Appendix H

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The American Academy of Pediatrics provides the following technology recommendations:[16]

“H.323 compliance, live video resolution of 4 × Common Intermediate Format (4CIF) (704 × 480) or higher, and an ability to connect at a minimum of 384 kilobits per second running 4CIF at 30 frames per second. In addition, the technology should support H.264 video compression standard or better, H.261 video compression standard compatibility, and G.711 audio compression standard or better to ensure high-quality audio and video for the telemedicine interaction.”

An important consideration is the interoperability of the school-based technology with external telemedicine services and technologies.[16]

SBTH programs should be able to provide point-to-point connectivity between the originating and distant sites. The majority of programs rely on:

• High-speed internet connection to support telemedicine interactions; or

• An integrated services digital network connection (transmission of information via phone lines) — when high-speed is not available.

To support real-time interactive telemedicine services, the suggested minimum speed is a “384-kilobits-per-second bidirectional connection between the sites.”[16]

A common method utilized to facilitate the privacy of the internet connection used for telehealth/telemedicine interactions are virtual private network tunnels (commonly referred to as VPNs) — an encrypted connection between the device (tablet, computer, phone) and the internet, to ensure no one is able to intercept, monitor, or alter communications.[16]