



DELAWARE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL E-rate Category 2 Structured Cabling

Optional Pre-Bid Walk Through: Friday, November 22, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.
Vendor Questions Due: Monday, November 25, 2024 at noon.
Proposals Due: Friday, January 3, 2025 at noon.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Delaware Valley School District ("District") seeks Request for Proposals ("RFP") for structured communications cabling in or between eight school buildings. The District intends to apply for discounts through the federal E-rate program for a portion of the services. Several criteria and restrictions pertinent to the E-rate program are included herein and must be met by the successful vendor in order for the proposal to be considered a Qualified Proposal.

1.2 Issuing Officer

Dylan Saturno
Technology Supervisor

1.3 Technical Contact for Questions and Information

Dylan Saturno
Technology Supervisor
dsaturno@dvsd.org

Prospective Vendors must direct and confine all inquiries and communications concerning this procurement to the Technical Contact and correspondence must be made via e-mail. The District encourages prospective Vendors to submit any questions they may have as soon as possible. Questions should include "E-rate Category 2 Cabling RFP" in the subject line to ensure the email is identified as relating to this procurement.

Vendor questions must be submitted to the technical contact no later than Monday, November 25, 2024 at noon. The District will make every effort to answer all vendor questions and upload responses to the USAC website by Tuesday, November 26, 2024.

The RFP is posted on the USAC website. Vendors are responsible for periodically monitoring the website for any updates relating to this RFP.

1.4 Optional Pre-Bid Walk Through

An optional progressive site walk through will be held Friday, November 22, 2024 beginning at 9:00 a.m., starting at the Delaware Valley High School at 252 Route 6 & 209, Milford, PA. Vendors should RSVP to Dylan Saturno at dsaturno@dvsd.org by Thursday, November 21, 2024 at noon if they intend to participate in the walkthrough. Prospective bidders are strongly encouraged to visit all sites during the scheduled walkthrough. There will not be a second scheduling of site walk-throughs or re-visitation of any sites already visited.

1.5 Manner and Due Date for Proposals

A sealed hard copy of all files comprising the proposal **must** be delivered on or before Friday, January 3, 2025 at noon eastern addressed to:

E-rate Category 2 Cabling Proposal
William Hessling, Business Administrator
Delaware Valley School District
236 Route 6 & 209
Milford, PA 18337

In addition, one complete electronic copy of all files comprising this proposal must be e-mailed to the Technical Contact on or before Friday, January 3, 2025 at noon eastern.

- Both the paper and electronic copies must be identical and labeled, "E-rate Category 2 Cabling Proposal."
- The Vendor's name is required to be included on all documents and envelopes.
- All required Vendor information, certifications and attachments must be included with the paper and electronic versions of the proposal.
- The Vendor's price proposal must be contained in a separate envelope clearly marked with the Vendor's name and indicating that the price proposal is enclosed.

The District intends to select the successful Vendor and have the final contract(s) available by February 1, 2025 to be presented to its board for approval no later than its February 2025 board meeting. Vendors must be available to answer questions as soon as the proposals are opened and to negotiate a contract.

1.6 The District will review the proposals for compliance with the procedural requirements set forth in Section 5 and may reject any proposal that materially fails to comply. The District reserves the right to waive non-material defects.

1.7 The District reserves the right to ask clarifying questions of Vendors and to request best and final offers upon review of initial proposals.

- 1.8 The successful bidder(s) will be advised of selection by the Issuing Officer through the issuance of a notification of intention to recommend award, via email. Any notification of the selection of the successful bidder shall have no legal effect unless and until the parties negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement that is approved by the school board. Unsuccessful bidders also will be notified via email.
- 1.9 All personnel (contractors and subcontractors) that will be working on this project in the schools must observe all security and safety procedures of each school facility and must secure all record checks required by Pennsylvania law which include Act 34 Criminal Record Check, Act 151 Fingerprints, Act 114 Child Abuse History Clearance.

On-site work at the school sites cannot commence until the provider has obtained all relevant certifications, licenses, permits and/or required qualifications for its workers and has presented required documentation for the personnel to work in the District's locations.

- 1.10 The District is exempt from Pennsylvania Sales and Use Tax and has other federal and state tax exemptions afforded to public school entities and/or similar political subdivisions. This notice shall serve to satisfy any notification required by the provider as to these tax exemptions. Vendors must ensure that their cost proposals specifically include all applicable taxes, fees and surcharges from which the District is not exempt or that is imposed or assessed by Vendor, as required in Appendix A.

1.10 Reasons for Disqualification of Proposals

If any of the following conditions occur, Vendor's proposal is automatically disqualified from being evaluated.

- 1.10.1 Vendor's proposal is submitted after proposals are received after the due date.
- 1.10.2 Vendor is on Red Light Status with the FCC or is delinquent on a debt to a state or federal governmental agency or entity.
- 1.10.3 Vendor is not authorized to do business in Pennsylvania.
- 1.10.4 Vendor has not been in business for at least 5 years performing services or furnishing equipment required in the bid.
- 1.10.5 Vendor has had an unsatisfactory performance or failure to perform in accordance with the terms of one or more contracts with the District within the previous four (4) years of the issuance date of this RFP.
- 1.11.6 Vendor does not have an E-rate SPIN number.
- 1.11.7 Vendor has no previous experience with the federal E-rate program.

1.11.8 Vendor cannot provide all equipment and services listed in Appendix A.

1.11.9 Vendor has not provided all of the required documentation and information requested in this RFP.

1.11.10 Equipment is found to contain components or equipment is made by companies on the FCC's list of companies identified as national security risks - <https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain/coveredlist>.

2.0 SCOPE OF CABLING SERVICES REQUESTED IN THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

A. Structured Cabling and Facilities

2.1 Structured fiber cabling, connecting MDF and IDF network closets in and between the following schools/buildings:

Entity Name	Address	City	Zip	# of Network Closets to be Connected
Delaware Valley Elementary School	500 Avenue S	Matamoras	18336	3
Delaware Valley High School	252 Route 6 & 209	Milford	18337	12
Delaware Valley Middle School	258 Route 6 & 209	Milford	18337	2
Shohola Elementary School	940 Twin Lakes Rd	Shohola	18458	2

Fiber between Dingman-Delaware Elem School, Dingman-Delaware Middle School & Dingman-Delaware Primary School	1355 Route739	Dingmans Ferry	2
Fiber between District Office - High School	252 Route 6 & 209	Milford	1

2.2 Included in this proposal is Pricing Appendix A. Proposals must include the completed Pricing Appendix A spreadsheet, providing only the per building cost (not a per hour cost). Note: Separate pricing is needed to replace the existing Dingman-Delaware Campus fiber cabling between schools and to replace the existing fiber connection from the District Office to the High School, as these connections are not currently eligible for Category 2 E-rate discounts.

- 2.2.1 The Dingman-Delaware Campus contains three schools, with one network closet in each school. The schools are currently connected via underground fiber. This RFP seeks pricing to replace existing fiber between schools in the existing underground conduit. Because cabling between schools on the same campus do not qualify for Category 2 funding, separate pricing is sought. Additionally, pricing is sought to replace the existing fiber between the District Office and the High School using the existing underground conduit. This connection to a Non-Instructional Facility (NIF) also does not qualify for E-rate Category 2 funding.
- 2.3 All MDF and IDF locations must include fiber 12 port wall mount patch panel.
- 2.4 No network drops are being sought in this RFP.
- 2.5 A per building price must be inclusive of the fiber cable structural cable, network jack, wall plate, surface mount box (if necessary), surface mount raceway and accessories (if necessary), above ceiling cable management (including cable tray, "J" hooks, hangers, clamps, and other hardware), and installation of these listed items. No additional costs may be submitted or included.
- 2.6 Proposals are required to be a turn-key, comprehensive solution that address all requirements set forth in this RFP.
- 2.7 Subcontractors must be identified in the proposal. If the successful Vendor would like to use additional subcontractors that were not identified in the proposal/contract, specific approval must be granted in writing by the District.
- 2.8 **Additional Requirements for Structured Cabling**
 - 2.8.1 Provide a complete, tested, cable distribution system for data network system (local area network). This includes providing to the district verification that all completed cable runs have been tested and pass the 10G speed threshold.
 - 2.8.2 UTP Cables: UTP cables shall be routed to each data outlet location.
 - 2.8.3 Provide specific details consistent with the contract documents, as required, to complete shop drawings for data cable systems including detailed documentation for owner review, and detailed documentation of as-built conditions.
 - 2.8.4 Cables should be yellow; however, there is not a specific brand of cable required. In their proposals, Vendors should identify the specific brand of cable they are proposing.
 - 2.8.5 Plenum Armored Fiber Cable is required.
 - 2.8.6 Building maps/diagrams are included as Appendix B.

2.9 Structured Cabling Technical Standards

- 2.9.1 EIA/TIA-569-A. Commercial Building Standard for Telecommunications Pathways and Spaces
- 2.9.2 EIA/TIA-568-A. Commercial Building Telecommunication Standard
- 2.9.3 EIA/TIA -TSB 67. EIA/TIA Telecommunications Systems Bulletin, Additional Transmission Specifications for Unshielded Twisted-Pair Cabling Systems
- 2.9.4 EIA/TIA-455-61. FOTP-61, Measurement of Fiber or Cable Attenuation Using an OTDR"
- 2.9.5 IEEE 802.3 Carrier Sense Multiple Access With Collision Detection
- 2.9.6 IEEE 802.3ab Gigabit transmission over UTP
- 2.9.7 ANSI/TIA/EIA-606. "Administration Standard for the Telecommunications Infrastructure of Commercial Buildings
- 2.7.8 ANSI/TIA/EIA-607. "Commercial Building Grounding and Bonding Requirements for Telecommunications

2.10 Structured Cabling Regulatory Requirements

- 2.10.1 EIA/TIA-568-A Commercial Building Wiring Standard
- 2.10.2 EIA/455-171-D Standard Test Procedures for Fiber Optic Cables
- 2.10.3 EIA/TIA -4750000-B Generic Specification for Fiber Optic Connectors
- 2.10.4 EIA/TIA-604-X Fiber Optic Connector Intermateability Standards (FOCIS)
- 2.10.5 The supplied manufacturer's structured cabling system installation guidelines.

3.0 E-RATE REQUIREMENTS

Vendors submitting proposals under this RFP must agree to meet the following conditions relating to the E-rate program and be willing to include such requirements in the Vendor's contract:

- 3.1 Vendor must agree to submit to the SLD a completed Form 473 prior to July 1 of each calendar year.

- 3.2 Discounted Bills: Should the District so choose, Vendor must agree to provide discounted bills to District which reflect the net charges due to the District after E-rate discounts have been reflected (also known as the “non-discount” amount). The Vendor will then invoice USAC using the Form 474 SPI form for the E-rate discount amount. Vendor shall be solely responsible for timely filing invoices with USAC. Accordingly, Vendor understands and agrees that District will NOT be liable to Vendor and Vendor shall have no recourse against the District for any discounted amount that Vendor submits late to USAC for payment, if USAC refuses to pay the invoice due to late filing. Further, Vendor understands and agrees that District shall not be liable to Vendor and Vendor shall have no recourse against the District for any discounted amount that Vendor submits to USAC for payment if Vendor is at fault for USAC’s refusal to pay. If the District’s actions or failure to act are responsible for the non-payment of the Vendor’s invoice with USAC, the District shall not be liable to Vendor and Vendor shall have no recourse against the District for the amount at issue until both the District and the Vendor have exhausted their administrative remedies of appeal to USAC and/or the FCC.
- 3.3 Vendor must separately itemize the cost of E-rate eligible and ineligible products and/or services on all invoices. To determine what items are eligible, vendor must contact the equipment manufacturer or contact USAC at 888-203-8100.
- 3.4 If Vendor learns of any federal, state or local investigation conducted by any regulatory authority or law enforcement authority that could have an adverse impact on the District’s ability to continue to receive the benefit of E-rate funding, Vendor must notify the District within 30 calendar days of learning of such investigation. The District reserves the right to cancel the agreement without penalty if the investigation impedes the District’s ability in any way to receive the benefit of E-rate funding, subject to any investigation of wrongdoing.
- 3.5 Vendor shall maintain all bids, quotes, records, correspondence, receipts, vouchers, delivery information, memoranda and other data relating to Vendor’s services and any subcontractors to the District. All such records shall be retained for 10 years following completion of services and/or installation of equipment, and shall be subject to inspection and audit by the District.
- 3.6 In addition to the foregoing, Vendor must maintain and enforce an internal E-rate audit process that ensures that Vendor complies with all E-rate program rules and regulations. This process must include the following:
- Where labor is involved, maintaining detailed, signed individual timesheets
 - Ensuring that ineligible charges are not submitted to USAC
 - Invoicing to USAC that is consistent with the contract and the District’s Form 471
 - Ensuring that services or products are not provided to the District without District’s express written permission or official purchase authorization
 - Ensuring that District-approved substitute services or products are prominently noted on invoices submitted to USAC and the District

- When E-rate eligible services or equipment are allocated or installed in multiple buildings, support for the allocation consistent with the amount and buildings identified in the Form 471
- Documenting that E-rate funded services were provided within the allowable contract period and program year
- Charging proper FRN(s)
- Ensuring that invoices and USAC forms are submitted to the District in a timely manner
- Ensuring that USAC forms are filled out completely, accurately and on time
- Maintaining fixed asset list of E-rate-supported equipment provided to the District with detailed information for each item (model number, serial number, product description) and made available to the District in electronic format upon project completion.

4.0 CONDITIONS, CONTRACT and BILLING

4.1 The District reserves the right to:

- Amend, modify, cancel this RFP or not make an award and to reissue this RFP as a new procurement;
- Modify or add to the requirements contained in this RFP at any time after the issuance of this RFP for compliance by all providers;
- Increase or decrease the quantities of equipment at the same price listed in the successful contract; or entirely omit an item or group of items to be purchased to reflect actual District needs at the time that orders are placed. Such additional quantities will be purchased at the price indicated on the contract. Such modifications are expressly anticipated and included within the scope of this RFP.
- District intends to award a single contract for all equipment/services in Appendix A; however, the District reserves the right to award separate contracts.
- Negotiate terms and conditions to meet requirements consistent with this RFP;
- Request providers to clarify their RFP proposals;
- Waive minor defects or any requirement of this RFP that has not been met by any of the bidders that submitted proposals.

4.2 Timeline for Purchase of Services

The purchase of services will be contingent upon E-rate approval and a Notice to Proceed or Purchase Order by the District after E-rate approval has been received. It is anticipated that work will begin mid-June 2025 and will be completed prior to August 8, 2025.

4.3 **Lowest Corresponding Price**

Per FCC rules, vendors must offer the Lowest Corresponding Price when submitting proposals. Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP) is defined as the lowest price that a service provider charges to nonresidential customers who are similarly situated to a particular E-rate applicant (school, library, or consortium) for similar services. See 47 CFR, Part 54, Section 54.500(f). Service providers cannot charge E-rate applicants a price above the LCP for E-rate services. See 47 CFR Section 54.511(b). There is a rebuttable presumption that rates offered within the previous 3 years are still compensatory.

4.4 The District reserves the right to extend or abbreviate the contract period if such extension or abbreviation is necessary to make the Contract term coincide with an E-rate “program year” or an extended service end date for an E-rate program year pursuant to a “service delivery deadline extension,” as those terms are defined by the Federal Communications Commission and/or USAC.

4.5 Vendor shall itemize, price, and invoice separately any materials or services that are ineligible for E-rate funding. Vendor must include the following information on all invoices to the District for E-rate eligible equipment and/or services:

- Date of invoice
- Date(s) of service
- Funding Request Number (“FRN”)
- Vendor SPIN
- Detailed description of services performed and materials supplied that matches District’s contract specifications and Form 471 descriptions of same
- Clear, concise breakdown of amount(s) to be billed to USAC (discounted portion of eligible charges) and amount(s) to be billed to the District (non-discounted amount of eligible charges)
- Invoice on Vendor’s letterhead or on a Vendor-generated form
- Proper E-rate discount percentage as set forth by the applicable FRN and USAC funding commitment decision letter (“FCDL”)

4.6 On RFPs for services involving the furnishing of labor, materials, and/or equipment, while said services are being performed the successful vendor must maintain in full effect the following minimum insurance coverage:

4.6.1 **Workers' Compensation.**

Comprehensive public liability in the sum of \$100,000 for each person and \$300,000 for each accident, including contract liability. Such shall be endorsed with a save harmless clause in favor of the Delaware Valley School District, its officers, members, and employees.

- 4.6.2 Property damage in the amount of \$50,000.
- 4.6.3 Automobile and truck insurance in an amount not less than \$300,000 on account of any one accident, and property damage in amount not less than \$50,000.
- 4.6.4 If special hazards, such as might result from blasting, represent a possibility, these shall be covered by a rider to the policy or policies in an amount of not less than \$50,000.
- 4.6.5 Prior to the beginning of the Service, etc., to be performed, a certificate of insurance shall be furnished to the School District showing the insurance coverages required above. The Contractor shall assume full responsibility for loss of life and property, injuries to persons, including all employees of the Contractor or Subcontractors.

4.7 Asbestos

In the event a contractor, by virtue of his work for the District, discovers asbestos, the contractor must immediately notify the District and perform no further work in connection with the asbestos. If directed by the District to remove the asbestos, the contractor must take all steps required by all federal, state, and local agencies regarding asbestos removal. The asbestos removal operations may be the subject of a change order or a supplemental contract to this contract, or a separate contract to another contractor as the District may determine.

If a contractor fails to meet the requirements of the federal, state, and local regulations and these specifications related to the discovery, removal, and clean-up, the contractor shall be subject to immediate termination and the contractor shall be responsible for all costs and expenses related to the removal and cleanup of the asbestos including architect and engineering fees.

- 4.8 All work is expected to be completed during the summer months when school is not in session. Work must be completed Monday through Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 4.9 The vendor must provide complete documentation in electronic format to support the wiring installation; including a site map for each location for cabling was installed.
- 4.10 Prevailing wage applies for the installation of the fiber cable. In accordance with Section 753 of the Public School Code of 1949 as amended and Section 165-1 to Section 165-17 of the Prevailing Wage Act, the Bidder shall pay all wage rates required by said Acts and comply with all reporting requirements of said Acts or any regulations issued pursuant thereto so as to insure that the laborers and mechanics employed to perform the work specified under the contract shall be paid at the rates required. The Prevailing Wage Determinations for Pike County are attached to this RFP at Appendix C.
- 4.11 A bid bond is not required for this project.
- 4.12 Permits are not required for this project.

5.0 INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN PROPOSAL

In addition to the other information required to be provided, Vendor also will include with their proposal responses to the following questions:

- 5.1 Provide a description of the nature and scope of your firm's business endeavors, including history of company.
- 5.2 Provide a description of your firm's previous and ongoing relationship, if any, with the District.
- 5.3 Provide proof that the Vendor and all subcontractors are authorized to do business in Pennsylvania.
- 5.4 Provide the names and contact information of at least 5 current Pennsylvania K-12 clients of similar size to the District that can attest to the quality of work provided by your company using or procuring similar goods and/or services as requested in this RFP.
- 5.5 Provide a description of the firm's experience with the federal E-rate program.
- 5.6 Provide federal Tax ID Number, E-rate SPIN Number, and FCC Registration Number (FCCRN).
- 5.7 Provide certification that the Vendor currently is not subject to the Red Light Rule and will notify the District if they are placed on Red Light Status with the FCC. Further,

provide a certification that the Vendor's principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation, by any Federal department or agency, from transactions involving the use of Federal funds. Where Vendor is unable to certify to any of the Statements in this certification, Vendor shall attach an explanation to their offer.

- 5.8 Provide contact name and contact information for person authorized to negotiate terms and conditions.
- 5.9 Provide contact name and contact information where questions related to the proposal can be directed with statement certifying that this person (or his/her authorized representative) will be available in December 2024 – March 2025 in order to assist with the completion of the District's E-rate applications, as requested.
- 5.10 Provide copy of terms and conditions for proposed contract.
- 5.11 **Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law**

Vendor is required to clearly identify any specific information that they deem as proprietary and request to be withheld from public view. Vendor must provide one copy of its redacted proposal with all proprietary information omitted. District intends to comply with the Pennsylvania Right to Know law concerning requests for release of documents regarding this procurement, including the release of proposals after bid opening. Per E-rate regulations, price of winning bid is not confidential information.

6.0 EVALUATION

In accordance with applicable state law, 24 P.S. Section 8-807.1, the District is required to select the proposal of the "lowest responsible bidder" in the event that the District decides to award a contract.

In order for a bidder to be eligible to be considered a "responsible" bidder, the bidder must meet the following:

- 6.1 Submit a timely proposal and not be disqualified under Section 1.10.
- 6.2 The proposal must include all of the required information in the RFP.
- 6.3 Bidder must indicate their willingness to be bound by the terms of the RFP.
- 6.4 In accordance with Pennsylvania legal precedent, upon investigation by the District, the bidder must be found to have the financial responsibility, integrity, efficiency, industry, experience, promptness, and ability to successfully carry out this particular undertaking.

- 6.5 Price of E-rate eligible services will be the most heavily weighted factor during the bid evaluation process.

APPENDIX A

STRUCTURED CABLING

All applicable taxes, fees, shipping and surcharges from which the District is not exempt or that is imposed or assessed by Vendor must be included in the Vendor proposal or they will not be paid by the District.

Vendors must submit a per building in the Excel spreadsheet provided.

All MDF and IDF locations must include a fiber 12 port wall mount patch panel. A per building price must include the fiber, network jack, wall plate, surface mount box (if necessary), surface mount raceway and accessories (if necessary), above ceiling cable management (including cable tray, "J" hooks, hangers, clamps, and other hardware), and installation of these listed items.

Note: Separate pricing is needed for the replacement of the existing fiber connecting the three schools on the Dingman-Delaware Campus and for the replacement of the existing fiber connecting the District Office to the High School because these connections are not currently eligible for Category 2 E-rate discounts.

Appendix A also includes attached required pricing spreadsheet.