



E-rate RFP
WAN Circuits
Internet Access Service
Network Equipment
Maintenance and Operation

Addendum #1 – Answers to Vendor Questions from Pre-Bidding Conference of August 17, 2021

Addendum dated August 23, 2021

Please note – This document addresses questions received during the pre-bidding conference. We anticipate receiving additional inquiries through the August 27, 2021 deadline for vendor inquiries. We will issue another Addendum to address any additional questions and answers.

1	Question -- Will you award the WAN and Internet components individually and potentially on different terms? Answer -- Yes. The sequence of review of the service proposals is as follows: First, proposals for leased lit fiber and comparable technology proposals will be reviewed and scored, and the most cost effective lit fiber/comparable technology proposal will be identified. Second, proposals for leased dark fiber and comparable technology proposals will be reviewed and scored, and the most cost effective lit fiber/comparable technology proposal will be identified. Third, proposals for network equipment to light the dark fiber service will be scored and the most cost effective proposal will be identified. Fourth, proposals for maintenance and operation of dark fiber will be scored and the most cost effective proposal will be identified. Fifth, the most cost effective leased lit fiber proposal will be compared to the total cost of the most cost effective leased dark fiber, network equipment and maintenance and operation proposals and the most cost effective solution – either leased lit fiber or leased dark fiber – will be identified. Sixth, proposals for Internet access service will be scored. Please note that alternative and contingent proposals for Internet access service may be submitted. That is, a vendor may not be interested in pursuing their Internet proposal if their circuit proposal is not accepted. Other vendors may submit two Internet proposals – one that is independent of their circuit proposal and one that is contingent on being awarded the circuit contract. We will evaluate all applicable Internet proposals depending on the identified highest scoring circuit bidder's proposal.
2	Question -- Will you accept the {Internet and circuit} proposals as separate responses? Answer -- Yes, please refer to the answer to Question 1.
3	Question -- Please describe your current network configuration and WAN service. Answer -- We currently have an ANY to ANY network design with no single homing site. It is most similar to a MPLS architecture using a combination of fiber facilities and virtual connections. The two data centers are nodes on the network and the vendor's service includes the managed

	routing. The service is called “Ethernet Network Service” and enables the District to connect different physical locations across a Metropolitan Area Network as though they were all on the same Local Area Network. The district can implement its own VLANs without vendor involvement. Per the vendor, it is more reliable, scalable and cost effective than a traditional hub and spoke topology using Frame Relay, TDM private lines or IP VPNs. The other characteristics are:	
	Single Ethernet interface	Sites can send and receive traffic to and from any other site within the network through a single Ethernet interface.
	VLAN transparency	VLAN configurations can be changed within the network without vendor involvement.
	Scalable capacity	Quickly expand your capacity from 2 Gbps up to 100 Gbps with just a phone call to the vendor’s Customer Service Center.
	Secure, private connection	Transfer data securely over the vendor’s private network, bypassing the public Internet.
	Performance reporting	View connectivity statistics via a secure Vendor web portal for the previous day, week, or month.
	24/7 priority support	24/7 support and monitoring by Vendor.
3	Question -- For the WAN, having 2 data centers/hubs, is there a requirement for some schools to be connected to each hub and if so, which schools need to connect to which data center; or, are all schools required to connect to each data center? Answer -- There is no hard and fast requirement that each of the 21 schools be physically or virtually connected to each of the two data centers. Our requirement is that in the event of an outage at one data center, all the buildings would continue to be online by re-routing their traffic to the other data center that remained up and running. We seek the most efficient design of the network.	
4	Question -- Is the 10/40G connection to HUB sites a Point to Point between the two sites? Answer -- Yes, either a physical or virtual point to point circuit between the two hub sites is requested.	
5	Question -- Would you want a PTP built in for redundancy? Answer -- Our requirements seek to ensure continuity of service and do not seek to build in redundancy. We expect all services and facilities will be in operation and used from Day 1 of the contract, so that there is no “standby” or “redundant” service. We believe that a virtual or physical point to point architecture offers the most reliable service; however, vendors are free to propose their most efficient and reliable design using their recommended underlying technology.	
6	Question -- So that {PTP} would be in addition to the WAN as it stands today? Answer -- Please refer to the answer to Question 5.	
7	Question -- Will the district provide an equipment profile so compatible optics can be proposed in our response? Answer -- Our equipment at all schools is Cisco, and we're using Cisco multimode SFP+ with LC connectors on our side of the network. The 10-gig optics are the 10G-LRM models which has a wavelength of 1310. All in house fiber is OM3 and running at 1310nm. We would want it broken out this way. The 1-gig optics are 1000Base-SX SFP's.	
8	Question -- Is it okay to respond with different options for design diversity in a response? Answer -- Yes, indeed. We encourage vendors to submit alternative network designs and to discuss the pluses and minuses of each proposed design and technology.	

9	Question -- Would an SD WAN solution be considered? Answer -- Yes.
10	Question -- Our surveyor has identified that 1990 Wabank is no longer a school building? Answer -- Correct, the address is 2000 Wabank Street, Lancaster and we are updating the Appendix A price proposal template to reflect the correct address.
11	Question -- Is everything at Martin now in 2000 Wabank? Answer -- Yes.
12	Question -- Are existing entry ducts available for use or will new building entries be required? Answer -- At this time, we do not know whether existing entry ducts are available. We encourage vendors to examine the entry duct facilities at each site to ascertain this information or to assume that entry ducts are not available and would need to be incorporated into your proposal.
13	Question -- Is there any penalty if you DO NOT propose all service types? Answer -- No, there is not.
14	Question -- Are there any bonus points awarded if you DO propose both WAN AND Internet? Answer -- No, there is not. Please refer to the answer to Question 1 above for more information.
15	Question -- Are there any design requirements for the Dark Fiber option such as, for example, PTP fiber from each remote school back to each HUB or back to closest HUB Answer -- We require a direct connection between each school and hub site, either virtual or physical. Please refer to the answer to Question 3 for more information. We do not want any school connections to be 'daisy chained' and connected to the hub site via another school's connection.
16	Question -- If SD WAN option were to be viewed as cost prohibitive by proposing vendor, would the district prefer a leased lit P2P or MPLS design? Answer -- We encourage vendors to propose their most cost effective and most reliable solution. A vendor may propose both a leased lit point to point fiber network and/or a MPLS network or any other technology that is comparable in quality and reliability to leased lit or leased dark fiber.
17	Question -- Can you please describe your current network configuration? Answer: We currently have an ANY to ANY network design with no single homing site. It is most similar to a MPLS architecture using a combination of fiber facilities and virtual connections.
18	Question -- Is a .kmz or similar type map of the current network configuration available to share with prospective bidders? Answer -- No such map or documentation is available for distribution to prospective bidders. Bidders have the physical addresses of each site and have the opportunity to attend a site visit of each site and therefore the District believes that each prospective bidder has the ability to gather needed technical and physical information about each site to prepare a proposal for each of the five service groups.

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End of Addendum #1