



SOUTHEAST ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: SISD BOARD OF EDUCATION

THRU: Sherry Becker, Superintendent

FROM: Lucienne Smith, Contracted Business Manager
Alaska Education & Business Services, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucienne Smith", is written over the printed name and title.

Date: January 22, 2020

SUBJECT: E-rate Contract RFP for Internet Services and Digital Transmission

Annually near this date school districts and libraries across the nation apply for their e-rate funding for the ensuing year. E-rate funding allows for discounted telecommunications, Internet, basic maintenance, and internal connections in Category 1. It also allows for equipment (access points in the case of Southeast) in Category 2. That discount is based, year to year, on a District's poverty levels (which are determined by free & reduced lunch applications). The discount level for the Southeast Island School District has ranged from 80% to 85% over the past years. That means for every dollar the District is charged for these services SISD only pays 15 – 20 cents.

Districts apply for e-rate funding on line through the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) website for their telecommunications, Internet, basic maintenance, and internal connection services. Once a District has posted their information on line and issue an RFP, vendors submit proposals. One of the services that elicit contracts for 3 or more years' service is Internet and digital transmission service. A district may write into the initial posting they are looking for a 3-year contract with a possible extension. The awarded vendor must also write that option into the contract between the vendor and the District.

The Southeast Island School District went thru the RFP process 3 years ago and awarded their Internet and Digital Transmission service contract to GC. I GCI and DRS Technologies have been the two companies with whom the District has contracted for this service in the past. This year the District received two proposals, Seaport Communications and GCI for Internet Services

(Category 1) and only one proposal from GCI for equipment (Category 2). In order to meet possible E-Rate audit requirements a committee was created that reviewed the rubric and scored it per the RFP to establish meeting the requirements.

Below is the monthly and annual pricing for the Internet services at each site for which the District will contract and the bandwidth for that cost. This pricing will be status quo for the (current) bandwidth. If approved, the contract period end date will be midnight, June 30, 2023.

FY 2021-FY 2023	GCI Proposal		
MBPS		<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Annually</u>
50	Thorne Bay	6,962.00	83,544.00
10	Howard Valentine	3,696.00	44,352.00
10	Kasaan	3,036.00	36,432.00
10	Hollis	3,142.00	37,704.00
10	Naukati	3,960.00	47,520.00
10	Hyder	16,738.00	200,856.00
10	Port Alexander	16,738.00	200,856.00
10	Whale Pass	<u>16,738.00</u>	<u>200,856.00</u>
		71,010.00	852,120.00

Recommendation - Administration recommends approval of entering into negotiations with GCI on a 3-year contract based on their proposal.

(A copy of the proposals are confidential and not for duplication – the are online for Board viewing only.)