

Request For Proposals Addendum

Addendum #1: Vendor Questions & Answers

Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2026

RFP # 5-FWAASTX-0127 Texas for E-Rate Cat 2 Consortium Form 470# 270000237

To: All Prospective Vendors

The following vendor-submitted questions were received in response to the referenced solicitation. Responses are provided below for the benefit of all prospective respondents.

Question 1: Are you all looking for one Vendor to cover all states, or are you looking for individual vendors per RFP?

Answer: Each RFP and its associated FCC Form 470 has been posted separately and is available to all prospective bidders. Offerors may choose to respond to any or all of the RFPs. Each proposal will be evaluated separately, in accordance with the evaluation criteria published in the applicable RFP, and awards will be made in accordance with the terms of each RFP.

Question 2: May content filtering and GenAI risk controls be included within a unified subscription if the proposal separately itemizes E-Rate eligible and ineligible costs?

Answer: Yes, the bidder can provide e-rate eligible cost and separate line items.

Question 3: May the respondent use manufacturer-led implementation and 24x7 support while remaining the prime contractor and SPI-billing service provider?

Answer: Yes.

Question 4: May manufacturer or implementation-partner K-12 references satisfy the reference requirement for a newly authorized reseller?

Answer: Manufacturer or implementation-partner references may be included as supplemental information; however, references submitted to satisfy the reference

requirement should demonstrate the Respondent's own past performance, reliability, and relevant experience.

Question 5: Attachment C requires evidence of insurance with the proposal. Will a carrier-issued binder or certificate showing coverage effective before contract performance satisfy this requirement?

Answer: Yes, it satisfies this requirement.

Question 6: Must one proposal cover every pricing line, or may a respondent mark an individual add-on "No Bid" as contemplated by the pricing instructions?

Answer: No, the bidder must be able to supply all line items.

Question 7: Could you please confirm whether submitting through a single method is sufficient? Specifically, if we submit our proposal through the Public Purchase portal, would that satisfy the submission requirements, or is a hard-copy submission also required in addition to the portal submission?

Answer: Submitting via a single method is sufficient. Either via Public Purchase, via mail to our Headquarters address or via Tyler Munis Self Service (Texas Only).

Attachments:

- IDEA Public Schools Pre-Proposal Meeting Slides

END OF ADDENDUM

IDEA Public Schools

Firewall as a Service (FWaaS) Cloud-Based Solution

RFP #5-FWAASTX-0127 Texas Form 470# 270000237

RFP #6-FWAASFL-0127 Florida Form 470# 270000239

RFP #7-FWAASOH-0127 Ohio Form 470# 270000238

Pre-Proposal Meeting

Friday, September 11, 2026, at 10:00 AM CST

Presented by: Humberto Hinojosa, Procurement Analyst



Recording

This meeting will be recorded and transcribed for future reference.

Please type your name, title, phone number, email address, and organization in the chat.

Pre-Proposal Agenda

- Welcome
- Agenda & Solicitation Overview
- Proposal Submission & Selection
- Project Scope and Overview
- Q&A
- Wrap-up



Point of Contact (POC)

All inquiries regarding this solicitation should be directed to IDEA's:

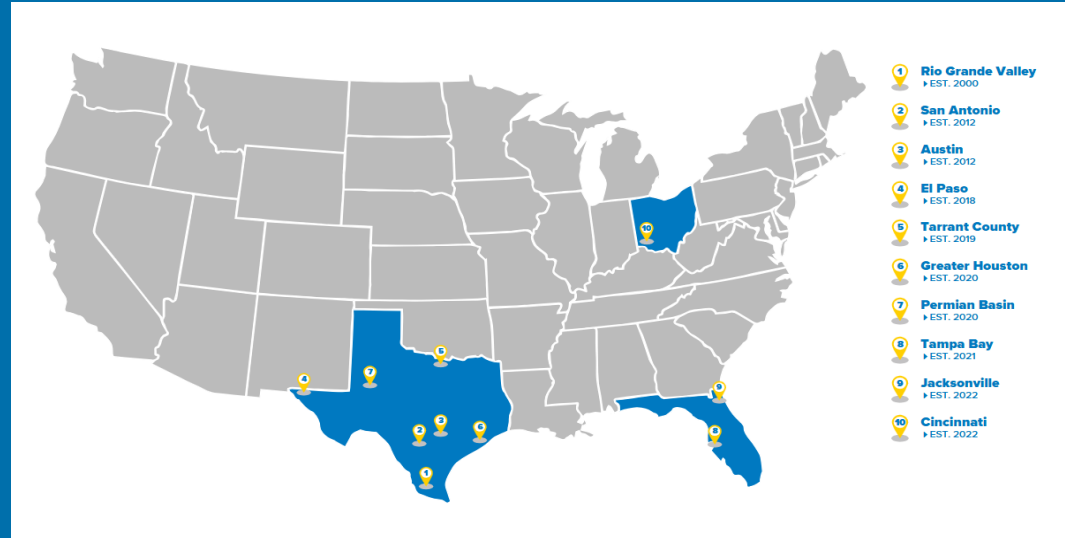
Procurement Department

solicitations@ideapublicschools.org



Disclaimer

This Document serves to aid interested vendors doing business with IDEA. This Document does not constitute legal advice or bind IDEA in any manner. Anything stated at this pre-submittal conference is not intended to change any terms and/or conditions stated in the advertised solicitation document. Any authorized changes will be made in writing in the form of an Addendum issued by IDEA's Procurement Department.



Solicitation Overview

IDEA Public Schools, IDEA Florida, Inc., and IDEA Greater Cincinnati, Inc. ("IDEA") is issuing this Request for Proposal ("RFP") to solicit proposals from qualified vendor(s) to provide a **Firewall as a Service (FWaaS)** cloud-based solution. The selected vendor(s) shall furnish all required licensing, implementation, configuration, support, maintenance, and related services necessary to provide a fully operational solution for the E-Rate funding period.

The proposed solution must support a **Zero Trust Architecture** that aligns with the principles outlined in [NIST Special Publication 800-207](#), or an equivalent industry-recognized framework. The new service is anticipated to commence on **July 1, 2027**, upon the expiration of IDEA's current service agreement and/or implementation of the newly awarded solution.

*The detailed scope of work can be found on the **SCOPE OF WORK AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL** section of the Proposals.*

RFP Tentative Timeline

Timeline:

All dates and times are tentative and subject to change.

First Advertisement & RFP Issue Date:	Wednesday, August 26, 2026
Second Advertisement Date:	Wednesday, September 2, 2026
Pre-Proposal Meeting:	Friday, September 11, 2026 @ 10:00 AM CST
Respondent Question Cut-Off Date:	Tuesday, September 15, 2026, NO Later than 12:00 PM CST
Questions Response from IDEA:	Wednesday, September 23, 2026
<u>Proposals Due by Date & Time:</u>	<u>Wednesday, October 21, 2026, NO Later than 2:00 PM CST</u>
Anticipated Evaluation Period:	October 23 – November 6, 2026
Anticipated Board Meeting & Approval:	January 2027
Initial Proposed Contract Term:	July 1, 2027 - June 30, 2030
Renewal option #1:	July 1, 2030 - June 30, 2031
Renewal option #2:	July 1, 2031 - June 30, 2032

Required Proposals Format

Respondents **must** follow the format instructions detailed on the ***PROPOSAL SUBMISSION & REQUIREMENTS*** section when preparing and submitting a Proposal. Each section must be clearly marked.

 **Failure to follow all the proposal's organizational requirements may result in disqualification.**

Texas RFP

- **Cover Page (Attachment A)**
- **Executive Summary**
- **Summary of Experience & Qualifications**
- **Response to Evaluation Criteria**
- **Attachment A – Title Page.**
- **Attachment B – Vendor(s) Acknowledgement**
- **Attachment C – Evidence of Insurance**
- **Attachment D – IDEA Conflict of Interest Form**
- **Attachment E – Texas Ethics Commission Form CIQ**
- **Attachment F – Felony Conviction Disclosure Statement**
- **Attachment G – Certification Regarding Lobbying**
- **Attachment H – Contract Provisions for Contracts Involving Federal Funds**
- **Attachment I – Reference Sheet**
- **Attachment J – Litigation, Terminations, Claims**
- **Attachment K – Proposed Pricing**
- **Attachment L – IRS Form W-9**
- **Attachment M – Deviations and Exceptions**
- **Attachment N – Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace**
- **Attachment O – Child Support Certification**
- **Appendix A – Sites**
- **Appendix B – RFP Completion Checklist**
- **Additional Documentation (Optional)**

Submittal Procedures

Due: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 @ 2:00 PM CST

Proposal Submission: Proposals must be submitted using the [Public Purchase](#) or [Tyler Munis Self-Service](#) website, or by sending one (1) clearly identified hard copy ORIGINAL of the Proposal to:

IDEA Public Schools
**RFP # 5-FWAASTX-0127 Texas for
E-Rate Cat 2 Consortium
Form 470# 270000237**
Attn: Procurement Department
2115 West Pike Blvd, Weslaco, TX 78596

Proposals **MUST** be organized as specified in **PART VI – PROPOSAL SUBMISSION, REQUIREMENTS & PROVISIONS** section and received by IDEA **no later than 2:00 PM CST on Wednesday, October 21, 2026**, as outlined in the RFP timeline. Each proposal **MUST** be sealed and marked with the relevant information; failure to do so must result in the proposal not being considered.

Hard Copy Submissions Must Include:

One (1) clearly identified **hard copy ORIGINAL** of the Proposal response.

One (1) copy of the complete Proposal on a **FLASH DRIVE**, labeled with the Respondent's name.

Note: Faxed or emailed Proposals will not be accepted. Acceptance Period is 120 days from the date of the proposal submission deadline unless otherwise stated in writing

Evaluation Criteria



Evaluation Criteria	Weight (Points)	Description
Cost of E-Rate Eligible Products and/or Services	30	Respondent's proposed price of E-Rate eligible products and/or services.
Technical & Functional Suitability	28	The extent to which the proposed goods or services meet IDEA's needs. This includes, but is not limited to technical specifications, functional requirements, and service expectations as outlined in the RFP.
Reputation & Reliability	12	Respondent's demonstrated reliability and reputation as evidenced by past performance, industry references, third-party evaluations, overall standing in the marketplace, and previous working relationship with other K-12 public charter schools.
Total Cost of Ownership	10	Total long-term cost to acquire the Respondent's goods and/or services. This includes the total ineligible cost to IDEA for acquiring and maintaining the proposed goods and/or services throughout the full duration of the agreement.
Terms & Conditions	10	Respondent's proposed contract terms and conditions.
Completeness of Proposal	5	Evaluators will ensure that all required elements of the proposal have been included and meet the specified submission guidelines.
Service Response & Support Capability	5	Evaluation will be based on the Respondent's demonstrated ability to provide timely support, troubleshooting, and onsite technical assistance. Respondents must submit a service response plan detailing response times, escalation procedures, and support resources.
Total Possible Score	100	



ANY QUESTIONS?

Closing

If you haven't already, please type name, title, contact information, and organization in the chat

