Murrieta Valley USD

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

E-RATE FY2026 (2026-2027)

FCC Form 470 # 260012075
District Bid#: 2025-26-06

RFP Title – E-Rate FY2026 C2, Firewall Support

Requesting Services for
Fortinet Firewall support

PROCUREMENT TIMELINE	
RFP ISSUED:	12/31/2025
ADVERTISMENT	-
ADVERTISMENT	-
REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION DEADLINE	1/14/2026
FINAL ADDENDUM AND RFI ANSWERS	1/21/2026
PROPOSALS DEADLINE:	1/30/2026 @ 4PM local time
PROJECT START DATE:	July 1st 2026

Murrieta Valley Unified School District
41870 McAlby Court
Murrieta, CA. 95562

Service Provider Criteria and Contract Requirements

E-RATE SUPPLEMENTAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Signed copy to be returned with bid response.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 established a fund by which Schools and Libraries across the Country could access discounts on eligible telecommunications products and services. The program is commonly known as the E-Rate Program. The eligibility for discounts on internet access, telecommunications products and services, internal connection products, services and maintenance is determined by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Funding is made available upon application approval by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), which was established by the Act. The amount of discount is based on the numbers of students receiving free and reduced price meals.

1) **E-RATE CONTINGENCY**
   The project herein is contingent upon the approval of funding from the Universal Service Fund's Schools and Libraries Program, otherwise known as E-Rate. Even after award of contract(s) and/or E-Rate funding approval is obtained, the District may or may not proceed with the project, in whole or in part. Execution of the project, in whole or in part, is solely at the discretion of the District.

2) **SERVICE PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS**
   The District expects Service Providers to make themselves thoroughly familiar with any rules or regulations regarding the E-Rate program.

   a. Service Providers are required to be in full compliance with all current requirements and future requirements issued by the SLD throughout the contractual period of any contract entered into as a result of this RFP.

   b. Service Providers are responsible for providing a valid SPIN (Service Provider Identification Number). More information about obtaining a SPIN may be found at this website: https://www.usac.org/E-Rate/service-providers/step-1-obtain-a-spin/.

   c. Service Providers are responsible for providing a valid Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Registration Number (FRN) at the time the bid is submitted. More information about obtaining an FRN may be found at this website: https://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do.

d. Service Providers are responsible for providing evidence of FCC Green Light Status at the time the bid is submitted. Any potential bidder found to be in Red Light Status will be disqualified from participation in the bidding process and will be considered non-responsive. More information about FCC Red and Green Light Status may be found at this website: http://www.fcc.gov/debt_collection/welcome.html.

e. Products and services must be delivered before billing can commence. At no time may the Service Provider invoice before **July 1st, 2026**.

f. Prices must be held firm for the duration of the associated E-Rate Funding Year(s) or until all work associated with the project is complete (including any contract and USAC approved extensions).

g. Goods and services provided shall be clearly designated as "E-Rate Eligible". Non-eligible goods and services shall be clearly called out as 100% non-eligible or shall be "cost allocated" to show the percentage of eligible costs per SLD guidelines.

h. In the event of questions during an E-Rate pre-commitment review, post-commitment review and/or audit inquiry, the awarded Service Provider is expected to reply within 3 days to questions associated with its proposal.

i. Services providers must comply with the FCC rules for Lowest Corresponding Price ("LCP"). Further details on LCP may be obtained at USAC's website: https://www.usac.org/E-Rate/service-providers/step-2-responding-to-bids/lowest-corresponding-price/

3) SERVICE PROVIDER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

a. The Service Provider acknowledges that no change in the products and/or services specified in this document will be allowed without prior written approval from the district and a USAC service substitution approval with the exception of Global Service Substitutions.

b. The Service Provider acknowledges that all pricing and technology infrastructure information in its bid shall be considered as public and non-confidential pursuant to §54.504 (2)(i)(ii).

c. The Service Provider acknowledges that its offer is considered to be the lowest corresponding price pursuant to § 54.511(b). Should it not be the lowest corresponding price, the service provider must disclose the conditions leading to the applicant being charged in excess of the lowest corresponding price.

d. This offer is in full compliance with USAC's Free Services Advisory https://www.usac.org/E-Rate/applicant-process/competitive-bidding/free-services-advisory/. There are no free services offered that would predicate an artificial discount and preclude the applicant from paying its proportionate non-discounted share of costs. The service provider agrees to provide substantiating documentation to support this assertion should the applicant, USAC, or the FCC request it.

4) STARTING SERVICES/ADVANCE INSTALLATION – Category 1 Services

The annual E-Rate Funding Year begins on July 1 and expires on June 30 of each calendar year. Regardless of the contract "effective date", E-Rate eligible goods and/or services requested in this RFP shall be delivered no earlier than the start of the **2026 funding year (July 1, 2026**). If Category 1 services (Telecommunication Services and Internet access) will begin on or shortly after July 1 of a funding year, the service provider, in some cases, may need to undertake some construction and installation work prior to the beginning of that funding year. Within the limitations indicated below, the infrastructure costs of a service provider can be deemed to be delivered at the same time that the associated Category 1 services begin. That is, if services begin on July 1, then the delivery of service provider infrastructure necessary for those services can be considered as also delivered on July 1. However, NO INVOICING can take place prior to July 1 of the associated Funding Year.

EARLY FUNDING CONDITIONS

Category 1
There are four conditions that must be met in order for USAC to provide support in a funding year for Category 1 infrastructure costs incurred prior to that funding year.

- *Initiation of installation cannot take place before selection of the service provider pursuant to a posted Form 470 and in any event no earlier than six months prior to July 1 of the funding year.*
- *The Category 1 service must depend on the installation of the infrastructure.*
- *The underlying Category 1 service cannot have a service start date prior to July 1 of the funding year.*
- *No invoices can be submitted to USAC for reimbursement prior to July 1 of the funding year.*

For more information, please refer to the FCC Order involving the Nassau County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (DA 02-3365 , released December 6, 2002). This FCC decision only applies to Priority 1 services (telecommunications services and Internet access).The complete text can be found at the following URL: https://www.usac.org/E-Rate/applicant-process/starting-services/advance-installation/.

Category 2

There is one condition that allows USAC to provide support in a funding year for Category 2 installation costs incurred prior to that funding year.

- *We also amend our rules for category two non-recurring services to permit applicants to seek support for category two eligible services purchased on or after April 1, three months prior to the start of funding year on July 1. This will provide schools with the flexibility to purchase equipment in preparation for the summer recess and provide the maximum amount of time during the summer to install these critical networks.*

For more information, please refer to the FCC Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 14-99 , released July 23, 2014). This FCC decision only applies to Category 2 services (Internal Connections).

However, NO INVOICING can take place prior to July 1 of the funding year.

5) INVOICING

a. The Service Provider agrees to bill and receive a portion of the payment for the provisions of goods and services described herein directly from USAC via the Form 474 Service Provider Invoice (SPI). The District will only be responsible for paying its non-discounted share of costs and does not intend to use the BEAR process (Form 472). The maximum percentage the District will be liable for is the pre-discount amount minus the funded amount as shown on the FCC Form 471 Block 5 and any identified ineligible costs. Upon the successful receipt or posting of a Funding Commitment Decision Letter from the SLD and submission, certification and USAC approval of Form 486, the District shall pay only the discounted amount beginning with the billing cycle immediately following said approval. Alternatively, should the District decide that it is in the best interest of the District to file a Form 472, the District will inform the Service Provider of its intent.

b. All Service Provider invoicing to USAC must be completed within 120 days from the last day of service. Should the Service Provider fail to invoice USAC in a timely manner, the District will only be responsible for paying its non-discounted share.

6) FCC/SLD AUDITABILITY

The E-Rate program requires that all records be retained for at least ten (10) years from the last date of service provided on a particular funding request. Respondent hereby agrees to retain all books, records, and other documents relative to any Agreement resulting from this RFP for ten (10) years after final payment. The District, its authorized agents, and/or auditors reserves the right to perform or have performed an audit of the records of the Respondent and therefore shall have full access to and the right to examine any of said materials within a reasonable period of time during said period.

7) **PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL GOODS AND/OR SERVICES/COTERMINOUS EXPIRATION**

During the term of any Agreement resulting from this RFP, the District may elect to procure additional or like goods and/or services offered by the Respondent. Such services shall be negotiated and obtained via an official amendment to this Agreement and approval by the District's Governing Board. All terms, conditions, warranties, obligations, maintenance and support of said goods or services shall have a coterminous expiration date with the original date of this Agreement. The District shall not enter into a separate Agreement for said goods or services. Respondents must state in their proposal that they acknowledge, accept and are in agreement with coterminous expiration conditions.

I, the undersigned, as an authorized agent of_____(Service Provider Name), hereby certify that I have read the E-Rate Supplemental Terms and Conditions, am fully compliant and intend to cooperate with the E-Rate process as outlined above.

Signature:_____**Title**:_____

Phone Number_____**Email**:_____

Service Provider Name:_____

_____

Trade Names and Alternatives –

For convenience in designation on the plans or in the specifications, certain articles or materials to be incorporated in the work may be designated under a trade name or in the name of a manufacturer. Whenever in specifications any materials, process, or article is indicated or specified by grade, patent, or proprietary name or by name of manufacturer, such specification shall be deemed to be used for the purpose of facilitating description of material, process or article desired and shall be deemed to be followed by the words "or equal," and service provider may, unless otherwise stated, offer any material, process or article which shall be substantially equal or better in every respect to that so indicated or specified. Burden of proof as to equality of any material, process or article shall rest with service provider. **Service Provider shall submit request together with substantiating data for substitution of any "or equal" item within the response by the closing of bids.** Provision authorizing submission of "or equal" justification data shall not in any way authorize an extension of time of bid response.

Please note: All "or equal" components must not void and must be supported by corresponding manufacturer warranty and/or specification.

The District retains the right to be sole judge as to whether equivalency has been proven and whether alternatives will be accepted.

Award of Contract

The District does not guarantee an award of a contract(s) and it reserves the right to select the firm(s) that it considers to be in the best interest of the District. Award of contract is contingent upon the approval of funding from the Schools and Libraries Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC").

The District reserves the right to award none, some, or all of the proposal. For instance, if a response exceeds the E-Rate funding limits set by USAC, the district may choose to only award up to the E-Rate funding limit, less or more.

The District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals, to negotiate with any or all responsible submitters, and to waive any informality in the Proposal. Firms submitting proposals shall be responsible for any and all expenses that they may incur in preparing proposals.

Request for Proposal Preparation Cost

Costs for preparing responses and any other related material is the responsibility of the VENDOR, and shall not be chargeable in any manner to the DISTRICT. The DISTRICT will not be held liable for any cost incurred by VENDORS in responding to the RFP.

Order Term

District reserves the right to order quantities in any size lot or lots of quantities. Pricing must remain firm for the period **July 1st 2026 thru September 30th, 2027**. The District reserves the right to extend the intent to purchase for 1 additional annual term through **September 30th 2028**.

Right to Reject Any and All Quotes

The District reserves the right to reject any or all quotation submittals and to waive any informalities or regularities. The Service Provider's quotation submission is recognition of this right.

In addition, the District reserves the right to fund, (proceed with project or purchase) or not to fund, regardless of E-Rate approval.

The District reserves the right to award for some, all, or none of the products and services sought herein.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The District, in compliance with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules, will award to the vendor(s) providing the most cost-effective service offering. Per the Sixth Report and Order, FCC 10-175, FCC rules dictate the following:

§ 54.503 *(c)(2)(vii) All bids submitted for eligible products and services will be carefully considered, with price being the primary factor, and the bid selected will be for the most cost-effective service offering consistent with § 54.511.*

§ 54.511 Ordering Services *(a) Selecting a provider of eligible services. In selecting a provider of eligible services, schools, libraries, library consortia, and consortia including any of those entities shall carefully consider all bids submitted and must select the most cost-effective service offering. In determining which service offering is the most cost-effective, entities may consider relevant factors other than the pre-discount prices submitted by providers, but price should be the primary factor considered.*

California Public Contract Code (PCC) § 20118.2 *allows school districts to use a competitive negotiation process, rather than the standard lowest-responsible-bidder method, for the procurement of certain specialized technology and telecommunications equipment. This statute acknowledges the highly specialized and rapidly changing nature of technology, allowing school districts to prioritize factors like performance, compatibility, and unique features over strictly the lowest cost.*

Therefore, the District may consider factors other than price alone in the consideration of bids; price for E-Rate eligible goods and services will be the primary factor considered.

`

SELECTION CRITERIA:

No.	Factor	Total Points Available
1	Cost of eligible goods and services (or 30 pts if no ineligible)	25
2	Cost of ineligible goods and services (or 0 pts if no ineligible)	5
3	Vendor quote meets district's minimum specifications	10
4	Experience with district	10
5	Ability to deliver service at start of funding year	10
6	Ability to deliver service throughout district geographic region	20
7	References	10
8	Financial stability	10
	Total Points	100

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

All RFI inquiries shall be submitted via e-mail to erate@murrieta.k12.ca.us the deadline on Page 1. Reference **"MVUSD FY2026 C2, Form 470 #260012075"** in the subject line.

All addendum(s), questions and answers will be posted as additional RFP documents to the E-Rate EPC website at https://portal.usac.org/suite/

"Follow" the Form 470 to receive all EPC updates pertaining to the Form 470.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

All offers **shall** be submitted to the contact information below by the deadline indicated on Page 1.

Submission via Personal Delivery, Courier or Mailed

Service Provider shall provide sealed proposals.
1 paper copy and 1 digital copy are required.

Contact and Location:
Murrieta Valley Unified School District
Attn: Jonathan Pratt
41870 Mcalby Court
Murrieta, CA. 92562

Proposals must be **clearly labeled with the RFP title E-Rate FY2026-C2," on the outside of the package**.

It is the sole responsibility of each respondent to ensure all submittals and attachments are received by the District before the deadline.

Prospective Service Providers are required to submit the following:

1. Three (3) references describing the Service Provider's experience with similarly scoped projects **within** a K-12 customer environment.
2. Service Provider's SPIN number.
3. Service Provider's FCC Registration Number (FRN).
4. Service Provider Criteria and Contract Requirements signature page.
5. Attachment A Bid form.

`

- Fortinet Expert Partner is preferred.

- Any Vendor bidding on the project must be prequalified to be part of a state master contract (i.e **PEPPM California Contract #535122-066)** as an approved vendor to sell such items under the contract's products and services. There are no installation services being requested at this time. Items will be drop shipped to the Murrieta Valley Unified School District located at 41870 McAlby Ct, Murrieta, CA 92562.

Before submitting a proposal, each Proposer must thoroughly examine specifications, the schedule, and all other related contractual documents included in the RFP, including subsequent amendments to the RFP and RFI responses. Failure to do so will be at the Proposer's risk, and will not bar the Proposer's obligation to perform if a contract is awarded pursuant to this RFP.

Each Proposer shall sign the signature block of this solicitation and any addenda. The proposal must be signed in the name of the Proposer and must bear the signature of the person authorized to sign proposals on behalf of the Proposer.

Each Proposer will complete all blanks shown in any RFP forms. Proposals shall be completed in all respects as required by the instructions herein. A proposal may be rejected if it is conditional or incomplete, or if it contains alterations of form or other irregularities of any kind. A proposal will be rejected if, in the opinion of the evaluation committee and the Board of Education, the information contained therein was intended to erroneously and fallaciously mislead the District in the evaluation of the proposal.

The proposal submitted must not contain erasures, interlineations, or other corrections unless each correction is authenticated by signing in the margin immediately opposite the correction the name of the person signing the proposal.

If a Proposer discovers any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other errors in the Proposer's response to the RFP, the Vendor may withdraw its proposal as set forth herein. All such correspondence should be directed to the attention of Jonathan Pratt IT Director with the Murrieta Valley USD by email to erate@murrieta.k12.ca.us, and must be made prior to the date of the proposal opening as indicated above. Proposers may withdrawal their proposal at any time, for any reason prior to the proposal deadline.

Once submitted, a proposer may not change or adjust their proposal in any way. All submitted proposals shall be the firm's best and final proposal. Proposers may withdraw and resubmit a proposal if done so before the opening of the proposals.
Proposers are solely responsible for ensuring their proposal is free from errors or misinformation and therefore submit their proposal at their own risk. If the contract is awarded to the Proposer, the Proposer shall not be entitled to additional compensation or time by reason of any error or ambiguity in the RFP or its subsequent correction. Additionally, the vendor will be required to perform the contract in accordance with all terms and conditions contained within.

AMENDMENTS

Proposers are advised that the District reserves the right to amend the requirements of this RFP prior to the date set for opening of Proposals. Such revisions will be done formally by providing amendments to all Proposers by posting such amendment on the Universal Services Administration Company (USAC) EPC portal at http://portal.usac.org. If, in the judgment of the District, the change is of such nature that additional time is required for Proposers to prepare their Proposals; the District will change the date of the opening and notify all Proposers in writing of the new date through notification on the District's website and the Universal Services Administration Company (USAC) EPIC portal at http://portal.usac.org.

Failure by Service Provider to supply these documents shall be considered grounds for disqualification.

SCOPE OF WORK

Goal: To provide qualified vendors with the necessary information and specifications to allow them to respond with a solution that they determine best meets those requirements.

Purpose: To provide necessary hardware support for the district's firewall system

`

EXHIBIT A

Line #	Part #	Description	Manufacturer	Quantity
1.0	FC-10-F35F1-950-02-12	1 Year Unified Threat Protection (UTP) (IPS, Advanced Malware Protection, Application Control, URL, DNS & Video Filtering, Antispam Service, and FortiCare Premium)	Fortinet or Equivalent	1
2.0	FC-10-F35F1-464-02-12	SOCaaS: 24x7 cloud-based managed log monitoring, incident triage and SOC escalation service	Fortinet or Equivalent	1

`

ATTACHMENT A

BID FORM:

ITEMS SPECIFIED MUST BE EQUAL TO, OR EXCEED THE SPECS PROVIDED WITHIN THE ITEM DESCRIPTIONS

Line #	PART # / MODEL # (or equal*)	Description	Manufacturer	Qty	Unit Cost	Extended Cost	eRate Eligible Yes or No Or %
1.0				1			
2.0				1			

Subtotal:	$
No Labor	**$----------**
Tax:	$
Freight Charge:	$
TOTAL:	$

Submitted by:

_____ _____

Company Authorized by (Company Rep.)

END OF DOCUMENT