



NTF RESOURCE LIBRARY

System Requirements For staff & student computers using the PeBL Collaborative Learning Environment™

Minimum and recommended system configurations for computers using the PeBL Collaborative Learning Environment™

The PeBL Collaborative Learning Environment's technology platform is entirely web-based. This offers several distinct advantages to our schools:

- Compatibility with multiple platforms and operating systems
- Accessible from anywhere with a broadband Internet connection
- Routine updates and upgrades with minimal disruption to customers

Being web-based also offers advantages such as decreased maintenance and support costs since the application is housed at a data facility (this eliminates the need for a local application server and the security, maintenance and backup responsibilities that a local server would require).

Following are the minimum and recommended system configurations for computers using the NTHLS™ Tools:

	PC		Apple	
	Minimum	Recommended	Minimum	Recommended
Operating System	Windows 2000 Workstation	Windows XP Professional	OSX 10.X	OSX Tiger (10.4.x) or greater
Processor Speed	2GHz equivalent*	3GHz equivalent (or better)*	PowerPC G4	Intel-based Mac
System Memory	512 MB	1GB or more	512 MB	2GB or more
Monitor Size/Resolution	15" (1024x768)	19" (1280x1024)	15" (1024x768)	19" (1280x1024)
Internet Browser	Internet Explorer 7.x or Firefox 2.x (IE 6.x not supported)		Firefox 2.x (Safari not supported)	
Ethernet Connection	100 Mb/s or greater network connection			
Bandwidth to Internet	Minimum 1.54 Mb/s per 100 students			
Student Storage	"Home folder" on fileserver with minimum 250 MB per student storage capacity			
A/V Requirements	16-bit or greater sound capability, video controller w/32MB or more memory. Webcam and Microphone required for teacher laptops**			
	* = any Windows-compatible processor brand is acceptable			

Software Requirements:

A compatible operating system and Internet browser as referenced in the previous chart.

Latest versions of the Java and Flash plugins for the Internet browser.

Microsoft Office, Open Office or any other compatible office suite.

The above represents a minimum of what is necessary to successfully utilize the NTHLS™ Tools at a school site. Schools are encouraged to purchase, install and use any software at their site that they deem necessary such as image editing software, film editing software, music composition software, etc.

File Server:

A file server (for housing student data) is highly recommended for use in conjunction with the NTHLS™ Tools. In a 1:1 environment, students need private file storage for their “in process” work product and assignments. Schools should provide students with individual logins and home directories to provide them with security and integrity for their data. Schools are responsible for securing and backing up this data (any completed student work submitted online will be backed up by New Technology Foundation™).

Additional Requirements:

The opening of some outbound-only ports in your district's firewall may be necessary for your IT administrator to manage student and staff accounts in the NTHLS™ Tools.

Due to continued technical development, software requirements for using the NTHLS™ Tools may change (required browser plug-ins, operating system service packs, etc).

Feel free to contact Andrew Heidrich at New Technology Foundation (aheidrich@newtechfoundation.org) if you require more specific information about either of the above items.