# i Critical Thinking™

### powered by ETS®

**Prepare Your Constituents for Success in the Workplace with an ICT Literacy Program Designed to Demonstrate Critical Thinking Skills in Technology-enabled Work Environments**

## ICT LITERACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

In a global economy that is driven by and dependent on an ever-expanding array of digital systems and devices, promoting and documenting information and communications technology (ICT) literacy skills should be a primary focus of education and work-readiness programs.

Not surprisingly, eight of the ten fastest growing occupations in the United States require digital literacy. Employers need workers who not only know how to obtain digital information, but can analyze, evaluate and apply what they find to solve everyday problems. Individuals who lack these skills have fewer employment opportunities. Furthermore, communities, states, and nations that fail to develop a digitally literate workforce will be far less competitive and economically stable.

## ICT CERTIFICATION FROM ETS AND CERTIPORT

In response to employers' growing need for digitally literate workers, Educational Testing Service (ETS) and Certiport—the acknowledged leaders in educational assessment and certification—have developed a new certification: *iCritical Thinking™ Certification powered by ETS*.

This certification measures the ability to navigate, critically evaluate, and apply digital information to real-life problems. *iCritical Thinking™* Certification is suitable for students from grade 10 through college, as well as teachers, employers, the adult workforce, and those seeking employment.

The certification is aligned with the nationally recognized Association of Colleges and Research Libraries (ACRL) information literacy standards and is endorsed by the Global Digital Literacy Council (GDLC).

## ARRA FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding provides an unprecedented opportunity to invest in student, teacher, and worker digital literacy assessment and development. As a candidate program, *iCritical Thinking* Certification would require one-time funding with tangible results.

> "The solution to low test scores is not lower standards; it's tougher, clearer standards.... I'm calling on our nation's governors and state education chiefs to develop standards and assessments [that measure] 21st century skills like problem-solving and critical thinking...."
>
> Barack Obama
> President of the United States of America,
> Address to the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, 03.10.2009

# ARRA FUNDING SOURCES AND DIRECTIVES

ARRA resources are available through the following funding sources:

## ARRA FUNDING SOURCES

| | |
|---|---|
| • Enhancing Education Through Technology (E2T2) | • Youth Activities |
| • Adult Employment & Training | • State Fiscal Stabilization Fund |
| • Dislocated Workers | • Innovation Fund |
| • High Growth Programs (Energy & Healthcare) | |

As a candidate program under ARRA for education and workforce development, iCritical Thinking Certification may be used by government and NGO organizations to address the following legislatively specified areas for improvement:

| Education & Youth Development | Workforce Development & Employment |
|---|---|
| **STUDENTS**<br><br>• Ensure all students are equipped with 21st Century skills training and education<br><br>• Provide students with documentation that they have career- and college-ready skills upon graduation<br><br>**TEACHERS**<br><br>• Use as a professional development tool to prepare teachers as technology leaders<br><br>• Ensure faculty and staff have achieved digital literacy | **YOUTH**<br><br>• Easily deliver a tangible certification for summer youth employment participants<br><br>**[PROSPECTIVE] EMPLOYEES**<br><br>• Support occupational skills attainment and advancement by providing opportunities for validation of ICT literacy skills.<br><br>• Use as an essential building block for training in high growth occupations.<br><br>**GOVERNMENT**<br><br>• Show the local workforce is equipped with skills for the 21st Century to help attract economic investment to your region. |

## ONLINE AT A CERTIPORT CENTER NEAR YOU

*iCritical Thinking* Certification is securely administered through Certiport's network of over 12,000 authorized testing centers.

So whether you are evaluating how to most effectively utilize ARRA funding or are simply looking for a more productive approach to ICT literacy as part of a workforce development program, educational, or workforce initiative, we invite you to find out more about *iCritical Thinking Certification powered by ETS* by calling Certiport today.

**Contact Certiport:**

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