA, experience and references, and compliance with the requirements laid out in this document.

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.

Bids will be received at FWCS Business Services, 1200 S. Clinton St, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802, until 2:00 p.m. EST, Tuesday, January 12, 2027. Bids received after that time will be returned unopened. The original copy of your bid must be sent via delivery service or hand delivered. Emailed bids will not be accepted as responsive and therefore rejected.

Submit one (1) original bid plus one (1) complete hard copies of your bid. Additionally, an electronic copy of your bid must be submitted on a USB drive.