

# 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 or inability to access learning objects) 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 6.0 or better (minimum: Internet Explorer 5.5.)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader 6 or better (minimum: Reader 5).
- Windows Media Player 9
- All Macromedia plug-ins (including mandatory: Flash 8, Authorware Web Player, Shockwave).
- 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.

## Minimum Bandwidth Standards

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

## Additional Software

- The Microsoft Office suite of applications; specifically, WORD, with spell checker and equation editor, and the EXCEL spreadsheet application are mandatory. (Students may use **OpenOffice**, available as a free download from [www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org) instead of **Microsoft Office**)
- Some courses will require access to some OSAPAC software; for example, Geometer's Sketchpad, Simply Accounting and Smart Ideas.
- It is recommended that up-to-date virus, spyware, and adware protection be implemented, as required by the school board.

## Some courses may require additional hardware:

- Access to a scanner and/or digital camera.
- Access to a printer.
- Access to a CD and/or DVD reader.
- A process to transport files between home and school – such as a memory stick