

RFP #107-26
Executive Summary

Overview

In this single-part RFP, KPBSD seeks proposals for wireless equipment and licensing to expand our existing wireless infrastructure to support wireless network services at two new school locations.

Two years ago, KPBSD began a multi-year phased replacement of its aging wireless infrastructure comprised of 600+ 802.11ac (WiFi 5) Aruba access points, 41 Aruba Mobility Controllers, and 1 Aruba Mobility Conductor that manages standardized wireless configurations across all 42 schools. Last year's refresh brings the replacement project to a close for existing schools outfitted with wireless infrastructure.

The KPBSD Board of Education has since approved a new school "Nikolaevsk Charter School" to open fall 2026 pending final approval by the State Board of Education. Additionally, there is work actively underway to renovate a presently vacant school building into a consolidated elementary school possibly opening fall 2026 as well. This project seeks to extend our existing wireless network infrastructure established as part of our recent wireless overhaul into these facilities should they open as currently planned.

Due to resource and timing constraints, refreshing wireless infrastructure in all facilities in one cycle was not practical and necessitated KPBSD taking a multi-year replacement approach. As such, compatibility with existing infrastructure is one of the selection criteria vendor proposals will be scored against during bid review. See Section R of the RFP Instructions to Bidders for the complete rubric.

This RFP only seeks wireless equipment as well as additional licensing and accessories to support it and does not seek installation or similar services. KPBSD intends to perform all necessary installation to make functional the purchased wireless equipment included in this RFP.

KPBSD may elect to execute a purchase after award of this RFP at risk (e.g. before we receive our E-Rate funding commitment for eligible Category 2 equipment included in this RFP). In such a circumstance, KPBSD will require that arrival of equipment included in this RFP and invoicing for such items occurs AFTER April 1, 2026 but prior to June 30, 2027.

KPBSD intends to use the E-Rate FCC Form 474 (SPI) invoicing process. Note that this is a change from prior E-Rate Category 2 purchases by KPBSD. Please be sure you are able to support the Form 474 SPI invoicing method if at all possible if you are submitting a response to this RFP. If you are unable to support the Form 474 SPI invoicing method, KPBSD may entertain Form 472 BEAR invoicing at its discretion, but reserves the right to consider any responses to this RFP which lack SPI invoicing support as non-responsive.

Note: all of this equipment is scheduled to support two schools potentially opening during the 2026 E-Rate Funding Year. Nikolaevsk Charter School was approved by the KPBSD Board of Education, but is pending final State of Alaska Board of Education approval. Additionally, work is underway to prep a facility to consolidate Soldotna Elementary and Redoubt Elementary schools into a single facility, with the possibility of being ready for opening later in 2026. The purchase contract awarded as a result of this RFP will contain language clarifying that purchases for these two facilities is contingent upon the establishment of a firm opening date within the 2026 E-Rate Funding Year.

Part 1: Category 2 Wireless Infrastructure Equipment

In Part 1 of this RFP, KPBSD seeks proposals for wireless access points capable of providing 802.11ax wireless connectivity via 2.4Ghz, 5Ghz, and 6Ghz bands to clients within our school facilities as well as the mounts, controllers, and licensing to support them. All APs must feature tri-band capability to broadcast all three 2.4/5/6Ghz bands simultaneously with the exception of three small density APs (see **Row D**).

KPBSD intends to leverage existing extra wireless controller and licensing capacity as much as possible as part of this refresh, so counts of access point licenses and wireless controllers requested as part of this RFP may not directly correspond to the number of access points and schools.

RFP – E-Rate Category 2 Eligible Wireless Equipment

Any vendor may bid on any or all services. Enter cost for each unit (Quantity 1) in **Cost per Unit** column.

This is the basis for our E-Rate application. Please include all costs KPBSD will be asked to pay. If you don't include it, I won't know to ask for it, and if I don't ask for it, we won't get it subsidized!

Company Name _____

Special Note on Product or Service Descriptions

KPBSD provides specific part numbers for products or services listed in RFP specification rows below as best able to aid vendors in any responses made to this RFP; however, we recognize that manufacturers may periodically revise their part numbers or otherwise alter standard configurations used for submitting orders.

In the event part numbers or quantities listed for items do not align with current manufacturer configurations, please contact the KPBSD purchasing office **as soon as possible** to seek clarification. Timing is essential to allow for potential bid addendum(s) to be issued if needed and still meet our filing deadlines for E-Rate subsidy!

See **RFP Instructions to Bidders - Section K.5** for information on how to contact KPBSD Purchasing with any questions.

Row A Project Scope (See Instructions Below)			
	Qty	Product or Service Description	Cost per Unit (Quantity 1)
Row B		Aruba (or equivalent) High Density APs	
B1	10	Aruba #R7J39A Campus AP-655 (US) Tri-radio 4x4:4 2.4/5/6Ghz MIMO, 802.11ax, WiFi 6E, Omni-Directional Integrated Antennas, 2x 5Gb Ethernet, or equivalent	
Row C		Aruba (or equivalent) Medium Density APs	
C1	51	Aruba #R7J28A Campus AP-635 (US) Tri-radio 2x2:2 2.4/5/6Ghz MIMO, 802.11ax, WiFi 6E, Omni-Directional Integrated Antennas, 2x 2.5Gb Ethernet, or equivalent	
Row D		Aruba (or equivalent) AP Capacity Licenses	
D1	57	Aruba #JW472AAE LIC-AP Controller per AP Capacity License E-LTU for Aruba Mobility Conductor, or equivalent	
D2	57	Aruba #H2YU3E Support for LIC-AP (JW472AAE), 1 Year FC SW Controller per AP Capacity	
Row E		Aruba (or equivalent) AP PEF Licenses	
E1	57	Aruba #JW473AAE Controller per AP PEF License E-LTU for Aruba Mobility Conductor, or equivalent	
E2	57	Aruba #H2XX3E Support for AP PEF License (JW473AAE), 1 Year FC 24x7 License PEF Cn SVC	
Row F		Aruba (or equivalent) Controllers	

F1	2	Aruba #S5H02A Aruba 9106 (US) Hybrid Gateway Controller, or equivalent	
F2	2	Aruba #H98P6E Support for 9106 Controller (S5H02A), HPE Aruba ANW FC 1Y NBD Exch SVC9106, or equivalent	
Aruba (or equivalent) Controllers			
G1	1	Aruba #R1B31A Aruba 9012 (US) Controller, 12xGbE 6xPoE+ Branch 2K Clients - 32 APs Gateway or equivalent	
G2	1	Aruba #HQ6C1E Support for 9012 Controller (R1B31A), HPE Aruba 1Y FC NBD Exch 9012 SVC	
Aruba (or equivalent) AP Solid Surface Mount Kit			
H1	20	Aruba #Q9G71A (10-Pack AP-MNT-MP10-D) Campus AP Mount Bracket Kit Type D: Solid Surface, or equivalent	
Aruba (or equivalent) AP Rail Mount Kit			
I1	10	Aruba #Q9G69A (10-Pack AP-MNT-MP10-B) Campus AP Mount Bracket Kit Type B: Suspended Ceiling Rail, Flat 15/16 Thick, or equivalent	

Instructions			
Row A	Project Scope		
A1	<p>KPBSD seeks to install new 802.11ax (WiFi 6E) equipment at two schools. Our intent is to fully integrate this equipment with our existing district-wide wireless platform in a way that allows us to leverage existing wireless security policies and authentication platforms.</p> <p>This RFP represents the wireless access points, mounts, controllers and licensing to support this project.</p> <p>Purchase contract term would be from April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. Note that E-Rate permits Category 2 purchases to occur beginning April 1, 2026 for E-Rate funding year 2026-2027.</p> <p>In the perfect situation, E-Rate would notify us of our funding decision prior to the start of the funding year (July 2026), we would buy the equipment and install it during summer 2026. In the less-than-perfect situation, a funding decision could easily languish until after summer 2026 and well into the 2026-2027 school year.</p> <p>We will enter into a contract with the successful bidder contingent upon us receiving the E-Rate subsidy. We will both then wait patiently for notification of our funding award. If we do not receive the subsidy we seek, the contract is void and KPBSD may attempt to file again next year for E-Rate subsidy. E-Rate has certain requirements vendors and service providers must meet. You will need to be registered with a SPIN number or be able to get one. KPBSD reserves the right to execute the purchase at-risk following bid award (prior to E-Rate funding approval) if desired.</p> <p>As noted in the Executive Summary, all of this equipment is scheduled to support two schools potentially opening during the 2026 E-Rate Funding Year. Nikolaevsk Charter School was approved by the KPBSD Board of Education, but is pending final State of Alaska Board of Education approval. Additionally, work is underway to prep a facility to consolidate Soldotna Elementary and Redoubt Elementary schools into a single facility, with the possibility of being ready for opening later in 2026. The purchase contract awarded as a result of this RFP will contain language clarifying that purchases for these two facilities is contingent upon the establishment of a firm opening date within the 2026 E-Rate Funding Year.</p>		

	<p>Quantities noted are the minimum quantities. It is possible we could need more.</p> <p>Write your company name above the description block in the provided space.</p> <p>Responses to this specification sheet will be evaluated as described in Section R, subparts 3a-3g in the RFP Instructions to Bidders.</p>
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Row B Aruba (or equivalent) High Density APs	
B1	<p>The listed Aruba access point, or its equivalent, is the access point we desire. The equipment must be new and be eligible for manufacturer maintenance coverage.</p> <p>Access Point(s) proposed MUST be functionally compatible with Aruba controllers (KPBSD leverages a mix of Aruba on-premise AOS 8 controllers terminating access point traffic onto our local LAN). We are not interested in migrating to cloud-based configuration, or “instant access point” infrastructures.</p>

Row C Aruba (or equivalent) Medium Density APs	
C1	<p>The listed Aruba access point, or its equivalent, is the access point we desire. The equipment must be new and be eligible for manufacturer maintenance coverage.</p> <p>Access Point(s) proposed MUST be functionally compatible with Aruba controllers (KPBSD leverages a mix of Aruba on-premise AOS 8 controllers terminating access point traffic onto our local LAN). We are not interested in migrating to cloud-based configuration, or “instant access point” infrastructures.</p>

Row D Aruba (or equivalent) AP Capacity Licenses	
D1	<p>The listed Aruba access point capacity license, or its equivalent, is the license we desire. The license must be eligible for manufacturer maintenance coverage.</p>
D2	<p>We require Aruba maintenance support coverage on the Aruba LIC-AP capacity license in row D1. The purchase of maintenance support in this row (D2) is contingent upon the purchase of the licensing in line D1. If bidding an alternate brand, please include comparable manufacturer support and documentation outlining coverages provided.</p>

Row E Aruba (or equivalent) AP PEF Licenses	
E1	<p>The listed Aruba access point PEF license, or its equivalent, is the license we desire. The license must be eligible for manufacturer maintenance coverage.</p>
E2	<p>We require Aruba maintenance support coverage on the Aruba AP PEF license in row E1. The purchase of maintenance support in this row (E2) is contingent upon the purchase of the licensing in line E1. If bidding an alternate brand, please include comparable manufacturer support and documentation outlining coverages provided.</p>

Row F Aruba (or equivalent) Controllers	
F1	<p>The listed Aruba controller, or its equivalent, is the controller we desire. The equipment must be new and be eligible for manufacturer maintenance coverage.</p> <p>Controller(s) proposed MUST be functionally compatible with Aruba Mobility Conductors (KPBSD leverages an Aruba Mobility Conductor deployment to manage all controller configurations and wireless traffic across our district). We are not interested in migrating to cloud-based controller infrastructures.</p>

Row G Aruba (or equivalent) Controllers	
G1	<p>The listed Aruba controller, or its equivalent, is the controller we desire. The equipment must be new and be eligible for manufacturer maintenance coverage.</p>

	Controller(s) proposed MUST be functionally compatible with Aruba Mobility Conductors (KPBSD leverages an Aruba Mobility Conductor deployment to manage all controller configurations and wireless traffic across our district). We are not interested in migrating to cloud-based controller infrastructures.
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Row H	Aruba (or equivalent) AP Solid Surface Mount Kit
H1	The listed Aruba access point mounting kit, or its equivalent, is the mounting kit we desire. The equipment must be new.

Row I	Aruba (or equivalent) AP Rail Mount Kit
I1	The listed Aruba access point mounting kit, or its equivalent, is the mounting kit we desire. The equipment must be new.