

Vendor Notice Please Read!

Vendors, this bid request is being issued with the intent of utilizing Federal FCC E-rate funds. You **MUST COMPLY** with all rules and regulations associated with the E-rate program. If you or the company you represent are unfamiliar with this program, we strongly urge you to become knowledgeable before submitting a bid. For more information, please consult the Schools & Libraries Division website at: <http://www.usac.org/sl/>

By submitting your properly executed bid to the Rabun County School System, you, and the company you represent, are in full agreement of the following:

- You agree to be a fully authorized and properly certified E-rate Service Provider
- You agree to enter into this contract utilizing the Service Provider Invoicing (SPI) (Form 474) method of payment.
- If approved, the total amount of E-rate funds committed to this project may cover up to 90% of the total cost. The School System is **ONLY** responsible for the remaining percentage that E-rate does not cover.
- As with all federal programs, there are many requirements involving proper documentation and timely submissions. This can create large delays from the moment the vendor's work has finished to the time the Federal Government issues payment.
- We anticipate the costs and man-power requirements for this project to be significant.
- **VENDORS MUST BURDEN THE FEDERALLY COMMITTED PORTION OF COSTS** (up to 90% in some cases) while the E-rate process proceeds. The Rabun County School System will pay **ONLY** their percentage of the total contract at the time of completion. This may be as little as 10% of the total cost. The process of retrieving money from the E-rate program can take significantly longer depending on numerous issues that may arise.

******* READ THIS BEFORE PROCEEDING *******

If your company cannot burden massive amounts of funds being tied up while waiting for payment from the E-rate program, then DO NOT BID. The federally committed portion of the contract may not be paid for a significant length of time. We have current & previous vendors who have had delays in payment of well over 1 year for amounts over \$250,000. All of those vendors were paid in full after all forms were corrected, appealed, and/or verified, but those payments happened at the time frame set forth by the Federal Government. As such, the bidder chosen by the Rabun County Board of Education will be required to sign an agreement holding the Rabun County School System, Rabun County Board of Education, its employees, representatives and agents harmless from any liabilities to the bidder caused by delays in funding by the Schools and Library Division which are not proximately caused or under the control of the Rabun County Board of Education. THE RABUN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM / RABUN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION IS NOT RESPONSIBLE, AT ANY POINT, FOR PAYING THE FEDERALLY COMMITTED PORTION OF THE CONTRACT.

The Rabun County School System has provided the following summary of this bid.

Rabun County School System is requesting two distinct and separate proposals for dark leased fiber.

The first proposal is dark fiber capable of handling data speeds up to 10 GB from South Rabun Elementary School to Rabun County High School approximately 3 miles.

The second proposal is for three individual "home run" pairs of leased dark fiber:

South Rabun Elementary School to Rabun County High School approximately 3 miles.

South Rabun Elementary School to Rabun County Primary School approximately 4 miles.

South Rabun Elementary School to Rabun County Elementary School approximately 4.5 miles.

Physical Address of schools:

South Rabun Elementary School
963 Tiger Connector Road
Tiger, Ga. 30576

Rabun County High School
230 Wildcat Hill Drive
Tiger, Ga. 30576

Rabun County Primary School
New School Site
GPS Coordinates
34° 49' 34" N. Latitude
83° 24' 43" W. Longitude

Rabun County Elementary School
1115 East Boggs Mountain Road
Tiger Ga. 30576

In order to receive consideration, the proposed system must meet the requirements of the aforementioned as herein described. Copies of this proposal can also be found online at http://www.rabun.k12.ga.us/Bid_Info_E_Rate_Funds.pdf

Submit to:

Mark Beck, Rabun County Technology Director, will accept sealed proposals labeled "RCBOE - Fiber Expansion Proposal", P.O. Box 41, Educations Street, Clayton, GA 30525 no later than time 4:00 p.m. EST. Date 12/15/11
All proposals must be in accordance with the conditions and instructions provided herein.

Schedule

RFP released – 11/10/11

Closing date for proposal submittal – 12/15/11

Oral presentations and system demonstration – (to be scheduled if needed)

Evaluation completed and vendor recommended – (to be scheduled)

This schedule is intended as a guideline for the timing of various events in this effort.

Management requirements and other factors may cause certain of these dates to vary from original intentions. In no event, however, shall the deadline for proposal submittal be changed.