

**FUTURE
SCHOOLS**



**READY
NEW JERSEY**

SCHOOL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

November, 2018
Volume 1, Issue 10

NJIT
New Jersey Institute
of Technology



The Future Ready Schools - NJ Monthly Newsletter

2018 Certified Schools Honored at Workshop 2018

Each year at NJSBA's Workshop convention, the Future Ready Schools - New Jersey community celebrates the accomplishments of hundreds of educators, leaders, and stakeholders from across the state that have worked hard to ensure that they are best preparing their students for success in college, career, and citizenship in the digital age!

At Workshop 2018, Project Coordinator Jeremy Reich was joined by NJDOE Commissioner Lamont Repollet, NJIT's Dean Kevin Belfield of the College of Science and Liberal Arts, and NJSBA Executive Director Lawrence Feinsod to honor 139 schools from 44 districts that were awarded either Bronze or Silver Tier certification in the 2018 certification cycle.

Congratulations to each school that has taken on this important process of self-reflection, planning, and progress and congratulations again to those who achieved 2018 certification!

Find out which schools were certified this year at www.frsnj.org

Inside this issue

2018 Certified Schools
Honored at Workshop ... 2

By The Numbers..... 2

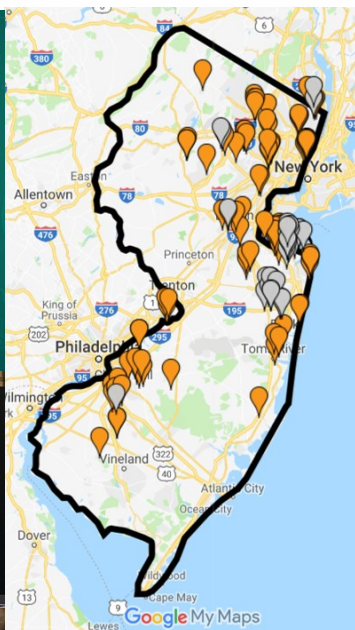
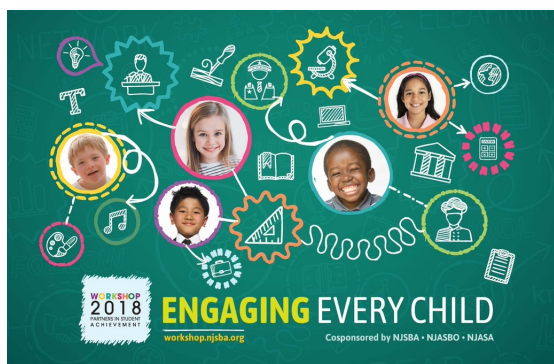
Community News..... 2

Meet the FRS-NJ
Community Chairs! 2

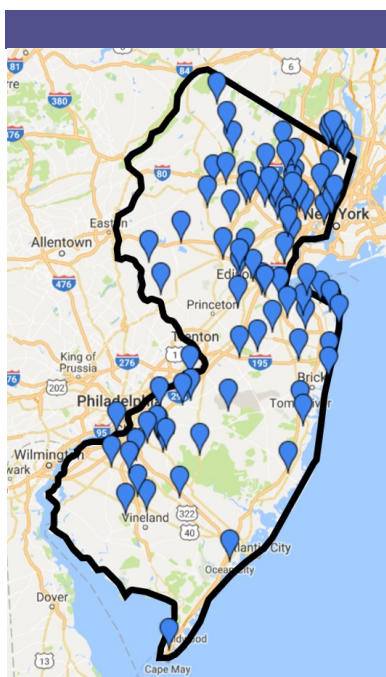
2019 Programs, Initiatives,
and Resources..... 2

Community Events..... 5

Program Events..... 6



Editor and Publisher:
Jeremy Reich, FRS-NJ
Project Coordinator, CLEAR
& Future Ready Schools - NJ



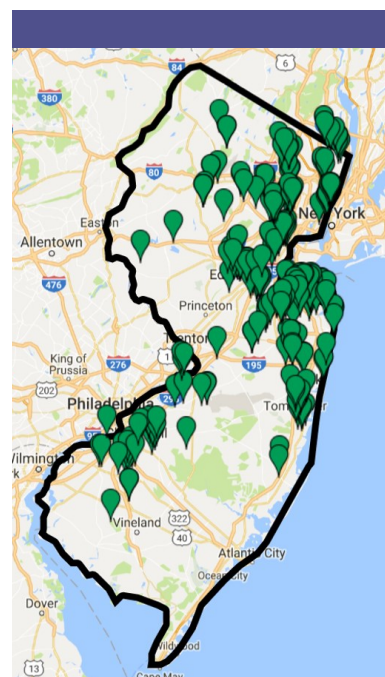
FRS-NJ By the Numbers

As of the date of publication, **94** NJ Districts have officially committed to support their schools' #FutureReady efforts (left).

From those districts, **279** schools have officially declared their participation in the program (right).

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

Is your school and district there?



Community News

[Innovation Generation 25k Makerspace Contest](#)

[NJSBA Releases Major Study on Creating Opportunities for the Career-Focused Learner](#)

[Designing a Public School from Scratch](#)

[Applying Business Strategies with Technology, to Education](#)

[World Economic Forum: The Future of Jobs Report](#)

[Relevance and Reflection: A Learning Map for Success](#)

[A Lesson Learned; Students Can Sometimes Be the Teachers](#)

[Go Forth and Be "Bold"... School \(A Reflection on #PEQsummit 2018\)](#)

[Nailed It \(A Reflection on #PEQsummit 2018\)](#)

[3 Ways Technology & Innovation are Transforming Classrooms](#)

Meet the Chairs of the FRS-NJ Community!



Evan Abramson, *Chair: Technology Support and Services*

Evan Abramson is currently the Director of Technology of the Millburn Township Public Schools in New Jersey. In addition, Evan is currently the chair for the Future Ready Schools – NJ Technology Support and Services theme, where he oversees the creation of the statewide initiative and scoring rubrics. Evan holds a BA in Marketing and Management from Northwood University and a MA in Educational Leadership from Thomas Edison State University.

Evan began his career working for the St. Louis Cardinals in the Media Relations Department before going alternate route and beginning his teaching career in South

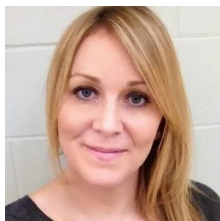
Brunswick. Evan then accepted a position in Irvington, NJ and spent the next fifteen years dedicating himself to the incredible students and families of Irvington in multiples roles as a teacher, a Technology Facilitator and finally as the Director of Technology. Evan then transitioned to becoming the Director of Technology in New Brunswick prior to his current position in Millburn.

He has presented on numerous topics nationwide such as school leadership, district innovation, and new teacher engagement. Evan currently consults with school districts on Future Ready School readiness, climate, and culture improvement.

Connect with Evan on Twitter at [@evanabramson!](#)

Meet the Chairs of the FRS-NJ Community!

Continued from pg. 2



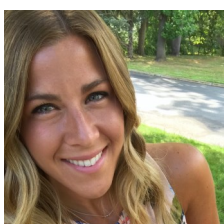
Wendy Morales, Chair: Leadership

Wendy Morales is currently the Supervisor of Digital Media Arts and Technology K-12 in the Middletown Township Public School District in Middletown, New Jersey. Wendy holds a BA in Radio & Television from the George Washington University and a MA in History from American Public University. Wendy started her career in 1997 as a middle school teacher in Newark, New Jersey before accepting a position as a Social Studies teacher in Middletown in 2002. Throughout her years in Middletown, she has also served as an Educational Technology Specialist at the middle school level. She is a proud fellow of the Fulbright Teacher for Global Classrooms program and the TED-Ed Innovative Educator Program. In addition, Wendy was named Bayshore Middle School Teacher of the Year in 2014 and an Ex-

emplary Secondary Educator by the State of New Jersey in 2017. She is a Google for Education Certified Innovator and Trainer.

Wendy is extremely passionate about personalized learning, global education, and educational technology. She is the co-organizer of the Garden State Summit, an annual Educational Technology conference at Georgian Court University. Wendy is also currently working toward her Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Monmouth University. Most importantly, Wendy is a wife and mother of two teenagers; Sophie, age 16 and Mason, age 13.

Connect with Wendy on Twitter at [@MoralesMTPS](https://twitter.com/MoralesMTPS)!



Stephany Hesslein, Chair: Education and Classroom Practice

Stephany Hesslein is currently an Educational Technology Specialist in the Middletown Township Public School District in Middletown, New Jersey. Prior to entering into the role of Edtech Specialist, Stephany taught at the elementary level in multiple grade levels including first, third, and fifth grade. She holds a BA in Education and Art and a Masters of Science in Education and Literacy from Monmouth University. Continuing her love of learning, Stephany is currently working towards her Doctorate in Education at Monmouth University (#MUEdD). She is also a Google for Education Certified

Trainer and co-organizer of [Edcamp Jersey Shore](https://edcamp.org/jersey-shore/).

Stephany is passionate about education and educational research. She is an advocate for students having a voice in their education and opportunities to drive their own learning based on their individual strengths and interests. Her hope is that every student feels they are important, supported, and believe that they *can and will be successful in accomplishing their individual goals*.

Connect with Stephany Hesslein on Twitter and Instagram at [@MissHesslein](https://twitter.com/MissHesslein)!

2019 Programs, Initiatives, & Resources

Professional Development

The FRS-NJ Professional Development initiative is being launched in the 2019 certification cycle in collaboration with NJSBA, NJDOE, and the FRS-NJ Corporate Thought Partners Collaborative to provide guidance, support, and access to potential resources that will help schools and districts achieve higher levels of success in specific FRS-NJ Indicators of Future Readiness.

Stay tuned as this initiative develops!

Small Grants

The FRS-NJ Small Grants Initiative is being launched in the 2019 certification cycle in collaboration with the FRS-NJ Corporate Thought Partners Collaborative to provide direct funding and resources to help schools and districts achieve higher levels of success in specific FRS-NJ Indicators of Future Readiness.

Stay tuned as this initiative develops!

Collaboration Platform

FRS-NJ is partnering with LumApps to create a free collaboration platform for the #FutureReadyNJ community to help achieve our mission of fostering collaboration within and between schools and districts across New Jersey.

Stay tuned as this initiative develops!

Future Ready Future Educators

The FRS-NJ Indicators of Future Readiness provide a blueprint for successful schools and districts in the digital age of education. This new initiative, led and launched by the FRS-NJ task force chairs, gives future teachers the opportunity to join a network of experienced and passionate educators and leaders from all over the state who they can collaborate with and learn from before they enter the work force.

Learn more at www.frsnj.org/future-educators

Future Ready Librarians - NJ

FRS-NJ is collaborating with the New Jersey Association of School Librarians to provide guidance, support, and potential resources to NJ's Future Ready Librarians via resource indicators aligned to the national #FutureReadyLibs Framework.

Learn more at www.frsnj.org/librarians

Future Ready District Technology Leaders - NJ

FRS-NJ is collaborating with the NJDOE and NJSBA to provide guidance, support, and potential resources to NJ's district technology leaders via resource indicators aligned to the national District Technology Leaders Framework.

Learn more at www.frsnj.org/techleaders

Upcoming Community Events

TryEngineering!

November 14th, 2018
Newark, NJ

EdCampNJ (North)

November 17th, 2018
New Brunswick, NJ

EdCampNJ (South)

November 17th, 2018
New Brunswick, NJ

Becoming Future Ready with Apple

November 27th, 2018
Newark, NJ



NJASL Annual Conference

December 2nd-4th, 2018
Long Branch, NJ



NJECC Annual Conference

January 8th, 2019
Montclair, NJ



Edge.Con 2019

January 9th-11th, 2019
Long Branch, NJ



iSTEAM Conference 2019

January 11th, 2019
Mahwah, NJ



NJIT Education Day

January 15th, 2019
Newark, NJ

[Information Letter](#) (PDF)

[Registration Form](#) (PDF)



ECET2Metro

February 2nd, 2019
Wayne, NJ

RIISA Tech Equity Conference

March 20th, 2019
Somerset, NJ



NJ Makers Day

March 22nd-23rd, 2019
See website for listing of event locations

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

“Are You Future Ready?” Working Sessions

[January 24th](#), [February 14th](#), [April 4th](#), [May 2nd](#) (All 2019)

NJSBA, Trenton, NJ

The "Are You Future Ready?" working sessions will engage participants in the process of creating or enhancing their school's digital learning environments. Leaders from schools and districts across New Jersey will network, collaborate, and join a community dedicated to best preparing students for success in college, career, and citizenship in the digital age. Participants will also be guided through the FRS-NJ self-assessment and certification process and learn how the experience organizes, guides, and supports schools' Future Ready efforts.

The programs are sponsored by the Educational Leadership Foundation of New Jersey, and are offered at no cost to New Jersey school leaders.*

Learn more and register using the date-specific links above!

2019 FRS-NJ Certification Summit

February 28th, 2019 (Digital Learning Day)

NJIT, Newark, NJ & Planned Live-Stream

Each year, Future Ready Schools - New Jersey celebrates national Digital Learning Day by officially opening the school certification cycle with the FRS-NJ Certification Summit. This year, we are planning to hold the in-person event at NJIT with a live-stream of the main events of the day.

Stay tuned as we develop this year's certification summit!