

Sharon Williams, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent of Schools*

To: RIMSD 41 Board of Education  
From: Dr. Sharon Williams  
Cabinet Champion: Troy Bevans, IT Director  
Date: April 8th, 2025  
Re: Erate Mediacom ISP 3-Year Contract

Over the past several years, the District has utilized Mediacom for internet access through a Transparent LAN Service (TLS) model, which operates in a hub-and-spoke configuration. Under this structure, the high school serves as the central hub, with all other District buildings acting as spokes, routing their internet traffic through the high school before connecting to the provider.

However, with the implementation of Voice over IP (VoIP) phone systems and the growing risk of cybersecurity threats, this model presents a critical vulnerability. An internet outage at the high school would result in a District-wide loss of connectivity, including phone communication. To eliminate this single point of failure, the District has evaluated an alternative solution: Direct Internet Access (DIA). This model provides each building with a dedicated internet connection from the service provider, ensuring that any connectivity disruptions—whether due to equipment failure, power outages, or other issues—remain isolated to the affected building, while the rest of the District remains fully operational.

As part of the E-Rate filing process, a Form 470 was submitted along with a Request for Proposal (RFP) to support the implementation of the DIA model. The proposed solution includes dedicated 1Gbps connections for each elementary school, junior high, and administrative center, as well as a 5Gbps connection for the high school.

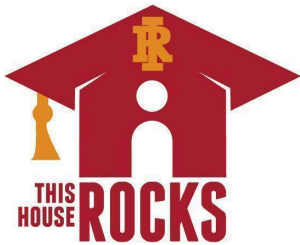
A comprehensive vendor evaluation was conducted based on pricing, service quality, prior experience, and ease of integration. Following this review, Mediacom was selected as the service provider under a three-year contract.

Under the DIA model, the pre-E-Rate monthly cost is \$325.00 per connection for the fourteen 1Gbps connections and \$1,250.00 for the 5Gbps connection. This results in a total pre-E-Rate annual cost of \$69,600.00 and a total pre-E-Rate cost of \$208,800.00 over the three-year contract period.

With the application of the 90% E-Rate discount, the District's financial responsibility is reduced to \$6,960.00 per year, totaling \$20,880.00 over the three-year contract.

**Rock Island-Milan School District #41**

2000 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201  
309-793-5900 x10210 | 309-793-5905 fax  
Sharon.williams@rimsd41.org  
www.rimsd41.org



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It is recommended that the RIMSD Board of Education approve the three-year contract for Direct Internet Access (DIA) services with MCC Telephony, LLC ("Mediacom"), located at 1 Mediacom Way, Mediacom Park, NY, 10918. The contract will be funded through the Technology Department budget and will remain in effect from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.

**Investment Period:** July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2028

**Total Investment:** \$20,880.00

**Funding Source:** Technology Budget

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