



## 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



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

### District's 22 High Schools Make Certiport Internet and Computing Core 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 Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC<sup>3</sup>) 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 IC<sup>3</sup>. "We found IC<sup>3</sup> and decided to implement it because the curriculum was pretty close to our current Computer Applications course. Selecting IC<sup>3</sup> would put the icing on the cake for our students because not only would they complete the Computer Applications requirement, they would also have an industry-recognized certification."

*"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 IC<sup>3</sup> 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 IC<sup>3</sup> Certification.  
Visit [www.certipoint.com/IC<sup>3</sup>](http://www.certipoint.com/IC3)  
or call today at **1-800-488-9371**



IC<sup>3</sup> is comprised of three exams: Computing Fundamentals, Key Applications, and Living Online.

Several years ago, JCPS started by implementing IC<sup>3</sup> certification at one high school, and then expanded the program to a few more schools.

As a result of the program's success, JCPS decided to deploy IC<sup>3</sup> 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 Certipoint 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 Certipoint Authorized Testing Centers. JCPS also provides support through Certipoint practice tests.

Doug Schneider, department chair for the business program at JCPS Fern Creek High School, teaches IC<sup>3</sup> 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 has awarded more than 1200 IC<sup>3</sup> 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 IC<sup>3</sup> 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 IC<sup>3</sup> 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 IC<sup>3</sup> 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 IC<sup>3</sup> on my resume."

JCPS sees IC<sup>3</sup> as a gateway certification to give students the confidence that they need in order to pursue an education, employment, or further certifications.

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