

Coffee County School System
Douglas, GA

Request for Proposal

Network Firewall Premium Support

E-rate Funding Year 2025-2026



INTRODUCTION and INSTRUCTIONS TO VENDORS

The Coffee County School system invites vendors to submit proposals in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal (RFP). This RFP provides the requirements and evaluative criteria for a Network Firewall Premium Support Package and requests a detailed response from all prospective vendors, including pricing and service descriptions, in a specified format.

Invoicing

Vendors submitting responses to this Request for Proposal agree to provide discounted billing for products and/or services associated with the projects and seek reimbursement of the discount according to the invoicing guidelines of the Schools and Libraries Division. The Owner will pay for the discounted portion of the invoice when the products and/or services listed on the invoice are delivered in accordance with the contract. Should E-rate funding not become available, the Owner stands ready to pay the full contracted amount.

Background Information

The Coffee County School System is located in Douglas, Georgia, Coffee County. Our enrollment is approximately 7600 students, and we employ nearly 1200 staff members in 14 separate locations. All sites are connected to our central data center by leased fiber.

General Conditions

This RFP is not a contract offer. Acceptance of a proposal neither commits Coffee County School System to award a contract to any vendor, even if all requirements stated in this RFP are met, nor limits our rights to negotiate in our best interest. We reserve the right to contract with a vendor for reasons other than price.

Failure to answer any questions in this RFP may subject the proposal to disqualification. Failure to meet qualifications and requirements will not necessarily subject a proposal to disqualification.

It is important that the vendor understand that this service has been included on the Coffee County School System's E-Rate application which, if approved, will entitle us to discounted services through the Universal Fund.

Valid Period of Offer

The pricing, terms, and conditions stated in your submitted proposal must remain valid for 60 days from the date of delivery of the proposal to Coffee County School System.

Right of Rejection

We reserve the right to accept or reject any or all responses to this RFP and to enter into discussions and/or negotiations with one or more qualified vendors at the same time, if such actions are in the best interest of Coffee County School System.

Cost of Proposals

Expenses incurred in the preparation of proposals in response to this RFP are the sole responsibility of the vendor.

Instructions and Target Dates

The following section includes information governing the preparation and due dates of the proposal to be submitted.

PROPOSAL DELIVERY

Proposal Submission

Proposal responses should be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the following no later than **3:00 PM EST, Tuesday January 21, 2025**. Bids must be received at the Coffee County Board of Education by this date. **Envelopes should be marked "Firewall Support BID."** Hand delivery of bids is an option if mailing will not result in receipt of timely bid documents. No faxed or emailed copies will be accepted. The acceptance of any or all alternatives will be at the discretion of the School System.

Send Proposals to:

Coffee County Board of Education
ATTN: Logan Evans - Director of Information Systems
211 Gaskin Ave South
Douglas, GA 31533

Feel free e-mail by January 16, 2025 (logan.evans@coffee.k12.ga.us) if you have any questions. The district is closed between December 21, 2024 and January 5, 2025, so emails questions may be addressed on or after January 3, 2025.

Calls may be made December 16-20, 2024 and on or after January 3, 2025 to Logan Evans at 912-389-6773.

Schedule of Events	
Date	Event
Monday, December 16, 2025	Distribute RFP via www.coffee.k12.ga.us
3:00 PM, Thursday, January 16, 2025	End of questions to the district about the bid
3:00 PM, Tuesday, January 21, 2025	Receipt of Proposals
3:15 PM, Tuesday, January 21, 2025	Opening of Bids, Committee Review of Bids – Make Recommendations for Selected Vendor
5:30 PM, Thursday, January 23, 2025	Vendor Selection presented to Board of Education at January Work Session
7:00 PM, Thursday, January 23, 2025	Board of Education Approval of Vendor at January Regular Meeting
10:00 AM, Friday, January 24, 2025	Announcement of Vendor Selection

PROPOSAL PREPARATION

Required Proposal

Each proposal must include the information requested on the specified RESPONSE FORM that follows.

Evaluation Criteria

Coffee County School System evaluates and weighs the following criteria when considering our future provider of a network firewall. These standards are listed in descending order of importance.

Evaluation Criteria	Weight
Cost effectiveness of Product	40 points
Adequacy of the response to this RFP	30 points
Satisfactory previous business/working relationship with the provider or its staff	20 points
References	5 points
Local or in-state vendor	5 points
Total	100 points

Firewall Support

The Coffee County School System (CCSS) is requesting sealed proposals for a Palo Alto Premium Support Package.

Specifications

Firewall Support

CCSS is seeking to purchase a 1-year Premium Support package for a PA-3260 (Palo Alto).

Other Conditions

Any and all equipment, if applicable, shall be new, factory-sealed equipment currently available from the manufacturer; the District will not accept proposals of used, remanufactured, refurbished, “B stock,” returns, open-box, discontinued, “gray market,” or equipment in any condition other than new and factory-sealed with all original manufacturer warranties. The District reserves the right to adjust quantities prior to purchasing based on availability of funding, and shall have the sole discretion to evaluate, ascertain, and determine whether any item proposed or offered by any bidder is in fact an equivalent or better for any item listed. It is the vendor’s responsibility and obligation to provide documentation and other evidence that alternative equipment is functionally equivalent or better. Failure to show equal functionality may result in the disqualification of the bid.

RESPONSE FORM

Statement of Vendor’s Qualification

To accompany proposals submitted for the Coffee County School System.

Name of Vendor’s Firm	
Name of Company Representative	
Business Address	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
When Organized	
Where Organized	
How many years engaged in this business under the current firm name?	
Partnership <input type="checkbox"/>	*SPIN Number:
Corporation <input type="checkbox"/>	

*Vendor must provide a Service Provider Information Number assigned by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD)

Attachments

Please attach to this statement at least three references, including: (Key Contact name, address, title, phone number and brief description of work performed for the organization, including dates of work)

The above statements must be subscribed and sworn before a Notary Public.

Firm Name	_____
Representative <i>(printed name)</i>	_____
Signature	_____
Title	_____
Date	_____

Notary Signature	_____
Notary State	_____
Commission Expiration Date	_____
Date of Notarization	_____

SEAL/STAMP

CONTRACT PRICE FORM

Vendor Firm Name _____
 SPIN Number _____
 Representative _____
 (printed name) _____
 Signature _____
 Title _____
 Date _____

Notary Signature _____
 Notary State _____
 Commission Expiration Date _____
 Date of Notarization _____

SEAL/STAMP

To accompany proposals submitted for Network Firewall Premium Support for the Coffee County School System.

Service Dates:

Year 1: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Firewall Premium Support Pricing (1-Year) \$ _____

LIST OF VENDOR'S EXCEPTIONS

Contractor shall list any exceptions to these specifications or general conditions.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informality in the bidding. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of thirty days subsequent to the opening of bids without written consent of the Owner.