

Decorah Community School District



Request for Proposal DCSD Network Core Equipment ERATE - 26-001

Decorah Community School District

Request for Proposal – DCSD Core Network Equipment

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1. General Information

1.1. Purpose of RFP

The Decorah Community School District seeks proposals from a qualified entity able to provide enterprise-grade core network equipment.

This Request for Proposal (RFP) will outline major qualifications and specifications. Decorah Community School District reserves the right to answer specific questions not addressed in this RFP upon timely request as outlined in the RFP. Your format must comply with the RFP requirements.

The Decorah Community School District intends to establish an agreement for the purchase of core network equipment. This agreement shall be executed by the selected entity without modification unless mutually agreed. The execution of this proposal may be contingent upon USAC Category 2 funding, at which time any proposer will be notified of award or discontinuation of the RFP.

1.2. Procuring and Contracting Agency

This RFP is issued by Decorah Community School District, which is the sole point of contact during the selection process. Shawn Gordon (see below) is responsible for managing the vendor selection process.

1.3. RFP Contacts

All general correspondence and inquiries about this RFP should be submitted in writing or emailed to Shawn Gordon. See Section 1.4 below for more information about submitting inquiries.

The primary RFP contact is:

Shawn Gordon - Director of Technology
Decorah Community School District
Central Administration Office
1732 Old Stage Road, Decorah, IA 52101
Telephone: 563.387.5700
Fax: 563.387.0753
E-mail: shawn.gordon@decorah.school

1.4. Proposal Due Date

The Decorah Community School District has made every effort to include enough information within this proposal request for an organization to prepare a responsive proposal. The Decorah Community School District encourages firms to submit the most comprehensive and competitive proposal possible.

If additional information would be helpful, the Decorah Community School District will be available to answer questions from representatives. All additional information requested will be provided to all RFP holders to ensure fairness and competitiveness. No formal written response will be provided after 24 hours prior to the proposal due date.

The proposal is due no later than 28 days after the FCC Form 470 is posted to the USAC website and should be submitted in a sealed format to the address in Section 1.3. **2 (Two)** complete copies should be submitted by noon, no later than 28 days after the FCC Form 470 is posted to the USAC website.

1.5 Proposal Process

1.5.1. Distribution of Request for Proposals.

RFP will be mailed, e-mailed, and/or posted on USAC Form 470.

1.5.2. Proposal Submission

Final proposals must be delivered directly to the Central Administration Office of the Decorah Community School District no later than (Noon) 12:00 P.M. CST, Tuesday, March 10th, 2026. **Faxed proposals will not be accepted.** Decorah Community Schools is not responsible for shipping delays. Late proposals will be noted as late and returned to the vendor. A total of **two (2)** identical copies must be submitted to the following address:

Decorah Community School District
Central Administration Office
Attn: Shawn Gordon
1732 Old Stage Road
Decorah, IA 52101
Re: DCSD Core Network Equipment RFP

1.5.3. Proposal Parts and Equipment List

The core equipment list shall be submitted in the same order as the proposed equipment list (see Section 2.2.2 for template and order). An itemized list of materials, including the price and any discounts provided, shall be delineated in the order outlined in Section 2.2.2.

1.5.4. Proposal Review and Selection

The Decorah Community School District Board will evaluate the submitted proposals. It is anticipated that the review process will be completed and that notification will be sent regarding the review outcome and contract award at a regular or special board meeting.

1.5.5. Official Approval

The Decorah Community School District may approve the final agreement for equipment and authorize a final contract for purchase between the Decorah Community School District and the selected firm or organization during its regularly or specially scheduled board meeting.

The Decorah Community School District will make every effort to administer the proposal process in accordance with the terms and dates discussed in the request for proposal. However, Decorah Community School District reserves the right to modify the proposal process and dates as deemed necessary.

2. Description of Infrastructure, Products, and Services Sought

2.1. Overview

This RFP solicits proposals from vendors to provide the required network equipment and installation to complete the Core Network Equipment Update for the Decorah Community School District. The network equipment will include Layer 3 switches, long-haul and short-haul optical network equipment, and other related equipment and installation. A complete equipment list is provided in Section 2.2.2.

2.2. Equipment Technical Requirements / Specifications

2.2.1. General Requirements

All sites on the network must support full Internet Protocol (IP) services/ports and advanced services, including, but not limited to, H.323 audio and video conferencing, large (10000 MB+) file transfers, web-based audio and video streaming, WiFi, and full support for both IPSec and SSL VPN traffic/services providing complete network convergence throughout the infrastructure.

All equipment, transmission methods, and systems must be "industry-standard." Industry-standard is defined as the most current version of relative standard(s) set by an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or International Organization for Standardization (ISO)-accredited Standards Developing Organization (SDO), such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), or Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA). Vendors must list the relevant standards the solution utilizes.

The overall reliability of the network—and, therefore, of all components comprising the network—is an important proposal evaluation criterion (see Section 5 of this RFP). All hardware must be manufactured by a recognized market leader with at least five (5) years of experience. As an attachment to its response to the RFP, the vendor must provide manufacturer specifications/data sheets for all proposed hardware.

Decorah Community School District is aware that many hardware/equipment manufacturers are offering special discounts for the PK-12 Public Education projects. Vendors should contact the manufacturer(s) to obtain the best pricing.

All equipment and hardware supplied must be new or refurbished. If refurbished hardware is used, it must include a full lifetime warranty. All equipment must be Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) compliant.

2.2.2. Summary of Equipment and Hardware Required

QTY	Model#	Equivalent or Better	Price	Extended Price
2	ICX7850-3 2Q-E2	ICX 7850 32-port QSFP28 supports native 40GE or 100GE, or breakout 4x10GE or 4x25GE, bundle includes two AC PS and six fans, PS side exhaust airflow, transceivers sold separately, TAA		
2	ICX7850-4 8F-E2	ICX 7850 48-port SFP28 1/10/25GE, 8x-port QSFP28 supports native 40GE or 100GE or breakout 4x10GE or 4x25GE, bundle includes two AC PS and five fans, PS side exhaust airflow, transceivers sold separately, TAA		
4	ICX7850-P REM-LIC	ICX7850 Premium feature license		
4	R1B-PROF- S78X-REC5	Bundle of RUCKUS One Single-tenant Professional cloud 1 x license of Device Networking for 5-Yr Subscription for REC (license owned by Ruckus End Customer), plus Switch 7850 RMT 5-YR Support. US e-RATE only		
3	E100G-QS FP-QSFP-P- 0101	100GbE QSFP28 to QSFP28 Direct Attached, Passive Copper Cable, 1m.		
1	E100G-QS FP-QSFP-P- 0301	100GbE QSFP28 to QSFP28 Direct Attached, Passive Copper Cable 3m.		
		Total Cost		

3. Minimum Qualifications

3.1. To be considered for selection, proposing firms and organizations must have at least the following qualifications:

- 3.1.1. Be capable of providing the equipment sought by the Decorah Community School District within the allowed erate funding window or less, as the equipment will be installed, tested, and commissioned.
- 3.1.2. Be able to demonstrate a successful professional partnership and experience in working with the proposed network products.
- 3.1.3. Have experience in providing similar services for other large organizations, preferably to other public school districts in Iowa. **Please provide six (6) references.**
- 3.1.4. Be sufficiently capitalized to accommodate the Decorah Community School District's requirements and provide the equipment necessary to satisfactorily administer the agreement.

4. Services Required

The network and Internet services required to accommodate the Decorah Community School District's needs are outlined as follows:

4.1. Original Equipment Manuals.

OEM information shall be provided in electronic copy versions for all equipment installed. This information should include all warranties and user manuals.

4.2. Support and Repair Services.

Provide cost proposals for a 24/7 service and support program with a two-hour response time and a four-hour response time for on-site support.

4.3. Warranty.

Provide all necessary warranty information for all purchased equipment.

5. Proposal Process

The proposals may be evaluated by the Decorah Community School District Central Administration Office. The Administration may then make a recommendation to the Board at a regular or special scheduled meeting. The Board, at its sole discretion, may determine whether to hold discussions with the Proposers who are in a "competitive range" or to recommend the contract be awarded without discussion on the basis of the proposal submitted. The evaluation criteria will include the following:

5.1. Proper Submission of Proposal.

The proposal must be submitted and received by the Decorah Community School District by (Noon) 12:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 10th, 2026. It is the responsibility of the proposer to ensure proper and timely delivery of all required material. *Faxed or late submissions will not be considered.*

5.2. Comprehensiveness of Scope of Services Provided.

The Decorah Community School District's evaluation of the overall capabilities of the proposer to meet the required service levels described in this RFP.

5.3. Overall Project Costs and Fees for Equipment Procurement.

The amount of the standard charges and the overall proposed contract pricing will be determining factors in the award of the agreement.

5.4. Service Enhancements.

The firm or organization's efforts to understand the Decorah Community School District's needs and goals.

5.5. Other Factors.

Any other factors the Decorah Community School District believes would be in the best interest of the Board to consider, which were not previously described.

6. Final Comments

The Decorah Community School District Board reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel all or part of this RFP, waive any minor irregularities, and request additional information from proposing firms or organizations. By requesting proposals, the Decorah Community School District is in no way obligated to award a contract or pay expenses of the proposing firms or organizations in connection with the preparation or submission of a proposal.

The Decorah Community School District's decision to award a contract will be based on many factors, including but not limited to service, cost, equipment specifications, system design, and innovation.

The successful Proposer will be required to secure and maintain appropriate insurance coverage acceptable to the Decorah Community School District. Proof of such coverage, in the form of a broker-issued certificate, must be received by the Decorah Community School District prior to the beginning of the contract date.

The Decorah Community School District Board truly appreciates the effort all the firms, organizations, and proposers and their respective staff have put forth in responding.

The successful Proposer shall comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and policies in performing the work outlined in this proposal.

All proposals become the property of the Decorah Community School District and will not be returned to the Proposer. At the conclusion of the selection process, the contents of the bids will be made public and open for inspection by interested parties.