Pasco School District

Request for Proposal (RFP)

E-Rate Category 1 – Wide Area Network (WAN) Fiber Transport Services

Release Date: January 23, 2026
Proposal Due Date: February 27, 2026, 5:00 p.m. PST

1. Introduction and Purpose

Pasco School District (the "District") is soliciting proposals from qualified vendors to provide E-Rate Category 1 eligible fiber-based Wide Area Network (WAN) transport services connecting District facilities to District-operated data centers.

The District currently utilizes leased dark fiber provided and maintained by a third-party service provider. The District intends to evaluate both dark fiber and lit fiber transport solutions, consistent with USAC E-Rate competitive bidding requirements. Vendors may respond with dark fiber, lit fiber, or both proposals.

The District intends to file FCC Form 471 for the services described in this RFP. Services must be eligible for E-Rate Category 1 support and compliant with all current FCC and USAC rules.

2. E-Rate Requirements and Compliance

This procurement is subject to all applicable E-Rate rules, including but not limited to:

- 47 C.F.R. §54 Subpart F
- FCC competitive bidding requirements
- USAC Eligible Services List (ESL)

Key compliance statements:

- Vendors must possess a valid USAC Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) at the time of proposal and maintain it through contract execution and delivery.
- Cost of E-Rate eligible services shall be the primary factor in evaluation.
- The District reserves the right to award dark fiber, lit fiber, or a combination, based on the most cost-effective solution. For E-Rate purposes, "most cost-effective" is defined as the lowest total cost of ownership of E-Rate eligible services meeting the District's technical requirements.

3. Scope of Services

The selected vendor shall provide fiber-based WAN transport connecting approximately 32 District facilities to two District-operated data centers located at the Booth Administrative Building and Chiawana High School.

To ensure compliance with USAC E-Rate competitive bidding requirements, the District is soliciting proposals for both dark fiber transport and lit (leased) fiber transport, each of which is eligible for Category 1 funding. Vendors may propose one or both service models.

Vendors proposing dark fiber must clearly identify ownership of fiber, responsibilities for maintenance, repair, and restoration, and demarcation points.

4. Optical Transceivers and Transport Electronics

For proposals involving dark fiber, vendors must clearly identify responsibility for providing, owning, and maintaining any optical transceivers required at the WAN demarcation points.

Vendors shall indicate one of the following options for each proposed dark fiber solution:

> **Option A – Vendor-Provided Optics:**
> The vendor shall provide, own, and maintain all optical transceivers necessary to deliver WAN transport service. All associated costs must be included in the proposed recurring and/or non-recurring charges and identified as E-Rate Category 1 eligible where applicable.
>
> **Option B – District-Provided Optics:**
> The vendor shall not provide optical transceivers. The District will provide the required optical transceivers. Vendors must specify technical requirements for all required optics, including speed, connector type, wavelength, and distance.

For lit fiber proposals, all required optics and electronics necessary to deliver the service shall be included as part of the proposed WAN transport service.

The District will evaluate proposals based on total E-Rate Category 1 eligible costs as submitted. The District will not add estimated costs for optics or electronics not included in a vendor's proposal.

5. Network Architecture and Technical Requirements

- Each site must have diverse paths to both District data centers where feasible.
- The WAN must support a dual-hub architecture.
- A dedicated inter-data-center fiber connection between Booth and Chiawana is required.
- Bandwidth Requirements
    - Standard Sites:
        - Minimum 20 Gbps aggregate capacity

        - 10 Gbps to each data center
    - Markham Elementary:
        - Minimum 1 Gbps acceptable
    - The solution must allow bandwidth upgrades and the addition or removal of sites during the contract term.
- Proposals must be compatible with District-owned switching infrastructure.
- Vendor-provided electronics (if any) must support standard Ethernet handoffs.

6. Fiber Construction and Pathways

Existing District conduit may be utilized where available. The vendor is responsible for securing all necessary permits, rights-of-way, and construction. Underground fiber installation is preferred. All construction sites must be restored to their original condition. As-built documentation must be provided by the vendor upon completion.

7. Service Levels, Monitoring, and Maintenance

The vendor shall provide 24x7x365 fault management and support for all components of the WAN transport service within the vendor's scope of responsibility.

For lit fiber services, the vendor shall provide proactive monitoring sufficient to detect outages and degradation in order to meet the proposed Service Level Agreement.

For dark fiber services, the vendor shall:

- Maintain responsibility for restoration of physical fiber facilities
- Monitor and manage any vendor-owned optical or transport equipment, if applicable
- Receive and respond to trouble reports submitted by the District

The District acknowledges that, for dark fiber services where optical transceivers are District-owned, the District may be the first to detect loss-of-signal conditions using District monitoring tools. In such cases, the vendor shall respond and initiate restoration activities in accordance with the response and restoration commitments defined in the Service Level Agreement.

The District requires service level commitments appropriate to the type of WAN transport service proposed. Vendors shall include a Service Level Agreement (SLA) describing availability targets, fault response, and restoration commitments applicable to the proposed solution.

For lit fiber services, the proposed WAN transport service shall have a target availability of 99.9% or greater, excluding scheduled maintenance.

For dark fiber services, availability shall be defined as the physical availability of the leased fiber facilities. Vendors shall commit to maintaining fiber continuity and restoring service in accordance with the restoration time commitments described below.

The vendor shall provide 24x7x365 fault response for all WAN transport services.

- Minor/intermittent issue: Vendor shall acknowledge within four (4) hours
- Major outage (loss of service): Vendor shall acknowledge within one (1) hour and begin restoration efforts immediately.
- Restoration target: 8 hours or less

Vendors shall clearly identify any proposed exceptions to these targets in their response.

Vendors shall provide advance notification of planned maintenance activities that may affect WAN transport services. Notification shall be provided no less than five (5) business days in advance, except in emergency situations.

7. Contract Term

Contract term is 5 years beginning July 1, 2026.

8. Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposals must include:

1. Executive summary
2. Service model(s) proposed (dark, lit, or both)
3. Detailed pricing:
    - Non-recurring charges
    - Monthly recurring charges
    - Clearly identify E-Rate eligible vs ineligible costs
4. Network diagrams
5. Demarcation details
6. Rough project schedule with service delivery starting July 1, 2026
7. Vendor and District responsibilities
8. Service Level Agreement (SLA)
9. References (minimum two)
10. Staffing qualifications
11. SPIN number

9. Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	**Weight**
E-Rate Eligible Cost	70%

Criteria	Weight
Technical Responsiveness	15%
Vendor Qualifications	15%

Technical Responsiveness may include, but is not limited to:

- Compliance with bandwidth and topology requirements
- Route diversity and resiliency
- Monitoring, fault response, and restoration commitments
- Compatibility with District infrastructure
- Scalability and flexibility

Vendor Qualifications may include, but is not limited to:

- Experience providing comparable K-12 WAN transport services
- Demonstrated ability to meet E-Rate requirements
- Staffing, certifications, and operational capacity
- Quality of references for similar projects

For evaluation purposes, the District will score only E-Rate Category 1 eligible recurring and non-recurring costs included in each proposal. Ineligible services or costs will not be considered in the evaluation scoring, and vendors must clearly and separately identify eligible and ineligible components so that cost comparisons can be made on an equivalent basis.

Differences in service design, including whether optical transceivers are vendor-provided or District-provided, will be documented but will not be normalized or adjusted for evaluation.

The District reserves the right to select the most cost-effective solution that meets technical requirements, regardless of whether the solution is lit fiber or dark fiber.

10. Submission Instructions

Submit proposals in digital or hard-copy format to:

Mark Garrett
Executive Director of Information Systems
Pasco School District
1215 W Lewis St
Pasco, WA 99301
Email: magarrett@psd1.org

11. Locations of Service

Building	Address
Barbara McClintock STEM Elementary	5706 Road 60, Pasco, WA 99301

Booth Administrative Building	1215 W Lewis St, Pasco, WA 99301
Captain Gray STEM Elementary	1102 N 10th Ave, Pasco, WA 99301
Chiawana High School	8125 W Argent Rd, Pasco, WA 99301
Columbia River Elementary	9011 Burns Rd, Pasco, WA 99301
Delta High School	5801 Broadmoor Blvd, Pasco, WA 99301
Emerson Elementary	1616 W Octave, Pasco, WA 99301
Frost Elementary	1915 N 22nd Avenue, Pasco, WA 99301
Livingston Elementary	2515 Road 84, Pasco, WA 99301
Longfellow Elementary	301 N 10th Avenue, Pasco, WA 99301
Marie Curie STEM Elementary	715 N California, Pasco, WA 99301
Markham Elementary	4031 Elm Road, Pasco, WA 99301
Maya Angelou Elementary	6001 Road 84, Pasco, WA 99301
McGee Elementary	4601 N Horizon Drive, Pasco, WA 99301
McLoughlin Middle School	2803 Road 88, Pasco, WA 99301
Migrant Education Center	2120 W Henry St, Pasco, WA 99301
New Horizons High School	2020 W Argent Road, Pasco, WA 99301
Ochoa Middle School	1801 E Sheppard Street, Pasco, WA 99301
Orion High School	1901 E Salt Lake, Pasco, WA 99301
Pasco Digital Learning Academy	4403 W Court St, Pasco, WA 99301
Pasco Early Learning Center	1315 N 7th Ave, Pasco, WA 99301
Pasco High School	1108 N 10th Avenue, Pasco, WA 99301
Reynolds Middle School	9507 Burns Rd, Pasco, WA 99301
Rosalind Franklin STEM Elementary	6010 Road 52, Pasco, WA 99301
Rowena Chess Elementary	715 N 24th Avenue, Pasco, WA 99301
Sageview High School	6091 Burns Road, Pasco, WA 99301
Stevens Middle School	1120 N 22nd Avenue, Pasco, WA 99301
Support Services	3412 Stearman Ave, Pasco, WA 99301
Three Rivers Elementary	3901 Rd 84, Pasco, WA 99301
Twain Elementary	1801 N Road 40, Pasco, WA 99301
Virgie Robinson Elementary	125 S Wehe, Pasco, WA 99301
Whittier Elementary	616 N Wehe Avenue, Pasco, WA 99301

12. Additional Notes

The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals that are non-responsive to this RFP, contain ineligible services, fail to meet minimum technical requirements, or are not the most cost-effective solution in accordance with E-Rate competitive bidding requirements.

Any rejection or award decision will be made in a manner consistent with FCC and USAC E-Rate rules governing fair and open competitive bidding. The District reserves the right to

reissue this solicitation if it determines that doing so is necessary to ensure fair competition or obtain the most cost-effective eligible services.

To ensure fair and open competition, all vendor questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to the District contact identified in this solicitation.

The District will post responses to vendor questions on the District's procurement website: https://www.psd1.org/departments/finance/procurement. Responses will be made available publicly so that all prospective vendors have equal access to information.

Vendors are responsible for monitoring the District's procurement website for posted questions and responses. Failure to review posted information shall not relieve a vendor of responsibility for complying with RFP requirements.