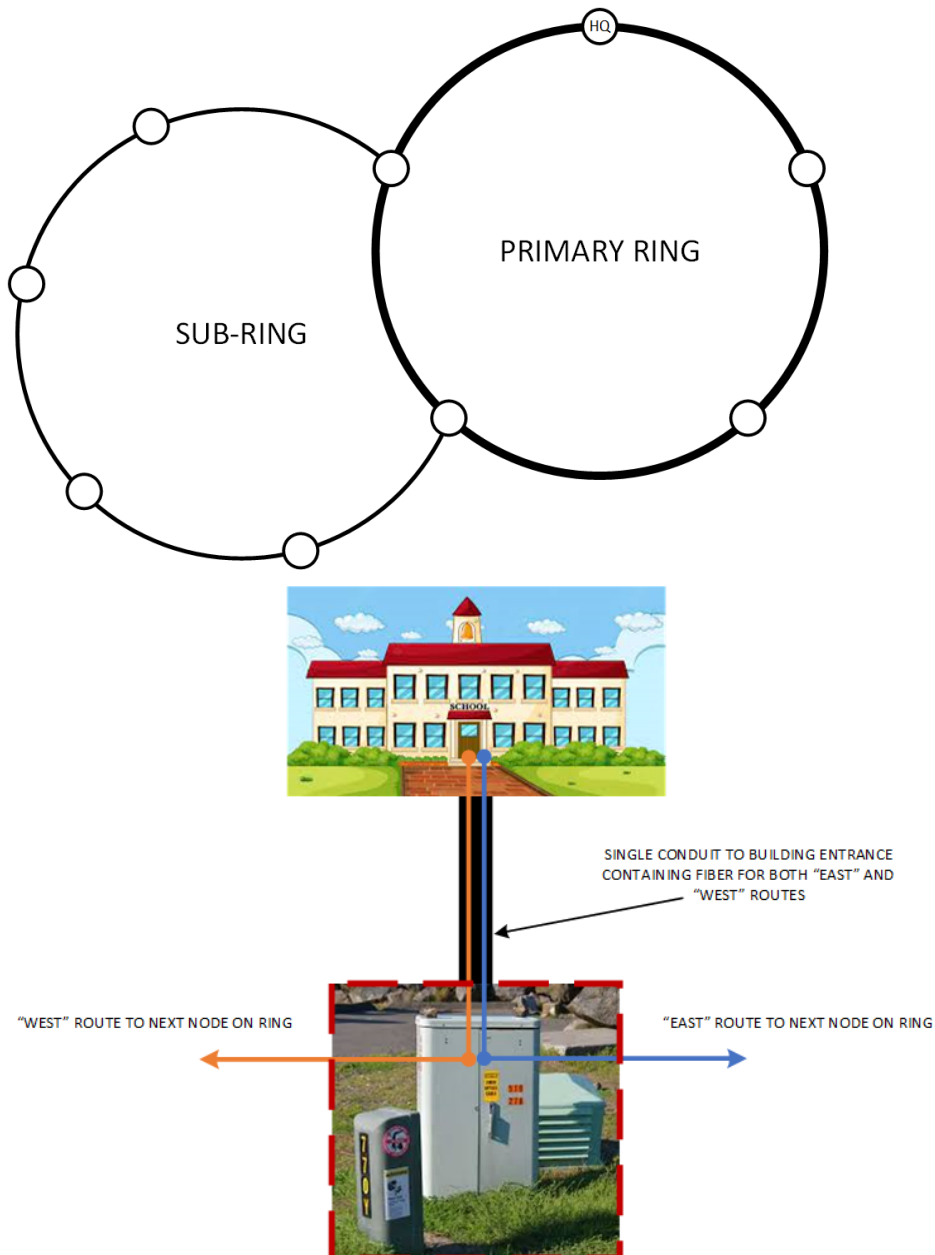


Request for Information No. II
RFP No. 22/23-01 IT Wide Area Network Project
September 8, 2022

Response to Proposers' Questions

2.1 **Question:** Is there a Visio diagram for the project? Does it list how you want "sub rings" connected?

Answer: Following are conceptual drawing(s) of the desired network topology.



2.2 **Question:** How do the sub rings/schools connect to the NOC?

Answer: Please refer to the desired topology in section 1.3 of the RFP which includes the NOC in the logical core ring. Please also refer to conceptual drawings in RFI No. 2.1 above for additional information.

2.3 **Question:** Would a fully meshed network design be considered?

Answer: Section 2.15 in the RFP states

“...Providers may submit alternative topologies and/or substitute equipment or services in response to this RFP (Substitute Solution). Providers proposing a Substitute Solution must clearly describe how the proposed Services differ from the requested topology and/or other specifications within the RFP. Providers must include descriptive technical literature fully describing the Substitute Solution and address how the alternative solution meets the District’s needs related to service reliability, scalability, and resiliency.

Determination of equivalency and suitability of a proposed Substitute Solution rests in the sole discretion of the District. The District is not responsible for locating or securing any information which is not included in such substantiating data. The burden of proof as to the quality or suitability of proposed Substitute Solution shall be borne by the Provider. The District shall be the sole judge as to the quality and suitability of proposed Substitute Solution, and decisions of the District shall be final and conclusive.

It is understood and agreed to by the Providers that the District reserves the right to reject any such proposed Substitute Solution. If the Substitute Solution offered by the Provider is not acceptable, in the sole opinion of the District, then the Provider expressly understands and agrees that the Provider’s proposal may be rejected as not conforming to the requirements of the RFP.”

The main District consideration regarding topology is the pathway to the internet. No District location/address is more valuable than others. The high schools and administrative buildings selected for the Core Ring in the RFP were selected because the District currently has 10Gbps at those locations and they are geographically diverse. If another pathway is desirable for Providers IUSD is open to reviewing the proposed topology, including alternative Core Ring sites.

Please be clear when presenting alternative Solutions so the District can score accordingly.

2.4 **Question:** There may be extensive special construction required to build a resilient network for the district. The FCC 470 did not include an option for service providers to offer special construction

charges to be paid in installment payments. Does the district have adequate budget to pay upfront construction costs per USAC's guidelines? Please refer to <https://www.usac.org/e-rate/applicant-process/competitive-bidding/requirements-for-leased-dark-fiber-self-provisioned-networks/>

Answer: Please see page 2 of the [Form 470](#) for information related to installment payments:

USAC • APPLICATIONS
Installment Payment Plan
Range of Years: 4 - 4 Years
Payment Type: Monthly

2.5 Question: In order to provide the resiliency that the district is requesting, the architecture may require "Physical" not "logical" rings. In order to make an apples to apples comparison of different solutions, does the district require service providers to include a kmz or other type of map of their network infrastructure in the public right-of-way as part of their RFP response?

Answer: The District desires a ring based network topology. The logical ring topology provided by the Provider should conform to the specifications outlined in the RFP. The logical ring topology may differ from the underlying physical topology used to provide the service. As such the RFP requests that the Provider provide information regarding the physical routing of network facilities that will be used to deliver the logical ring topology.

Please refer to criteria no: 2.2.13 "Provide a network diagram (including all span distances and fiber routing in a .kmz file) of the proposed network topology, including a list of each site included in each logical sub ring.". A kmz file is desirable, but any diagram showing facility routing is acceptable. The District will consider this information confidential & proprietary.

2.6 Question: Is there or will there be any Data Center backup? If so, what is the address of the location?

Answer: There is no alternative Data Center; the NOC is the District's only current Data Center. For detailed information about the District's current topology please refer to section 1.4 of the RFP. For detailed information about the District's desired topology please refer to section 1.3 of the RFP.