

Request for Proposal: Network Equipment and Support

February 22, 2023

DC West Community Schools
401 S Pine Street
Valley, NE 68064

Erate Identifier: Cat2.2023Network

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Final

Overview

DC West Community Schools is seeking proposals for internal connections, basic maintenance of internal connections and managed internal broadband services.

All proposals must include a lifetime warranty after online diagnosis and RMA issuance.

Vendors will have 24 hours after vendor selection is announced to raise any questions. Questions will be addressed via the web site posting answers to all questions. The District will have the final authority to the resolution of all questions.

All bidding vendors must be Erate eligible and have an updated Form 473 (SPAC) on file to provide the services requested and provide their Service Provider's Form 498 ID (formally known as SPIN) as part of this RFP. **Vendors are required to state if any proposed equipment and/or services are ineligible for Erate funding as part of their proposal documentation.**

Proposals are due in either hardcopy or in electronic form (PDF format) on or before **March 22, 2023 at 3:00 pm CST** at DC West Community Schools, Attn: Sandi Kerkhoff – RFP Response, 401 S Pine Street, Valley, NE 68064 or emailed to skerkhoff@dcwest.org. Emailed proposal documents will be time-stamped from the receiving computer.

Proposals will be available for inspection, at the District Office (401 S Pine Street, Valley, NE) by Noon on March 27, 2023.

Questions should be addressed, no later than March 10, 2023, to:
Sandi Kerkhoff
Email: skerkhoff@dcwest.org

Questions and Answers will be posted on district website (<https://www.dccwest.org/>) by March 14, 2023.

1.1 Product Specifications.

DC West Community Schools is seeking proposals that supports their existing and leased equipment that consists of network switches and wireless access points. *Firewall Services are not needed or included in this request for proposals.*

All proposals which are highly equivalent to a Nile solution, including a fully managed network, switches and wireless access points, will be considered. Proposals are required to include all network equipment, including new modules, cables, connectors, peripherals and support as needed. Additionally, proposals are required to include any software upgrades, security patches, eligible under BMIC, as part of the MIBS contract.

Minimum Solution Requirements:

- **Must fit into the Zero Trust Framework** (Security is paramount for DC West's Network filled with district staff and student-minor devices. A zero-trust network is required)
- **Must be a NaaS solution where the service must perform all OS updates and security patches**
- **Must be able to deliver all gear by 7/7/2023**

Proposals should include pricing for both a 36 and 60 month term; the service implementation timeframe for these services and equipment shall begin on 07/01/2023 or sooner.

DC West Community Schools is seeking proposals for MIBS Monitoring/Management of the district wireless network. This may include the following: Complete wireless network visibility, automated problem and solution identification, historical forensics, and wired and wireless network testing. Must provide necessary hardware and software to monitor the WiFi at all locations.

DC West Community Schools is seeking proposals for Network Equipment & Support/Management for all 3 District Buildings (Elementary, Middle School & High School). Minimum requirements for the network switches and wireless access points are posted below. If proposing an equivalent product please submit data verifying equivalency with the proposal. No refurbished equipment is acceptable.

Access Points Specifications	Quantity
WiFi 6: 3 Radios + 1 BT Radio	130
2 Radios for serving clients: 2.4Ghz Radio: 4x4:4, 5Ghz Radio:4x4:4	
1 Radio for Security (WIPS/WIDS) and RF Monitoring: Dual Band Radio: 1x1:1	
5Gbps Uplink	

Network Switches Specifications	Quantity
48 Port Switch	15
24 Port Switch	6
12 Port Switch	2
Core Switch	1
Multi-gig (100M to 5Gbps) ports for APs and Desktops/Printers/Cameras 4x10/25Gbps uplinks and no limit on the number of switches in a stack. All ports are POE-capable.	

2.1 Pricing and Payment Structure.

Vendors are required to breakdown the purchases as outlined in the table in Appendix A. Vendors are required to complete Appendix A as part of their proposal. If additional items are required to complete the proposal, please list them in Appendix A.

Contracts will be awarded only after receiving a funding commitment and decision letter from SLD or agreed upon by the district. This RFP will automatically become part of any contract awarded to a vendor. The District requests vendors to file a Form 474 (Service Provider Invoice; SPI) to request reimbursement directly from USAC for the eligible Erate portion of the contract.

3.1 Evaluation Process.

Please refer to Appendix B for further details regarding the evaluation process.

4.1 Discrepancies and Omissions.

Vendors finding discrepancies or omissions in the RFP or having any doubts as to the meaning or intent of any part thereof shall submit such questions or concerns to Sandi Kerkhoff, DC West Community Schools, skerkhoff@dcwest.org. Addenda issued in correspondence to this RFP shall be considered a part of this RFP and shall become part of any final Contract that may be derived from this RFP. This RFP and its addenda will be part of any possible future contract with successful vendor(s).

5.1 Contingencies.

This RFP should not be considered as a Contract to purchase goods or services, but is a Request for Proposal in accordance with the Terms and Conditions herein and will not necessarily give rise to a contract. However, RFP responses should be as detailed and

complete as possible to facilitate the formation of a contract based on the RFP response(s) that are pursued should DC West Community Schools decide to do so. Proposals stating that pricing is valid dependent upon availability and/or subject to prior sale will be considered as non-responsive. Completion of this RFP form and its associated Appendices are a requirement. Failure to do so will disqualify your RFP response submittal. Vendors must submit sealed RFP responses by the due date and time as specified herein. Electronic submissions will be accepted if create in PDF format and e-mail skerkhoff@dcwest.org by the due date and time as specified herein. Date and time stamp of receiving computer will govern all e-mails. Vendors will be considered nonresponsive if the above requirements are not submitted as requested. The DC West Community Schools has the right to reject all submitted proposals and resubmit for new proposals through a revised RFP.

6.1 Vendor Questions and Clarifications.

Questions should be addressed, no later than March 10, 2023, to:
Sandi Kerkhoff
Email: skerkhoff@dcwest.org

Questions and Answers will be posted on district website (<https://www.dccwest.org/>) by March 14, 2023

Appendix A

Required Form for RFP Response.

TABLE 2.1: DC WEST COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	
Description: 36-month Term	Total
Network as a Service: Network Switches and Wireless Network	
Description: 60-month Term	
Description: 60-month Term	Total
Network as a Service: Network Switches and Wireless Network	

I acknowledge Section 2.1 Pricing and Payment; DC West Community Schools will only accept discount on invoices; therefore, the winning vendor will file a Form 474 (Service Provider Invoice Form) to request payment of the discount amount for eligible services after billing the applicant for the non-discount share of the cost of the equipment and/or services.

Vendor Name: _____

Erate Form 498 ID (SPIN): _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date Submitted: _____

Appendix B

Evaluation Rubric
DC West Community Schools
Erate: Cat2.2023Network

1. Cost of eligible equipment and/or eligible maintenance25 points

Cost of Equipment will be released at time of proposal opening. Points will be awarded during the evaluation of the proposal(s).

2. Compatibility with currently owned district devices20 points

Compatibility is very important. Points will be awarded during the evaluation of the proposal(s) and determination of compatibility with existing equipment will be done at that same time. Zero (0) points will be awarded for non-compatible devices and twenty (20) points will be awarded for full 100% compatibility.

3. Features included.....15 points

All documented features of the device in the RFP will be evaluated and points award as such. Points will not be awarded for features that are not included in the cost of the device as presented in the RFP.

4. Support of hardware10 points

Technical support will be contacted and will be evaluated on its technical knowledge, English as the primary language, and ease of use.

5. Reliability.....10 points

Reliability score will be determined using the following criteria:

- a. References given in the RFP
- b. Known other users of the device
- c. Personal experiences

6. User Interface.....10 points

The user interface will be evaluated and points awarded on the ease of use and the completeness of the interface to the device.

7. References.....10 points

References will be contacted and points awarded on their responses.