

Childress ISD District-Wide High-Capacity WAN (Category 1 Request)

Project Purpose:

Childress Independent School District (CISD) is seeking to establish a reliable, scalable, and high-capacity Wide Area Network (WAN) connecting district facilities to support digital learning, cloud-hosted services, administrative operations, and state-required online assessments. The WAN must accommodate future bandwidth growth, support modern routing and security standards, and provide high service availability.

Sites to Be Connected

The WAN must connect the following locations, with Childress High School serving as the primary network hub:

- Primary Hub: **Childress High School** – 800 Avenue J NW, Childress, TX 79201
- **Childress Junior High** – 700 Commerce, Childress, TX 79201
- **Childress Elementary** – 300 Third St. SE, Childress, TX 79201
- **Childress Administration Building** – 308 Third St. NW, Childress, TX 79201
- **Football Stadium** – Ave I NW, Childress, TX 79201
- **Gateway Building** – 600 Avenue F NW, Childress, TX 79201
- **Transportation Building** – 200 Avenue I NW, Childress, TX 79201
- **Maintenance Building** – 103 Avenue G NE, Childress, TX 79201

Demarcation: The service must terminate at the MDF at each location. Vendor proposals (if bidding fiber) must include fiber termination, labeling, patching, and full acceptance testing to the MDF. CISD reserves the right to add or remove sites if it is in the district's best interest.

Capacity and Term

- Minimum 1 Gbps symmetrical per site. Maximum 100Gbps
- Vendors must provide upgrade pricing for 10 Gbps and higher capacity levels
- Vendors must provide pricing for 60-month (5-year) and 120-month (10-year) terms
- No pre-pay or IRU lump-sum structures will be accepted
- Include pricing for two (2) optional three-year extensions
- All pricing must clearly indicate Monthly Recurring Charges (MRC) and Non-Recurring Charges (NRC)

Requested Service Options

- Leased Lit Fiber
- Leased Dark Fiber (IRU or annual lease)

- Self-Provisioned Network (any connectivity type)
- Vendor-Proposed Alternative Category 1 Eligible WAN Solution

No option is preferred. CISD will select the most cost-effective solution over the full contract term.

Leased Lit Service Requirements

Lit Leased Service (LLS) is defined as a service in which the Provider is leasing fiber optic circuits to the District and is lighting those circuits with transceivers that are provided and installed into District-owned switches.

The District prefers a dedicated point-to-point layout (or ring topology) that does not cross a service provider's network to avoid additional points of failure; however, the District will consider any cost-effective solution that meets the requirements outlined herein.

The Firm must include all necessary transceiver/fiber modules to provide end-to-end connectivity. No intermediary equipment is permitted between District service locations, except for fiber modules terminating into District equipment.

Term: Initial 5-year and 10-year term, with two optional 3-year renewal terms.

Month-to-Month Pricing: Vendor must offer up to 12 months of month-to-month service at contract end and list the monthly cost.

Terminations: Service shall terminate at the designated demarc. Vendor shall provide appropriate LIU/patch panel and LC patch cables.

SLA: Vendor must guarantee 99.99% availability and provide an SLA defining latency, jitter, packet loss, response time, restoration, escalation, and service credit calculations.

Equipment to be Provided: Vendor is responsible for furnishing, installing, operating, and maintaining all equipment needed for end-to-end service. Equipment remains Vendor property and must be removed at contract conclusion.

Special Construction: Vendor must itemize and document special construction in compliance with E-rate and provide cost breakdowns as required. District may elect to pay its share over up to four years.

Leased Dark Fiber Requirements

Leased Dark Fiber (LDF) is defined as a service in which the Provider leases fiber strands to the District, and the District lights the strands with District-owned equipment.

Network Design: Vendor may propose any topology (ring, hub-and-spoke, tree, etc.) that meets cost-effectiveness and District connectivity goals. Vendor must include logical and physical network diagrams.

Term: Initial 5-year and 10-year term, with two optional 3-year renewal terms.

Month-to-Month Pricing: Vendor must offer up to 12 months month-to-month continuation pricing.

Complete Proposal: Vendors must bid on all sites and minimum strand counts. Partial bids will be disqualified.

Terminations: Vendor must meet NEC/state/local codes. Fiber must be indoor-rated or transitioned accordingly. Vendor must provide LIU/patch panel and LC patch cables.

SLA: Vendor must guarantee 99.99% availability and define maximum acceptable dB loss, response and restoration times, escalation, and service credit calculations.

Timeline: Vendor must propose earliest/latest completion dates assuming construction start of 9/1/2026.

Special Construction: Vendor must separately itemize and document special construction and provide required cost detail and route justification. District may elect 3–4 year payment plan.

Additional Capacity: Vendor must provide pricing structure for adding additional strands and new service locations during the term.

References: Vendor must provide at least three K-12 reference customers within the past 5 years.

Cost: Vendor must itemize all recurring and non-recurring costs, including upgrade pricing and cost methodology for additional sites.

Excess Fiber Strands: Vendor must cost-allocate excess strands unless district-use case meets E-rate cost-effectiveness exemption. Vendor must cover costs for provider-owned excess strands.

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Network Architecture Requirements

- Hub-and-Spoke: Standard connectivity model
- Path Diversity Request (Loop/Ring): The WAN service should be designed to minimize service interruption (e.g., diverse fiber routing). Vendor must describe the fiber path and how service is maintained if a segment is impaired. *No redundant or backup circuits are being requested.*

Technical Requirements (some requirements only apply to fiber options, we will accept bids for any type of connectivity)

- All new fiber must be OS2 single-mode.
- Terminations must use LC connectors.
- Lit services must support SFP/SFP+/QSFP Ethernet handoffs.
- VLAN transparency is required; providers may not renumber, restrict, or rewrite VLANs.
- QinQ (802.1ad) must be supported.
- If Layer-3 is provided, vendor must support IPv6 and either static routing or BGP.
- Support for jumbo frames (up to 9000 MTU) preferred.

Construction Requirements

- Building entry conduit and fire-stopping
- Handholes, pathway, duct banks, and innerduct
- Permitting, right-of-way coordination, pole attachment fees
- Railroad and DOT permits (if applicable)
- Engineering, construction, and site restoration

Aerial and underground construction costs must be separately itemized.

Field Verification and Survey

Vendors may use desktop/engineering estimates when preparing proposals. However, the awarded vendor must perform a full field verification survey prior to construction. The field verification shall confirm routing, conduit availability, pole usage, aerial/underground transitions, and construction methods. Pricing submitted in the proposal shall be considered firm and may not increase as a result of the field verification unless CISD explicitly requests a scope change.

Cost and Route Protection

- Pricing must include all construction, make-ready, strengthening, splicing, and permitting costs.
- No additional construction charges will be permitted after award.
- If a route must change due to permitting or engineering, the vendor must complete the revised route at no additional cost unless CISD explicitly approves otherwise.

Documentation Requirements

- KMZ/KML route map
- Route map PDF showing aerial vs. underground segments
- As-built splice documentation

Support and Restoration

- 24x7 support and monitoring
- Restoration time commitment stated in hours
- Chronic outage definition: three (3) SLA violations in 90 days
- Operations and Management services if the proposal is for self-provisioned WAN.

Cutover and Acceptance

- Cutover and rollback plan
- Site-by-site activation schedule
- Live performance validation at acceptance

Evaluation and Award

CISD will select the most cost-effective solution over the full contract term. Price will be the primary evaluation factor in accordance with FCC E-Rate rules.

All requested term lengths (5-year and 10-year) must be priced for a proposal to be considered responsive.

Funding and Approval

- E-Rate funding approval
- State matching funds (if applicable)
- CISD Board approval
- Final determination of district needs

CISD reserves the right to modify scope or cancel if in the district's best interest.

Vendor Questions and Communication Protocol

All vendor questions must be submitted in writing via the IFCB system at www.crwconsulting.com/ifcb. No verbal questions, phone calls, in-person visits, or pre-bid meetings will be held. All questions received and corresponding answers will be posted publicly in the IFCB system so that all vendors receive the same information. Vendors may not contact district personnel, board members, or campus staff outside of this written Q&A process. Any attempt to influence the procurement outside of the published process may result in disqualification.

Service Provider Eligibility Requirements

The vendor must have an active Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN) and must be eligible to participate in the Schools and Libraries E-Rate Program. The vendor must maintain compliance with all FCC and USAC program rules throughout the contract term. The vendor must submit and maintain an up-to-date FCC Form 473 (Service Provider Annual Certification, "SPAC") for each funding year before invoices can be processed. The vendor must support SPI (Service Provider Invoice) or BEAR (Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement) invoicing, at the discretion of CISD. The vendor must retain all related records for a minimum of ten (10) years and must not be suspended or debarred from state or federal procurement programs. Vendors must already possess an active SPIN at the time of bid submission.