



Ministry of Education

PROPOSED **DESKTOP GUIDELINES**

Learners participating in on-line courses should have access to hardware that meets or exceeds the following standards. Students with access to equipment that does not meet these standards, either at school or at home, may be able to participate, but they may also experience slow interactivity, limited interactions (i.e. no video-conferencing) and/or long wait periods for file downloads.

Recommended Desktop Standards

- PIII, 256 MB, Macintosh G3, or better (minimum: P II 128MB).
- Windows XP Service Pack 2, OS 10.3, or better (minimum: Windows 98, Mac OS 8.6).
- Internet Explorer 7.0 or better (minimum: Internet Explorer 6.0).
- Adobe Acrobat Reader 9 or better (minimum: Reader 5).
- Windows Media Player 9 or better.
- All Macromedia plug-ins (including mandatory: Flash 10 and Authorware Web Player).
- A current version of the Java virtual machine.
- A DSL or better connection to the Internet.
- Speakers or headphones when working in public places or in groups.
- Monitor (screen resolution 800 x 600, 16 bit colour) or better.

Data Transmission Standards

- TCP/IP.
- XpressLab users will require access to Port 1935.

Minimum Bandwidth Standards

- Single Computer: modem.
- LAN - Switched 10/100 Mb.

Additional Software

- A typical “Office” suite of applications; specifically, a word processor application, spell checker, equation editor, and a spreadsheet application are mandatory.
- Some courses may require access to some OSAPAC software, specifically at this time Geometer’s Sketchpad, Simply Accounting, Adobe Flash CS3 Professional, Smart Ideas and Frog Guts.
- It is recommended that up-to-date virus, spyware, and adware protection be implemented, as required by the school board.

Additional Hardware

Some courses may require additional hardware, such as:

- access to a printer;
- access to a CD and/or DVD reader; and
- a process to transport files between home and school as facilitated by the local boards, given local capacities.