UPPER DUBLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

WIDE AREA NETWORK SERVICES

LEASED LIT FIBER AND LEASED DARK FIBER

CATEGORY ONE NETWORK EQUIPMENT (MODULATING ELECTRONICS)

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS OF LEASED DARK FIBER

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

E-rate Funding Year 2027

ISSUANCE DATE: Thursday, November 19, 2026

DUE DATE FOR RECEIPT: Monday, December 21, 2026, 12:00 Noon Eastern Time

Upper Dublin School District
1580 Fort Washington Avenue, Maple Glen, PA 19002
Billed Entity Number (BEN): 126097

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

A. Purpose of Request for Proposals

The Upper Dublin School District ("District") seeks proposals for wide area network ("WAN") service to interconnect its seven school and administrative buildings. The District requests pricing for two network designs: **Option A – Hub-and-Spoke (current design)**, leased lit fiber or leased dark fiber on dedicated circuits from Upper Dublin High School to each of the other six District buildings, matching the District's current WAN design; and **Option B – Fiber Ring**, leased lit fiber or leased dark fiber in a closed **ring topology** that provides built-in resiliency, so that the failure of any single fiber segment does not isolate any District building. The District also seeks proposals for the Category One network equipment (modulating electronics) needed to light leased dark fiber under either design, and for maintenance and operations of leased dark fiber. Vendors may propose on Option A, Option B, or both.

The District's current WAN service agreement expires on June 30, 2027. The District seeks to commence service under the new agreement on **July 1, 2027**.

In accordance with Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") rules, the District is soliciting leased lit fiber and leased dark fiber proposals on equal footing. **The District has no preference for either type of service.** All responsive proposals, for either network design, will be evaluated using the same criteria and the same total-cost-of-ownership methodology described in Section VI, and the District will select the most cost-effective solution, with the price of E-rate eligible services as the most heavily weighted factor.

B. Current Network Environment

The District currently receives leased lit fiber WAN service in a hub-and-spoke design, with Upper Dublin High School serving as the hub and a dedicated point-to-point circuit to each of six remote District buildings: 1 Gbps to five buildings and 10 Gbps to Sandy Run Middle School (see Section II.A.4). Because each remote building is connected to the hub over a single path, a fiber cut or equipment failure on any circuit isolates that building. The District is requesting pricing for its current design (Option A) so that it can be compared with a fiber ring (Option B) that provides diverse paths to every building and greater bandwidth capacity for instructional, assessment, safety and administrative applications.

C. Administration of this RFP

This RFP is administered by Andrew Lechman, Chief Financial Officer (the "Issuing Officer"), who will coordinate the administration of the RFP with Colleen Yenser, Director of Technology and Innovation.

D. E-rate

The District intends to apply for discounts on the services and equipment requested in this RFP through the federal Universal Service Schools and Libraries Program, commonly known as "E-rate," administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") under the oversight of the FCC. Vendors must be familiar with, and must agree to comply with, all E-rate program rules. The requirements in Section III are a condition of award.

The District has indicated on its FCC Form 470 that it is interested in an **installment payment plan** for the non-discounted share of any special construction charges. Vendors proposing special construction must state whether they will allow the District to pay its non-discounted share of special construction charges in

installments over a period of up to four years and must disclose the material terms of any installment plan, including the interest rate (if any) and the term.

E. RFP Documents

The RFP documents issued in conjunction with the posting of the District's E-rate FCC Form 470 are as follows:

(1) This RFP narrative document

(2) Appendix A, Price Template (Excel)

(3) Appendix B, Special Construction Technical Specifications and Testing and Acceptance Plan

(4) Appendix C, Non-Collusion Affidavit

(5) Appendix D, Proposal Cover Sheet and Signature Page

The District will post all procurement documents, including any addenda, on the District's website at https://www.udsd.org/page/business-administration and, as required by E-rate, in the USAC E-rate Productivity Center ("EPC") with the FCC Form 470. The FCC Form 470 and RFP documents may be retrieved from the USAC Form 470 portal at https://data.usac.org/publicreports/Forms/Form470Rfp/Index using the following information:

Field	Value	Field	Value
Funding Year	2027	Billed Entity Number	126097
Starting Posting Date	11/19/2026	Ending Posting Date	System generated
Applicant Type	School District	Applicant State	PA
Applicant Zip	19002	Service Type	Data Transmission and/or Internet Access

F. Communications Regarding this Procurement

Email to e-rateud@udsd.org is the only permissible means of communication of any kind, including questions or comments, about this RFP. From the issuance of this RFP until the announcement of the intent to award, Vendors may not contact any other District employee, Board member, or District consultant about this RFP. Vendors should email the address above to request being added to the distribution list for courtesy notices about RFP-related items, including answers to Vendor questions and addenda. The distribution list is not the official means of notifying bidders of updates. The official repository for all RFP documents is the USAC EPC Form 470 record, and Vendors are responsible for monitoring it for addenda.

G. Requirements and Deadline for Submission

Proposals in response to this RFP are due by **12:00 Noon Eastern Time on Monday, December 21, 2026**. Proposals will be accepted by email only, in the following manner and form:

1. A complete electronic proposal, including all appendices, exhibits and attachments, in searchable PDF format, emailed to e-rateud@udsd.org with the subject line "UDSD WAN RFP – [Vendor Name]." Files larger than 20 MB may be submitted via a secure file-share link included in the email. Paper, fax and hand-delivered proposals will not be accepted.

2. Appendix A must be submitted in its original Excel format with no passwords, locked cells, hidden rows or columns, or alterations to the formulas, structure or site information. Vendors may add notes only in the designated notes areas.
3. The required contents of each proposal are set forth in Section V.
4. Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.

H. Vendor Questions

Questions must be submitted to e-rateud@udsd.org by **12:00 Noon on Wednesday, December 9, 2026**. Answers will be issued to all interested Vendors as addenda on a rolling basis and posted to the EPC Form 470 record and the District's website. The last set of answers will be issued no later than **Friday, December 11, 2026**.

I. Mandatory Site Visit

Attendance at the site visit is **mandatory**. A physical review of the main distribution frame ("MDF") and building entrance at each District building will be held on **Tuesday, December 1, 2026**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Upper Dublin High School, 800 Loch Alsh Avenue, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Vendors must email e-rateud@udsd.org by **12:00 Noon on Monday, November 30, 2026** to register, identifying the name of each attendee. The itinerary and instructions will be emailed to each registered Vendor by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 30, 2026. Each Vendor must be represented by an employee or authorized representative, who must sign the attendance sheet at each site. **Proposals from Vendors that did not attend the mandatory site visit will be disqualified.** Unscheduled site visits are not authorized and entrance will be denied. Any information shared during the site visit that is material to pricing will be issued to all Vendors as an addendum.

J. Schedule

The District intends to adhere to the following schedule but reserves the right to modify it. Any changes before the proposal due date will be issued by addendum.

Activity	Date
FCC Form 470 posted and RFP issued	Thursday, November 19, 2026
Site visit registration deadline	Monday, November 30, 2026, Noon
Mandatory site visit	Tuesday, December 1, 2026, 9:00 a.m.
Deadline for Vendor questions	Wednesday, December 9, 2026, Noon
Final answers to Vendor questions issued	Friday, December 11, 2026
Proposals due (more than 28 days after Form 470 posting)	Monday, December 21, 2026, Noon ET
Board consideration of contract approval	January 2027 Board meeting
District countersignature (before FCC Form 471 certification)	After Board approval
Special construction may begin (if applicable)	No earlier than January 1, 2027, after contract execution
Service period begins	July 1, 2027

K. Non-Discrimination Statement

As a governmental unit, the District requires all suppliers to provide a statement of non-discrimination. By signing and submitting a proposal, Vendor certifies that it does not discriminate in its employment practices with regard to race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, national origin, or disability.

L. Modification or Withdrawal of Proposals

Proposals may be modified or withdrawn by Vendor prior to the proposal due date and time. Vendor agrees not to modify or change these specifications.

M. Publicity

Vendor publicity about this project, including news releases and mention of contract award, is prohibited without prior written approval from the Issuing Officer.

N. Notification of Successful Bidder(s)

The successful bidder(s) will be notified by the Issuing Officer through a notice of intent to award issued via email. A notice of intent to award has no legal effect unless and until the parties negotiate and execute a mutually acceptable agreement approved by the UDSD School Board. Unsuccessful bidders will also be notified via email.

O. Security and Pennsylvania Clearances

All personnel of Vendor and its subcontractors who will work on District property must observe all security and safety procedures of each school facility and must obtain, and provide to the District upon request, all clearances required by Pennsylvania law, including:

1. Pennsylvania State Police Request for Criminal Record Check (Act 34);
2. Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (Act 151);
3. FBI Criminal Background Check / fingerprinting (Act 114); and
4. Any other clearances or certifications required by the District or applicable law.

On-site work cannot commence until Vendor has obtained all required certifications, licenses, permits and clearances and the District has cleared the personnel for work in District buildings.

P. Tax-Exempt Status

The District is exempt from Pennsylvania Sales and Use Tax and has other federal and state tax exemptions afforded to public school entities. Interstate telecommunications services provided to the District may be subject to the federal universal service contribution fee. This notice satisfies any notification required by the provider as to these exemptions. Vendors must include in their price proposals all applicable taxes, fees and surcharges from which the District is not exempt, separately itemized as required in Appendix A.

Q. Compensation for Failure to Timely and/or Adequately Perform

The final contract will include compensatory payments (service credits) for non-performance via a Performance Service Level Agreement (“Performance SLA”) and a Delivery Service Level Agreement (“Delivery SLA”). All services must perform according to contractual parameters and be available no later

than the completion date(s) for each site in Vendor's proposed project schedule. Time is of the essence for all obligations under the contract. The evaluation will consider the terms of each Vendor's proposed Performance and Delivery SLAs.

R. Firm Prices Required

All pricing quoted in a proposal, and in any clarifications or best and final offers, must remain firm through the E-rate application review process and throughout the term of the contract, including any voluntary extensions priced in Appendix A. If Vendor uses subcontractors, Vendor is responsible for ensuring that subcontractor prices are firm; Vendor may not be excused from performance or impose additional charges because of subcontractor price increases. Financial hardship will not be a basis to invoke force majeure. Extension prices in Appendix A are maximum prices; the District may negotiate reductions before each extension (Section IV.F).

S. District Rights

The District reserves the right to:

1. Amend, modify or cancel this RFP, or not award any contract;
2. Modify or add to the requirements of this RFP by addendum for compliance by all Vendors;
3. Award a contract for any or all parts of this RFP to one or more Vendors (for example, leased dark fiber from one Vendor and network equipment from another), and to negotiate terms and conditions consistent with this RFP;
4. Select the network design (Option A hub-and-spoke or Option B ring), service type, bandwidth tier for each circuit or segment, number of fiber pairs, and contract term that best meet the District's needs and are most cost-effective;
5. Request clarifications of proposals and request Best and Final Offers;
6. Waive minor irregularities that do not affect price or provide a competitive advantage; and
7. Select the most cost-effective proposal, which may not be the lowest-priced proposal, in accordance with FCC rules, with the price of E-rate eligible services as the most heavily weighted factor.

T. Reasons for Disqualification of Proposals

A proposal will be disqualified and not evaluated if:

1. It is received after the proposal deadline;
2. Vendor is on Red Light status with the FCC or is otherwise ineligible to participate in the E-rate program;
3. Vendor is delinquent on a debt to a state or federal governmental agency, or is debarred or suspended from federal programs;
4. Vendor or any proposed subcontractor is not authorized to do business in Pennsylvania;
5. The proposal contains material deficiencies or fails to meet the minimum requirements of Section V;
6. Vendor fails to submit Appendix A in the prescribed Excel format, or alters its structure, formulas, or site and segment information;

7. A proposal fails to price **every circuit** listed in the applicable Option A (hub-and-spoke) worksheet or **every ring segment** listed in the applicable Option B (ring) worksheet of Appendix A (Vendors are not required to price both designs or every bandwidth tier, pair count or term, but each leased lit fiber proposal must include the required 60-month term, and each priced option must include all circuits or segments for that design);
8. A leased dark fiber proposal fails to include maintenance and operations as required in Section II.E;
9. The proposal includes equipment or services produced or provided by any company on the FCC Covered List (see Section III.L);
10. Vendor is not deemed a qualified bidder based on reference checks, financial review, or other research conducted by the District;
11. Vendor fails to agree to required terms and conditions or to propose a reasonable alternative; or
12. Vendor did not attend the mandatory site visit (Section I.I).

II. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Network Architecture – Hub-and-Spoke and Fiber Ring

The District requests pricing for two WAN designs connecting the seven District buildings listed below: **Option A – Hub-and-Spoke** (the District's current design, leased lit fiber or leased dark fiber), described in Section II.A.4; and **Option B – Fiber Ring**, a **closed ring topology** (leased lit fiber or leased dark fiber), described in Sections II.A.2 and II.A.3. Upper Dublin High School is the District's main hub and data center under both designs. In the ring design, each building is a node on the ring, with two physically separate paths back to the hub.

1. District Sites

#	Building	Service Address	Role
1	Upper Dublin High School (Hub)	800 Loch Alsh Avenue, Fort Washington, PA 19034	Main hub / District data center
2	Fort Washington Elementary School	1010 Fort Washington Avenue, Fort Washington, PA 19034	Spoke (A) / ring node (B)
3	Administration Building	1580 Fort Washington Avenue, Maple Glen, PA 19002	Spoke (A) / ring node (B)
4	Maple Glen Elementary School	1581 Fort Washington Avenue, Maple Glen, PA 19002	Spoke (A) / ring node (B)
5	Jarrettown Elementary School	1520 Limekiln Pike, Dresher, PA 19025	Spoke (A) / ring node (B)
6	Thomas Fitzwater Elementary School	30 School Lane, Willow Grove, PA 19090	Spoke (A) / ring node (B)
7	Sandy Run Middle School	520 Twining Road, Dresher, PA 19025	Spoke (A) / ring node (B)

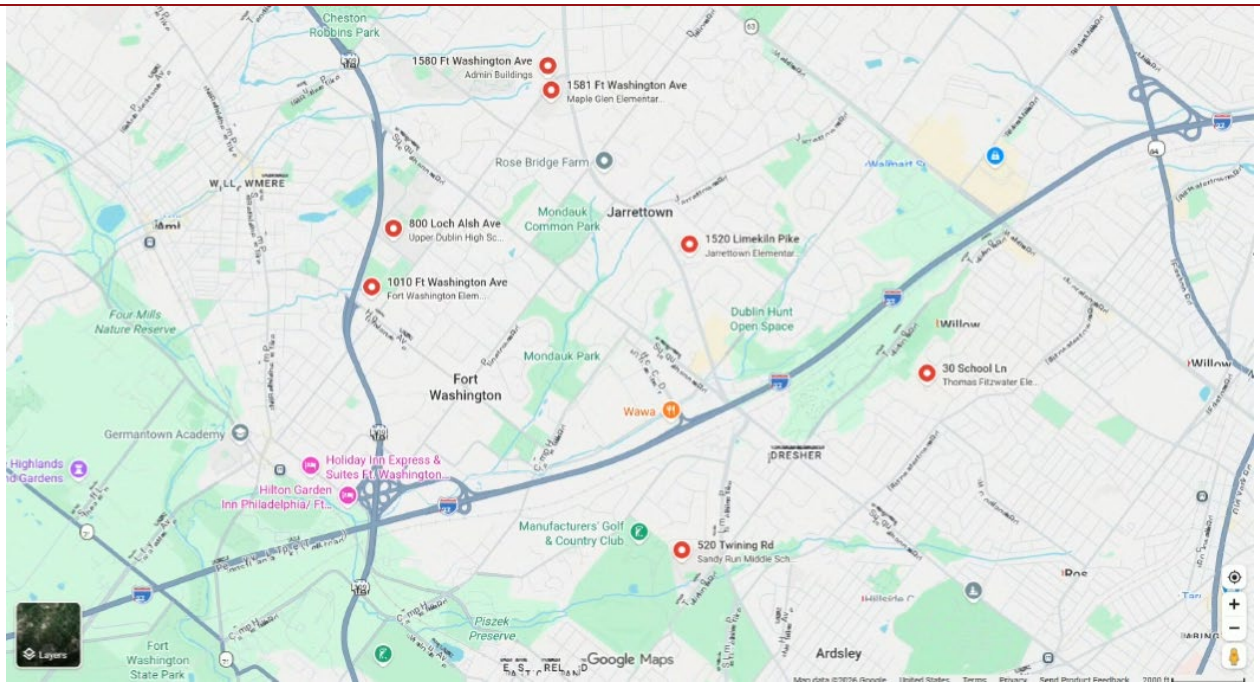


Figure 1 – District site locations (map data ©2026 Google)

2. Ring Segments (Option B)

The ring consists of the following seven segments. Each segment is a point-to-point connection between adjacent ring nodes and is priced as a separate line item in Appendix A.

Segment	Point A	Point Z
S1	Upper Dublin High School (Hub)	Administration Building
S2	Administration Building	Maple Glen Elementary School
S3	Maple Glen Elementary School	Jarrettown Elementary School
S4	Jarrettown Elementary School	Thomas Fitzwater Elementary School
S5	Thomas Fitzwater Elementary School	Sandy Run Middle School
S6	Sandy Run Middle School	Fort Washington Elementary School
S7	Fort Washington Elementary School	Upper Dublin High School (Hub)

Proposed WAN Fiber Ring – Option B (schematic – not to scale)

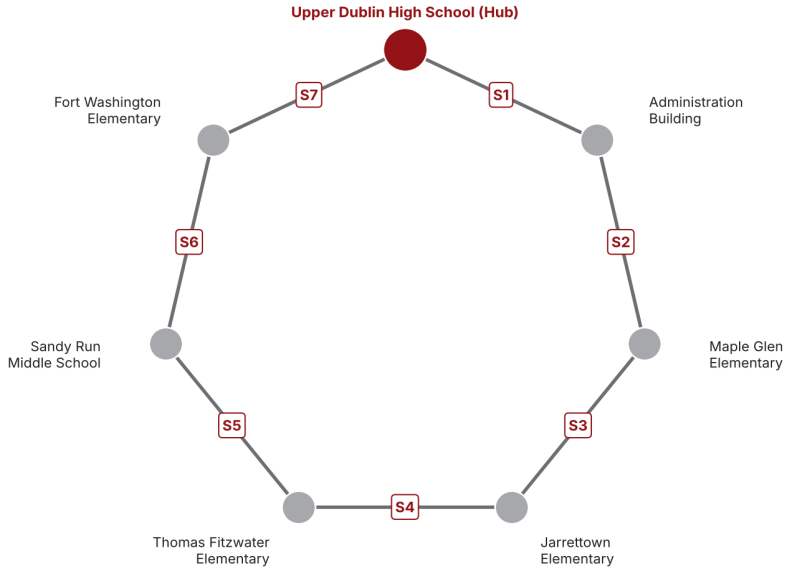


Figure 2 – Ring segment sequence (schematic only; actual routes to be proposed by Vendor)

3. Ring Design Requirements (Option B – Leased Lit Fiber and Leased Dark Fiber)

(a) **Physical diversity.** Each ring segment must follow a physically separate route. To the extent possible, no two segments may share the same conduit, duct bank, pole line, or bridge crossing. Vendors must identify every location where two or more segments share a route, structure, or facility (a potential single point of failure), state its length, and describe any mitigation.

(b) **Building entrances.** At the hub (Upper Dublin High School), the two ring segments (S1 and S7) should enter the building through separate building entrances where feasible. Vendors must describe their proposed building entry at each site and identify any construction required.

(c) **Resiliency.** The design must ensure that a failure of any single segment does not isolate any building. Vendors must describe how the proposed solution restores traffic around the ring after a segment failure and the expected failover time.

(d) **Alternate sequence.** Vendors must price the ring segments as listed so that proposals can be compared. A Vendor may also propose an alternate segment sequence (for example, to use existing facilities more cost-effectively) if it includes all seven buildings in a single closed ring. Alternate sequences must be priced in a separate copy of the applicable Appendix A worksheet clearly labeled “Alternate.”

(e) **Physical route maps.** Vendors must provide a route map for each segment showing whether existing or newly constructed facilities are used, aerial versus underground placement, and approximate route footage. Vendors must also provide a composite physical route map showing all segments (or, for Option A, all circuits) together on a single map, so that any shared or overlapping conduits, duct banks, pole lines, or crossings are visible.

(f) **Use of existing facilities.** Vendors are strongly encouraged to use existing fiber facilities, through ownership or third-party arrangements. Proposals that use existing facilities are expected to be more cost-effective and faster to implement than proposals that require significant new construction.

(g) **Demarcation.** At each site, Vendor must install its facilities to the District's MDF, including any inside wiring or pathway needed from the building entrance to the MDF. The District will provide rack space and power (including UPS-protected power) at each MDF.

(h) **Service date.** Service is to be provided at all sites beginning July 1, 2027. Vendors must state whether they can meet the July 1, 2027 date for each segment and, if not, the date by which service will be available.

(i) **Growth.** The contract must allow the District to increase bandwidth (leased lit fiber) or fiber pair count (leased dark fiber) at any time during the term at the prices quoted in Appendix A, without new competitive bidding and without additional non-recurring charges unless itemized in Appendix A.

4. Hub-and-Spoke Circuits (Option A – Current Design, Leased Lit Fiber or Leased Dark Fiber)

Option A is the District's current WAN design: six dedicated point-to-point leased lit fiber circuits, each between Upper Dublin High School (Hub) and one remote District building. Each circuit is priced as a separate line item on the "Lit Hub-Spoke" worksheets (leased lit fiber) and the "DF Hub-Spoke" worksheets (leased dark fiber) of Appendix A. Vendors may propose Option A as leased lit fiber, leased dark fiber, or both. The District's current bandwidth for each circuit is shown for reference.

Circuit	Point A	Point Z	Current Bandwidth
C1	Upper Dublin High School (Hub)	Fort Washington Elementary School	1 Gbps
C2	Upper Dublin High School (Hub)	Administration Building	1 Gbps
C3	Upper Dublin High School (Hub)	Maple Glen Elementary School	1 Gbps
C4	Upper Dublin High School (Hub)	Jarrettown Elementary School	1 Gbps
C5	Upper Dublin High School (Hub)	Thomas Fitzwater Elementary School	1 Gbps
C6	Upper Dublin High School (Hub)	Sandy Run Middle School	10 Gbps

(a) **Bandwidth.** Vendors must price each Option A circuit at **1 Gbps and 10 Gbps** for leased lit fiber (see Section II.B.2), and at one pair and two pairs per circuit for leased dark fiber (see Section II.C.1). The District may select the bandwidth of each circuit independently; at a minimum, the District expects to replace its current bandwidth of 1 Gbps to five buildings and 10 Gbps to Sandy Run Middle School.

(b) **Hub handoff.** For leased lit fiber, at Upper Dublin High School, Vendor may hand off each circuit on a separate port or may propose an aggregated handoff (for example, a single 10 Gbps or 100 Gbps port carrying all circuits on separate VLANs), provided that the hub handoff capacity is at least equal to the sum of the bandwidths of the circuits it carries. Vendor must describe the proposed hub handoff. For leased dark fiber, each circuit must terminate on its own strands on the fiber patch panel at each end (Section II.C.4) and will be lit by the District's network equipment (Section II.D).

(c) **Common requirements.** Sections II.A.3(e) (route maps), (f) (use of existing facilities), (g) (demarcation), (h) (service date) and (i) (growth) apply to each Option A circuit, reading "circuit" in place of "segment." The physical diversity and resiliency requirements of Sections II.A.3(a) through (d) do not apply to Option A. For Option A leased dark fiber, Sections II.C (leased dark fiber), II.D (network equipment) and II.E (maintenance and operations) apply to each circuit, reading "circuit" in place of "segment."

5. Logical Network Diagram (All Proposals)

Each proposal must include a logical network diagram (showing how data flows between District sites), in PDF format, for each design and service type proposed (Option A leased lit fiber, Option A leased dark fiber, Option B leased lit fiber, and/or Option B leased dark fiber, and, where applicable, the network equipment proposed under Section II.D). At a minimum, each diagram must show: (a) each District site, including the hub at Upper Dublin High School; (b) each circuit or ring segment, labeled to match Appendix A (C1–C6 or S1–S7), with its bandwidth or fiber pair count and approximate route length; (c) whether each circuit or segment uses existing or newly constructed facilities; (d) the demarcation point at each site, including Vendor-owned CPE or District network equipment and handoff port types; (e) for Option B, the protection or failover path around the ring and each shared route, structure, or facility identified under Section II.A.3(a); and (f) any underlying or third-party provider facilities used. The physical route maps required by Section II.A.3(e), including the composite route map, are required in addition to the logical network diagram and do not substitute for it. Together, they must allow the District to confirm that segments shown as separate paths in the logical diagram follow physically separate routes and do not share the same conduit or structure.

B. Leased Lit Fiber Service

Leased lit fiber service is a Vendor-managed service. Vendor is responsible for configuring, monitoring and managing the service end to end, including any Vendor-owned customer premises equipment ("CPE") needed to deliver the service at each site.

1. **Service type.** Vendor must provide a fully managed Layer 2 Ethernet transport service (MEF 3.0-certified Ethernet Private Line/EPL or equivalent) or a Layer 3 service. Vendor must state which is proposed. Layer 2 service must be transparent to District VLAN tags (802.1Q, minimum 4,000 VLANs), Q-in-Q, Layer 2 control protocols (LACP, LLDP, spanning tree BPDUs), and multicast, and must support a jumbo-frame MTU of at least 9,000 bytes.
2. **Bandwidth tiers.** Service must be symmetrical, with a committed information rate equal to the port speed and no oversubscription. Vendors must price each ring segment (Option B) at **1 Gbps, 10 Gbps, and 20 Gbps** and each hub-and-spoke circuit (Option A) at **1 Gbps and 10 Gbps** in Appendix A. Vendors are encouraged to price all tiers; each tier priced must include all seven ring segments (Option B) or all six circuits (Option A).
3. **Handoff.** Handoff at each site must be via single-mode fiber with LC connectors: 1000BASE-LX for 1 Gbps; 10GBASE-LR for 10 Gbps; and, for 20 Gbps, either two 10GBASE-LR ports in a LACP bundle or a single 25/100 Gbps port. Vendors must describe the demarcation (e.g., rack-mounted CPE, port type, power requirements).
4. **CPE.** Vendors must describe the make and model of all Vendor-owned CPE, including redundant power supply options. All CPE remains Vendor's property and responsibility to maintain and replace.

5. **Ring protection (Option B).** Vendors must describe how the lit service provides resiliency across the ring—for example, ring protection switching (ITU-T G.8032 ERPS) with failover in 50 milliseconds or less, or diverse point-to-point services that allow the District's own routing to reroute traffic. A single segment failure must not isolate any building. This item does not apply to Option A.
6. **Performance SLA minimums.** Proposals must meet or exceed the following, measured monthly per segment or circuit: availability of at least 99.99% (excluding scheduled maintenance); round-trip latency of 5 ms or less between any two District sites; jitter of 2 ms or less; packet loss of 0.1% or less; 24x7x365 network operations center; proactive monitoring with District notification within 15 minutes of a detected outage; response within one hour; and mean time to restore of four hours or less. Vendors must include their proposed service credit schedule.
7. **Maintenance windows.** Planned maintenance must occur outside instructional hours (preferably between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.) with at least seven days' written notice, except for emergency maintenance.
8. **Pricing.** Monthly recurring charges ("MRC") must be postalized by bandwidth tier (within each design, all segments or circuits of the same speed priced at the same MRC). Non-recurring charges ("NRC") and special construction must be itemized by segment or circuit. Prices must be all-inclusive of all special construction, other NRCs, taxes and surcharges; taxes and surcharges may be itemized separately. No price increases are allowed during the initial term or any priced extension.
9. **Terms.** Vendors must price an initial term of **60 months** with five (5) one-year voluntary extensions in the "Lit Hub-Spoke 60 Mo" worksheet (Option A) and/or the "Lit Ring 60 Mo" worksheet (Option B) of Appendix A. Vendors **may also, at their option,** price an initial term of 120 months with five (5) one-year voluntary extensions in the "Lit Hub-Spoke 120 Mo" and/or "Lit Ring 120 Mo" worksheets. The 120-month leased lit fiber term is optional; a proposal will not be disqualified for omitting it.
10. **Required with proposal.** A technical description, logical network diagram (Section II.A.5), route maps, demarcation description, Performance SLA, Delivery SLA, implementation timeline, and references.

C. Leased Dark Fiber Service

The District seeks proposals for leased dark fiber for each hub-and-spoke circuit (Option A) and each ring segment (Option B) in Appendix A. Leased dark fiber is requested for both designs; Vendors may propose leased dark fiber for Option A, Option B, or both. Dark fiber will be lit with District-owned network equipment (modulating electronics) (see Section II.D). In this Section II.C and in Section II.E, "segment" includes each Option A circuit.

1. **Strand counts.** Vendors must price one pair (2 strands) and two pairs (4 strands) per segment (Option B) and per circuit (Option A).
2. **Terms.** Vendors must price initial terms of 60 months and 120 months, each with five (5) one-year voluntary extensions. Vendors may propose a lease or an indefeasible right of use ("IRU"). An IRU must be priced so that its upfront and recurring components are clearly itemized in Appendix A, and its term must match the term priced.

3. **Fiber.** All fiber must be single-mode, ITU-T G.652.D compliant (G.657.A1 permitted where bend-insensitive fiber is used) from end to end, dedicated to the District's exclusive use, continuous between Point A and Point Z, and unlit by Vendor.
4. **Termination.** Fibers must be terminated with LC/UPC connectors on a Vendor-provided rack-mounted fiber patch panel in the District's MDF at each site.
5. **Optical performance.** Vendor must provide a calculated link loss budget for each segment. Each segment's measured end-to-end loss must not exceed its calculated loss budget and must support standard 10 km single-mode optics (10GBASE-LR, 25GBASE-LR, and 100GBASE-LR4) where the segment length is 10 km or less. Vendors must state the route length of each segment in Appendix A.
6. **Testing.** All leased dark fiber, whether newly constructed or existing, must be tested and documented as set forth in Appendix B before acceptance.
7. **Special construction.** All special construction must be itemized by segment in Appendix A and must comply with Appendix B. Under E-rate rules, special construction for leased dark fiber may be supported only if the fiber is lit by June 30 of the funding year (June 30, 2028 for Funding Year 2027). Vendors must provide a construction schedule that supports this deadline.
8. **Pricing.** Prices must be all-inclusive of special construction, other NRCs, taxes and surcharges, which may be itemized separately. Maintenance and operations must be itemized separately (see Section II.E). No price increases are allowed during the initial term or any priced extension.
9. **Required with proposal.** A technical description, route maps, logical network diagram (Section II.A.5), demarcation description, construction schedule, Delivery SLA, maintenance SLA, and references.

D. Category One Network Equipment (Modulating Electronics) for Leased Dark Fiber

The District does not currently own network equipment capable of lighting leased dark fiber under either design. If leased dark fiber is selected for Option A or Option B, the District will need to purchase network equipment (modulating electronics) to light the fiber. Vendors (including Vendors that are not proposing fiber) may propose network equipment that meets the following requirements. Equipment pricing must be submitted on the "Network Equip Hub-Spoke" worksheet (Option A) and/or the "Network Equip Ring" worksheet (Option B) in Appendix A. The cost of this equipment will be included in the total cost of the corresponding leased dark fiber option for evaluation purposes (Section VI).

1. **Function.** Option B (ring): at each of the seven sites, equipment that terminates both ring segments serving that site (east and west) and hands off to the District's local area network. Option A (hub-and-spoke): at each of the six remote sites, equipment that terminates that site's circuit and hands off to the District's local area network, and at the hub, equipment that terminates all six circuits. Under either design, at the hub, equipment must also connect to the District's core network.
2. **Capacity.** Each site must support at least 10 Gbps on each ring segment or hub-and-spoke circuit at installation, upgradeable to 25 Gbps or higher by changing optics only (e.g., SFP28 or QSFP28 ports), without replacing the chassis.
3. **Ports.** Option B: at each site, at least two ring-facing ports and at least two ports for connection to the District LAN. At the hub: sufficient ports to terminate both ring segments and connect to the

District core with redundant links. Option A: at each remote site, at least one WAN-facing port per leased fiber pair and at least two ports for connection to the District LAN; at the hub, sufficient ports to terminate all six circuits and connect to the District core with redundant links.

4. **Optics.** Single-mode optics matched to the measured or calculated loss of each segment or circuit (e.g., LR or ER), quoted per site.
5. **Features.** Layer 3 routing (static, OSPF, and BGP), for Option B, sub-second failover around the ring (ITU-T G.8032 ERPS or Layer 3 equal-cost multipath/fast reroute), 802.1Q VLANs, QoS, IPv4/IPv6, multicast, SNMPv3 and/or streaming telemetry, syslog, and AAA via RADIUS or TACACS+.
6. **Hardware.** Rack-mountable in a standard 19-inch rack, with redundant hot-swappable power supplies and fans.
7. **Interoperability.** Equipment must interoperate with the District's existing network, which currently uses a Cisco Catalyst C9410R core switch. Vendors may propose any manufacturer that meets these requirements.
8. **Support.** Manufacturer hardware replacement (next business day or better) and software update support for 60 months, priced as a separate line item, with an optional price for an additional 60 months.
9. **Services.** Installation, configuration, testing, documentation and knowledge transfer, itemized separately.
10. **Eligibility.** Vendors must itemize all equipment, licenses, support and services by line item with manufacturer part numbers. If any proposed equipment includes capacity or features beyond what is needed to terminate the WAN (for example, additional LAN access ports), Vendor must identify it so the District can allocate costs between eligible and ineligible components.
11. **Covered List.** No equipment may be produced by a company on the FCC Covered List (see Section III.L).

E. Maintenance and Operations (M&O) of Leased Dark Fiber

Maintenance and operations is a mandatory component of every leased dark fiber proposal, for Option A and Option B, and must be itemized as a separate line item in the M&O column of each "DF" worksheet in Appendix A. Vendor may perform M&O directly or through an identified subcontractor; Vendor must certify that any subcontractor is bound by Vendor's SLA.

1. The M&O fee may cover only the facilities leased to the District. If the fiber route serves multiple customers, only the District's proportionate share of maintenance costs may be charged.
2. M&O must be priced for the entire term of the lease or IRU, including extensions. If M&O cannot be quoted for the full term, Vendor must state the alternate period and explain why.
3. Vendor is financially responsible for all costs associated with fiber cuts, damage, and required relocations (including relocations required by public right-of-way or pole owners). Vendor must describe its relocation process, including notice to the District and assumption of costs.
4. Vendor must maintain the fiber 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year; automatically detect fiber malfunctions where possible; notify the District within 15 minutes of a detected outage; respond within one (1) hour; and restore service within four (4) hours, even if a temporary repair is

required. Permanent repairs must be completed within ten (10) business days, with post-repair testing results provided to the District.

5. Vendor must describe its fiber maintenance practices, including: (a) routine maintenance and inspection; (b) scheduled maintenance windows and planned-outage practices; (c) marker and handhole inspection and repair for buried plant; (d) handling of unscheduled outages and trouble reports; (e) agreements with utilities and contractors for emergency restoration; (f) repair of fiber breaks; (g) post-repair testing; (h) mean time to repair; (i) replacement of damaged fiber; (j) customer notification policies; (k) process for changing procedures; (l) moves, adds and changes; and (m) all costs and processes for responding to Pennsylvania One Call (PA811) locate requests for buried plant.

F. Implementation and Project Management (All Proposals)

1. Vendor must assign a single project manager responsible for the implementation and provide a detailed project schedule with milestones for each segment, including permitting, make-ready, construction, splicing, testing, and acceptance.
2. Vendor must provide written status reports at least every two weeks during implementation.
3. Work in occupied buildings must be scheduled with the District and performed outside instructional hours unless otherwise approved.
4. Vendor must coordinate cutover with the District and with the District's current WAN provider so that no building is without WAN service for more than four (4) hours, scheduled outside instructional hours.
5. At completion, Vendor must provide as-built documentation, including route maps in electronic format (PDF and KMZ or GIS format) and, for dark fiber, the test results required by Appendix B.

G. Reporting, Notifications and Alarms

Vendors must describe in detail their reporting, notification and alarm practices for service quality and availability, and must provide sample reports and notifications.

H. Customer Portal

Vendors must state whether they offer a customer portal and describe: (1) the portal interface (with screenshots); (2) portal capabilities, including trouble ticket entry and tracking; (3) whether multiple users with different roles and rights may access the portal; and (4) available monitoring statistics, such as bandwidth utilization, latency, jitter, and packet loss.

III. E-RATE REQUIREMENTS

Vendors submitting proposals must agree to the following E-rate requirements, which will be incorporated into the contract.

A. Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN)

Vendor must have a valid SPIN (498 ID) and include it in its proposal. A Vendor without a SPIN must submit an FCC Form 498 to USAC before the proposal deadline and include proof of submission. Each proposal must be submitted under a single SPIN.

B. FCC Registration Number

Vendor must be registered with the FCC Commission Registration System (CORES) and provide its FCC Registration Number (FRN).

C. Service Provider Annual Certification (FCC Form 473)

Vendor must file a Form 473 (SPAC) each funding year before any invoices are submitted to USAC.

D. Lowest Corresponding Price

Vendor must comply with the FCC's Lowest Corresponding Price ("LCP") rule (47 C.F.R. §§ 54.500 and 54.511(b)) and may not charge the District more than the LCP for E-rate eligible services. The contract will include a process for annual LCP compliance.

E. Invoicing and Discounted Bills

At the District's option, Vendor must either (1) provide discounted bills reflecting only the District's non-discounted share and invoice USAC for the discount amount using FCC Form 474 (SPI), or (2) support the District's reimbursement requests using FCC Form 472 (BEAR). If E-rate funding is not approved by July 1 of any year, the District will pay the full monthly charges until funding is approved and Vendor receives the Form 486 notification; Vendor will then credit or refund the pre-paid discount amounts, at the District's option. Vendor is solely responsible for timely invoicing USAC; the District will not be liable for discount amounts USAC refuses to pay due to Vendor's late or improper invoicing.

F. Itemization of Eligible and Ineligible Charges

Vendor must separately itemize E-rate eligible and ineligible products and services on its proposal and all invoices and, upon request, provide separate invoices for eligible and ineligible charges. Invoices must track the contract line items and include the name and service address of each site.

G. Special Construction and Installment Payments

Special construction charges must be itemized separately from recurring charges. Vendors must state whether they offer an installment payment plan of up to four years for the District's non-discounted share of special construction and disclose all material terms. Special construction may begin no earlier than January 1, 2027 and only after contract execution; service may not begin before July 1, 2027.

H. Red Light Rule and Good Standing

Vendor must be in good standing with the FCC, with no outstanding debts owed to the FCC, and not on Red Light status. Vendor must immediately notify the District if its status changes. Red Light status is a material breach, and the District may terminate the contract without termination charges.

I. Investigations

Vendor must notify the District within 30 days of learning of any federal, state or local investigation that could affect the District's ability to receive E-rate funding. The District may cancel the contract without penalty if such an investigation impedes its ability to receive E-rate funding.

J. FCC Gift Rules

Vendors may not offer or provide gifts, meals, or other things of value to District employees, Board members, or consultants during the procurement or the term of the contract, in accordance with FCC gift rules (47 C.F.R. § 54.503(d)).

K. Document Retention and Audits

Vendor must retain all documentation related to this procurement and contract, including bids, contracts, invoices, delivery records, and asset records, for at least ten (10) years after the last date of service or delivery, and must provide such documentation to the District, USAC or the FCC upon request.

L. FCC Covered List

Vendor certifies that no equipment or services provided under this RFP are produced or provided by any company on the FCC Covered List (https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain/coveredlist), in accordance with 47 C.F.R. § 54.10 and Section 889 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019.

M. Service Substitutions and Delivery Deadline Extensions

Vendor must cooperate with the District in any service substitution, FCC Form 500 request, or service delivery deadline extension. The District may extend or shorten the contract period so that it coincides with an E-rate funding year or an approved service delivery deadline extension.

N. Openings, Closings and Relocations of District Buildings

The contract must (1) waive early termination charges when the District closes a building, with 60 days' notice; (2) allow new District buildings to be added as a minor contract modification, with build-out charges negotiated; and (3) allow relocation of a building as a minor contract modification, with build-out charges negotiated.

O. Contingent on E-rate Funding

Any contract resulting from this RFP will be contingent upon E-rate funding approval and Board approval. The District may cancel any portion of the contract without penalty if E-rate funding is denied or reduced for that portion.

IV. CONDITIONS AND CONTRACT

A. Right Not to Award

The District reserves the right to reject all proposals and not award a contract, to narrow the scope of the project before contract signing, and to accept or reject any proposal in whole or in part.

B. Cancellation of Service Without Penalty

The District may cancel any service under the contract without termination charges if the service is not delivered in accordance with the agreed schedule.

C. Commencement of Service

Service orders and configuration must be coordinated with the District's Chief Financial Officer (or designee) and Director of Technology and Innovation (or designee).

D. Good Faith Negotiation of Contract

Vendor must negotiate a written agreement with the District in good faith. The District is not obligated to accept Vendor's standard terms and conditions. Vendor must include its proposed contract, including all terms, conditions, and addenda, with its proposal. If a contract acceptable to the District is not signed by

Vendor by January 13, 2027, the District may award to the next highest-scoring Vendor. The contract must be signed by both parties before the District certifies its FCC Form 471.

E. Vendor Execution Before Board Action

Vendor must sign the negotiated contract before it is presented to the Board of School Directors and before District countersignature.

F. Contract Term

The initial term will begin July 1, 2027 and will be determined by the District based on the evaluation: 60 months for leased lit fiber (or 120 months, if the Vendor offered the optional 120-month leased lit fiber term and the District selects it), and 60 or 120 months for leased dark fiber. Each term includes five (5) one-year voluntary extensions at the prices in Appendix A. Extensions require mutual written agreement. **The extension prices in Appendix A are maximum prices. Before exercising any extension, the District may negotiate with Vendor for reduced prices that reflect then-current market pricing, and Vendor agrees to negotiate in good faith.** Any agreed price reduction will be documented in a written amendment to the contract.

G. Subcontracting

Subcontracting is not permitted without the District's prior written consent. Vendor must identify all proposed subcontractors and underlying providers in its proposal. Vendor remains responsible for all SLAs, regardless of whose facilities are used.

H. Insurance and Indemnification

Vendor must maintain, at a minimum, commercial general liability insurance of $1,000,000 per occurrence / $2,000,000 aggregate, automobile liability of $1,000,000, workers' compensation as required by law, and umbrella coverage of $5,000,000, naming the District as an additional insured. Vendor must indemnify and hold harmless the District against all claims arising from any act or omission of Vendor or anyone acting on its behalf. The District will not be subject to a similar indemnification clause and does not waive any governmental immunity.

I. Prevailing Wage and Permits

Vendor must comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, including the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act where applicable, and must obtain and pay for all permits required for its work.

J. Changes or Discontinuance of Service

Services provided under the contract may not be significantly changed or discontinued without the District's written authorization.

K. Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law

Proposals become subject to the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law after award. Vendors must clearly mark any information they consider confidential or proprietary and provide a redacted copy. Under E-rate rules, the pricing of the winning proposal is not confidential.

L. Governing Law

The contract will be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

V. INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN PROPOSAL

Proposals must be organized using the following tabs. Vendors may propose leased lit fiber, leased dark fiber (with M&O), network equipment, or any combination, and must indicate the scope of their proposal on Appendix D.

Tab	Contents
1	Appendix D, Proposal Cover Sheet and Signature Page, signed by an authorized official, with three references for similar services (preferably K-12 or public-sector fiber rings)
2	Executive summary and statement of agreement with all RFP terms, or identification of each term with which Vendor disagrees, with an explanation and proposed alternative
3	Company information: history and nature of business; whether services are provided over Vendor's own facilities, an incumbent's facilities, resale, or a combination (identify all underlying providers); relationship with the District, if any; experience with E-rate
4	Technical proposal: description of the proposed solution, logical network diagram (Section II.A.5), physical route maps for each segment or circuit and the composite route map (Section II.A.3(e)), ring diversity analysis (Section II.A.3, Option B only), demarcation, and CPE or equipment specifications
5	Implementation plan and schedule, including special construction schedule, and ability to meet the July 1, 2027 service date for each segment
6	Performance SLA, Delivery SLA, and (for dark fiber) maintenance SLA, including service credit schedules
7	Maintenance and operations description (dark fiber), reporting and notifications, and customer portal
8	Appendix A, Price Template (Excel), plus itemization of all NRCs and special construction, installment payment terms (if any), and a sample invoice
9	Network equipment proposal, if applicable (Appendix A Network Equip Hub-Spoke and/or Network Equip Ring worksheets and manufacturer data sheets)
10	E-rate information: SPIN, FCC Registration Number, federal Tax ID, certification that Vendor is not on Red Light status, Covered List certification, and the name of a contact who will be available January–March 2027 to assist with the District's E-rate application
11	Proposed contract with all terms and conditions; statement that Vendor will negotiate in good faith and understands that the District is not required to accept Vendor's standard terms; contact authorized to negotiate
12	Financial information: latest annual report or audited financial statements (a URL is acceptable). The District may require a performance bond or letter of credit if financial information is insufficient.
13	Appendix C, Non-Collusion Affidavit; certificate of insurance or evidence of insurability; evidence of authorization to do business in Pennsylvania

If awarded, Vendor must execute a tax certification as required by Pennsylvania and federal law and attest that it is not in default of any tax payment to any level of government.

VI. EVALUATION

Proposals will be evaluated by a committee appointed by the Issuing Officer and the Director of Technology. Disqualified proposals will not be evaluated. In accordance with FCC rules, **the price of E-rate eligible services is the most heavily weighted factor**. The District reserves the right to request Best and Final Offers.

A. Evaluation Criteria

Criterion	Weight
Cost of E-rate eligible services and equipment (total cost of ownership, per Section VI.B)	40%
Technical solution, including network design, resiliency and physical path diversity, and capacity for growth	20%
Service level agreements, maintenance, and support	15%
Implementation plan and ability to meet the required service dates	10%
Vendor experience, references, and E-rate experience	10%
Cost of E-rate ineligible items (if any) and contract terms	5%
Total	100%

Price points will be awarded by formula: the lowest evaluated total cost receives the full 40 points, and each other proposal receives points equal to (lowest evaluated total cost ÷ proposal's evaluated total cost) × 40.

B. Cost Comparison Methodology – Network Designs and Service Types

To compare the hub-and-spoke and ring designs, and leased lit fiber and leased dark fiber, on an equal basis, the District will calculate a comprehensive total cost of ownership for each complete solution over the same period, and will compare the annualized cost of each solution. **60-month comparison:** each solution is evaluated over its 60-month initial term. **120-month comparison:** leased lit fiber is evaluated using the 60-month initial term plus all five (5) one-year extensions priced in Appendix A (or, if lower, the Vendor's optional 120-month price), and leased dark fiber is evaluated using its 120-month initial term. The components of each total are:

1. **Leased lit fiber – hub-and-spoke (Option A):** all MRCs for all six circuits, at the bandwidth selected for each circuit, over the term, plus all NRCs, special construction, and applicable taxes and surcharges.
2. **Leased lit fiber – ring (Option B):** all MRCs for all seven segments over the term, plus all NRCs, special construction, and applicable taxes and surcharges.
3. **Leased dark fiber – ring (Option B):** all lease or IRU charges for all seven segments over the term, plus M&O, all NRCs, special construction, and applicable taxes and surcharges, **plus** the cost of the network equipment, optics, installation, and manufacturer support needed to light the fiber (using the lowest-cost compliant network equipment proposal received, unless the District determines a higher-cost proposal is necessary to meet the requirements). For the 120-month term, the evaluation will include a reasonable allowance for equipment refresh if the proposed equipment's support life is shorter than the term.
4. **Leased dark fiber – hub-and-spoke (Option A):** all lease or IRU charges for all six circuits over the term, plus M&O, all NRCs, special construction, and applicable taxes and surcharges, **plus** the cost of the network equipment, optics, installation, and manufacturer support needed to light the fiber at the hub and the six remote sites (from the "Network Equip Hub-Spoke" worksheet), calculated in the same manner as item 3, including the equipment refresh allowance for the 120-month term.
5. Solutions will be compared at the bandwidth and capacity the District requires. Dark fiber equipment will be evaluated at the same capacity as the lit tier being compared. Differences in

resiliency between the hub-and-spoke and ring designs will be considered under the technical criterion in Section VI.A, not in the cost calculation.

6. Where a single Vendor does not propose a complete solution, the District may combine the lowest-cost compliant components from different Vendors (for example, dark fiber from one Vendor and network equipment from another) to determine the total cost of the dark fiber solution.

The District will document the evaluation, including the cost comparison, and retain it in accordance with E-rate document retention requirements.

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