

# Papillion La Vista Community Schools

Technology Department



## RFP: Wireless Network System Hardware and Software Questions and Answers

### Link to Pre-Bid Conference Call Recording:

**Topic:** RFP: Wireless Network System Hardware and Software E-Rate Category 2 FY  
2025 – Pre-Bid Conference Call Recording

**Date:** January 28, 2025 3:00 PM Central Time

**Question:** What will be done with this around implementation etc? Will that be a separate bid or will Papillion-LaVista Schools be doing the implementation themselves?

**Answer:** Implementation is not included in this RFP. If you would like to include this documentation as a separate item, you can include it, but there is no guarantee we will look at it as it is not in the scope of this RFP.

**Question:** Is it okay to work through a partner for a support renewal that coincides with an Aruba RFP submission?

**Answer:** Yes

**Question:** What is Papillion La Vista Schools utilizing for their Radius server/NAC today or will NAC be a new solution?

**Answer:** The current solution is Aruba ClearPass, installed as a virtual appliance.

**Question:** Should optics be included for the wireless controller, NAC solution, and network monitoring software categories?

**Answer:** Optics should be excluded, PLCS will purchase or supply compatible optics outside of this contract.

**Question:** Are there specific SLAs for hardware replacements associated with the wireless controller, NAC solution, and network monitoring software categories?

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**Answer:** All devices should have the next business day with advanced replacement service. Tech support can be 8/5, 24/7 is not required.

**Question:** Is 24/7 technical support a requirement for the wireless controller, NAC solution, and network monitoring software categories?

**Answer:** 24/7 tech support is not required. The district is seeking 8/5.

**Question:** How do you currently authenticate users and devices? Do you utilize profiling, or do all devices authenticate via methods such as Username/Password, Certificates, Guest Portal, or MAC address?

**Answer:** Users and devices are currently authenticating via Username/Password, Certificates, Guest Portal, and MAC address.

**Question:** If authentication via profiling is implemented, how many devices are concurrently authenticated using this method?

**Answer:** The NAC solution should be able to support device profiling on all classifications of devices for the duration of the software support specified. See section 2c of the RFP for detailed device counts.

**Question:** If a single controller is not capable of providing the required amount of throughput or access point count, can we propose multiple controllers in a cluster to meet the requirement?

**Answer:** Yes, this is acceptable.

**Question:** In the Wireless Controller section, you state controller should be "capable of handling tunneled traffic from the quantity of APs being requested with a 20% expansion capacity" and the RFP also states, "Overall controller solution must support at least 3,000 concurrent APs with redundancy." Can you please clarify the actual requirement?

**Answer:** The first requirement relates to the amount of client traffic being tunneled through the controller. The expectation is that the controller solution will support all client traffic being served over the APs without becoming a bottleneck. For example, if each AP is capable of serving X amount of client traffic, the controller must support bridging that amount of traffic times the number of access points with 20% expansion overhead.

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The second requirement relates to the total support of APs that can be managed by the controller solution. For example, if a hardware based controller was limited to managing 2,000 APs, two controllers would have to be provided as the solution.

**Question:** Can you please confirm the total requested number of APs listed in the RFP plus 20% expansion?

**Answer:** 1,535 access points are requested. The 20% expansion number applies to the tunneled traffic and is not directly related to the number of access points. Controller solutions are required to support at least 3,000 APs.

**Question:** Do you require any recessed drop ceiling tile mounts? If so, how many are required? These are slightly different then a standard ceiling tile.

**Answer:** No recessed drop ceiling mounts are required. All ceiling tile mounts should fit standard ceiling tiles.

**Question:** On the external panel antenna requirement, are you looking for 120 or 60 degrees antennas?

**Answer:** The district will accept antennas with beamwidths of 90 or less degrees.

**Question:** On the external antenna / ap, are there any special mounting requirements for the access point or antenna?

**Answer:** External antennas and APs must include wall mount hardware if required for wall mounting.

**Question:** Should the district's existing HPE Aruba Networking support renewal for ClearPass, Airwave and the AP licenses be included in this RFP? What term should be quoted?

**Answer:** The system being proposed in this RFP will replace the district's existing wireless system, network monitoring platform, and network access control system. Renewed support is not required on the previous system.

**Question:** What is the district's virtualization plan in the future? Will you move to Nutanix, Hyper-V or stay with VMWare?

**Answer:** The district currently and for the foreseeable future runs VMware vSphere 8. Any virtualized solutions proposed should be compatible with this platform.

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**Question:** Could we get clarification on the reasoning for only three years of support on the hardware when you are requesting five years of support for the licensing and software?

**Answer:** Hardware should include the manufacturer's multi-year warranty (3 years) and include an option to extend the warranty an additional two years as a separate cost.

**Question:** Do the device counts in 2c include IOTs and all other devices?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** Can you provide a count of wired switch ports in your environment?

**Answer:** Roughly 12,000 wired switch ports.

**Question:** If PLCS owns existing perpetual licenses, can we provide renewed support only to reuse those licenses?

**Answer:** If the licenses can be transferred to the new controller hardware, this is acceptable as an alternative bid. PLCS would ask that a primary bid including new licensing be provided.

**Question:** What version of ClearPass is the district currently running?

**Answer:** 6.10, but the district intends to upgrade to the latest version.

**Question:** How many APs are you running today? Does the 1,535 number include adding APs or doing a one for one replacement?

**Answer:** The district currently runs 1,206 APs. The 1,535 number includes some additional APs.

**Question:** Are you using ClearPass for device administration?

**Answer:** Yes, but a separate number of devices was not listed for this purpose.