

STOCKTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

RFP # 25.942 – E-Rate Category 1

HOTSPOT LENDING PROGRAM SCOPE OF WORK/PROJECT

Stockton Unified School District (“SUSD” or the “District”) seeks proposals for broadband hotspot hardware and services to provide reliable, high-speed internet access for its students. The project aims to bridge the digital divide by supplying hotspots to students in need of internet connectivity for remote learning. Funding will be secured through the Universal Service Fund (“E-Rate”). The goal is to ensure students have access to a stable and efficient internet connection to support their educational needs. An agreement will then be entered for the selected firm (“Contractor” or “Vendor”) to provide the described services for the District.

SUSD covers 55 square miles and operates 55 schools, including elementary schools, middle schools, high schools and specialized schools. The District serves approximately 34,000 students (the student population changes annually)

Please see attachment for District service boundaries.

The deadline to submit a response for this RFP is March 24, 2025 by 2:00 PM. A hardcopy response can be submitted to 2141 Robindale Ave., Stockton, CA 95205 **OR** by email to e-rate@stocktonusd.net. If submitting by email, please include “RFP #25.942” in the subject line.

Questions for this RFP can be submitted to e-rate@stocktonusd.net by March 10, 2025 at 2:00 PM. Please include “RFP #25.942” in the subject line as well. The District will post answers to these questions by March 12, 2025.

E-Rate Project Requirements:

Requested items are eligible for E-Rate under the Category 1 Data Transmission Services and/or Internet Access section of the 2024 Eligible Services List (<https://www.usac.org/e-rate/applicant-process/before-you-begin/eligible-services-list/>) and will be procured according to E-Rate rules, federal procurement regulations, and California Public Contract Code requirements. This is an E-rate RFP and a Service Provider Identification Number(s) (“SPIN”) will be required. Proposers must participate in the E-Rate Program and must provide a SPIN and Federal Registration Number (FCC-FRN) with their proposal. Proposers must also be registered participants in the California Teleconnect Fund (“CTF”) program.

The District has posted an E-Rate Form 470 application for this Project. The application form [#250024581](#) is associated with this RFP.

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The District is dependent upon E-rate, CTF, and District funding to acquire the Project identified in this RFP. The Project is contingent upon the approval of E-rate funding from the Universal Service Fund's Schools and Libraries Program. Failure to obtain the requisite E-rate funding, in any contractual year, will make any contract, resultant from this RFP, terminable at the option of the District.

Requirements and Instructions. If any of the following are not included and provided in the submittal, the evaluation committee may determine the proposal to be not responsive to the RFP, and the proposal will not be evaluated. It is the proposer's responsibility to ensure each requirement is met.

- a. All proposers to this RFP must be participants in the E-rate program and must provide their E-rate Proposer Identification Number(s) (SPIN) as part of the response. Instructions on how to obtain a SPIN can be found at the Universal Services Administration Company (USAC) web site at: <http://www.USAC.org>. Proposers must acquire a SPIN and provide it to the District with the proposal or the proposal will be null and void. Proposers must also be registered participants in the California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) program.
- b. Proposers are required to be in full compliance with all current requirements and future requirements issued by USAC throughout the contractual period of any contract entered into as a result of this RFP.
- c. Proposers are responsible for providing a valid Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Registration Number (FRN) at the time the proposal is submitted. More information about obtaining an FRN may be found at this website: <https://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do?>
- d. Proposers are responsible for providing evidence of FCC Green Light Status at the time the proposal is submitted. Any potential proposer found to be in Red Light Status must provide an explanation of the steps it is undertaking to be removed to Red Light Status and the expected timeframe for resolution. A proposer's sustained Red Light Status may be grounds for contract termination as it could prohibit the Proposer from providing E-rate discounts in a timely manner which would cause harm to the Applicant. More information about FCC Red and Green Light Status may be found at this website: http://www.fcc.gov/debt_collection/welcome.html
- e. Prices must be held firm for the duration of the associated E-rate Funding Year(s) or until all work associated with the project is complete (including any contract

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and USAC approved extensions).

- f. Goods and services provided shall be clearly designated as “E-rate Eligible”. Non-eligible goods and services shall be clearly called out as 100% non-eligible or shall be “cost allocated” to show the percentage of eligible costs per USAC guidelines.
- g. Within one (1) week of contract award, the awarded Vendor must provide the District a bill of materials using a completed USAC “Item 21 Template”. Subsequent schedules of values and invoices for each site must match Item 21 Attachment or subsequent service substitutions. A summary sheet must also be provided to provide the cumulative amount for all sites.
- h. In the event of questions during an E-rate pre-commitment review, post-commitment review and/or audit inquiry, the awarded Vendor is expected to reply within three (3) days to questions associated with its proposal.
- i. The awarded Vendor is required to send copies of all forms and invoices to the District prior to invoicing USAC for pre-approval. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the District placing the vendor on an “Invoice Check” with the USAC <https://www.usac.org/e-rate/applicant-process/invoicing/invoice-check/>.
- j. Proposers must comply with the FCC rules for Lowest Corresponding Price (“LCP”). Further details on LCP may be obtained at USAC's website: <https://www.usac.org/e-rate/service-providers/step-2-responding-to-bids/lowest-corresponding-price/>.

Objective:

Provide mobile hotspot devices and broadband services to approximately 3,000 students (1 device per student, based on a total population of 34,000 students). The devices will be used by students for remote learning and other academic activities that require internet connectivity.

Project Scope:

1. Broadband Hotspot Devices:

- **Quantity:** Approximately 3,000 hotspot devices.
- **Device Specifications:**
 - Capable of supporting multi-carrier, high-speed 4G LTE and/or 5G

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networks.

- Minimum download speed of **25 Mbps** and upload speed of **3 Mbps**.
- Wi-Fi support for connecting multiple devices (at least 3 devices per hotspot).
- Long battery life (minimum **10 hours** of continuous usage).
- Portable and lightweight for easy transport by students.
- USB-C or Micro-USB charging capabilities.
- eSIM and/or SIM card support for cellular connectivity.
- The ability to manage data usage and monitor bandwidth consumption.

2. Network Connectivity and Signal Strength:

- **Reliable Connectivity:** Devices must operate on networks with strong signal coverage across the entire Stockton Unified School District's geographical region (see attached map).
- **Signal Strength Requirement:** Minimum of "good" and "reliable" signal strength, measured at or above **-80 dBm** (decibels relative to a milliwatt).
- **Service Providers:** Must be compatible with major U.S. carriers (e.g., AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile) or provide a multi-carrier solution to ensure flexibility and maximum coverage.
- **Service Requirements:**
 - Unlimited data or high data caps suitable for educational use (minimum **500 GB** per month).
 - No throttling or reduction in speeds during peak hours.
 - Capable of providing service in both urban and rural areas of the district.
 - Service level agreement (SLA) must guarantee 99% uptime and minimal downtime for maintenance.
 - Support Mobile Private Network (MPN) configuration

3. Management and Support:

- **Device Management System:** A cloud-based platform to monitor and manage all hotspot devices in real-time. This system should allow the district to:
 - Track usage.
 - Provide the ability to the district to check in and check out devices.
 - Lock and disable devices remotely if lost or stolen.
 - Push updates to the devices.
 - Monitor connectivity performance.
- **Customer Support:** 24/7 technical support for troubleshooting device and connectivity issues.
- **Warranty:** Minimum of **one-year warranty** on all devices for repair or replacement.

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4. Deployment and Training:

- **Deployment Plan:** The vendor must provide a detailed deployment plan, including delivery timelines and a phased rollout to ensure hotspots are available for use as quickly as possible.
- **User Training:** Simple training materials or guides for students and parents on how to use the devices effectively.
- **Support Documentation:** Provide manuals, user guides, and troubleshooting resources.

5. Required Reporting– Please provide examples of the reports:

- Monthly reports on device usage – both for devices in use and devices not in use.
- Monthly report on devices not in use for 30 days.
- Ability to automatically turn off devices not in use for 30 days and suspend service invoicing for those devices.

6. E-rate Gift Rule prohibitions on free equipment are in effect. The vendor is expected to know and follow E-rate gift rules.

7. Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) All data on the device is to be filtered in accordance with federal law, either via filtering service on the device, or server-side filtering done at the SUSD data center location, or through a cloud-service provider.

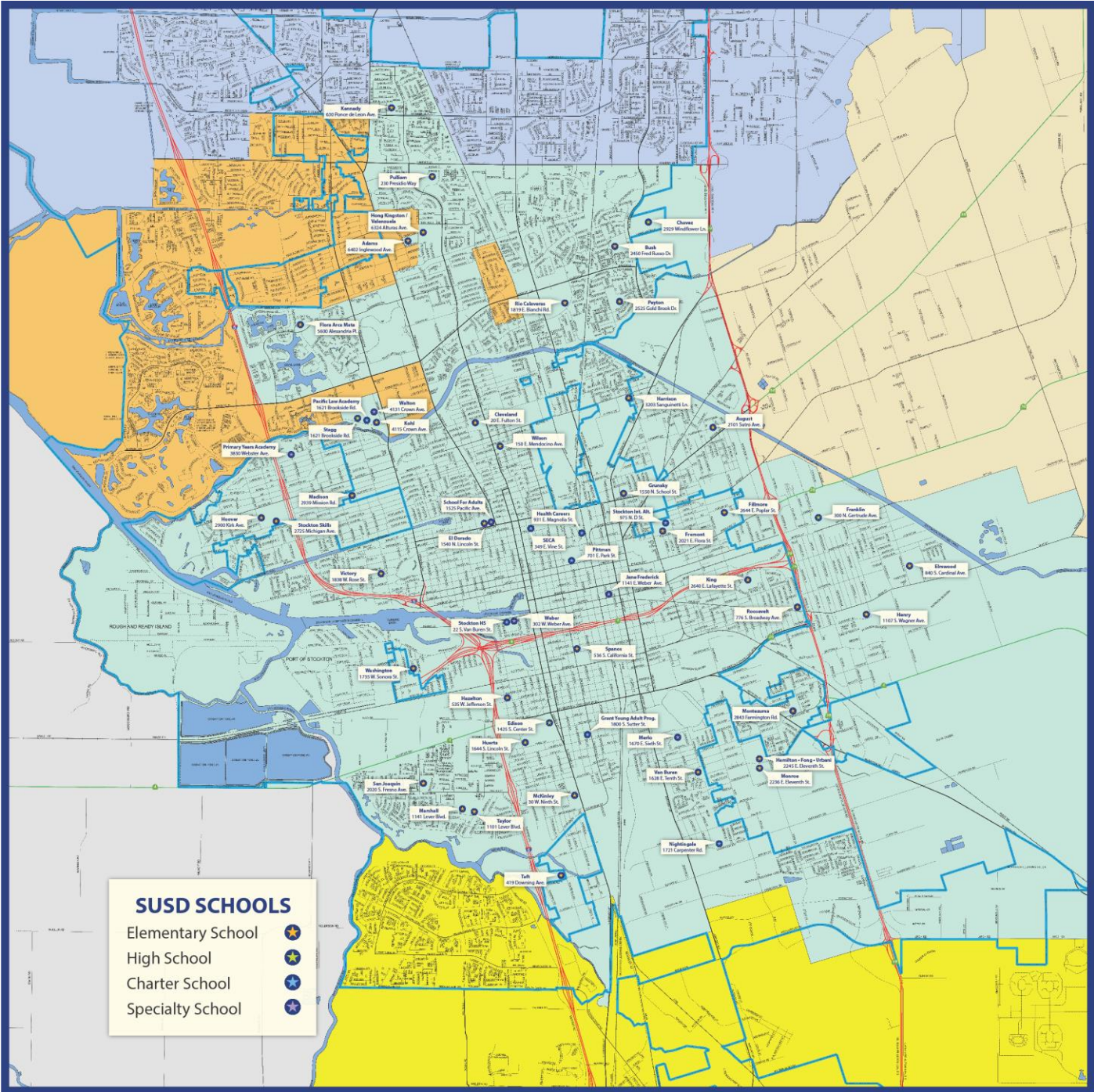
This Scope of Work provides a detailed outline of the district's requirements and expectations for the provision of broadband hotspot hardware and services. Vendors are encouraged to provide comprehensive, competitive proposals that meet the outlined specifications and support the district’s goal of ensuring equitable access to high-speed internet for all students.

Evaluation Criteria

- 40% E-rate Eligible Price**
- 20% Service Coverage for all areas of the district**
- 20% Reports and reporting mechanisms**
- 10% Experience with SUSD**
- 10% Experience with E-rate**

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District Boundaries Map



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