



E-Rate Category 1 & 2 Projects

Technology Department

What is E-Rate?



E-Rate is a 5-year budgeting cycle from the FCC and United Service Administrative Company (USAC) using taxes on cell phones to assist in the payment of internet services to schools (category 1) and throughout schools (category 2).

- Funds are used or lost.
- Based on free and reduced lunch count.

The Process:

1. GISD identifies needs and submits to consultants for eligibility.
2. Requests for bids are posted online via consultants as well as via USAC and Herald Banner.
3. Bids are evaluated according to USAC guidelines and consultant recommendations.
4. Contracts are awarded and authorized by the School Board.
5. The packet is sent to USAC for review, and award letters are sent to GISD.
6. Projects are completed, and invoices are sent to USAC.
7. USAC reimburses GISD for 80% of the cost of the eligible services.

Bidding Criteria



Bids for Category 1 services were evaluated on the following criteria:

- Price
- Service History
- Expertise of Company
- Understanding of Needs / Completeness of Bids
- Network Growth
- Ability to Start Service by 7/1/2024

Bids for Category 2 services were evaluated on the following criteria:

- Price
- Service History
- Expertise of Company
- Understanding of Needs / Completeness of Bids

Category 1 Services



The Need:

- Fiber circuit that connects all campuses for communications and internet.
- Internet Service Provider

Bid Information:

- 5-Year Agreement
- Prices ranged from \$1713 to \$4000 monthly for internet.
- Prices ranged from \$5424 to \$36,581 monthly for fiber.

The Recommended Solution:

- GEUS Internet (\$4,000/mo) and Fiber Services (\$6,800/mo) = \$129,600 annually before reimbursement
- GISD's after-reimbursement cost will be \$25,920 each year.

Category 1 - Recommendation



GISD administration recommends entering the presented 5-year contract with GEUS for internet services.

GISD administration recommends entering the presented 5-year contract with GEUS for fiber services.

Category 2 Services



The Need:

- 74 UPS Battery backup appliances at campuses need a refresh to ensure less downtime and avoid loss of settings or hardware failures due to power outages.

Bid Information:

- A total of 9 bidders
- Prices ranged from \$95,580 to \$191,483 monthly for the equipment, installation, and removal of old hardware.

The Recommended Solution:

- CDW's proposed solution of Vertiv Liebert UPSs - \$116,498
- GISD's after-reimbursement cost will be \$23,300.



Category 2 - Recommendation



GISD administration recommends purchasing 74 UPS battery backups from CDW along with contracted services to install the new equipment and have the old equipment removed and recycled.



Questions?