

# **MOUNDS VIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **CATEGORY 2 EQUIPMENT - REQUEST FOR QUOTE**

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## **MOUNDS VIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **CATEGORY 2 EQUIPMENT AND CABLING - REQUEST FOR QUOTE**

#### **Background:**

Located approximately nine miles north of the downtown areas of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Mounds View Public Schools (MVPS) provides instructional services for children and adult learners who live in the cities of Arden Hills, Mounds View, New Brighton, North Oaks, Roseville, Shoreview and Vadnais Heights. MVPS is among the largest Districts in Minnesota serving more than 11,000 students and employs more than 1,400 staff.

MVPS is seeking bids for network electronics, associated hardware, wiring, and installation services. During the upcoming E-Rate funding year the District expects to replace the Districts EOL wireless access points (AP's) , replace EOL network access switches and managed mini-switches, replace aging batteries in UPS's, renew firewall maintenance service and/or replace the Districts primary firewall.

#### **General Requirements:**

Vendors responding to the RFQ must participate in the Federal Government's E-Rate program and have a Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) or willing to obtain one from the Universal Service Administration Corporation (USAC) Schools and Libraries Division. Vendors must agree to follow program rules.

Vendors responding must be authorized to do business in the State of Minnesota and must be in good standing with the Secretary of State. MVPS may request proof of authorization during the evaluation process. Vendors who are not authorized will not be considered.

The District plans to procure and deploy the equipment anytime between April 1, 2026 and September 30, 2026. Invoices must be dated July 1, 2026. No payment will be made prior to July 1, 2026. There will be a need for a contract as per E-Rate program rules. MVPS may request that the vendor file for E-Rate reimbursement. In such a case, vendors must be willing to file for reimbursement.

Any questions or RFQ responses should be directed to the main contact listed on the Form 470 (Also listed below). Please do not contact or send any response to the consultant listed on the Form 470.

## 2026-2027 Erate Network Switches,UPS's,Wireless,Firewalls, and Installation Services

MVPS reserves the right to limit or modify the scope of work based on budgetary limitations. Any contracts signed as a result of this procurement are contingent upon successful E-rate funding. The Districts preferred manufactures are Cisco or equivalent for network switching and wireless hardware, and Fortinet for firewalls and Liebert/Vertiv for UPS's. Where a specific brand or model is listed, it is to define the minimum standard of performance and functionality required. Bidders may propose functionally equivalent products that meet or exceed the specified criteria.

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 the service provider.

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

Mounds View Public Schools retains the right to be sole judge as to whether equivalency has been proven and whether alternatives will be accepted.

Any proposed hardware that does not meet a specific minimum requirement must be clearly documented in a "Statement of Deviations" included with the bid. Failure to list a deviation will be interpreted as a guarantee that the proposed hardware meets 100% of the listed specifications.

Bidders may submit a proposal for all or any portion of the requested eligible equipment and services. The District reserves the right to select the most cost-effective solution for any single item, any combination of items, or the entire project.

### Question Submission:

All questions or requests for clarification regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing via email to: John Perry at [john.perry@moundsvIEWSchools.org](mailto:john.perry@moundsvIEWSchools.org), with a carbon copy (CC) to Doug Erickson at [doug.erickson@moundsvIEWSchools.org](mailto:doug.erickson@moundsvIEWSchools.org). To ensure proper tracking, the subject line of the email shall be "Questions - ERATE 2026". All questions must be received no later than 3:00 PM CST on January 26, 2026. Responses to all substantive questions will be compiled and posted as an addendum to the Form 470 in the EPC portal to ensure a fair and transparent bidding process for all potential respondents.

### Bid Submission:

All bids in response to this procurement must be received as a PDF file in electronic format no later than 3:00pm CST on the 29th day after the original Form 470 posting date. The subject of all submissions shall be "ERATE RESPONSE TO RFP 2026"

John Perry  
CC- Doug Erickson  
Director of Technology  
District Center  
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Shoreview, MN 55126  
[john.perry@moundsvIEWSschools.org](mailto:john.perry@moundsvIEWSschools.org) & [doug.erickson@moundsvIEWSschools.org](mailto:doug.erickson@moundsvIEWSschools.org)

## Response Evaluation:

Vendor responses will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- E-rate Eligible Cost -- 30%
- Interoperability with existing Infrastructure – 20%
- Previous experience with vendor & manufacturer – 20%
- Customer Reference & Reviews –15%
- Installation, Implementation, and Testing – 15%

### Equipment and Support Cost

Please provide one time cost of equipment, installation, and annual support cost (if applicable).Include separate line items for equipment cost, installation, and support.

### Interoperability with existing Infrastructure

Briefly describe the ability or proposed systems to exchange and make use of information with existing core network, management tools, and security architecture

### Previous Experience with Vendor and Manufacturer

Vendor/Manufacturer history, stability, and successful E-Rate project delivery, especially in a Minnesota K-12 setting.

### Customer Reference & Reviews

Proposers should submit a list of references for work completed within the last 5 years for projects of a similar scope as well as a brief description of the work performed.

### Installation, Implementation, and Testing

Briefly describe how your installation and testing program will verify that the work meets the requirements of this RFP, manufacturer's specifications, and industry standards including experience in deploying and cutting over complex K-12 network environments

### Documentation

The proposal shall include a line-item breakdown of all hardware and services. Proposers must utilize a separate cost column or table to identify any components not covered by E-Rate funding to facilitate a clear cost-allocation review.

## Project Scheduling

The Contractor shall be responsible for ensuring that the Project implementation schedule meets the District's schedule for each assigned Project. A basic schedule is included below:

- Modifications shall be reported to the District's Director of Technology in Project progress reports (electronic format).
- MVPS will issue a Purchase Order to contractor(s) selected
- Project kick-off meeting, if necessary.
- Installation.
- Cutover.
- Contractor's final testing and inspection.
- Request for Acceptance to District.
- Acceptance testing and/or inspection by District, if necessary.
- Punch list, if necessary and clearance of punch list items.
- As-Built and testing documentation submitted to MVPS.
- Final acceptance by District.
- Contractor invoices for the project no earlier than July 1, 2026

Standardized Work Hours:

- **Primary Window:** All physical replacement and network cutovers must take place outside of normal instructional hours (typically before 7:00am or after 4:00 PM) to ensure no disruption to staff or student connectivity.
- **Instructional Window (By Approval Only):** At the District's discretion, and only with prior coordination with building administration or front office staff, work may be performed during teacher prep periods or between class passing periods, provided the room/area is vacant.
- **Summer Deployment:** During the Summer 2026 window, work may be performed during standard business hours, IF it does not disrupt summer school or other programs, subject to coordination with District custodial and technology staff.
- **Flat-Rate Requirement:** Bidders must provide a "flat-rate" per-unit installation cost that accounts for the potential need for after-hours or weekend work

## Equipment Request and Installation Requirements:

### Wireless Access Points

MVPS is requesting (700) Cisco CW9166I-B W6E, or equivalent, wireless access points (AP) to replace the existing Cisco AIR-AP2802I-B-K9 AP's which go end of security and vuln support on October 31, 2027. These AP's are located primarily in the Districts secondary schools (Middle and High Schools), with a small number of units distributed across elementary schools and administrative support sites.

Proposed hardware must provide seamless, native interoperability with the District's existing Cisco Catalyst 9800-40 Wireless LAN Controller. The proposed solution must support centralized configuration, radio resource management (RRM), and security policy enforcement via this existing controller.

If a proposed alternative solution is not natively compatible with the existing Cisco 9800-40, the bidder must include all necessary additional hardware, software licenses, and management platforms (e.g., a new controller or cloud-management subscriptions) required to achieve a functionally equivalent level of centralized management. Any such additional components must be clearly itemized, and their E-Rate eligibility status must be identified.

Bidders must provide pricing for the hardware and the corresponding software licenses and/or services required for operation. All proposed solutions must be functionally equivalent to the specifications listed below.

**AP Requirements:**

- **Wireless Standards:** 802.11ax (Wi-Fi 6E) across 2.4 GHz, 5 GHz, and 6 GHz bands.
- **Performance:** Up to 7.78 Gbps aggregate frame rate.
- **Radios:** 2.4 GHz, 5 GHz, 6 GHz, plus dedicated radios for WIDS/WIPS and Bluetooth 5.1 LE.
- **MIMO:** 4x4:4 MU-MIMO (Multiple User, Multiple Input, Multiple Output).
- **Ethernet:** One mGig (Multi-Gig) port supporting 100/1000/2.5G/5G speeds.
- **Security:** Supports WPA3-Enterprise, WPA3-Personal.
- **Sensors:** Built-in environmental sensors (TVOC, Temp, Humidity) and Zero Wait DFS.
- **Power:** Supports 802.3bt (30.5W) or 802.3at (25W) PoE.

**Optional AP installation & Labor:**

MVPS is requesting a separate quote for the installation and configuration of the wireless access points. No site walkthrough will be provided for the Wireless Access Point project. MVPS reserves the right to purchase hardware and licensing only and perform the installations in-house.

**Scope of Work:**

The majority of the seven hundred (700) access points will be deployed within the District's secondary schools (Middle and High Schools), with a small number of units distributed across elementary schools and administrative support sites. The scope of work is for a "one-for-one" swap utilizing the CAT6 patch cables and mounting brackets from the existing 2800 series AP's. Vendors should assume that access point installations for areas such as gymnasiums , auditoriums, etc will require lifts. Vendors assume all costs for lift procurement/rental.

Bidders must provide a separate line-item for the "Standard Installation and Configuration" cost. This cost must not be bundled with hardware or licensing fees. Bidders should base their labor estimates on the quantities, existing hardware locations, and technical specifications provided in this RFQ. No site walkthrough will be provided for this project.

## Network Access Switches

MVPS is requesting bids for (118) Cisco Catalyst 9200L-48P-4X switches (or equivalent) to replace its existing Cisco 2960X switches which are scheduled for end of vulnerability/security support on Oct, 31 2027. To ensure a complete and modular solution, all accessories must be quoted as separate line items. Equivalent models will be considered but they must meet or exceed the criteria listed below.

### Network Access Switch Criteria:

- **DNA Subscription:** Bidders must include a 3-year Cisco DNA Essentials term license (or equivalent management license)
- **Software:** Network Essentials (Perpetual)
- **Uplinks:** 4 x 1/10G SFP+ fixed uplink ports.
- **Switching Capacity:** Minimum 176 Gbps (Standalone) / 256 Gbps (with Stacking)
- **Forwarding Rate:** Minimum 261.9 Mpps
- **Default PoE Budget:** 48 ports of 10/100/1000 Full PoE+
- **Maximum PoE Budget:** Must support expansion up to 1440W with a second power supply.
- **Standards:** Full support for IEEE 802.3at (PoE+) up to 30W per port
- **Stacking Technology:** Must support Cisco StackWise technology with up to 8 units in a single logical stack. C9200L-STACK-KIT.
- **VLANs:** Support for up to 4,094 VLAN IDs and 1,024 active VLANs.
- **Routing Table:** Support for 11,000 IPv4 routes (8,000 direct)
- **Security:** Must support 802.1x, MACsec-128 encryption
- **Redundant Power:** Must have two (2) physical power supply slots supporting hot-swappable, field-replaceable units. Note- MVPS is not requesting the 2nd hot-swappable power supply at this time. The 2nd power supply slot must include a cover for the empty slot to maintain proper airflow

### Optional Switch Installation & Configuration Services:

MVPS is requesting an optional quote for the physical installation and logical configuration of the requested network switches. The District reserves the right to perform all installation services in-house or to award the installation contract to the winning bidder at its sole discretion. All installation and configuration labor must be quoted as a separate, standalone line item. No site walkthrough will be provided for the Network Access Switch project. All proposers should base their labor quotes on a standardized deployment model. No site-specific topology maps or port-level configuration data will be provided during the bidding phase. Technical questions regarding port-specific VLANs or individual closet topologies will not be answered during the bid period. Bidders must quote based on a flat "Per-Switch" or "Per-Rack" installation rate using the assumptions above

Scope of Work (if selected):

- **Standardized Configuration:** The District will provide a single configuration template (Gold Image) per switch model. The Contractor will be responsible for applying this template.
- The Contractor is responsible for ensuring all switches are upgraded to the District's specified IOS-XE "Gold Star" stable release prior to deployment
- **Physical Deployment:** One-for-one replacement of existing 2960-X switches. This includes mounting, cable management, and the migration of existing patch cables to the new 9200L hardware. Bidders should assume a "1-to-1 Physical Port Migration.
- **Documentation:** The vendor must provide a digital inventory list (Excel) that includes the Switch Hostname, Serial Number, MAC Address, and physical location (Building/Closet/Rack).
- **Cable Management:** The Contractor is responsible for ensuring that cable management is maintained or improved during this process

### **UPS - Battery Replacement (Parts Only)**

MVPS is seeking bids for the purchase of replacement batteries for 47 existing Vertiv/Liebert GXT5 Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS) and 47 External Battery Cabinets (EBC). All installation and disposal of old batteries will be performed in-house by MVPS staff. Bidders should quote hardware/parts and shipping only. These components are requested as Category 2 Internal Connections. Bidders must identify any components or shipping fees that are not E-Rate eligible.

#### **Main UPS Battery Kits**

- **Quantity:** (47) total kits
- **Model:** Vertiv GXT5-48VBATKIT , or equivalent
- **Compatibility:** Must be 100% compatible with the GXT5-1500LVRT2UXL main chassis.
- **Configuration:** hot-swappable, plug-and-play internal battery tray

#### **External Battery Cabinet (EBC) Replacement Cells**

- **Quantity:** (376) batteries total
- **Model:** High-rate UPS Grade 12V 9Ah Sealed Lead Acid (SLA) batteries.
- **Compatibility:** For use in Vertiv GXT5-EBC48VRT2U cabinets.
- **Specifications:**
  - **Voltage/Capacity:** 12V 9Ah (34W/cell or higher).
  - **Terminals:** F2 (.250" Faston).
  - **Quantity per Cabinet:** Each GXT5-EBC48VRT2U requires eight (8) individual batteries.
  - **Note to Bidders:** Bidders may quote these as individual cells or as a pre-packaged "EBC Refresh Kit" containing 8 batteries. Proposers must specify the manufacturer of the cells

### **Existing Firewall - Maintenance**

MVPS is seeking bids for a one-year (12-month) service and support renewal for its existing primary firewall.

General Requirements:

- **Existing Hardware:** Fortinet FortiGate 3000D
- **Requested Service:** Unified Threat Protection (UTP) Bundle or equivalent
- **Service Period:** July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
- **Term:** Any/All licensing and/or support requirements should be quoted on a 1, 3, AND 5 year term where possible

Technical Requirements:

- **Support:** Must include 24x7 FortiCare (or equivalent) providing telephone and web-based technical support, firmware updates, and advanced hardware replacement.
- **Security Services:** Must include standard security updates for Intrusion Prevention (IPS), Application Control, Web/URL Filtering, and Antivirus.
- **E-Rate Cost Allocation:** Bidders must clearly identify the E-Rate eligible and ineligible portions of the renewal bundle. If the bundle includes ineligible features the proposer must provide a cost-allocation percentage as required by USAC rules.
- **Contract Requirements:** The successful bidder must ensure the renewal is correctly registered to MVPS's existing FortiGate 3000D serial number.

## New Firewall - Hardware & Migration Services

MVPS is seeking a Next-Generation Firewall solution and professional migration services. This includes one (1) FortiGate 2601F, 5 years of UTP security/support, and all necessary 10G and 40G optics for a full interconnect with existing Cisco core switches and a remote campus via dark fiber. Professional services must include BGP peering configuration, OSPF/EIGRP Routing configuration, and a full migration from an existing FortiGate 3000D. Equivalents will be considered as long as they meet the following requirements.

### New Firewall - Hardware/Software

Processing & Performance:

- **Hardware Acceleration:** Must utilize dedicated network and content processors (e.g., FortiASIC NP7 and CP9) to offload intensive security tasks.
- **Firewall Throughput (1518 byte UDP):** Minimum 198 Gbps.
- **Threat Protection Throughput:** Minimum 17 Gbps (with all security services active).
- **NGFW Throughput:** Minimum 19 Gbps.
- **IPS Throughput:** Minimum 24 Gbps.
- **Concurrent Sessions:** Support for at least 24 Million TCP sessions.
- **New Sessions per Second:** Minimum 1 Million.

#### Interface Density & Connectivity

- **100G/40G QSFP28 Slots:** Minimum 4 slots
- **25G/10G/1G SFP28 Slots:** Minimum 16 slots.
- **10G/1G RJ45 Copper Ports:** Minimum 16 ports.
- **Dedicated HA Ports:** Minimum 2 x 10G SFP+ dedicated High Availability slots.
- **Management Ports:** Minimum 2 x 1G RJ45 dedicated management ports.

#### Storage & Physical

- **Onboard Storage:** Minimum 2 x 1TB NVMe SSDs (Total 2TB) for local logging, packet capture, and reporting.
- **Form Factor:** 2RU Rack-mountable.
- **Power Supply:** Dual, hot-swappable AC power supplies for 1+1 redundancy.
- **Security Hardware:** Must include a Trusted Platform Module (TPM) for hardware-based cryptographic key storage and boot integrity.

#### Required Accessories

- **Internal Closets:** (32) SFP-10G-SR transceivers for local 10G core connection. (Note: This provides 16 modules for the Firewall ports and 16 modules for the corresponding Cisco 9500/9200 downstream switch ports)
- **Dark Fiber Interconnect:** (4) SFP-10G-LR (Single Mode, 10km) transceivers & (8) 40G QSPF+ transceivers (Note: Provides transceivers for the Firewall and the downstream core switch or remote firewall).
- **Console:** (1) RJ45 console cable and rack-mount kit.

#### Software/Support/Subscriptions

- **Maintenance & Support:** FortiCare 24X7 - 5 year term

### **New Firewall - Professional Services: Advanced Migration**

MVPS is seeking a fixed-fee quote for the professional migration from the existing FortiGate 3000D to the new 2601F. The selected vendor must have documented experience with high-speed fiber interconnects and BGP peering and routing and should have advanced knowledge of Fortinet firewalls.

Scope of Work (includes but may not be limited to):

- **Configuration Audit & Migration:** Full migration of existing firewall configuration from the 3000D to the 2601F.
- **BGP Internet Peering:** Re-establish BGP peering with the District's ISP(s) on the new hardware. This includes verifying prefix advertisements and inbound/outbound path selection.
- **Fiber Campus Interconnect:** Configure interfaces for the Single Mode Fiber link to the secondary campus & establish high-speed routing across the fiber to the remote FortiGate 2601F.
- **Performance & Tuning:** Ensure the interconnect is optimized for low-latency traffic and that internal routing tables are synchronized across the district backbone.
- **Internal Core Integration:** Configure 10G fiber handoffs to the Cisco 9500 core switches using 802.1Q trunking as required.
- **Post-Migration Validation:** Perform a comprehensive test of failover scenarios, internet throughput, and internal cross-campus connectivity.

### **Managed Mini Switches 8 & 16 port**

MVPS is seeking proposals for the replacement of (111) legacy Netgear 8 port mini-switches to be used in classroom environments where silent operation is a requirement as well as (8) legacy Netgear 16 port mini-switches to be used in high density computer lab environments. The new hardware must be fully managed and support POE+, and IEEE 802.1X port-based authentication for network security. MVPS is asking bidders to submit costs for two separate options for each of the mini switch types (8 port and 16 port) as listed below. Equivalent will be considered as long as they meet the minimum requirements listed below:

8-port Mini-Switch Hardware Options:

1. Option 1: Cisco Catalyst 1200-8FP-2G (or Equivalent)
2. Option 2: Ubiquiti USW-Pro-8-PoE (or Equivalent)

16-port Mini-Switch Options:

1. Option 1: Cisco Catalyst 1200-16P-2G (or Equivalent)
2. Option 2: Ubiquiti USW-Pro-Max-16 (or Equivalent)

Mini switch Minimum Requirements for all models:

The proposed mini-switches must function as an IEEE 802.1X Authenticator (PAE). All units must be fully compatible with the District's existing Microsoft Windows Network Policy Server (NPS). Bidders must confirm support for the following specific 802.1X features:

- **Authentication Methods:** Support for EAP-TLS and PEAP-MSCHAPv2.
- **Dynamic VLAN Assignment:** The hardware must be capable of accepting RADIUS Attributes (Standard 64, 65, and 81) to dynamically assign a user or device to a specific VLAN upon successful authentication.
- **MAC Authentication Bypass (MAB):** Ability to authenticate non-802.1X devices (printers, IoT) via their MAC address through the same RADIUS server.
- **RADIUS Change of Authorization (CoA):** Support for RFC 5176 to allow the RADIUS server to dynamically change a session's state or disconnect a user without a physical port flap.
- **Guest/Critical VLAN:** Ability to assign a "Guest VLAN" for failed authentications or a "Critical VLAN" if the RADIUS server is unreachable.
- **Multi-Auth/Multi-Host Support:** The switch must be capable of authenticating multiple clients on a single physical port (e.g., a PC plugged into the back of a VoIP phone).

Additional minimum Requirements for all mini-switches include:

- **PoE Power:** Minimum 120W total budget. Support for 802.3at (PoE+) required.
- **Uplinks:** Minimum (2) SFP slots. (Note: switch option #2 must provide 10G SFP+).
- **Acoustics:** Fanless / Passive Cooling Only . Silent Operation
- **Central Management and Subscription Costs:** Bidders must specify if any recurring licensing or subscription fees are required for the basic operation of the hardware or for the use of the manufacturer's centralized management platform.
- **Mini Switch Transceivers:** Bidders must include (2) compatible SFP/SFP+ transceivers for each mini-switch to allow the mini switch to connect to the upstream Cisco 9200L switch over Cat6 Copper. (Note that the 2/per mini switch is a requirement to allow the device to connect to the District's network switches located upstream from the Mini-Switch)

## MVPS Computer Labs – Wireless to Wired Conversion

### Project Overview

MVPS is seeking proposals for a "turn-key" conversion of the Irondale High School Computer Lab (IDHS 108 Lab) and Chippewa Middle School Ed-Tech Labs (CH 108/111 Labs) from a wireless-dependent environment to a high-reliability hardwired infrastructure. The project includes the establishment of a

new Intermediate Distribution Frames (IDF's), fiber backbone installation, and horizontal station cabling for all end-point devices in the IDHS 108Lab and CH 108/111 Labs.

### **New IDF Enclosure & Equipment**

The contractor shall furnish and install a new localized IDF within each of these labs to house network electronics.

- **Enclosure:** (1) 12U or 15U Wall-Mount Rack (Swinging/Hinged door preferred for rear access).
- **Patch Panel:** Category 6 Patch Panel(s)
- **Power:** (1) Rack-mount UPS (Minimum 1500VA) and (1) Horizontal PDU (minimum 6 outlets).
- **Cable Management:** Horizontal and vertical D-ring managers to ensure a neat, professional finish.
- **Firestopping:** The contractor is responsible for all fire-rated penetrations. Any wall or floor penetrations for the new fiber trunk must be sealed with UL-listed firestopping materials to match the existing building rating

### **Fiber Optic Backbone (Backbone Cabling)**

The contractor shall install a new fiber optic link from the new Lab IDF's to the nearest existing Campus IDF or MDF.

- **Cable Type:** Minimum 4-Strand OM4 Multimode (Laser-Optimized) fiber optic cable.
- **Terminations:** All strands must be terminated with LC-type connectors in rack-mounted fiber enclosures at both ends.
- **Testing:** All strands must be tested for attenuation and polarity. A PDF report of Fluke (or equivalent) Tier 1 test results must be provided.

### **Horizontal Cabling & Lab Distribution**

The contractor shall provide and install all infrastructure necessary to deliver hardwired data to each of the workstation locations.

- **Trunking & Pathways:** Installation of J-hooks or cable tray in the ceiling plenum as required.
- **Power Poles / Surface Raceway:** Where desks are not adjacent to walls, the contractor shall install Poles to drop data and power from the ceiling to the desk level and any raceway required to reach the connection point for end-point devices
- **Station Drops:** Category 6 data drops. Each drop shall be terminated in a high-quality RJ45 jack, labeled at both the faceplate and the patch panel. All Jacks shall be orange in color
- **Patch Cords:** The Contractor shall provide and install Category 6 patch cords for all switch-side and workstation-side connections. All cords must be of appropriate lengths to eliminate slack and ensure a clean, professionally dressed installation. All patch cables shall be Orange in color.

**Mandatory Site Walkthrough (MVPS Computer Labs Project Only):**

Due to the complexity of this project (Fiber routing and Power Pole placement), a **Mandatory Site Walkthrough** will be held. Proposals from vendors who do not attend will be rejected

**Date:** Wednesday, January 28th

**Time:** 8:00am

**Where:** Starting at the main entrance to Chippewa Middle School, 5000 Hodgson Rd Connection, North Oaks, MN 55126 and moving on to Irondale High School from there.

To express your interest in attending the walkthrough please email [john.perry@moundsvIEWSchools.org](mailto:john.perry@moundsvIEWSchools.org) & [doug.erickson@moundsvIEWSchools.org](mailto:doug.erickson@moundsvIEWSchools.org) no later than 48 hours prior to the scheduled walkthrough time. The subject of your email should be **"ERATE 2026 WALKTHROUGH"**.

## **E-RATE SUPPLEMENTAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**Signed copy to be returned with proposal and/or bid response ("Proposal") in response to this Solicitation ("RFP/RFB/RFQ").**

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 established a fund by which Schools and Libraries ("Applicant" or "Applicants") 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 Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC"), which was established by the Act. The amount of the discount is based on the numbers of students eligible to receive free and reduced-price meals.

### **1) E-RATE CONTINGENCY**

The project herein **(is/may be)** 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 Agreement(s) and/or E-rate funding approval is approved, the Applicant 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 Applicant.

### **2) SERVICE PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS**

The Applicant 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 rules and requirements and future rules and requirements issued by the FCC and USAC throughout the agreement period of any Agreement entered into as a result of this RFP/RFB/RFQ.
- b. Service Providers are responsible for providing a valid Service Provider Identification Number ("SPIN"). 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 Registration Number ("FRN") at the time the Proposal 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 proposal is submitted. Any potential Service Provider found to be in Red Light Status must provide an explanation of the steps it is undertaking to be removed to Red Light Status and the expected timeframe for resolution. A Service Provider's sustained Red Light Status may be grounds for termination of the Agreement as it could prohibit the Service Provider from providing E-rate discounts in a timely manner which would cause harm to the Applicant. More information about FCC Red and Green Light Status may be found at this website: [http://www.fcc.gov/debt\\_collection/welcome.html](http://www.fcc.gov/debt_collection/welcome.html)
- e. Products and services must be delivered before billing and E-rate discounting can commence. At no time may the Service Provider invoice before July 1, 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 Agreement 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 USAC guidelines.
- h. For Category 2 equipment or services, within one (1) week of notification of award, the awarded Service Provider must provide the Applicant a bill of materials using a completed and most current and appropriate version of USACs "Bulk Upload Template" (formerly known as the Item 21 attachment) located at <https://www.usac.org/e-rate/applicant-process/applying-for-discounts/fcc-form-471-filing/>. Subsequent schedules of values and invoices must match the Bulk Upload Template and approved Funding Request Line Items or subsequent approved service substitutions. If the service provider's proposal consisted of pricing per eligible location, a summary sheet and summary Bulk Upload Template must be provided to describe the cumulative amount for all sites.**
- i. 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.
- j. The awarded Service Provider is required to send copies of all forms and invoices to the Applicant prior to invoicing USAC for pre-approval. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the Applicant placing the vendor on an "Invoice Check" with the USAC: <https://www.usac.org/e-rate/applicant-process/invoicing/invoice-check/>.
- k. Service 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/>.

l. Service providers must not propose any equipment or services produced or provided by companies, their parents, affiliates, and subsidiaries, found to pose a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain as required by FCC rules. See <https://www.usac.org/about/reports-orders/supply-chain/>. Any proposed solution including Covered Equipment or Services as defined by the FCC will be disqualified. If, after award of the project it is found Covered Equipment or Services are included, the award and/or Agreement will be considered to be null and void. See <https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain>.

m. SPAM and/or robotic responses will not be considered valid Proposals and will be disqualified from consideration.

n. Any Service Provider proposals identifying contingency fees such as allocations for change orders, tariffs, or other speculative fees not specifically called out for in the scope and/or terms of the RFP/RFB/RFQ will automatically be included in the Proposal price and subject to evaluation unless otherwise specified in the RFP/RFB/RFQ. Contingency fees not pre-approved by the Applicant will not be allowed.

### **3) SERVICE PROVIDER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

a. The Service Provider acknowledges that no change in the products and/or services specified in its proposal will be allowed without prior written approval from the Applicant and a USAC service substitution approval with the exception of a Global Service Substitutions. See <https://www.usac.org/e-rate/applicant-process/before-youre-done/service-substitutions/>.

b. The Service Provider acknowledges that all pricing and technology infrastructure information in its Proposal 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). Service Providers found not to be providing Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP) may be required to repay any identified overcharges to USAC. The Service Provider acknowledges that LCP is solely the service provider's responsibility and it will not hold the Applicant liable, or seek reimbursement from any applicant, for any appeals, commitment adjustments or funding recoveries.

d. The Service Provider attests that its offer does not violate the FCC's Supply Chain certifications included in the FCC Form 473. Supply Chain requirements and certifications can be viewed at USAC's Website: <https://www.usac.org/about/reports-orders/supply-chain/>.

e. 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 Agreement's "effective date," E-rate eligible goods and/or services requested in this RFP/RFB/RFQ 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/ Category 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 are two conditions that allow USAC to provide support in a funding year for Category 2 Internal Connections (equipment and services) incurred prior to that funding year.

- *Applicants may seek support for Category 2 eligible services purchased on or after April 1, three months prior to the start of the 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.*
- *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 Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ([FCC 14-99](#), released July 23, 2014).

It is important to note NO FCC FORM 474 INVOICING can take place before the Funding Commitment Decision Letter is issued, the FCC Form 486 is approved, and/or 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 FCC Form 474 Service Provider Invoice (SPI). The Applicant will only be responsible for paying its non-discounted share of costs and does not intend to use the BEAR process (FCC Form 472). The maximum percentage the Applicant will be liable for is the pre-discount amount minus the funded amount as shown on the FCC Form 471 Funding Request Number ("FRN") and associated FRN Line Items and any identified ineligible costs. Upon the successful receipt or posting of a Funding Commitment Decision Letter from USAC and submission, certification and USAC approval of FCC Form 486, the Applicant shall pay only the discounted amount beginning with the billing cycle immediately following said approval. Alternatively, should the Applicant decide that it is in the best interest of the Applicant to file an FCC Form 472, the Applicant will inform the Service Provider of its intent.

b. The Service Provider agrees that it will not invoice USAC for equipment or services that have not been delivered to and accepted by the Applicant and installed. If equipment is being drop-shipped to the Applicant and the Applicant is responsible for installing the equipment, the Service Provider may not invoice USAC until equipment is received and accepted by the Applicant.

c. 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 Applicant will only be responsible for paying its non-discounted share.

## **6) FCC/USAC AUDITS**

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. The Service Provider hereby agrees to retain all books, records, and other documents relative to any Agreement resulting from this RFP/RFB/RFQ for ten (10) years after final payment. The Applicant, its authorized agents, and/or auditors reserves the right to perform or have performed an audit of the records of the Service Provider 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 AND AGREEMENT TERM**

During the term of any Agreement resulting from this RFP/RFB/RFQ, the Applicant may elect to procure additional or like goods and/or services offered by the Service Provider. Such services shall be negotiated and obtained via an official amendment to this Agreement and approval by the Applicant'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 Applicant shall not enter into a separate Agreement for said goods or services. Service Providers must state in their proposal that they acknowledge, accept and are in agreement with coterminous expiration conditions

## **8) TARIFFS**

In anticipation of the possible tariff imposed on imported products, Applicant expects that the Service Provider will familiarize themselves with the impact that any unknown tariff(s) on manufacturer's products are appropriately accounted for in the respondent's fee proposal. The Applicant presumes a tariff will be imposed on any manufacturer's networking equipment manufactured abroad and will be applicable at the time of purchase throughout the term of any agreement resulting from this solicitation (including and mutually agreed upon extensions).

THE SERVICE PROVIDER IS TO IDENTIFY ANY TARIFFS WHEN COMPLETING ANY PRICING ATTACHMENTS AS PART OF THIS SOLICITATION AND IDENTIFY THE PRODUCTS' COUNTRY(IES) OF ORIGIN.

It is also the expectation of the Applicant that the presumed tariff should be LESS than what is identified or if it is not ultimately imposed upon the manufacturer's product, the cost saving will be passed along to the Applicant and, in turn, the FCC's E-Rate program. It should also be presumed by respondents that should any tariff imposed upon a particular manufacturer's product be higher than what was identified in the Service Provider's proposal at the time of purchase, the Applicant will appropriately compensate the service provider for the full cost incurred at the time of purchase without regard to E-Rate eligible invoices.

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:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Service Provider FCC Registration Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Service Provider Identification Number:** \_\_\_\_\_