

## Asheville City Schools

### E-Rate Form 470

RFP# 148-IT-049

We are seeking bids to distribute the MCNC/NCREN-provided Internet circuit connected at Asheville City Schools Administrative Offices at 85 Mountain Street, Asheville NC 28801 to the eligible entities listed below.

A main distribution frame (MDF) has been established in each of the sites listed. We seek termination of the provided circuit in the MDF at each site. For dark fiber, service handoff shall be **Single Mode Fiber with SC Connectors**. The Service Provider is responsible for extending the demarcation point to the District's designated rack/cabinet in the MDF at every site.

Bandwidth: we seek the following fully reciprocal bandwidth from the MDF in the Administrative Offices at 85 Mountain Street to each location listed. The minimum speed listed is required, and we request pricing for scaling to the maximum speed.

Site Name	Minimum GB	Maximum GB
William Randolph Campus, 90 Montford Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801	10	40
Claxton Elementary, 241 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville NC 28801	10	40
Operations Facility, 441 Haywood Avenue, Asheville NC 28806	10	40
Hall Fletcher Elementary, 60 Ridgelawn Avenue, Asheville NC 28806	10	40
Ira B Jones Elementary, 544 Kimberly Avenue, Asheville, NC 28804	10	40
Isaac Dickson Elementary, 125 Hill Street, Asheville NC 28801	10	40
Lucy S Herring Elementary, 98 Sulphur Springs Road, Asheville NC 28806	10	40
Asheville Middle, 211 South French Broad Avenue, Asheville, NC 28801	10	40
Asheville High and SILSA (two school on one campus with connection to a single MDF), 419 McDowell Street, Asheville NC 28803	10	40

We will consider offers for a leased dark fiber solution. However, proposals for solutions of all modes of transport that meet the requested scope of service requirements will be evaluated.

We are seeking an initial (5) year contract term with an additional (5) voluntary one-year extensions.

**Qualifications (subject to bid disqualification if not met):**

1. SPI billing election (applicant's discretion) for up to the entirety of contract term.
2. Vendor must have current SPIN and annual SPAC.
3. Contract and billing dates reflect the E-Rate Fiscal Year (July 1-June 30).  
If connection is not active by July 1, service provider shall agree to pay 100% of applicant's costs to maintain a connection until the contracted connection is active.
4. Allow change in bandwidth speed with associated cost difference without penalty.
5. Ability to edit, add, or remove sites as needed without penalty.
6. Details of any additional and/or ineligible costs associated with the bid.
7. Breakdown of the estimated taxes, USF, and all other fees associated with the bid.
8. Vendors must be able to service the fiber link between 8 AM and 4 PM.
9. Sample contract language with terms and conditions.
10. Detailed technical description of the proposed solution.
11. The District's obligation to proceed with this project is contingent upon the approval of E-Rate funding. If E-Rate funding is denied, reduced, or withdrawn by USAC, the District reserves the right to cancel this contract or reduce the scope of work without penalty.
12. The Vendor must maintain a 'Green Light' status with the FCC. If the Vendor is placed on 'Red Light' status (preventing E-Rate payments), the District reserves the right to terminate the contract immediately.
13. The Vendor attests that the prices offered to the District are the 'Lowest Corresponding Price' (LCP) as defined by the FCC. The Vendor shall not charge the District a price above the lowest price that the Vendor charges to similarly situated non-residential customers for similar services.

Vendor questions may be submitted to: Chris Pohlman, [chris.pohlman@acsgmail.net](mailto:chris.pohlman@acsgmail.net)

- Questions must be submitted prior to 1/8/2026 4 PM
- Responses to submitted questions will be posted as addenda to this 470 on 1/13/2026, 4 pm.
- Optional Site Visit: 1/6/2026, 9 AM at 85 Mountain Street, Asheville NC 28801. Site visit is not required. 1/6/2026, 9 AM is the only opportunity for a site visit. Email [chris.pohlman@acsgmail.net](mailto:chris.pohlman@acsgmail.net) with your intent to attend the site visit by 48 hours prior to 1/6/2026, 9 AM.
- Bids are due by 1/20/2026 by 2 PM. Bids must include an electronic copy on portable media (usb stick) and must be sealed and 1) mailed or 2) hand delivered to the address below:  
Asheville City Schools  
Attn: Chris Pohlman – RFP# 148-IT-049  
85 Mountain Street  
Asheville, NC, 28801
- Bids will be opened and recorded via an open public meeting on 1/20/2026 at 2 pm. No emailed or late bids will be accepted. Any emailed or late bids will be automatically disqualified.
- Bidders will be informed of contract award decisions. Awarded contract to be signed as soon as possible, dependent upon review and approval by ACS Board of Education.

Bid evaluation criteria includes, but not limited to:

- Addressing all requirements in this RFP. Incomplete bids will be disqualified.
- Price of eligible products and services (highest weighted factor).

- Prior experience and references: Track record of successfully delivering similar large-scale WAN projects for K-12 school districts or other not for profit enterprises.
- Technical Solution & SLA: The quality of the proposed technical solution and its ability to meet the District's performance standards (99.99% uptime, <10ms latency, scalability).
- Service Capability & Response Time: The vendor's demonstrated ability to meet a defined Mean Time to Repair (MTTR) and provide local maintenance support.