BUNCOMBE COUNTY SCHOOLS

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THEIR TOMORROW

Robert Frisby, Director of Technology Services

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Rob Jackson, Superintendent

FROM: Robert Frisby, Director of Technology Services

CC: Tina Thorpe, Chief Financial Officer

Lisa Sharpe, Accounts Payable, Purchasing, and Risk Control Manager

DATE: February 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Technology Services Intent to Purchase E-Rate Related Network Switchgear

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Technology Services intends to leverage E-Rate Category 2 funding, NCDPI School Connectivity funding, and the Mini-bid Evaluation Matrix for purchasing E-rate eligible Cisco Catalyst 9300x mGig network switches, SFP+ modules, Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS) battery backups, and Cables under current State Master Contract #40-RQ22294323 (Form 470 number 200000716), in the amount not to exceed $500,000.00. This purchase is for equipment only, is contingent upon approval by the E-Rate Funding process and the issuance of an actual purchase order. The E-Rate filling, funding and purchase order process normally takes one year to complete.

These critical network infrastructure upgrades impact every Buncombe County School (BCS) campus and will allow BCS to continue to securely scale Internet access and personalized learning opportunities for years to come.

The NCDPI School Connectivity Initiative allocates funding for the non-discount share (for this purchase it covers 15%) under this contract for eligible goods and services once the project is approved for E-Rate funding (for BCS, E-Rate funding currently covers 85%). This project will be a net zero expenditure for Buncombe County Schools.