

Are you in the market for a new home computer? Would you like to purchase a computer similar to the one you use at work? Listed below are NISD's current hardware and software standards that you may find helpful when comparison shopping for a new computer for your home!

NISD STANDARD COMPUTER SPECIFICATIONS	DESCRIPTION OF TERMS
• Intel Pentium IV, 521, 2.8 Gigahertz (GHz)	Processor type, size and speed. Also called the CPU or Central Processing Unit. This is a key factor in the performance of your entire system.
• 512 Megabytes (MB) of Random Access Memory (RAM)	This is the memory the system accesses while initiating and opening programs and/or applications.
• 40 Gigabytes (GB), 7200rpm Hard Disk Drive (HDD)	Size of system Hard Drive. This is the internal storage device for saving items.
• 3.5" Floppy Disk Drive	External storage device.
• 48X32 CDRW/DVD Combo Drive	External storage device, which reads and writes (saves) computer data to CDs. Also reads DVDs.
• 128 Megabytes (MB), ATI Radeon X600SE Graphics Video Card	Video Graphics card – processes the video signal to the visual display (monitor) of your system. Quality will vary depending on type of graphics card and monitor.
• Firewire card (also called IEEE 1394)	Provides users instant connectivity to various peripheral devices – digital camera, digital camcorders, optical drives, etc.
• Network Interface Card (NIC)	10/100/1000 Megabyte NIC. Digital communications card operating at between 10 Megabytes per second and 1 Gigabyte per second, dependent upon the communications infrastructure. Supports data transfer rates of up to 1 gigabit (1,000 megabits) per second.
• Modem	Analog communications card operating at varying speeds dependent upon connectivity.
• Universal Serial Bus (USB) Keyboard	Keyboards come in PS2 and USB connectivity. Keyboard can vary in function and can also be purchased in ergonomic styles and for wireless connectivity.
• Universal Serial Bus (USB) Optical Scroll Mouse	Most computer systems include a standard USB wired mouse. Options are usually available to include a multitude of styles, including optical and wireless.
• Speakers (optional)	Various styles to choose from to enhance your audio performance. Speakers can be mountable to the monitor or come with subwoofers.
• Mouse Pad	Provide smooth surface for efficient mouse performance.
• 17" Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Display	Traditional size monitor with a 17" viewable image. Many consumers are now upgrading to a flat panel LCD (Liquid Crystal Display).
• Ports	(8) USB 2.0, (1) Serial, (1) Parallel, (1) 1394 Firewire, microphone, stereo-in, 2 stereo-out, headphone.
• Extended Warranty (optional)	Many systems have extended warranties to cover defects and even breakage. Northside computers include a 5 year warranty.
NISD STANDARD SOFTWARE	DESCRIPTION OF TERMS
• Microsoft Windows XP Professional (Operating System)	Microsoft's operating system, which handles system processes, provides connectivity and communications with printers, drives, other peripherals, and all system resources.
• Microsoft Office XP Professional (Suite of productivity software applications)	Microsoft's package of productivity software including Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access.
• Inspiration 7	Visual leaning software to help user organize ideas.
• McAfee Anti Virus 8.0	Virus protection.
• Microsoft Internet Explorer 6 (free download)	Internet Browser.
• Netscape 7.2 (free download)	Internet Browser.
• Adobe Reader 7 (free download)	Utility software for reading PDF files. (Common file format used for forms and information on the Internet.)
• Macromedia Flash Player 7 (free download)	System audio and video media software.
• Macromedia Shockwave 10 (free download)	System audio and video media software.
• Apple Quicktime 6.5 (free download)	System audio and video media software.
• Real Player 10 (free download)	System audio and video media software.
• Windows Media Player 9 (free download)	Windows system audio and video media software.