



*1105 S Madera Ave
Madera CA 93637*

[Request for Proposal](#)

E-rate Funding Year 2023

RFP #230013027 Firewall

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Madera County Superintendent of Schools (MCSOS)**, acting by and through its Governing Board, will receive up to, but not later than **two o'clock p.m. of the 9th day of February 2023**, proposals for the award of contract for:

**E-rate Category 2 Equipment
RFP #230013027 Firewall**

Proposals will be emailed according to the following:

1. Send to Emanuel Rojas at erojas@mcsos.org
2. CC: Rachel White at rachel@erateadvisors.com
3. Subject line: MCSOS RFP #230013027 Firewall
4. Attach proposal and all documents as PDF document
 - a. Pricing should be on a stand alone document

Failure to include all components above may result in disqualification.

Each proposal must conform and be responsive to the requirements of this RFP.

Interested proposers should direct questions in writing to erojas@mcsos.org, and cc Rachel White at rachel@erateadvisors.com, **no later than January 31, 2023**. Answers to questions and any addenda, as needed, will be posted in the E-rate Productivity Center website on the date specified in the Schedule, provided herein.

The MCSOS is dependent upon E-rate funding to acquire the services identified in this RFP. Failure to obtain the requisite E-rate funding, in any contractual year, will make any contract, resulting from this RFP, voidable at the option of the MCSOS.

The MCSOS reserves the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in received submittals. Also, MCSOS reserves the right to reject any or all submittals and to negotiate contract terms with one or more proposers for one or more work items. The MCSOS retains the sole discretion to determine issues of compliance and to determine whether a proposer is responsive, responsible, and qualified.

E-rate Requirements

1. **E-rate Proficiency:** MCSOS expects the Bidder to be thoroughly familiar with Bidder's responsibilities as a result of participating as a Service Provider in the E-rate program.
2. **Service Provider Identification Number:** Bidders must possess and provide a valid E-rate Service Provider Identification Number (SPIN).
3. **FCC Registration Number:** Bidders must provide a valid Federal Communications Commission Registration Number (FCCRN) and evidence of "Green Light" status with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).
4. **FCC Form 473:** The Bidder that is awarded the services based on this bid document agrees to submit the Service Provider Annual Certification (SPAC) form in a timely manner each year.
5. **FCC Form 474:** The MCSOS prefers to pay only its discounted share of the cost of the services, therefore, the Service Provider should have the ability to offer discounted billing and invoice the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) using the FCC Form 474.
6. **Invoicing:** Invoicing will begin on or after July 1, 2023.
 - a. Equipment may be purchased and installation services may be rendered as early as April 1, 2023, only with written notice from MCSOS.
 - b. In such cases as mentioned in 6a, the Bidder shall not invoice USAC prior to July 1, 2023.
 - c. Invoices must be reviewed and approved by MCSOS before the Service Provider submits them to USAC for payment.
7. **Lowest Corresponding Price:** Bidder acknowledges that all pricing in the bid submitted as a result of this bid document is considered the Lowest Corresponding Price (LCP). Any deviation of the LCP must be fully explained in the bid.
8. **Contingency:** The services/project procured using this bid document may be contingent upon the approval of E-rate funding as requested. Services/Products should not be delivered to MCSOS until a Notice to Proceed has been issued by MCSOS to the Service Provider.
9. **Right to cancel:** The MCSOS reserves the right to cancel the services/project regardless of the status of E-rate funding.
10. **Service Substitutions:** Service Substitutions must be approved by USAC prior to installing equipment or starting services.

11. **National Security Risk:** The FCC prohibits the use of Universal Service funding, including E-rate funds, to purchase equipment and services from companies deemed a national security risk. bids that include any of the cited companies on the Federal Communications Commission’s webpage at <https://www.fcc.gov/supplychain/coveredlist> will not be considered.

Background

Madera County Superintendent of Schools (MCSOS) is requesting proposals for firewall equipment in accordance with E-rate Category 2 funding.

By providing a proposal in response to this RFP, the proposing company agrees to abide by the terms and conditions outlined in the RFP in its entirety. If a conflict in language should arise between a vendor document and this RFP, the language in this RFP shall prevail.

Scope of Services

The desired scope of services is set forth in the Project Specifications attached to this RFP. The make and model number listed in the Project Specifications reflects the equipment most compatible with the existing environment. Alternate make and models featuring functional equivalence will be considered in line with E-rate program requirements. Proposers featuring alternate options must provide a detailed explanation of how the alternate solution meets functional equivalence.

Length of Contract

By providing a proposal according to this RFP, the proposer agrees to extend pricing according to the proposal until the project is completed, not to exceed September 30, 2026. Any increase in industry pricing will not be passed on to MCSOS.

Submittal Requirements

1. BUSINESS INFORMATION
 - a. Company name.
 - b. Address.
 - c. Telephone.
 - d. Fax.
 - e. Website.
 - f. Name and email of main contact.
 - g. Federal Tax I.D. Number.
 - h. License or Registration Number.
 - i. FCC Registration Number
 - j. E-rate Service Provider Identification Number
 - k. Type of organization (i.e. corporation, partnership, etc.). If a joint venture, describe the division of responsibilities between participating companies, offices (location) that would be the primary participants, and percentage interest of each firm.

2. RELEVANT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

- a. Provide information about prior services furnished by your firm in the last five (5) years on a minimum of five (5) K-12 educational projects, and list the following for each project:
 - i. District name and name of contact person, title, telephone number, and email address to be contacted for a reference.
 - ii. Project name and location.
 - iii. Was the project E-rate funded?
 - iv. Briefly state relevance of projects included for consideration in this RFP.

Selection Process

Proposals will be subjected to an evaluation and selection process. The first stage will begin with a review of the response to the RFP. A proposal must meet all mandatory modules/functions to be considered. The MCSOS retains the sole discretion to determine issues of compliance and to determine whether a proposer is responsive, responsible, and qualified.

Proposals not meeting mandatory requirements or found to be incomplete will not be considered. The MCSOS may disqualify any proposer for any reason without explanation.

1. The MCSOS may choose to ask clarification questions in writing and include the additional information gathered in this process.
2. RFP proposals will be rated on the following:
 - a. Pricing (40%)
 - b. Responsive to RFP requirements (20%)
 - c. Prior Experience with Proposer (20%)
 - d. References (10%)
 - e. Prior E-Rate Experience (10%)

Schedule

The MCSOS reserves the right to change the dates on the schedule without prior notice.

EVENT	DATE
MCSOS Publishes RFP	January 12, 2023
Deadline for Questions from Proposers	January 31, 2023
MCSOS Publishes Addenda and Responses to Proposers on EPC portal	February 2, 2023
Deadline to Submit Proposals	February 9, 2023 2:00 p.m.
Award of Contract	TBD, prior to close of FCC Form 471 window

Project Specifications

- Functionally equivalent devices may be offered in the proposal. If alternate options are offered, the proposer must also include documentation that supports the viability of the alternate solution.
- All proposals must be for new equipment with standard manufacturer warranty. Like-new or refurbished equipment will not be accepted.
- **E-rate eligibility must be specified. This includes items that are partially eligible. In that event, the percent eligibility must be identified.**
- Installation, configuration and activation services are not required.
- The proposed solution price must include a complete bill of materials, applicable sales tax for Madera, CA in Madera County, and applicable shipping.

Firewall Requirements

Minimum Solution Requirements:

- Meet or exceed product specifications of the SonicWALL NSA 5700 firewall solution.
- Firewall appliance will have at least (six) 10G SFP+ interfaces, and (ten) 1G copper or SFP ports.
- The solution shall offer minimum 20 GB bi-directional throughput.
- Firewall must be capable of Geo IP blocking.
- Firewall must have unrestricted bandwidth across all interfaces.
- Firewall must have graphical analysis capabilities with built-in investigative features including packet capture and analysis features.
- The product must function as a next generation firewall by allowing the following services and capabilities: Intrusion Prevention / Detection, Anti-Spam, and Anti-malware.
- The solution shall allow for multiple security zones or DMZ's.
- Product shall support Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) protocols and support certificate-based authentication as well as integrate with Microsoft Directory / Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (AD /LDAP).
- The solution shall have capability to store logs, ideal solutions will integrate with a SIEM logging server.
- Preference will be a physical appliance solution.
- Provide service and support, 3 to 5 years minimum support.

Minimum Hardware Specs:

- Minimum 15 Gbps firewall throughput (with Layer 7 identification enabled).
- Minimum 15 Gbps IPS/IDS throughput.
- Minimum 15 Gbps with all threat prevention policies enabled.
- Minimum 10 Gbps IPsec VPN throughput.
- Handle at least 220,000 new sessions per second.
- At least 2,500,000 concurrent sessions.
- Support IPsec VPN's with 3DES, AES (128, 192 and 256bit) encryption, MD5, SHA1, SHA-256, SHA-384, and SHA-512 for Authentication.
- Support 802.1q VLAN tags, with 4094 tags per device, and 4094 tags per interface.
- Support Network Address Translation using static IP, dynamic IP, and port address translation.
- Provide minimum quantity 6 - 10G SFP+ ports.

- Provide minimum quantity 10 - 1G SFP/Copper Ports.
- Provide minimum quantity 1 - 10/100/1000 management ports.
- Provide 2 fully redundant AC power supplies.
- Standard, rack mount case.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THIS PROJECT!

END OF DOCUMENT