



Muscookee County School District
Columbus, Georgia

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
For
Internet and Wide Area Network (WAN)
Services for Chattahoochee Valley Libraries

RFP NUMBER 25-006

For all questions about this RFP contact:

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RELEASED ON:

December 18, 2024

DUE ON:

February 7, 2025 @ 1:00 P.M. Eastern Standard Time

(THE MCSD OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FROM 12/23/2024 THRU 01/03/2025)

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PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

This standardized checklist has been provided to assist the vendor with the submission of their Proposal package. This checklist cannot be construed as identifying all required submittal documents for this project. Vendors remain responsible for reading the entire Proposal document to ensure that they are in compliance. Proposals may be considered subject to rejection if, in the sole opinion of the District, there is a serious omission, unauthorized alteration of form, an unauthorized alternate Proposal, incomplete or unbalanced unit price, or irregularities of any kind.

- Proposal Signature and Certification Form – all information completed and signed
- Financial Form – signed
- Federal Work Authorization Contractor Affidavit (if awarded)
- Federal Work Authorization Subcontractor Affidavit (if awarded)
- Exceptions or Deviations to Specifications – signed and/or information completed
- Disclosure of Subcontractors, Subconsultants, and Suppliers – signed and/or information completed
- Reference Request Form – list three (3) references of similar size and scope
- W-9 – completed and signed (if not a District registered vendor)
- Sample Contract – provide a sample contract intended to use if awarded the contract
- Copy of Business License
- Copy of Required/Applicable Licenses or Certifications per Specifications
- Required Number of Copies of the Proposal.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective – Purpose of Procurement

- A. The objective of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to secure a contract for Internet and Wide Area Network (WAN) services for the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries (CVL), a part of the Muscogee County School District (MSCD)

In using this method for solicitation, we are requesting your best effort in seeking the greatest value for our requirements. To be eligible for consideration, sealed proposals shall be presented in accordance with the instructions of this solicitation and within the timeframe specified. It shall be the responsibility of the selected provider to meet all specifications and guidelines set forth herein, in addition to all applicable laws and regulations. Muscogee County School District (MCSD), at its discretion, determines the criteria and process whereby proposals are evaluated and awarded. No damages shall be recoverable by any challenger as a result of these determinations or decisions by Muscogee County School District (MCSD).

- B. The laws of the State of Georgia shall prevail concerning all purchases of products and services under this RFP and subsequent contract(s). Venue shall be in the court of competent jurisdiction in Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia. Several Georgia statutes proscribe jurisdiction and venue for different types of cases that involve state agencies. Any provision that requires legal action that would require travel by MCSD employees likely violates the Constitutional provisions noted above.

C. Scope of Work

I. General

The Chattahoochee Valley Libraries (CVL) intends to maintain a high-capacity reliable network linking all CVL locations. CVL is seeking a provider to design, engineer, install, train, maintain, and provide ongoing assistance for a high-speed digital communication service that is capable of:

- a. Provide one internet connection to the Columbus Public Library location that will service the internet needs of all the participating library locations. This location will provide authentication for all library patrons and staff. Provide a WAN, point-to-point type connection from each branch location to the Columbus Public Library location to support branch business transactions and internet access.
- b. Supporting latency (10 milliseconds or less) between the Columbus Public Library and other library sites as listed.
- c. Proposals should include rates as indicated in Appendix B of this RFP. Vendor should describe their ability to scale the proposed solution to meet greater bandwidth demands if needed.
- d. Response to disruptions and outages with ready access to necessary technical staff and materials according to the Service Level Agreement.
- e. An assured level of service with continuous monitoring of link status.

- f. The vendor shall specify that this network is a managed solution and the vendor will provide all necessary hardware and software accordingly.
- g. The circuits shall be capable of carrying multiple data services such as computer networks, Voice over IP, digital video, etc.

II. Implementation Phases

- a. The implementation of the services described in this RFP must be phased and scheduled to coincide with the CVL's needs.
- b. The awarded vendor will be responsible to work with the current network provider and produce a plan to phase in all active sites in the Library service areas with negligible downtime or outages limited to weekends or evenings as to not impact normal library business.
- c. Service Providers are required to submit with their responses an installation transition plan and timeline that details the process and the milestones of the installation. Appendices A, B, and C contain a list of the names, addresses, and existing equipment at each of the CVL sites requiring connections.

III. Security

- a. *Confidentiality*-All information transmitted over the WAN being provided is private and protected and shall be kept confidential and shall not be made available to any individual or organization by the Service Provider. This includes any network demographic and SNMP information on how the network provided is utilized by CVL including bandwidth utilization statistics, etc.
- b. The Service Provider shall protect the CVL information during transmission from disclosure to unauthorized persons.
- c. The Service Provider shall provide confidentiality protection for sensitive information maintained in the network such as performance statistics and network vulnerabilities.
- d. For some services, the CVL may use cryptographic techniques for encryption of user information only. The Service Provider's WAN infrastructure shall be required to support the transmission of all encrypted information transparently. Encrypted transmissions should also meet all criteria to be PCI compliant.
- e. *Data Integrity*-The Service Provider shall protect the Libraries' information during transmission through the service from unauthorized modification, interception, and reception. Failure to provide Data Integrity will result in MCSD taking any actions allowed under local, state, and federal laws. In addition, it will be cause for MCSD to cancel the contract and seek damages.
- f. *Denial of Service*-The Service Provider shall proactively protect against malicious threats that deny service and thus reduce the availability of the contracted service by providing mechanisms to protect the switching and network management systems from unauthorized or unexpected user actions, unauthorized intrusions, and other perceived threats.
- g. *Identification and Authentication*-The Service Provider shall provide mechanisms to identify and authenticate Service Provider personnel and Library personnel who are authorized to access network management information.

- h. *Access Control*-The Service Provider shall provide access controls to protect the network management systems and switching systems from attacks via publicly accessible ports on “end” devices such as routers and packet switches.
- i. *Alarms and Audit Trails*-The Service Provider shall be responsible for identifying, reporting, and resolving all security violations and breaches within the CVL WAN service. The Service Provider shall report all security breaches to the CVL. The Service Provider shall assist the Library in any criminal investigations resulting from a security breach.
- j. The Service Provider shall provide, audit, and alarm mechanisms that log all security-related events and report critical events to the Library immediately. The Service Provider shall maintain these audit trails for one year; however, the CVL may request that audit trails be maintained longer or turned over to the CVL, at no additional cost.
- k. *Ongoing Security Improvements*-The Service Provider shall work with the Library on an ongoing basis to certify and enhance the strength of security. A security plan shall describe security enhancements to the security of the network and shall be updated at least annually after the contract is awarded.

IV. Billing

- a. The Internet and WAN service is provided to the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries.
- b. The service payee is the Muscogee County School District.
- c. The contractor will provide invoices, with the Purchase Order number identified via email to accountspayable@muscogee.k12.ga.us or the MCSD Accounts Payable Department, Muscogee County School District, 2960 Macon Road, Columbus, GA 31906, and copy the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries.
- d. Service Provider must be able to offer Service Provider Invoicing (SPI).
- e. All charges for the Internet and WAN service must be provided monthly with separate billing for non-e-rate eligible sites.
- f. The CVL requires separate billing for all sites.
- g. Cost for Internet and WAN service should be based on the underlying bandwidth provided but should be independent of service delivery location.
- h. At MCSD’s request, the Service Provider shall provide complete, detailed billing information with the ability to associate charges to a single identified library.
- i. The Service Provider must provide a sample bill that will indicate how each circuit installed in a site will be indicated and how the charges will be presented.

V. E-rate

- a. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted rules on May 7, 1997, implementing section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that provides telecommunications discounts for K-12 schools and public libraries. The rules were incorporated into the FCC’s Universal Service Order (CC Docket No. 96-45). The Order ensures that all eligible schools and libraries have affordable access to modern telecommunication services, internal connections, and the Internet. This Universal Service discount program is popularly known as the “E-Rate” Discount Program in the

- school and library communities. See <http://www.sl.universalservice.org> for more information about the program.
- b. Chattahoochee Valley Library system plans to make use of and apply for E- Rate funding provided as a part of the Universal Service Program. The CVL must follow procedures required by the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company, which oversees the implementation of the Universal Service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. As required by the E-Rate program, the price will be the largest, but not the sole consideration.
 - c. It is anticipated that some goods or services obtained under this procurement may be eligible for the E-Rate discounts, and the Library intends to apply for such discounts. Under the program, providers receive the full amount they contract for, however, payment for the eligible goods and services is split between the Library and the Universal Service Fund. Contractors who wish to respond to this RFP must:
 - Apply for Service Provider Identification Number and provide it with the bid proposal. Call the Schools and Libraries Division at 888-203- 8100 for additional information.
 - Agree that the Library’s portion of the contract is subject to the availability of the discount to the District schools on a year-by-year basis.
 - Agree to assist the Library in resolving any administrative issues that arise from the USF program.
 - Agree that the contract may be canceled at the Library’s option if the Library does not receive the anticipated discounts.
 - d. The Contractor shall refer to the Eligible Services List (FCC Docket No. 96-45) at the Schools and Libraries’ website at www.sl.universalservice.org. The Contractor is responsible for ensuring that all submissions are on the Eligible Services List, or if not, are so noted and priced separately.
 - e. Contractor invoices must separate ineligible USF services and equipment from eligible USF services and equipment. Start and completion dates are required with each invoice.
 - f. The awarded contractor must be familiar with and follow the procedures required by the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), which oversees the implementation of the Universal Service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This includes E-Rate billing procedures and the use of Service Provider Invoice (SPI) – billing, where the vendor bills USAC directly 90% and MCSD/CVL the remaining 10% discounted portion. For more information on E-Rate invoicing, vendors can visit the USAC website at Invoicing - Universal Service Administrative Company (usac.org)

VI. Disaster Recovery and Off-Site Data Back-Up options

- a. Chattahoochee Valley Libraries is interested in any off-site, off-network disaster recovery, or data backup options.

- b. Please include any option or service you may provide or have provided for other school districts or library systems.

1.2 Background

- A. The Muscogee County School District is the public school system serving the Columbus, GA area. There are currently 57 schools and alternative centers educating over 30,000 students. The Muscogee County School District is the area’s largest employer-after neighboring Ft. Benning-with approximately 5,000 employees.
- B. Chattahoochee Valley Libraries (CVL) is headquartered in Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia, and is part of the Muscogee County School District. The library system consists of seven libraries within four counties, Muscogee, Chattahoochee, Marion, and Stewart, in addition to two 24-hour libraries.

1.3 Schedule of Events

This Request for Proposal will be governed by the following schedule:

<u>December 18, 2024</u>	Release of RFP (MSCD Offices will be Closed from 12/23/2024 thru 01/03/2025)
<u>January 13, 2025</u>	Deadline for Written Questions
<u>January 21, 2025</u>	Answers to all Written Questions Posted on the MCSD Website
<u>February 7, 2025</u> <u>at 1:00 pm EST</u>	Proposals Due
<u>To Be Determined</u>	Oral Presentations (if required)
<u>March 2025</u>	Contract Awarded (at Board Meeting)
<u>To Be Determined</u>	Contractor Begins Work

1.4 Restrictions on Communications with Staff

- A. All questions about this RFP must be directed in writing to:

Jerrell D. Rumph, Senior Buyer
Muscogee County School District
2960 Macon Road
Columbus, GA 31906
Office: 706-748-2330, Fax 478-223-0199
Rumph.jerrell.d@muscogee.k12.ga.us

- B. No other MCSD employee shall be contacted regarding this RFP. The school district reserves the right to reject the proposal of any proposer violating this provision. If any vendor finds discrepancies or omissions in this RFP or is in doubt as to the meaning of a particular requirement, submit notifications and questions in writing or via e-mail for interpretation, correction, or clarification. Only written questions and written answers regarding this RFP shall be binding. Answers will be posted to the MCSD website after that date.
- B. Procedures for formal protests of RFPs are available at www.muscogee.k12.ga.us> Vendors > Additional Information.

1.5 Contract Term

- A. The initial contract term is for two years, from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027 with one additional one-year options to renew. Renewals shall be based on the fiscal year and shall depend upon funding, contractor performance, and agreement by both parties.
- B. In compliance with State of Georgia law, O.C.G.A. 20-2-506, the contract shall terminate absolutely and without further obligation at the close of the calendar year. The contract shall automatically renew, unless positive action is taken by the school system, and shall terminate at the end of the contract period.
- C. Georgia law at OCGA s 20-2-506 contains very specific provisions regarding the limited authority of school boards to enter into contracts whose terms could financially obligate future boards of education. Boilerplate or standard termination clauses, therefore, are often problematic for the MCSD. A board of education cannot unreasonably financially obligate a future board of education. The terms of the law will be summarized below, as a thorough discussion of the requirements is outside of the scope of this document. Under certain conditions, school systems may enter into multi-year lease, purchase, or lease-purchase contracts, and these contracts may be used to acquire construction project sites or buildings, or for other purposes. Each such contract must terminate at the end of the calendar year in which the contract was entered into, and at the end of each succeeding calendar year. The contract may provide that it shall be automatically renewed for each successive year unless the school system takes affirmative steps to terminate the contract. The contract must contain a clear statement of the school system's total financial obligation for the original and each succeeding calendar year. Except for guaranteed energy savings contracts, the total value of all such contracts for any calendar year may not exceed 7.5 percent of the total local revenue collected in the most recently completed fiscal year. Failure to comply with the specific requirements of the code section can make the contract void.

2.0 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

2.1 Muscogee County School District Reserves the Right to:

- A. Waive formalities and technicalities in any proposal.

- B. Reject any and/or all proposals wherein its judgment will be in the best interest of the school district.
- C. Accept the proposal that in its judgment will be in the best interest of the school district.
- D. At its option, award on an individual component or a lump sum basis.
- E. Award this contract to the vendor who in the school district's opinion is most responsive and responsible, and will perform in the best interest of the school district.
- F. Cancel or amend this RFP prior to the proposal due date. All amendments and additional information will be posted to the Muscogee County School District website at www.muscogee.k12.ga.us. Proposers are encouraged to check this website frequently.
- G. Determine whether or not a product is equal or equivalent to specifications.
- H. Retain proposals and all submitted documentation.

2.2 Proposal Period

- A. All proposals must be valid for at least 90 days after the proposal due date.
- B. A submitted proposal may be withdrawn prior to the due date by a written request to the Director of Purchasing. A request to withdraw a proposal must be signed by an authorized individual from the vendor's company.
- C. The cost for developing and delivering the proposal is the sole responsibility of the proposer.

2.3 Contract

- A. The proposer shall provide a sample contract which they intend to use if awarded the contract. After the award, the winning proposer shall be required to enter into discussions with the school district to resolve any contractual differences. Failure to resolve contractual differences may lead to the cancellation of the award. The District will prepare and negotiate a contract with the selected Provider and give consideration, to the extent possible, to Vendor's standard contract and agreement.
- B. The school district reserves the right to modify the contract to be consistent with the successful offer and to negotiate with the successful proposer other modifications, provided that no such modifications affect the evaluation criteria set forth herein, or give the successful proposer a competitive advantage.
- C. The contractor shall notify the Muscogee County School District in writing if sub-contractors will be used. The contractor shall list that part of the work the sub-contractor is to furnish or perform and assume complete responsibility for such subcontractor's portion.

- D. A form W-9 must accompany all contracts. All payments will be subject to backup withholdings of 28% if a correct W-9 is not provided. All contracts and invoices must reflect the official name as registered with the IRS.
- E. If you are an independent contractor and are drawing retirement from the Georgia Teachers Retirement System (TRS), you must identify that in your proposal. If any of your employees are drawing retirement from the Georgia Teachers Retirement System, you must identify them and their duties, responsibilities, and relationships as they apply to the goods and services your company will provide to the Muscogee County School District. MCSD will enter into this contract with your company and not with any individuals employed therewith. If you employ individuals who are Georgia TRS retirees, you are responsible for any and all penalties and interest assessed by TRS. You shall indemnify and hold harmless MCSD, its officers, officials, representatives, agents, and employees, from and against any and all claims.

2.4 Equal Opportunity Policy

Vendors shall abide by the school district's non-discrimination policy (DJED). The vendor/contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, or national origin. The vendor shall take appropriate action to ensure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, handicap, or national origin. Such action shall include, but shall not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, transfer, recruitment, layoff, termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and training. It is the further policy of the Board to ensure equal opportunity for minority-owned businesses and minority professionals with regard to all work, services, and supplies purchased by the Board and all construction projects undertaken by the Board which are competitively bid by the Board.

2.5 Non-Collusion Certification

- A. The proposer shall certify that the price(s) and amounts of this proposal have been arrived at independently and without consultation, communication, or agreement with any other contractor, proposer, or potential proposer. Neither the price(s) nor the amount of this proposal, and neither the approximate price(s) nor approximate amount of this proposal, has been disclosed to any other firm or person who is a proposer or potential proposer, and they will not be disclosed before contract award. No attempt has been made or will be made to induce any firm or person to refrain from submitting a proposal on this contract, or to submit a proposal higher than this proposal, or to submit any intentionally high or noncompetitive proposal or other forms of complementary proposal. The proposal is made in good faith and not pursuant to any agreement or discussion with, or inducement from, any firm or person to submit a complementary or other noncompetitive proposal.
- C. The proposer, its affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, and employees are not currently under investigation by any government agency and have not in the last three years been convicted or found liable for any act prohibited by State or Federal law in any jurisdiction, involving conspiracy or collusion with respect to bidding on any public contract. The

proposer understands that collusive bidding is a violation of state and federal law and can result in fines, prison sentences, and civil damage awards.

2.6 Debarment Certification

The proposer shall certify and swear that neither this vendor nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal or State department or agency.

2.7 Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act of 2006 Certification

The proposer shall certify that the proposer and any subsequent subcontractors have registered with and are participating in a federal work authorization program as outlined in the O.C.G.A. 13-10-91.

2.8 Bonding

A bond will not be required.

2.9 Insurance

The awarded contractors and sub-contractor(s) shall furnish to the MCSD a Certificate of Insurance showing compliance with the limitations listed herein. The Certificate of Insurance must be sent to the Muscogee County School District prior to the commencement of work. MCSD is a member of an interlocal risk management agency, the Georgia School Board Association (GSBA). GSBA Risk Management Services (RMS) offers protection through its group-self-insurance plans for workers' compensation, property, and liability risks. Provisions mandating the MCSD to purchase insurance, increase policy limits, or name the vendor or other third party as an additional insured party cannot be included in contracts with the MCSD.

A. COMPREHENSIVE GENERAL LIABILITY

Standard 1986 ISO (Insurance Services Office) Occurrence Form

Bodily Injury	- \$1,000,000 Each Occurrence
	- \$2,000,000 per location Aggregate
Property Damage	- \$1,000,000 Each Occurrence
	- \$2,000,000 Aggregate

Or

Bodily Injury/Property Damage - \$2,000,000 CSL (Combined Single Limit) Each Occurrence/per location Aggregate

- Endorsement affirmatively adding sexual molestation/sexual abuse and/or harassment required.
- Endorsement granting additional insured status to MCSD for ongoing operations (CG 20 10 or equivalent to be reviewed by Risk Management)
- Endorsement granting additional insured status to MCSD for products and completed operations (CG 20 37 or equivalent to be reviewed by Risk Management)
- Endorsement granting waiver of subrogation in favor of MCSD

- Endorsement showing coverage is Primary and Non-contributory to any coverage afforded to MCSD
- B. COMPREHENSIVE AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY
Including Owned, Non-Owned, and Hired Vehicles
Bodily Injury/Property Damage - \$1,000,000 CSL per Accident
- C. WORKERS' COMPENSATION
Georgia Statutory Coverage
Employer's Liability:
- \$500,000 Each Accident
- \$500,000 Disease Policy Limit
- \$500,000 Disease Each Employee
- Endorsement granting waiver of subrogation to MCSD
- D. UMBRELLA/EXCESS
\$2,000,000 limit of liability for each occurrence and aggregate with any lesser amount approved in advance in writing by the Chief, confirming the policy is following form over General Liability, Auto Liability, and Employers Liability.
- E. PROFESSIONAL & CYBER LIABILITY (if appropriate)
\$1,000,000 per person/aggregate Professional Liability
\$1,000,000 per person/aggregate Third-Party Liability
Claims Made Form must have a minimum of a 30-Day Extended Reporting Period. If not being provided, the relevant Chief must provide notification in writing in advance to MCSD Risk Management Department clearly stating the rationale for the decision not to provide.
- F. Muscogee County School District must be shown as Additional Insured with respect to general liability, automobile liability, and excess liability including products and completed operations. Coverage is provided on a primary and non-contributory basis. A waiver of subrogation applies to general liability and workers' compensation in favor of the Muscogee County School District. Excess coverage is written on a following form policy. Attach a copy of all the required endorsements or state on the certificate that the policy has been specifically endorsed to provide coverage.
- G. Sexual molestation/abuse coverage must be presented; this cannot be excluded or omitted without prior written Chief-level approval. The vendor may determine whether this sex molestation / abuse / harassment coverage is provided under its General Liability or Professional Liability coverage. Where the vendor or any of the vendors' employees or agents will be entering into schools or programs while minors are present and/or interacting with students, then the sexual molestation/abuse coverage must be an affirmative grant of coverage. MCSD must be added as an additional insured.
- H. Insurance carriers must be rated A or better in the AM Best Guide.

- I. Provide a brief description of the service and anticipated dates on school property in the Description of Operations/Locations/Vehicles box.
- J. Exclusions other than those found on the ISO Policy Form must be indicated.
- K. The certificate must be signed by an authorized insurance representative.
- L. The vendor, and any of the vendor's sub-contractors, agree to comply with the provisions of worker's compensation laws of the State of Georgia. A certificate from an insurance company showing issuance of worker's compensation coverage for the State of Georgia or a certificate from the Georgia Worker's Compensation Board showing proof of ability to compensate directly shall be submitted to the Muscogee County School District prior to beginning the work.
- M. It shall be stated on every policy or certificate of insurance, as the case may be, that "The insurance company agrees that Policy Number (insert the number) shall not be canceled, changed, or allowed to lapse until thirty (30) days after the Muscogee County School District has received written notice."
- N. The vendor further shall maintain such other insurance (with limits as shown below) that shall protect the vendor and Muscogee County School District from any claims for property damage or personal injury, including death, which may arise out of operations under this contract, and the vendor shall furnish the Muscogee County School District certificates and policies of such insurance as shown below.
- O. Warranty – The contractor shall provide at least a one-year warranty indicating that the contractor will, at no cost to the Muscogee County School District, repair or replace new work which fails.
- P. The contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the Muscogee County School District, its officers, officials, representatives, agents, and employees, from and against any and all claims, demands, suits, loss, damage, injury, and liability, including cost and expenses incurred in connection therewith, resulting from, arising out of, or in any way connected with the performance of the contract, except where caused by the active negligence, sole negligence or willful misconduct by the Muscogee County School District. This hold harmless clause is in no way an admission of liability on the part of the Muscogee County School District, or any of its agents, representatives, or employees.
- Q. The MCSD cannot enter into an agreement whereby it agrees to indemnify or hold harmless a vendor or other third party. This language typically looks like "agrees to hold harmless from any liability, personal injury, or property damage arising out of the performance..." There are three legal principles that come into play here. First, indemnification provisions have been held by Georgia courts to be an unauthorized attempt to waive the State's sovereign immunity. An opinion of the Georgia Attorney General (AG) counsels that an unauthorized attempt to waive sovereign immunity through an indemnification agreement in a contract would be ultra vires and void. 1980 Op. Atty. Gen. 80-67. The Georgia Supreme Court has held that an indemnification clause is invalid where the governmental entity didn't have express statutory authority to waive its sovereign immunity. CSX Transp., Inc. v. City

of Garden City, 588 S.E.2d 688 (Ga. 2003). Second, an indemnification violates Georgia's Constitutional ban on gratuities. The Georgia Constitution does not allow any donation or gratuity or the forgiving of any debt owed to the public. Ga. Const. Art. III, s VI, Para VI (a). The Georgia AG has issued an opinion expressly stating that indemnification provisions are gratuitous undertakings in violation of the gratuities clause. 1980 Op. Atty. Gen. 80-67. Third, the Georgia Constitution does not allow the credit of the state to be pledged or loaned to any individual, company, corporation, or association. Ga. Const. Art. VII s IV Para VIII. The AG has opined that the constitutional debt restriction does not allow any state agency from contractually agreeing to any indemnification or "hold harmless" clause. See 1980 Op., supra. An indemnification is open-ended in nature because, at the time of contracting, neither party knows if nor when it will be triggered. As such, it violates the debt restriction.

2.10 Compliance with Laws

The successful proposer shall procure all permits, bonds, and licenses, pay all charges, taxes, and fees, and give all notices necessary and incidental to the due and lawful prosecution of the work. All costs thereof shall be deemed to be included in the proposal price. The successful proposer shall, at all times, observe and comply with all Federal, State, City, and other laws, codes, ordinances, rules, and regulations in any manner affecting the conduct of the work.

2.11 Muscogee County School District Requirements

- A. Muscogee County School District intends to continue some school business functions during the project. The contractor must coordinate the installation schedule with a representative from the school district. This project must not interfere with any school business function.
- B. Proposers shall carefully examine the worksite to obtain first-hand knowledge of existing conditions.
- C. School District Regulations – The contractor shall follow all applicable Muscogee County School District regulations while on Muscogee County School District property, including the no alcohol, no tobacco products, no weapons, no idling, and drug-free policies.
 - (1) Displays and/or verbiage, including those on vehicles, shirts, or hats of tobacco, illegal drugs, alcoholic beverages, firearms, profane or obscene language, or gestures, is prohibited in accordance with School Board Policies.
 - (2) No products or materials containing asbestos or lead-based paints in any form shall be used in the work of this contract.
 - (3) A safe separation of work areas and occupied areas is required.
 - (4) The Contractor shall comply with the Federal Clean Water Act.

2.12 Funding Out Clause

It is necessary that fiscal funding-out provisions be included in all contracts in which the terms are for periods longer than one year. Therefore, the following funding-out provisions are an integral part of this RFP and must be agreed to by all proposers. The Muscogee County School District may, during the contract period, terminate or discontinue the

purchase of goods, services, or systems covered in this RFP at the end of the district's then-current fiscal year and upon 30 days prior written notice to the contracted vendor. Such prior written notice will state:

- That the lack of appropriated funds is the reason for termination, and
- Agreement not to replace the items or services being terminated with items or services with functions similar to those performed by the items or services covered in this RFP from another vendor in the succeeding funding period.

The complete statement "This written notification will thereafter release the District of all further obligations in any way related to such goods, services or systems covered herein." must be included as part of any agreement with the District. No agreement will be considered that does not include this provision for "funding out".

2.13 Payments and Pricing

- A. The payment terms for the District are Net 30. Payment for any work from this contract shall be made upon receipt, inspection, and acceptance of completed work and receipt of proper itemized invoices.
- B. The Muscogee County School District will not pay any penalties for late payment of invoices.
- C. The District is exempt from state sales tax. All federal and state taxes and fees that can be eliminated in sales to public school systems in the State of Georgia should not be included in the proposed price.
- D. Proposed prices shall include all charges to complete the work as specified. All deliveries are FOB destination with the school district assuming ownership and liability at the final destination when the project is complete.
- E. The District has determined issuing payment electronically is the preferred method of payment. The District reserves the right to remit payments using an electronic method in lieu of issuing a check at no additional cost to the District.
- F. Payment of interest / late fees is prohibited by the gratuities clause of the Georgia constitution. Similarly, MCSD cannot enter into an agreement that requires it to pay attorney's fees or goods/services not priced in the contract or authorizes the payment of unknown/unspecified cost increases that cannot be calculated.

2.14 Open Records

You are hereby notified by MCSD that it is the submitting party's obligation to indicate whether any of the information submitted to MCSD constitutes a "trade secret" as defined by law and if so, what specific information constitutes a "trade secret."

The Georgia Open Records Act, as amended in April 2012, requires that any "trade secret" information be designated as such at the time it is provided to a governmental agency. The

Act further indicates that a failure to make such a designation may result in a waiver of the right to subsequently claim that such information is confidential or otherwise protected from public disclosure. OCGA 50-18-72 (a) (34).

Specifically, OCGA 50-18-72 (a) (34) states in material part:

“(a) Public disclosure shall not be required for records that are:
(34) Any trade secrets obtained from a person or business entity that is required by law, regulation, bid, or request for proposal to be submitted to an agency. An entity submitting records containing trade secrets that wishes to keep such records confidential under this paragraph shall **submit and attach to the records an affidavit affirmatively declaring that specific information in the records constitutes trade secrets pursuant to Article 27 of Chapter 1 of Title 10.** If such entity attaches such an affidavit, before producing such records in response to a request under this article, the agency shall notify the entity of its intention to produce such records as set forth in this paragraph. If the agency makes a determination that the specifically identified information does not, in fact, constitute a trade secret, it shall notify the entity submitting the affidavit of its intent to disclose the information within ten days unless prohibited from doing so by an appropriate court order. In the event the entity wishes to prevent disclosure of the requested records, the entity may file an action in superior court to obtain an order that the requested records are trade secrets exempt from disclosure. The entity filing such action shall serve the requestor with a copy of its court filing. If the agency makes a determination that the specifically identified information does constitute a trade secret, the agency shall withhold the records, and the requester may file an action in superior court to obtain an order that the requested records are not trade secrets and are subject to disclosure; “

3.0 PROPOSAL SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION

3.1 Proposal Submission

- A. Each proposal should be prepared simply and economically, avoiding the use of elaborate promotional materials beyond those sufficient to provide a complete presentation. If supplemental materials are a necessary part of the technical proposal, the proposer should reference these materials in the technical proposal, identifying the document(s) and citing the appropriate section and page(s) to be reviewed.
- B. The proposal must follow the sequence listed in the RFP. The proposal must be divided into two appropriately labeled separate documents – a Technical Submission and a Financial Proposal. **Do not include cost information in the Technical Proposal.**
- C. Provide six (6) printed copies of the technical proposal with one clearly marked as “ORIGINAL”. Provide ONE printed copy of the financial proposal. Provide ONE full digital copy of the proposal on electronic media such as a flash drive in PDF or Microsoft Word format. If there is a discrepancy between a hard copy submission and the companion digital submission, the hard copy will take precedence.
- D. Proposals must be sealed and marked on the outside of the shipping package as follows:

Proposal #25-006 Internet and Wide Area Network (WAN) Services for Chattahoochee Valley Libraries
Due: February 7, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. EST

E. Submit the proposal to:

Muscogee County School District
Purchasing Department
2960 Macon Road
Columbus, GA 31906
706-748-2349

- F. Any proposal received after the due date and time will not be evaluated. The due date for this proposal is **February 7, 2025 at 1:00 pm EST**. The proposer has the sole responsibility to ensure that the proposal is delivered to the correct place by the proposal deadline. In order to protect the integrity of the Contracting process, proposals will not be disclosed until after award and signing of the Contract.
- G. The delivery method of the proposal is by U.S. Mail, Private Mail Service Carriers, or Personal Delivery to the above location only. Faxed and emailed proposals will not be accepted.

3.2 Evaluation Process

- A. The evaluation of proposals received on or before the due date and time will be conducted in three phases. If a proposal does not meet the requirements of the Administrative Review phase, it will not be evaluated in future phases.
- (1) **Administrative Review:** The Purchasing Department will review all proposals to determine if they meet the following requirements:
 - a. Submitted by the deadline
 - b. Separate technical submission does not include any information from the Financial Proposal
 - c. The Proposal Certification Signature Page has been submitted with the original signature
 - d. The Contractor Affidavit is submitted
 - e. Proposer indicates with a statement in the Executive Summary that the proposer meets the Mandatory Minimum Requirements listed in section 4.0 of this RFP
 - (2) **Technical Proposal Evaluation:** Technical proposals which pass the Administrative Review will be evaluated and scored in categories and may receive a maximum of 490 points.
 - a. Proposals will be scored according to the requirements listed in the Technical Proposal Requirements section (5.0) of this RFP and assigned maximum points as indicated in the table below.

b. The following are the maximum possible points of each category:

Technical Merit Categories	Maximum Points	Percent
Qualifications of the company and assigned individuals-personnel, size of staff, management, training, and length of time in business. (Section 5.3)	100	20.4%
Comprehensive implementation plan designed to minimize the disruption of current library internet activities. (Section 5.8.10)	195	39.8%
Demonstrated understanding of the proposed service solution requested. (Section 5.8)	195	39.8
Total	490	100%

The Technical Proposal with the highest technical points will be adjusted up to a score of 490. All other technical proposals will receive a prorated technical score calculated using the following formula:

$$P/H \times (\text{Maximum points available for Technical Proposal}) = V$$

Where: P = Technical points of the proposal being adjusted
H = Original technical points of the highest-ranking proposal
V = Assigned score for proposal being adjusted

(3) **Financial Proposal Evaluation**

- a. Proposers shall use only the Financial Proposal Forms provided with the RFP to supply pricing information.
- b. Financial Proposals can receive a maximum of 510 points (the number of points difference in the maximum technical score and 1000 points). The Financial Proposal with the lowest cost will be awarded the full score of 510. All other Financial Proposals will receive a prorated score calculated using the following formula:

$$L/P \times (\text{Maximum points available for Financial Proposal}) = V$$

Where: L = Total Cost of the proposal with the lowest cost
P = Total Cost of the proposal being adjusted
V = Assigned score for proposal being adjusted

- B. The scores earned by each vendor for each step will be combined and the committee will review the combined score and make a recommendation to award to a vendor.
- C. The final award of this proposal is contingent upon the approval of the Board of Education.
- D. Selection of a successful proposal is not the end of the contractual process; further negotiation over the contract terms and conditions will be necessary, which, in and of itself, could change the Vendor of choice.
- E. Vendors responding to the original RFP will be notified of their selection or non-selection after the date of Vendor selection.

4.0 MANDATORY MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Proposers Business Qualification Requirements

- A. Proposer is licensed to do business in the State of Georgia, is in good standing with federal, state, and municipal jurisdictions to conduct business with the District, and is not under investigation or engaged in litigation that would hinder the conduct of business.
- B. Proposer has presently, or will have at the time of implementation, the professionals, technicians, and supporting staff necessary to deliver the proposed goods, services, and systems.
- C. Proposer has presently, or will have at the time of implementation, the required licenses, certifications, and subject matter knowledge to deliver the proposed goods, services, and systems.
- D. The proposer must be able to provide all required services in an equitable fashion through the District.
- E. The proposer must be fully capable of delivering a solution inclusive of all required services described herein as a part of their proposed solution.

4.2 Submission Requirements

- A. The proposer must submit a Technical Proposal organized according to the sequence defined in this RFP and detailing the proposed approach to performing all of the services requested under Section 5.0.
- B. The proposer must submit a Financial Proposal using the provided form.

- C. The proposer must submit a sample contract.
- D. The proposer must submit a completed Certification Page.
- E. The proposer must submit a completed Contractor Affidavit Form.

5.0 TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

This section identifies the information which must be submitted in the Technical Proposal. Proposer must demonstrate their ability to satisfy all Qualification and Technical Requirements as stated in the Scope of Work as well as detail their plan to perform the required services. The Technical Proposal must be structured in the following sequence and labeled with the corresponding titles stated below using the same outline numbers. Present factual assumptions used to develop the proposal. Offering to meet the requirements of the RFP or reference to the RFP will be considered incomplete. Each representation of fact or future performance will be incorporated into the contract as a warranty by the respondent.

5.1 Executive Summary

Include an abstract, stating the proposer's understanding of the nature and scope of the goods and services required and a brief demonstration of the capability to comply with all terms and conditions of this RFP. Include the company name and address and the name, address, and telephone number of the person acting as the contact for matters concerning the proposal and the person who will be authorized to make legal representations. The letter is to be signed by an officer or agent of the proposer who is authorized to legally bind the Vendor. It is necessary for each proposer to include a written statement that they understand and meet the mandatory minimum requirements (Section 4.0) as a part of the proposal, including specific information as necessary to demonstrate satisfaction of each requirement.

5.2 Table of Contents

The Table of Contents and proposal will conform to the order, headings, and sub-headings of this RFP as appropriate.

5.3 Company Background and Experience

Proposer will describe their background, relevant experience, and qualifications. Include the following proposer Information:

- Company name, parent company name
- Address, city, state, and zip of business offices
- Type of ownership
- State of incorporation
- Primary project contact name, title, phone, email, address, city, state, and zip
- Federal Tax ID number
- Do you own or lease your current business properties?

- List other business locations including addresses

Include the following descriptive information:

- State the nature and scope of the business
- A brief history of the business
- Length of time the company been licensed to do business
- Size of the organization
- A brief organizational chart showing the positions that will be involved with this project – detailed information of the background, certification, experience of these key personnel
- State the business philosophy and mission statement
- Briefly describe the three most similar contracts, preferably K-12 educational or other governmental agencies, or related engagements that the proposer is currently engaged in or has completed within the past two years. Provide for each reference the customer name, contact name, title, telephone number, and contract dates.

Describe other qualifications that may be used to assess the proposer's capabilities. Please note that the District recognizes that the information requested may not apply in full to the goods, services, or systems in this RFP, but the highest point levels will be awarded to those proposals where the respondent has clearly described additional reasons that the District may consider in establishing an enhanced and more productive business partnership.

5.4 Financial Stability

The proposer will provide financial information that would allow proposal evaluators to ascertain the financial stability of the firm.

- A. If a public company, the proposer will provide their most recent audited financial report.
- B. If a private company, the proposer will provide a copy of their most recent internal financial statement, and a letter from their financial institution, on the financial institution's letterhead, stating the proposer's financial stability.

5.5 Business Litigation

The proposer will disclose any involvement by the organization or any officer or principal in any material business litigation within the last five (5) years. The disclosure will include an explanation, as well as the current status and/or disposition.

5.6 Conflicts of Interest

Address the potential, if any, for conflict of interest.

5.7 Exceptions to the RFP

Note any exceptions to the requirements and conditions in this RFP where applicable. If exceptions are not noted, the District assumes that the Vendor's proposals meet the stated requirement and any discovered deviation will result in disqualification of the proposal.

5.8 Proposed Service Solutions

The evaluation process will award the highest point levels to responses that most definitively and completely describe the aspects of the proposed service delivery. Proposers are expected to deliver all services and products per the specifications and as proposed.

1. Provide evidence that you understand and meet the mandatory minimum requirements (Section 4.0), including specific information as necessary to demonstrate satisfaction of each requirement.
2. The awarded Service Provider shall be responsible for all aspects of service quality, interconnectivity, and interoperability between libraries. Each service level parameter is defined in terms of the minimum acceptable level of performance for the service and the minimum assured level of service. Service Level Agreements are for each library individually. Provide an example of the SLA that will be used for this contract.
3. Service Provider must maintain a complete database of all service delivery parameters for the entire term of this contract. Provide a description of the NOC and give a telephone contact number.
4. Technical Support:

The Service Provider must:

- a. Make consultation service available 24 hours/day, 365 days/year through e-mail and a toll-free or local access phone line. This service will provide a same-day response to questions about support. Describe the consultation services to be provided in the contract.
- b. Maintain a 24x7 Network Operation Center (NOC). The NOC will have a toll-free telephone answered by a live person. Provide a description of the NOC and give a telephone contact number.
- c. Assure that a single network disruption or outage of a link shall not exceed 8 hours in length and shall have power backup to remain operational during facility power outages. Describe how an outage and upgrade will be handled in the contract.
- d. Provide a detailed description of how the network will be monitored and measured for performance.
- e. Provide an incident report that outlines the start of a trouble ticket, the communications and status reporting while the ticket is open, the root cause of the trouble, resolution description, and when the ticket is closed. (The format of this report will be determined by CVL and the provider.)

CVL reserves the right to remove or add elements to the report at any time.)

5. CVL requires a single point of contact (Account Executive) to be provided by the Service Provider. This person's responsibility will be to represent CVL interests within the Service Provider organization. **Describe what the role of the Account Executive will be in this contract.**
6. It is expected that the Service Provider will maintain and upgrade software and hardware to provide a service that is in compliance with the latest version of networking standards. These upgrades are expected and required throughout the duration of this contract. **Describe how an outage and upgrade will be handled in the contract.**
7. The Proposer must be an eligible telecommunications provider. **Provide the valid SPIN number and a valid FCC form 473 with the FCC Schools and Libraries Division (SLD).**
8. The Proposer must have a current Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery plan in effect and be prepared to show them if requested. **Provide that plan in the proposal response.**
9. Describe how the proposal includes a managed solution
10. Provide a sample installation transition plan and timeline.
11. Provide a sample bill.

6.0 FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

Complete the Financial Proposal on Pages 44 and 45. Provide additional supporting information as required to clarify pricing.

7.0 PROPOSAL CERTIFICATION

Indicate a willingness to enter into an agreement by signing the Proposal Certification Form. Failure to sign this form will result in disqualification.

8.0 PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS

Complete all proposal documents on the following pages accordingly.

PROPOSAL CERTIFICATION

We propose to furnish and deliver any and all of the goods and/or services named in our proposal at the prices stated. It is understood and agreed that this proposal constitutes an offer, which when accepted in writing by the Muscogee County School District, and subject to the terms and conditions of such acceptance, will constitute a valid and binding contract between the undersigned and the Muscogee County School District.

It is understood and agreed that we have read the specifications shown or referenced in the RFP and that this proposal is made in accordance with the provisions of such specifications. Any exceptions are noted in writing and included with this proposal. By our original signature, entered below, we guarantee and certify that all items included in this proposal meet or exceed any and all such stated specifications. We further agree, if awarded a contract, to deliver goods and/or services that meet or exceed the specifications.

It is understood and agreed that this proposal shall be valid and held open for a period of ninety days from the proposal opening date.

PROPOSAL SIGNATURE AND CERTIFICATION (Bidder to sign and return with the proposal)

I certify that this proposal is made without prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a proposal for the same materials, supplies, equipment, or services and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. I understand collusive bidding is a violation of state and federal law and can result in fines, prison sentences, and civil damage awards. I agree to abide by all conditions of the proposal and certify that I am authorized to sign this proposal for the proposer.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Print/Type Name _____

Company Name _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Fax Number: _____

Do you accept purchasing cards as a method of payment? _____

Do you accept electronic fund transfers as a method of payment? _____

Dun and Bradstreet (D & B) number _____

**Muscogee County School District
FEDERAL WORK AUTHORIZATION CONTRACTOR AFFIDAVIT
Under O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91(b) (1)**

By executing this affidavit, the undersigned contractor verifies its compliance with O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91, stating affirmatively that the individual, firm, or corporation which is engaged in the physical performance of services on behalf of MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT has registered with, is authorized to use and uses the federal work authorization program commonly known as E-Verify, or any subsequent replacement program, in accordance with the applicable provisions and deadlines established in O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91. Furthermore, the undersigned contractor will continue to use the federal work authorization program throughout the contract period and the undersigned contractor will contract for the physical performance of services in satisfaction of such contract only with subcontractors who present an affidavit to the contractor with the information required by O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91(b). Contractor hereby attests that its federal work authorization user identification number and date of authorization are as follows:

Federal Work Authorization ID Number (E-Verify Number Assigned to Your Company - 4 to 7 digits)

Date of Authorization

Name of Contractor

Name of Project

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Name of Public Employer

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed on _____, __, 20__ in _____ (city), _____ (state).

Signature of Authorized Officer or Agent

Printed Name and Title of Authorized Officer or Agent

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME
ON THIS THE _____ DAY OF _____, 20__.

NOTARY PUBLIC SIGNATURE

My Commission Expires: _____

**Muscogee County School District
FEDERAL WORK AUTHORIZATION SUBCONTRACTOR AFFIDAVIT
Under O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91(b) (1)**

By executing this affidavit, the undersigned subcontractor verifies its compliance with O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91, stating affirmatively that the individual, firm, or corporation which is engaged in the physical performance of services under a contract with _____ (**name of contractor**) on behalf of Muscogee County School District has registered with, is authorized to use and uses the federal work authorization program commonly known as E-Verify, or any subsequent replacement program, in accordance with the applicable provisions and deadlines established in O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91. Furthermore, the undersigned subcontractor will continue to use the federal work authorization program throughout the contract period and the undersigned subcontractor will forward notice of the receipt of an affidavit from a sub-subcontractor to the contractor within five business days of receipt. If the undersigned subcontractor receives notice of receipt of an affidavit from any sub-subcontractor that has contracted with a sub-subcontractor to forward, within five business days of receipt, a copy of such notice to the contractor. Subcontractor hereby attests that its federal work authorization user identification number and date of authorization user identification number are as follows:

Federal Work Authorization ID Number (E-Verify Number Assigned to Your Company - 4 to 7 digits)

Date of Authorization

Name of Contractor

Name of Project

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Name of Public Employer

I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed on _____, __, 20__ in _____ (city), _____ (state).

Signature of Authorized Officer or Agent

Printed Name and Title of Authorized Officer or Agent

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME
ON THIS THE _____ DAY OF _____, 20__.

NOTARY PUBLIC SIGNATURE

My Commission Expires: _____

DEBARRED, SUSPENDED, AND INELIGIBLE STATUS

Institutions shall solicit offers from, award contracts to, and consent to subcontracts with responsible contractors and/or principals only. The serious nature of debarment and suspension requires that sanctions be imposed only in the public interest for the Government's protection and not for purposes of punishment. Institutions shall impose debarment or suspension to protect the Government's interest and only for the causes and in accordance with the procedures set forth in 2 CFR 200.213.

The Contractor certifies that the Contractor and/or any of its subcontractors or principals have not been debarred, suspended, or declared ineligible by any agency of the State of Georgia or any agency of the Federal government or as defined in the 2 CFR 200.213 which states "Non-federal entities are subject to the non-procurement debarment and suspension regulations implementing Executive Orders 12549 and 12689, 2 CFR part 180. These regulations restrict awards, subawards, and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs or activities." The Contractor will immediately notify the School Food Authority if Contractor is debarred or placed on the Consolidated List of Debarred, Suspended, and Ineligible Contractors by a federal entity.

By signing this agreement, the Contractor is testifying that they are not debarred, suspended, or has any ineligible or voluntary exclusions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture or any other Federal or State Agency. All responses will be verified.

Organization Name

Names(s) and Title(s) of Authorized Representative(s)

Signature(s)

Date

"The program applicant hereby agrees that it will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.); all provisions required by the implementing regulations of the Department of Agriculture; Department of Justice Enforcement Guidelines, 28 CFR Part 50.3 and 42; and FNS directives and guidelines, to the effect that, no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or otherwise be subject to discrimination under any program or activity for which the program applicant receives Federal financial assistance from FNS; and hereby gives assurance that it will immediately take measures necessary to effectuate this agreement."

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

DISCLOSURE OF SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUBCONSULTANTS

Note: Vendor must sign the appropriate statement below as applicable.

- () No Subcontractors or Subconsultants will be used in connection with the performance of this contract.

Firm: _____

Signature: _____

-OR-

- () All Subcontractors or Subconsultants to be used in connection with the performance of this contract are listed below. (Attach additional sheets as necessary.)

Firm: _____

Signature: _____

SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUBCONSULTANTS

Name of Firm or Agency: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Contact Name/Title: _____

Name of Firm or Agency: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Contact Name/Title: _____

Name of Firm or Agency: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Contact Name/Title: _____

Name of Firm or Agency: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Contact Name/Title: _____

REFERENCE & SIMILAR PROJECTS FORM

Owner / Business Name:		
Service Location / Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Point of Contact:		Dates of Work:
Phone Number:		Fax Number:
E-mail Address:		
Project Name:		Contract Amount:
Brief Description of Service:		

Owner / Business Name:		
Service Location / Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Point of Contact:		Dates of Work:
Phone Number:		Fax Number:
E-mail Address:		
Project Name:		Contract Amount:
Brief Description of Service:		

Owner / Business Name:		
Service Location / Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Point of Contact:		Dates of Work:
Phone Number:		Fax Number:
E-mail Address:		
Project Name:		Contract Amount:
Brief Description of Service:		

NO-BID RESPONSE

**Muscogee County School District
Statement of "No Bid"**

If you do not intend to submit a bid for this project, please complete and return this form prior to the date shown for receipt of bids to: Jerrell D. Rumph Senior Buyer at rumph.jerrell.d@muscogee.k12.ga.us.

We, the undersigned, have declined to submit a bid on the "**RFP #25-006 Internet and Wide Area Network for Chattahoochee Valley Libraries**" for the following reasons:

_____ Specifications are too "tight", i.e. geared toward one brand or manufacturer only
(please explain reason below)

_____ Insufficient time to respond to the solicitation.

_____ We do not offer this product/service or equivalent.

_____ Our schedule would not permit us to perform to specifications.

_____ Unable to meet specifications.

_____ Unable to meet insurance requirements.

_____ Specifications unclear (please explain below).

_____ Competition restricted by pre-approved owner standards.

_____ Other (please specify below).

Remarks:

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Signature and Title: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Date: _____

SAMPLE AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES

(Sample agreement only. MCSD reserves the right to alter this agreement based on final BID results and/or any negotiations with the proposed vendor)

THIS AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES is entered into and effective as of the X day of XXXX, 20XX, by and between **MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**, a body politic of the State of Georgia (“MCSD”) and **XXXXXXXXXX**, duly authorized to conduct business in the State of Georgia (“CONTRACTOR”).

WHEREAS, the Contractor shall provide (services to be provided) as detailed in Appendix A, if applicable, incorporated herein by reference, as such services are further described in Appendix A.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual considerations as stated herein, MCSD and CONTRACTOR agree as follows:

- 1. Discrimination is Prohibited:** MCSD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, status as a veteran, or disability, or in any other manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or the State of Georgia in any of its employment practices, education programs, services or activities. Contractor agrees that it will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, status as a veteran, or disability, or in any other manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or the State of Georgia or the policies of the MCSD.
- 2. Service Location:** The services identified in this Agreement will be provided at the location(s) indicated in this Agreement.
- 3. Fees:** The MCSD shall pay the Contractor the amounts indicated in this Agreement according to the terms of this Agreement. As mandated by O.C.G.A. §20-2-506 (b) (3), the total and maximum obligation of MCSD for the calendar year of execution and all services rendered hereunder shall be: **(agreed price per bid documents and/or negotiations)**, invoiced as follows and subject to the Payment Terms outlined on the attached Appendix B: Fee Schedule.

MCSD shall not pay interest, penalty fees, late fees, conversion fees, or any sums intended as a penalty. If no services are performed under the terms of this agreement, MCSD shall be entitled to a return of money paid for months where no services were received or performed by the Contractor, prorated at the monthly rate of the contract.

MCSD reserves the right to adjust any payments it makes to accurately reflect any diminished level of services that have been or may be provided by you as a result of the mandated shutdowns or building closures caused by COVID-19 or other national health emergencies.

Any agency or company, including Contractor, who provides MCSD with additional part-time or full-time supplemental staff workers, whether the work is performed on MCSD property or remotely, shall reimburse MCSD for any payments or portions of payments MCSD makes to that agency or company if that agency or company also receives payments under the CARES Act, or FFCRA or similar federal or state financial relief measures attributable to those same individuals.

MCSD hereby places Contractor on notice that MCSD will seek reimbursement from Contractor in the event Contractor also receives duplicate funds for the same services through the FFCRA and/or the CARES Act or similar federal or state financial relief measures.

4. **Term:** This Agreement shall terminate absolutely and without further obligation on the part of the MCSD at the close of the calendar year for which it was executed and at the close of each succeeding calendar year for which it may be renewed. This Agreement is subject to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-506 and the terms of that statute are hereby expressly incorporated herein.

5. **Description of Services:** Contractor agrees to perform the services indicated in this Agreement and in Appendix A attached hereto, in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

6. **Independent Contractor:** Neither Contractor nor any of its employees or agents shall be deemed to be employees or agents of the MCSD, it being understood at all times that Contractor is an independent contractor for all purposes and at all times and that Contractor shall have no right, power or authority to act or create any obligation, whether express or implied, on behalf of MCSD. Contractor shall, at its own and sole expense, comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations that are now or may in the future become applicable to Contractor, Contractor's business or Contractor's personnel engaged in the services covered by this Agreement including, but not limited to, the withholding and payment of all federal, state and local income and/or sales taxes, Social Security, unemployment, sickness, disability, workers' compensation, and other payroll taxes with respect to its employees, including contributions from them when and as required by law. Contractor shall provide all of the tools, materials, equipment, and other business items necessary to perform the Services. Contractor shall be solely responsible for paying, and shall pay, all of its own expenses, debts, accounts, obligations, liabilities, employees, taxes, and fees incurred by it in the performance of the Services hereunder.

7. **Teachers' Retirement System:** Contractor must identify individuals who are drawing retirement from the Georgia Teachers' Retirement System (TRS), and the Contractor is responsible for any and all penalties and interests that may be assessed by TRS; Contractor shall hold MCSD harmless from and against any claims related to TRS.

8. **Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act of 2006, as amended:** The Contractor shall certify that the Contractor and any subcontractors have registered with and are participating in a federal work authorization program as outlined in O.C.G.A. §13-10-91.

9. **Delay of Performance:** MCSD reserves the right to prorate and/or adjust the cost of the services contracted for herein, or to terminate this Agreement if the commencement of Contractor's engagement is unduly delayed due to the fault of Contractor and/or any of their agents and/or representatives.

10. **Insurance:** At all times during the Term of this Agreement, Contractor, at its own expense, shall procure and maintain the types and minimum limits of insurance specified by the MCSD as outlined in the attached Appendix B: Insurance Requirements. Such insurance shall be provided by insurers authorized to do business in the State of Georgia and which have at least an A-(Excellent)/FSC-XI rating from A.M. Best. All insurance herein, except the professional liability insurance and educational liability, shall be written on an "occurrence" basis and not a "claims-made" basis. Contractor shall ensure that it names MCSD as an additional insured on its insurance policies and shall, concurrently with the execution of this Agreement, provide the MCSD with a Certificate of Insurance.

The Contractor, on behalf of itself and its insurance companies, hereby waives, to the extent of any recovery under any such insurance policies, any right of subrogation that either may have. Contractor shall cause its respective insurance policies to contain endorsements evidencing such waivers of subrogation.

11. **Governing Law; Jurisdiction:** This Agreement shall be governed in all respects by the laws of the State of Georgia without regard to any conflict of laws provisions, and the parties hereto irrevocably consent to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the appropriate Court in Muscogee County, Georgia, for any dispute arising out of this Agreement or related to the services provided hereunder.

12. **Entire Agreement:** This Agreement, together with the exhibits and documents attached hereto (if any), represents the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes and replaces all prior oral and written proposals, communications, and agreements with respect to the subject matter hereof. This Agreement may only be amended in writing, and executed by the parties hereto. In the event of any inconsistency or conflict between the terms and conditions of this Agreement and any exhibits, then this Agreement shall control. Terms and conditions of any Request for Proposal connected to this Agreement are hereby incorporated by reference.

13. **Non-Assignment, Non-Sub-Contracting:** Neither this Agreement nor any of the rights, interests, or obligations under this Agreement shall be assigned, in whole or in part, by operation of law or otherwise by Contractor without the prior written consent of the MCSD, and any purported assignment shall be null and void. Substitutions are not permitted. Contractor may not subcontract without the prior written consent of the MCSD.

14. **Termination:** The MCSD may terminate the Agreement at any time and for any reason (or no reason), and without penalty, upon thirty (30) days' written notice to the Contractor. Further, and pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-506, in the event appropriated funds are determined no longer to exist or to be insufficient for purposes of fulfilling MCSD's obligations hereunder, the MCSD may terminate this Agreement. The MCSD and Contractor may terminate this Agreement at any time upon their mutual consent.

15. **Taxes:** The MCSD is a tax-exempt entity and shall not be liable for the payment of any taxes.

16. **Hold Harmless:** To the fullest extent permitted by law, Contractor shall indemnify, defend (at Contractor's sole expense) and hold the MCSD, the Muscogee County Board of Education, its board members, and employees harmless from and against any and all claims for bodily injury or death, damage to property, demands, damages, actions, causes of action, suits, losses, judgments, obligations, and any liabilities, costs, and expenses (including, but not limited to, attorneys' fees and costs), which arise or are in any way connected with the services contemplated by Contractor under this Agreement or the actions of Contractor's officers, employees, or agents.

17. **Compliance with MCSD Policies:** Contractor and any of its employees and agents shall, at all times during the term hereof and during the performance of services hereunder, comply with MCSD policies, procedures, regulations and directives, as modified from time to time.

18. **Attorneys' Fees:** Should the MCSD be the prevailing party in any legal action with Contractor arising out of this Agreement or the services performed hereunder, then in such event, the MCSD shall be entitled to recover its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs from Contractor.

19. **Force Majeure:** Parties' obligations to perform shall be excused if rendered impossible as a result of serious illness, death, or injury, accident, fire, riot, pandemic, or other manifestation of civil disorder; an act,

rule, or regulation of any public authority or Court of competent jurisdiction; and/or an act of God, or any other event completely beyond the reasonable control of either party. Either party may terminate this agreement with no further obligation or liability if a Force Majeure Event causes substantial interruption for a period of thirty (30) days or more.

20. **Sovereign Immunity:** MCSD is a state agency and may not waive its Sovereign Immunity or agree to indemnify or hold harmless another party. The only liability MCSD may incur is that which is expressly provided for by Georgia law and is not enlarged by this Agreement.

21. **Deposits, Fees, and Fines:** Contractor will not seek late fees, penalties, or interest, or any other fees or fines that constitute a gratuity. Contractor will pay where its negligence causes damage to the property of MCSD. MCSD will not make any advance payments or deposits prior to the completion of services contracted for herein unless otherwise specified in the attached Appendix A.

22. **Payment Terms:** Contractor will seek payment thirty (30) days after invoice date; Contractor will provide invoices, with Purchase Order number identified via email to accountspayable@muscogee.k12.ga.us or the MCSD Accounts Payable Department, Muscogee County School District, 2960 Macon Rd., Columbus, GA 31906. Contractor may also be requested to provide a copy of the invoice to the Division of MCSD obtaining the services. Contractor will register as a vendor via submission of a W-9 to the MCSD Division of Finance prior to beginning work.

23. **Disclosures:** Contractor will disclose to MCSD the existence of any actions, suits, proceedings, claims or disputes pending or, threatened or contemplated, at law, in equity, in arbitration, or before any Governmental or Regulatory Agency, whether under current business name or designation or a prior business name or designation. Traffic and parking citations do not need to be disclosed. This disclosure will be made prior to any performance under the Agreement.

24. **Background Investigation:** MCSD requires a criminal background investigation of Contractor's personnel that may provide services on MCSD property. Contractor represents and warrants that it shall not assign personnel to any task under this Agreement if that individual's background check does not satisfy the current expectations and requirements of the MCSD Division of Human Resources. Contractor further warrants that if an individual's status changes due to an arrest or any other legal action, Contractor will immediately notify MCSD's Division of Human Resources to collaborate on the response. MCSD background check requirements include a criminal background check that includes fingerprinting. Final authority as to who may enter MCSD property rests with MCSD.

25. **Non-Collusion:** Contractor certifies that its proposal, bid or offer is made without any prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting a proposal, bid, or offer for the same materials, supplies, or equipment, and is in all respect fair and without collusion or fraud. Contractor understands and acknowledges that collusive bidding is a violation of Federal and/or state law and can result in fines, prison sentences, and civil damage awards.

26. **MCSD Right to Remove:** MCSD reserves the right to immediately remove any individual from its premises; Contractor agrees that this provision applies to its employees and agents. Contractor agrees to abide by the wishes of MCSD should the MCSD determine that any employee or agent of Contractor should not work pursuant to this Agreement. MCSD will be reasonable in the enforcement of this provision.

27. **Records, Information, and Data:**

a) **Retention** – Contractor shall retain all its internal books, records, and documents related to this Agreement in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and procedures – which shall sufficiently and properly document and calculate all charges billed to the MCSD during the term of the Agreement – for a period of at least five (5) years following the date of final payment hereunder or the completion of any audit, whichever is later. Records to be maintained include both financial records and service records.

b) **Access** – Contractor shall permit MCSD to access and examine, audit, excerpt, and transcribe any directly pertinent books, documents, papers, electronic or optically stored and created records of the Contractor relating to orders, invoices or payments or any other documentation or materials pertaining to this Agreement, wherever such records may be located, during normal business hours. The Contractor shall not impose a charge for audit or examination of Contractor’s books and records and, if an audit discloses incorrect billings or improprieties, the MCSD reserves the right to charge Contractor for the cost of the audit and any other appropriate reimbursements.

c) **Confidentiality** – Contractor may have access to confidential information maintained by MCSD or access to MCSD computers, hardware, software programs and/or information technology infrastructure or hard copy data or records, where such access is needed to carry out Contractor’s duties; Contractor shall presume all information received is confidential unless otherwise designated by the MCSD. Access shall be terminated at the sole discretion of the MCSD. Contractor shall notify the MCSD immediately if it suspects abuse or misuse of such access. No confidential information shall be disseminated except as authorized by law and with the prior written consent of the MCSD, either during the period of the Agreement or at any time thereafter. Any information supplied to Contractor shall be considered the property of the MCSD. Contractor must return any and all data collected, maintained, created, or used, in whatever form it is maintained, within a reasonable time from the request of the MCSD. Contractor shall take commercially reasonable measures to protect the security of confidential information both during the Agreement and thereafter. Contractor shall immediately notify MCSD where it has reasonable cause to believe there has been an unauthorized disclosure of confidential information, whether intentional or accidental. Contractor shall notify MCSD prior to or immediately upon termination or resignation of an employee or agent of Contractor that has or has had access to MCSD software platforms or data in order that MCSD may terminate that individual’s ability to access MCSD software or data.

d) **Applicable Laws** – Contractor shall maintain any information obtained from MCSD in strict confidence, and specifically, in accordance with all federal and state laws that may apply, including but not limited to the federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, 20 U.S.C. s 1232(g) and 5 U.S.C. s 522(a). To the extent a request is made pursuant to any federal Freedom of Information or state Open Records Act laws, Contractor shall immediately notify MCSD and shall respond as directed by MCSD.

e) **Warranties** – Contract warrants that the workmanship hereunder shall be free from defects for one (1) year from the date of installation or from completion of the services hereunder, whichever is later. Contractor will also extend to MCSD the benefits of any warranty Contractor has received from the manufacturer, the procurement of such warranties being the duty of the Contractor.

THE PARTIES HERETO have affixed their hand and seal as of the date first written above.

MUSCOGEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (MCSD)

By: _____ Date: _____
Dr. David Lewis, Superintendent of the Board of Education

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

By: _____ Date: _____

Print: _____

SAMPLE

**FINANCIAL PROPOSAL
APPENDIX A
EXISTING EQUIPMENT AT EACH CVL SITE**

Library name	Address	Current Environment
Columbus Public Library	3000 Macon Rd. Columbus, GA 31906	Managed Internet 1 Gbps, Managed WAN 1.5 Gbps
North Columbus Public Library	5689 Armour Rd. Columbus, GA 31909	MPLS 250 Mbps
South Columbus Public Library	2034 South Lumpkin Rd. Columbus, GA 31904	MPLS 250 Mbps
Mildred L. Terry Public Library	640 Veterans Parkway Columbus, GA 31901	MPLS 250 Mbps
Cusseta-Chattahoochee Public Library	262 Broad Street Cusseta, GA 31805	MPLS 100 Mbps
Marion County Public Library	123 East 5 th Ave. Buena Vista, GA 31803	MPLS 100 Mbps
Parks Memorial Public Library	890 Wall Street Richland, GA 31825	MPLS 100 Mbps
Double Churches Public Library (24-hour library)	1241 Double Churches Road Columbus, GA 31904	MPLS 100 Mbps
Midland Public Library (24-hour library)	6600 Flat Rock Road Midland, GA 31820	MPLS 100 Mbps

**APPENDIX B
REQUESTED BANDWIDTH FOR EACH LIBRARY SITE**

Library name	Address	Requested Bandwidth
Columbus Public Library	3000 Macon Rd. Columbus, GA 31906	Internet 1 Gbps, WAN Minimum 1.5 Gbps
North Columbus Public Library	5689 Armour Rd. Columbus, GA 31909	Minimum 250 Mbps
South Columbus Public Library	2034 South Lumpkin Rd. Columbus, GA 31904	Minimum 250 Mbps
Mildred L. Terry Public Library	640 Veterans Parkway Columbus, GA 31901	Minimum 250 Mbps
Cusseta-Chattahoochee Public Library	262 Broad Street Cusseta, GA 31805	Minimum 100 Mbps
Marion County Public Library	123 East 5 th Ave. Buena Vista, GA 31803	Minimum 100 Mbps
Parks Memorial Public Library	890 Wall Street Richland, GA 31825	Minimum 100 Mbps
Double Churches Public Library (24-hour library)	1241 Double Churches Road Columbus, GA 31904	Minimum 100 Mbps
Midland Public Library (24-hour library)	6600 Flat Rock Road Midland, GA 31820	Minimum 100 Mbps

APPENDIX C
APPROXIMATE E-RATE DISCOUNT LEVELS

Library name	Address	Approximate E-Rate Discount Level
Columbus Public Library	3000 Macon Rd. Columbus, GA 31906	90%
North Columbus Public Library	5689 Armour Rd. Columbus, GA 31909	90%
South Columbus Public Library	2034 South Lumpkin Rd. Columbus, GA 31904	90%
Mildred L. Terry Public Library	640 Veterans Parkway Columbus, GA 31901	90%
Cusseta-Chattahoochee Public Library	262 Broad Street Cusseta, GA 31805	90%
Marion County Public Library	123 East 5 th Ave. Buena Vista, GA 31803	90%
Parks Memorial Public Library	890 Wall Street Richland, GA 31825	90%

**APPENDIX D
FINANCIAL PROPOSAL**

Product/Service	Monthly Cost Per Site	Total Monthly Cost	Additional Costs	E-Rate Eligible Services
Internet Connectivity Fees (connection to Columbus Public Library)	Columbus Public Library			
	North Columbus Public Library			
	South Columbus Public Library			
	Mildred L. Terry Public Library			
	Cussetta-Chattahoochee Public Library			
	Marion County Public Library			
	Parks Memorial Public Library			
	Double Churches Public Library			
	Midland Public Library			
WAN Services (from Columbus Public Library to the following sites)	Columbus Public Library			
	North Columbus Public Library			
	South Columbus Public Library			
	Mildred L. Terry Public Library			
	Cussetta-Chattahoochee Public Library			
	Marion County Public Library			
	Parks Memorial Public Library			
	Double Churches Public Library			
	Midland Public Library			

Other Charges: Equipment Installation Other (Specify)				
Optional Services (List Description of Services Below)				
TOTAL COST				

VENDOR NAME _____

VENDOR REPRESENTATIVE (Print) _____

VENDOR REPRESENTATIVE (Signature) _____

VENDOR TELEPHONE NUMBER _____