



Date: February 27, 2026
 To: Calallen ISD Board of Trustees
 From: Kelsey Ramos, Assistant Superintendent
 Re: Network Firewall Replacement and Installation Services Contract

SUMMARY:

The District’s Network Firewall is the primary security device which protects our network. The technology term “firewall” comes from the architectural practice of placing a brick wall between two structures, to prevent a fire in one structure from spreading to the other structure. A network firewall provides a security barrier to control network traffic both into and out of an organization’s network. The District’s network firewall is at the end-of-life and needs to be replaced.

The District is seeking funding reimbursement for this project from the E-Rate Category 2 program, therefore, we followed the specific E-Rate program requirements for procurement. A certified E-Rate FCC Form 470 was sent out through E-Rate on January, 27, 2026, stating Calallen ISD was accepting proposals for Firewall Replacement, and Installation Services. The deadline for submitting proposals was February 24, 2026. The District received 13 responses from 4 qualified vendors. The proposal from NetSync for a Palo Alto Solution with 1 year support was selected as top ranked and deemed to provide the best value to the District. The proposal is in-line with what the District requested to improve our network security against the sophisticated cybersecurity threats we encounter everyday. This solution proposed by Netsync meets the demand and requirement for a superior cybersecurity platform integrating ML and AI.

FUNDING SOURCE AND FINANCIAL IMPACT: Not Applicable

<p>Funding Source: General Operating Funds – Technology Department Budget</p>	<p>Financial Impact: \$143,147.79*</p> <p>*80% of \$117,878.22 is eligible for E-RATE Category 2 reimbursement at 80%.</p> <p>\$25,269.57 is ineligible for E-RATE Category 2 reimbursement.</p> <p>The anticipated District funded portion of this contract is \$48,845.22.</p>
--	--