

Q&A RFP 21-08 ISP TEA Connect Program

1. Is this RFP for only Region 4 ESC area schools to participate in, or is the contract for any k-12 to take advantage of in Texas? Answer: All K-12 schools in Texas.

2. Is there a page limit for an offerer's proposal in response to this solicitation? Answer: No.

3. The proposal specifies wired solutions and does not address non-wired solutions:

a. Can a bidder respond with a non-wired solution and point out deviations from the requirements? This could be advantageous in cost and speed of implementation especially in less urban areas.

Answer: Respondents can provide non-wired solutions as long as they are fixed home-based solutions that meet the other service requirements.

b. If a bidder can meet the minimum speed, uptime, and unlimited data requirements through a combination of wired and wireless technologies (hybrid system) can this be acceptable?

Answer: Yes, a hybrid solution is acceptable as long as it is a fixed home-based solution and that it meets all other service requirements.

c. Are the specifications for the service absolute or will bids be considered that meet the specifications to various extents?

Answer: Other specifications will be considered if they exceed the bid specifications. The only exception to this will be if no service that meets the bid specifications is available in a clearly and narrowly defined geographic area and if the respondent is able to provide near and medium-term solutions that ensure that if initial service is below bid specifications, it will be elevated to meet or exceed bid specifications within no more than 364 days or less from the date of the contract.

4. Will you provide a map/geolocation of the homes to be connected?

a. Is the RFP to provide internet services to 1) Region 4 or 2) throughout the entire State of Texas on an area by area basis?

Answer: The RFP is for the entire State of Texas and respondents are expected to submit bids that are regions by region specific with as much geographic specificity as is possible. Respondents should assume that service students reside in all geographic regions of the state of Texas and as such their bids should cover all regions for which their service is able to meet bid specifications.

b. Can we bid certain of these homes and not others?

Answer: Specific home addresses will not be provided during the RFP bid process. Please use the geographic parameters outlined in the RFP and in the answers to the questions above.

c. Are there priority areas that need to be connected sooner than others?

Answer: Please use the geographic parameters outlined in the RFP and in the answers to the questions above

5. Question: If such a hybrid approach is permitted, how can a bidder obtain authority to approach other members in the same industry without violating the Antitrust Certification Statement (#4)?

Answer: Respondents who wish to develop hybrid solutions for their bids, per anti-trust provisions, can only collaborate or partner with providers who deliver internet service through a different delivery technology such as wireless vs wired or wireless vs satellite and would therefore not be viewed as direct competitors that offer identical products or services.