



The Future Ready Schools - NJ Monthly Newsletter

Updates on the 2019 Awards Review Process

As we enter the final weeks of the 2019 FRS-NJ Awards Review phase, I thought it appropriate to provide a few updates on the progress of the efforts and touch upon a few things that have come up over the last month.

First, I must commend the volunteers of the 2019 Awards Committee for their continued and exemplary service to the Future Ready Schools - New Jersey community. Without the educators, leaders, and stakeholders who are dedicating significant time and effort to reviewing submissions, this process would be utterly impossible. I want to further thank the chairs and co-chairs of the community leadership cohort who are supporting those efforts and are critical to ensuring that awards reviews are balanced, effective, and accurate.

Please note that submission reviews are not finalized until they have been reviewed for balance and quality by the Community Leadership team. If there is a specific issue regarding your review, please let me know. However, I cannot act purely on concerns regarding reviews that are lower than the self-assessed rubric level, as most submissions are revised downward to some degree during the review process. If you have a specific concern regarding the quality of your review, please email me with specific information including the school, indicator, and scenario and I will investigate as soon as I am able.

In the Education theme there is an awards review calculation error in all indicator tracking sheets. We are aware of this and it will not impact your certification efforts. There is also a similar issue in a few Leadership calculations. A solution is in the works and I will send email updates to school contacts and awards reviewers once the issues have been resolved.

Lastly, I'd like to highlight that the FRS-NJ process is not just about the certifications. FRS-NJ is about coming together and learning from ourselves and each other. Undertaking the journey honestly, collaboratively, and with integrity is the most important, beneficial, and effective mindset. Learning from the experience and moving forward is what is important in the end, not the banner. Undertaking the process is in itself a great accomplishment that is not to be understated. The FRS-NJ team is committed to ensuring that integrity and always seeks to maintain and improve a process that supports, connects, and benefits the New Jersey educational community.

- Jeremy Reich, Project Coordinator

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Community News

[4 Ideas for an Effective Leadership Retreat This Summer](#)

Future Ready Schools

[Future-Ready Skills For All: Inspiring All Students with Coding & STEAM](#)

ASCD

[Workshop 2019 – Imagine. Create. Lead.](#)

NJSBA

[Center for Pre-College Programs at NJIT Celebrates the Big 4-0!](#)

NJIT

[News and Highlights from ISTE 2019](#)

School Library Journal

Did Your School Submit This Year? Here's What to Expect Next

Reprinted from the previous July Issue of the FRS-NJ Monthly Newsletter

If you're reading this article, it is likely that you are one of over 260 schools that submitted for a 2019 Future Ready Schools - New Jersey school certification.

Congratulations! If you aren't then you are prudently looking ahead into the FRS-NJ certification process and we commend you on your foresight, planning, and leadership.

Logistical Review

After submitting for Bronze Tier or Silver Tier school certification, the first action that is taken is called the Logistical Review. This review is performed by the FRS-NJ project coordinator upon receipt of your official certification submission to ensure that the submission is ready for review by the FRS-NJ Awards Committee.

As part of this process, we make sure that all of the information provided is what was required in the certification submission form, we perform a random click test to ensure that submission document links are viewable by anyone with the link, and we set your Indicator Tracking sheet to view only in order to ensure the integrity of the review and certification process.

Once the logistical review is completed, you are notified via email and the successful submission is announced via Twitter and Facebook. If updates are needed, those updates are requested via the official school contact provided upon submission.

Awards Review

Upon successful completion of the Logistical Review, submissions are sent to the Awards Committee for review and feedback. The Awards Committee is split

into the three FRS-NJ Themes and provides feedback on submissions at two levels.

The primary method of providing feedback is in the Indicator Tracking Sheet submission, which is provided directly in your tracking sheet based on each indicator's rubric. Members of the Awards Committee may ask you questions in the tracking sheet about parts of your submission for the purposes of clarification, or if other concerns or issues with the submission arise. Please pay regular attention to your tracking sheet to see if there are any such comments, questions, or concerns.

September 15th is our deadline for notifying you of your final certification status so that you can adequately prepare for the Awards Ceremony at NJSBA's Workshop 2019 (see page 3).

Silver Tier Certification and Silver District Distinction

In addition to the indicator review process, Silver Tier school certification and the Silver District Distinction have a heavy focus on community leadership. This is reviewed by the FRS-NJ chairs and co-chairs of the community leadership team separately from your indicator submission. This means that silver certification and distinction notifications will likely come later than many bronze certification notifications.

The Whole Point

All submitters should remember that regardless of your final certification status, it is the journey of self-reflection, self-assessment, inclusive collaboration, and growth as a school and district that are at the heart of this process!



2019 Certified School District Representatives at NJSBA's Workshop 2018

Upcoming Community Events

Hunterdon County EdTech Fest

August 7th, 2019
Flemington, NJ



Spring Open House 2019 at NJIT

August 28th 2019
Newark, NJ

Assistive Technology Summit (ATAC of DRNJ) 2019

September 24th 2019
West Windsor Township, NJ

FRS Leadership Institute

September 24-25th, 2019
Manchester, NH

Pequannock Tech Summit

October 11th, 2019
Pequannock, NJ

National Digital Learning Day (#DLDay)

February 27th, 2020
Nationwide

Want to share your events with the FRS-NJ community?

Share them with by using the hashtag #FutureReadyNJ on
Twitter or by emailing us at frs-nj@njit.edu!



If you see the FRS-NJ
icon, we'll be there so
come say hi!

Upcoming Program Events

2019 FRS-NJ Awards Ceremony at NJSBA's Workshop

October 22nd, 2019

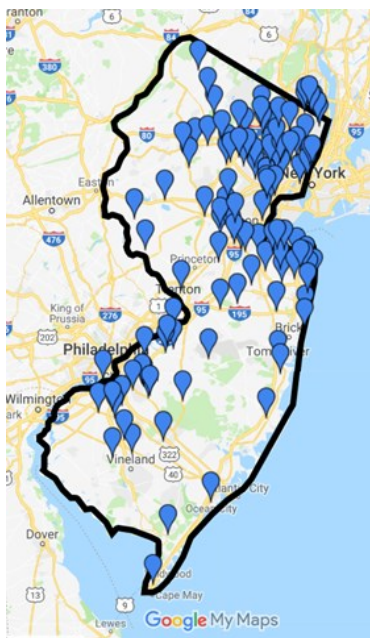
Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ

Join us at NJSBA's Workshop 2019 in Atlantic City for this year's FRS-NJ Awards Ceremony to celebrate the accomplishments of the #FutureReadyNJ community! The exact timing is still to be determined, but the ceremony takes place each year on the first full day of the convention at the main state after the conference opening. Then, join us in the FRS-NJ Center to learn from fellow New Jersey educators who have been certified!

Stay tuned for more information and learn more about Workshop 2019 here: <https://workshop.njsba.org/>

We hope to see you there!

FRS-NJ By the Numbers



As of the date of publication, **131** NJ Districts have officially committed to support their schools' #FutureReady efforts (left).

From those districts, **434** schools have officially declared their participation in the program (right).

Find out which districts are committed, participating, and more on our official [FRS-NJ Maps page](#)!

Is your school Future Ready?

