



## Jefferson County Public School District Deploys Foundational Technology Certification District-Wide



### JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Location:**

Louisville, Kentucky

**Program Enrollment:**

500+ students per year

**Success Metrics:**

- Satisfies State of Kentucky computer literacy requirement Gives students workforce skills in high school
- Teaches students valuable workforce skills

### District's 22 High Schools Make Certiport's IC3 Digital Literacy Certification Part of Computer Applications Course

#### CHALLENGE

Jefferson County Public School District (JCPS) serves more than 100,000 students in Louisville, Kentucky. JCPS believes technology is an important part of education in the 21st century, and the district's high schools aim to get students college and career ready.

Per NCLB-Part D, all Kentucky school districts must ensure the technology literacy of their students by eighth grade. If students do not reach this level of proficiency, JCPS has recommended that students take a Computer Applications course, and each of the 22 JCPS high schools offers a course to address this need. A few years ago, however, administrators realized there was a lack of consistency among the courses at various school sites.

"The Computer Applications course wasn't uniform at every high school where we could look to the State of Kentucky and say we have students who are being taught something that is relevant and applicable to the business world," said Gregory Puccetti, Education Technology Teacher, JCPS. In order to standardize the Computer Applications course throughout the District, JCPS looked for a certification exam that would

test high school students' computer literacy. Administrators also hoped to find an exam that was recognized by industry to give students an extra edge on their resume as they graduated and went on to college and the workforce.

#### SOLUTION

JCPS came across the Certiport IC3 Digital Literacy certification program in their search and noticed it was based on the Global Standard, an internationally recognized standard for digital literacy.

Sharis Lattimore, an instructional technology specialist with JCPS, worked with other district leaders to adopt IC3 Digital Literacy. "We found IC3 and decided to implement it because the curriculum was pretty close to our current Computer Applications course. Selecting IC3 would put the icing on the cake for our students because not only would they complete the Computer Applications requirement, they would also have a globally-recognized certification."

Several years ago, JCPS started by implementing IC3 Digital Literacy certification at one high school, and then expanded the program to a few more schools.



"We saw the success in some of the early programs and kids were excited and they were more likely to get internships in the community when they had IC3 certification," said Lattimore. "We wanted to provide that opportunity to all of the students in our district."

**Sharis Lattimore**

Instructional Technology Specialist with JCPS



Learn more about IC3 Certification.

Visit [www.certiport.com/ic3](http://www.certiport.com/ic3)

As a result of the program's success, JCPS decided to deploy IC3 district-wide. JCPS held a summer crash course to train and certify 13 teachers in just a few days. "We realized right away we needed good teacher training to get this program off the ground, and Certiport helped us develop the training and even offer training online," said Puccetti.

The district and the school sites each contributed funds in addition to Perkins grants to launch the program district-wide and establish several schools as Certiport Authorized Testing Centers. JCPS also provides support through Certiport practice tests.

Doug Schneider, department chair for the business program at JCPS Fern Creek High School, teaches IC3 Digital Literacy and feels the solution was a great fit.

"I enjoy teaching this curriculum because I think it gives the kids an overall background on the computer beyond just teaching Word or Excel," said Schneider. "We give them a basic knowledge of the insides of the computer and living online, and then we validate their knowledge with a test that is nationally certified as an added bonus."

## RESULTS

In only two years, JCPS awarded more than 1200 IC3 Digital Literacy certifications to students and teachers. JCPS Eastern High School teacher John Lanham says if schools want their students to get more out of their classroom experience, certification testing is a great way to go.

"At the end of this IC3 curriculum students have skills they can use to get a raise, a job, a promotion, a scholarship, or an internship," said Lanham. "Industry demands that individuals bring more to the table than just a degree. They also want real skill, and that's what we provide here at Eastern High School.

"My main concern is what students are going to do after they graduate," said Lattimore. "And now I feel like with a certification, they can go out and get a job or go to college. It takes them out of the large no pile and gives them an edge into the yes pile for an interview, which can be life changing for a lot of students."

Laken Wadsworth, a JCPS student, says the IC3 Digital Literacy certification is the first in a series of steps she needs to build a career in technology. "Digital literacy means a lot to me and IC3 gave me the building blocks I need to expand on my technology studies," said Wadsworth. "Plus, when I go off to college I don't have to take an introductory computer course because they'll see IC3 on my resume."

JCPS sees IC3 as a gateway certification to give students the confidence that they need in order to pursue an education, employment, or further certifications.

Other school districts across the state of Kentucky have also implemented IC3 Digital Literacy programs in their schools, resulting in more than 150,000 delivered exams since the program was first recognized.

## ABOUT CERTIPOINT

Certiport is the leading provider of learning curriculum, practice tests, and performance-based IT certification exams that accelerate academic and career opportunities for learners. Certiport provides certification development, delivery, and program management services through an expansive network of more than 14,000 Certiport Authorized Testing Centers worldwide. More than three million Certiport exams are delivered in 26 languages across 148 countries each year throughout the academic, workforce, and corporate technology markets. Certiport is a Pearson VUE business, and is a part of the world's leading learning company, Pearson. To learn more, go to [HYPERLINK "http://www.certiport.com/"](http://www.certiport.com/) www.certiport.com. Fundamentals, the Autodesk Certified User certification program, the Intuit QuickBooks Certified User certification program and the Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC3®). For more information, please visit [visit www.certiport.com](http://www.certiport.com).