



# Friday Focus

## Carter County Schools

### Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System

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CIITS is a website that is unique to Kentucky where all the tools that teachers need are gathered together and stored in one location. It is considered to be a "one-stop" site for Kentucky educators and the resources they use the most. When you visit the CIITS website, you will find: state/national standards, aligned resources, formative/summative assessments, student data, and professional development opportunities.

The most important user of CIITS is the TEACHER. You can use CIITS to create and store lesson plans and resources, view student/classroom data, create and administer tests, and access instructional materials and classroom formative and summative standardized test reports. All teachers in Carter County have been trained in writing lesson plans on CIITS.

CIITS provides links to a variety of resources for educators to use in planning instruction and improving their knowledge base. Some examples are: iTunesU, KETencyclomedia, SAS Curriculum Pathways, Thinkfinity, Kentucky Virtual Library, HippoCampus, LearnZillion, and Kentucky Learning Depot. In most cases, all teachers need to do is create a username and password in order to start using these great sites.

CIITS cannot be learned in a day, week, or even a month. It is an ongoing learning process. Hopefully, teachers are logging on and exploring Kentucky's new "one stop" for information and resources.



#### Upcoming Academy Dates:

District PD	Feb. 18
WCMS	Feb. 20
5th /4th	Feb. 21
WCHS	Feb. 27

#### Inside this issue:

[CIITS Quick Start Sheet](#)

[Power Points Tutorials for Creating Assessments and Much More](#)

[CIITS@KEDC - Video Tutorials](#)

[CIITS: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Carter County Teachers Con-](#)

[KDE: CIITS Resources](#)

### Best Practice for ALL Students

*"They make more progress... when they are permitted to work together in groups to solve complex tasks, allowed to engage in class discussions and taught to argue convincingly for their approach in the midst of conflicting ideas and strategies. Even young children can do these things well with a little encouragement." (Harriet Tyson 1990)*

Over the past three decades, the number of jobs in the U.S. economy that require postsecondary education or training has surged. More than 63% of jobs in 2018 will require some postsecondary education/training. For Kentucky to compete in a global economy, our workforce must be educated and have the skills employers demand (critical thinking, collaboration, problem solving, etc). A more educated workforce means better jobs paying higher wages, lower unemployment and a higher standard of living for all Kentuckians.

The above quote and information demonstrates more than ever that we must provide ALL students with a rigorous education that will prepare them for the growing workforce. Employers need people who can apply knowledge, think critically, problem solve on the job, collaborate with co-workers, and more. This means we must provide K-12 students with opportunities to practice these skills by embedding them in daily instruction. Students need to think conceptually, be able to read critically, be able to actively participate in discussions, work collaboratively in groups, apply knowledge and skills, and write about their thinking. Our continued efforts as educators will provide our communities with better prepared workers, higher paid workers, and better communities all around. Let's work together as a team to build a strong community!

