

Request for Proposal WiFi Upgrade RFP#25.600 Questions and Answers

1. **The Proposal due date for this RFP has been extended as follows:
NEW PROPOSAL DUE DATE: Friday, March 14, 2025, no later than 2:00 PM, PST**

RFP Q&A 25.600

1. Does Stockton Unified School District require a full buildout of the network infrastructure to support Wi-Fi 6E/7, including all necessary hardware, software, and installation services?
Cloud based solution for Controller the same as or equivalent to Aruba Central. L licensing should be provided in the bid with 3-year subscription. Cabling will need to be provided per page 57 of the RFP.
2. Does Stockton Unified's existing network infrastructure (including switching, backbone, and power capabilities) support the necessary upgrade for a Wi-Fi 6E/7 wireless network, or will additional upgrades be required to facilitate this transition?
Yes. Our existing network will support Wi-Fi 6/7. Our RFP includes Wi-Fi 7 for indoor and Wi-Fi 6 for outdoor.
3. Does Stockton Unified have a clear inventory of existing indoor versus outdoor access points (APs)? The current RFP only provides information on the total number of APs. Can you provide a breakdown of the existing indoor versus outdoor APs, or confirm if additional APs are needed?
Please reference the RFP page 55-57.
4. Does Stockton Unified require additional mounting hardware or solutions for either indoor or outdoor APs, beyond what is specified in the current RFP?
Yes. Any mounting hardware materials or solutions needed for this RFP will have to be provided by bidder.
5. What level of support does Stockton Unified require for the wireless network equipment (e.g., remote support, next business day, 4-hour response time)? Additionally, what is the desired duration for support services (e.g., 1 year, 3 years, 5 years)?
Please reference the RFP pages 57 & 58.
6. Will maps with network closet locations be provided for each site?
Yes. Please reference RFP page 57. Maps will be provided to the winning bidder.
7. Will maps with existing and new WAP locations be provided for each site?
Please reference the RFP page 57.
8. Do all portable/detached buildings currently have a usable cable pathway to them from an existing network closet?
Yes. They do, however, some of the pathways may be impacted. Please include a change order buffer on your bid per RFP.
9. Are there any cable runs that will be run underground? If so how many, and is there existing usable conduit with room for all of them?

Yes. There are current runs underground within the existing pathway. However, some of the pathways may be impacted. Please include a change order buffer on your bid per RFP.

10. Are any aerial cable runs required? If so how many, and is there existing pathways for all of them?

There should be existing pathways for all of them. No cabling should be run aerial unless approved by Stockton USD.

11. Will there be maps available with current cable pathways marked for underground or aerial cable?

No. A discovery of each site's pathway will need to be made by the winning bidder.

12. Is there a breakout of indoor and outdoor WAPs for the "upgrade" column of the RFP (Page 56)?

Yes. Please read RFP pages 55-57.

13. Will all outdoor WAPs be mounted on the exterior of a building or will any be mounted on poles?

We anticipate the majority should be mounted on the building.

14. Are we pulling one or two cables to each new WAP location?

1 cable drop for each "New Indoor" and "New Outdoor" Access Point location reference page 57 in the RFP.

15. The WAP REQUIREMENTS section says that "The district would like to recommend the below internal and external outdoor make and model access points", however only the table only includes Aruba Part Numbers for the outdoor AP and outdoor mounting brackets. Could you please specify the preferred indoor AP part numbers?

The indoor model we are requesting is the same as or equivalent to model S1G85A. Outdoor model S0P55A as specified on page 55 in the RFP.

16. Please clarify the meaning of the columns New outdoor, New indoor and Upgrade in the table WAP Quantities by Site?

Please see previous answer.

17. Are you looking to replace all of the current Access Points? What are the quantities of newly requested APs for each model per site? Are you looking for new Aruba Access Points or also Ruckus? And if Ruckus is needed, please specify the quantities of newly requested APs for each model per site.

Please see previous answer.

18. The RFP indicates that Indoor and Outdoor wireless is desired, yet only information for a single outdoor wireless AP model was provided in the RFP. Are there updated counts per desired model available?

Please see previous answer.

19. Will a mix of both indoor (classroom and high density) options be preferred?

We are looking for the same or equivalent to indoor model S1G85A.

20. Will outdoor AP's require omni or directional signal dispersion patterns? Per the RFP, only Directional is desired.

Please reference page 55 and above answered question regarding the model for outdoor access point.

21. For Mounting, will a long arm/short arm or wall mounted be defined?

There will be a mix of long arm and short arm mounts, and the bidder should use their best judgement. This will be discussed with the winning bidder.

22. Is a lift required for any location? (Over 12 ft)

It is up to the winning bidder to determine and provide one if needed.

23. No site walk is being required, correct?
Site walk scheduled on Feb. 5, 2025 D per “Addendum 1 RFP 25.600 updated”.
24. For cabling new exterior locations, are there maps the District can provide?
Yes. We will provide site maps to the winning bidder.
25. Are we to include 2 Cat6A’s to each location with our bid response?
Please see previous answer.
26. Are we to assume pathways are in place between the IDF and the new exterior AP locations.
No. New cable runs will need to be installed for all outdoor APs.
27. Will there be a mandatory site walk to determine location and placement of Access Points?
Please see previous answer.
28. If there is no site walk will the district provide location information for each new Access Point that requires new data drops, distance of the runs, surface types and location heights?
Please see previous answer.
29. What is the requested Aruba Indoor AP? The RFP only list an outdoor AP.
Please see previous answer.
30. Is there an existing network topology or floor plan available for reference?
A network topology and or floor plan can be provided to the winning bidder.
31. What is the expected bandwidth or performance level for the upgraded network?
The bandwidth expectation is based on the specification of the Access Point model found on page 55 and the existing switch infrastructure that supports it.
32. Are there any environmental challenges (e.g., building materials, interference) at the locations that might affect installation?
There may be some type of interference that the winning bidder will have to identify. Please reference our RFP page 40. The bidder will have to determine the change order buffer.
33. Are there specific timelines for project completion, including milestones for installation, testing, and handover?
A timeline will be shared with the winning bidder. Everything will have to be completed based on E-Rate timelines and if possible, to avoid extensions.
34. Will the district provide storage space for equipment or staging areas during installation?
All materials should be stored by the winning bidder. A staging area can be provided as needed.
35. What level of support is expected after installation (e.g., maintenance, troubleshooting)?
Please see previous answer.
36. Are there any known risks or challenges the district has identified for this project?
Please see previous answer.
37. The Outdoor AP specified in the RFP requires either 2 data drops or 1 data drop with a power adapter. Which does the district require?
There is no mention of a power adapter in the RFP and only one cable per drop is needed.
38. The RFP indicated the recommended outdoor AP to be AP-677 but not the recommended indoor AP, please indicate the recommended indoor AP.
Please see previous answer.
39. In Table 1, does the “Upgrade” column indicate the quantity of existing indoor APs or outdoor APs that are also mixed in? If yes, please provide the breakdown.
Please see previous answer.

40. On page 55, the RFP requests two different outdoor AP mounts. To ensure accurate compliance with your requirements, could you please provide details on the quantities needed and the intended use cases for each mount type?
Please see previous answer.
41. Will the district consider Wi-Fi 7 for better performance and longevity?
Please provide a bid for the access points specified that are equivalent to the RFP outdoor S0P55A Wi-Fi 6 and indoor S1G85A Wi-Fi 7 access point.
42. Is the district considering APs with M-Gig uplink ethernet port, and if so, what are the Speeds? (2.5, 5 or 10 GbE)
Please see above answer for access point model and the Ethernet bandwidth that are supported.
43. As the new location will need a new CAT 6A cable, would you please provide the specifications of the structural cabling, brand preferences, and the required warranty duration, such as 10 years or 25 years? 7. Are high-capacity APs required in areas like cafeterias or auditoriums? Please provide details such as quantities and the capacity.
Should we provide our Cabling Specs?
Pandiut Cat6A, TIA/EIA standards. We are looking for Access Points equivalent to the RFP outdoor S0P55A Wi-Fi 6 and indoor S1G85A Wi-Fi 7 access point.
44. Will the APs be wall-mounted, ceiling-mounted, or a mix of both? Please provide details and quantities of each type. Both types.
All outdoor Access Points (APs) will need to be mounted on the exterior walls. The indoor APs should be ceiling mounted wherever possible and to meet manufacturers recommendations.
45. Are cages needed for the APs installed in the MPR or any other areas where the AP might need protection from elements? If so, please provide details and quantities.
There are already AP covers in the areas where needed that are universal and can be reused.
46. Are there any mounting points higher than 10 feet? If so, please specify the locations and quantities.
There will be some areas where the mounting points are higher than 10 feet.
47. Should the installation include repositioning of the AP or new mounting hardware? If so, please specify the locations and quantities.
The APs will need to be mounted where the existing cable is terminated.
48. Are patch cords needed? If yes, please provide the required lengths, types, and colors.
Patch cords will need to be provided based on all new outdoor and new indoor Access Points. We will go over specifics with the winning bidder.
49. Will there be a need to configure the switch ports associated with the AP?
Yes. For all new indoor and new outdoor access points.
50. Is the district open to considering a fully cloud-based solution that eliminates the need for on-premises appliances? For instance, a system where APs communicate directly with the cloud controller could simplify management and leverage advanced AI-driven features. Does this align with the district's vision for its network architecture?
Yes. We will accept a cloud-based controller as long as the APs can still function and provide wireless services to the intranet in case of an internet outage.
51. Does the district need AI-powered controllers to provide better management and advanced functionality?

It is preferred to have an AI-powered controller for better management and advanced functionality.

52. For enhanced security: Will the BYOD and or Guest Wi-Fi network require a self-provisioning portal, or will it use manual credentials?
We currently use ClearPass as our NAC/Radius solution that provides a portal for Guest Wi-Fi. We only offer BYOD to our employees and students that allows more access to the internet and not east and west traffic (intranet).
53. The RFP requests training, which is ineligible for E-Rate funding. Is the district willing to cover these costs outside the E-Rate budget?
Yes. We could cover the cost if it is not covered by E-Rate.
54. Is a Wi-Fi site survey required as a post-installation process to fine-tune the signal propagation?
Yes. Fine tuning of the wireless infrastructure should include a survey.
55. Is there a need to manage Wi-Fi services to help maintain an SLA for the Wi-Fi network? If so, please provide the details, as E-Rate MIBS might be a good additional service to help maintain connectivity.
No. We do not need any additional MIBS services beyond what we are requesting.
56. Is the district open to having the bidders spearhead the installation/professional services and hardware-software equipment prices separately? Does the district have the flexibility to award different parts of the projects, as noted above, to different service providers, or is the approach all or none?
No, there should only be one bid according to the RFP.
57. Would products from companies that are publicly in merger processes, which might impact short-term support, long-term product availability, or early end-of-life challenges, be acceptable to the district as the product of choice for the “Wi-Fi Upgrade” project??
Yes, as long as the products are equal or comparable to the technical specifications in the RFP. The district will choose a company on parameters as specified within the RFP.
58. Does the District have any initiatives and preferences to use and support Local and Small Service Providers and contractors?
The district will choose a company within the parameters of the RFP.
59. Should the service provider label all equipment with district asset tags and handle delivery to specific locations?
Yes
60. Is the district looking to house, stage the hardware, and provide a facility to program and configure the devices to be deployed, or should the service provider take custody of the hardware directly, program it in their facility, and deliver it to the district or school site for the installation?
Please see previous answer.
61. In accordance with Page 6 of the RFP section 1, would a financial endorsement letter by a CPA, along with a Bid Bond, Payment Bond, and Performance Bond, be sufficient in lieu of the “Financial Statement,” considering that privately held companies may not publish their financials or that financial statements might not be ready yet due to the end-of-the-year tax preparation?
Yes, that is acceptable.
62. In accordance with this project, “Wi-Fi Upgrade”, could you please provide the district requirements for "AS BUILT" as outlined on page 37, Article 46, and page 34, Article 39. “Payments Withheld”?

If this question is in relation to network maps, the winning bidder will receive those.

63. In accordance with this project, “Wi-Fi Upgrade”, does the contractor need to provide and provision a cost for a “temporary sanitary building,” or the use of the district’s toilet facilities is not in conflict with Education Code section 45125.1?

The contractor can use district facilities for restrooms.

64. Are there any areas within the district where the "Wi-Fi Upgrade" project might come into contact with asbestos? If so, have these areas been identified, and can this information be provided to the bidders? This is important in case the responsibility for the removal of hazardous materials, as noted in Article 52 on page 40 and also on page 50 Article 75, is required.

Yes. The district will provide asbestos hotspots to the winning bidder.

65. As the project is subject to liquidated damages of \$1,000 per day, as specified on page 54, Section J, we kindly request the estimated start and completion dates for the project. Please provide these either as specific calendar dates or as the expected duration in months so that we can provide proper bid bond and insurance.

We have provided a timeline during our site walk during the presentation and below.

RFP Timeline	Due Date
Final Draft RFP	1/10/2025
Draft and Review Form 470	1/13/2025
Submit and Certify E-Rate Form 470	1/14/2025
Advertise 25.600	1/14/2025, 1/21/2025
Mandatory Job Walk/Bid Conference for 25.600	2/5/2025
Last Day to Ask Questions	2/12/2025
District Posts Answers	2/14/2025
28 Days Window Closes Form 470/Bid Submittal Due Date	2/19/2025
Bid Evaluation	2/20-2/21/2025
Recommend Decision to Board	2/21/2025
Board Approval of Award Decision	2/25/2025
Sign E-Rate Contracts	2/28/2025
Submit and Certify E-Rate Form 471	3/5/2025

66. Would it be possible to get maps of the school sites that show the new AP locations and the IDF locations? Without these maps we are just guessing what type a cable to spec for the drops. (OSP,Riser,Plenum)

Please see previous answer.

67. There was talk of a District cable spec. Possibly green cable and Panduit jacks. Could we clarification of what cabling product are currently in use at the sites?

Panduit and Cat6A.

68. It was indicated during the walk through that an emailed bid response submission was acceptable. Is this the correct email box to submit our bid response to prior to the February 19 deadline?

Should we provide e-rate@stocktonusd.net? Is it either or?

69. It was also indicated during the walk through that the window to ask questions has been reopened. Is this the correct email box to submit those questions to as well? And what is the new deadline to submit questions?

Yes, please see above timeline.

70. Within the RFP there is a process for submitting any proposed substitutions eight calendar days prior to the bid deadline. Is this the correct email box for that submission?

Please submit all information and inquires to e-rate@stocktonusd.net.