



The Future Ready Schools - NJ Monthly Newsletter

Future Ready Librarians New Jersey Resources to be Launched at NJASL Annual Conference

Future Ready Schools - New Jersey is collaborating with the New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) to provide guidance, support, and potential resources to New Jersey's Future Ready Librarians.

This FRS-NJ Resource Initiative is aligned to the national #FutureReadyLibs Framework and is designed to connect New Jersey's School Library Media Specialists to the resources of the vibrant national community and the collaborative support of the new #FutureReadyLibsNJ community. A task force was convened in September of 2018 to develop resource indicators and aligned guidance and resources for New Jersey's school library media specialists, which will be launched at the NJASL conference.

We invite anyone attending the conference to join the #FutureReadyLibsNJ team at 12:30 on Tuesday, December 4th at the annual NJASL conference for a luncheon panel celebrating the launch of this new initiative and to learn more about it directly from the chair, co-chairs, and the Future Ready Schools - New Jersey Team. Following the lunch panel will be a guided session that will enable you to dig into the indicators themselves and launch your #FutureReadyLibsNJ journey.

The #FutureReadyLibsNJ Indicators of Future Readiness are based on the model developed for the Future Ready Schools - New Jersey certification program and are designed to show what success looks like for the role of School Library Media Specialists. These indicators are designed to help you self-assess where you and your library stand on the path to being Future Ready so that you can plan your professional development and support your school and district's Future Ready efforts.

Along with the indicators, FRS-NJ has developed an Indicator tracking sheet based on the model developed for the FRS-NJ certification program and is designed to enable you to record your self-assessment and plan your professional development based on the #FutureReadyLibsNJ Indicators of Future Readiness.

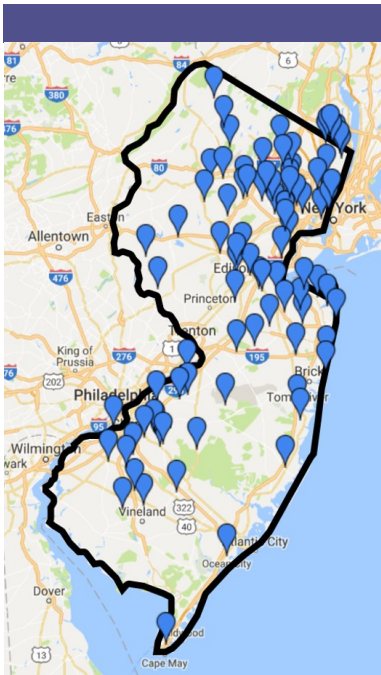
All information and resources will be public at frsnj.org/librarians on the 4th.

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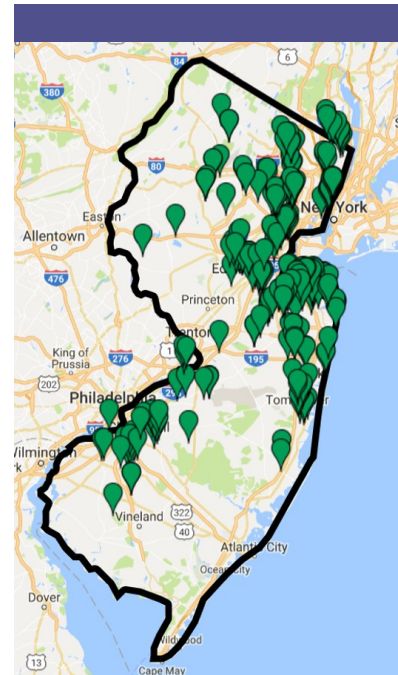
FRS-NJ By the Numbers

As of the date of publication, **100** NJ Districts have officially committed to support their schools' #FutureReady efforts (left).

From those districts, **291** 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

Future Ready Certified Schools Honored at Workshop 2018

NJSBA School Board Notes

NJ STEM Month 2019

NJ STEM Pathways

Celebrate & Elevate the Experts Within

Kathi Kersznowski

Family Math Learning Community Grants

Education First

The Overlap Between STEM Education and Esports

Sport Techie

Even for Districts Leading Interoperability Push, Journey Is Just Beginning

Education Week

Virtual Reality Inspiring Student Writers

Christine Lion-Bailey

Flexible seating, pillows, bean bags: Schools seeing if flexible spaces help students do better

Daily Herald

Cultivating a Strong Staff Culture

Edutopia

Student Exploration and Sampling

Stephany Hesslein

Personalized Professional Development

@MTPSPRIDE Visions & Reflections of Learning & Leadership

5 edtech tools that take personalized learning to the next level

eSchool News



EducationSuperHighway: Free, Non-Profit Infrastructure Support

By Alyssa Cubello, EducationSuperHighway

Editor's Note: EducationSuperHighway is a non-profit organization that has partnered with the New Jersey

We can help you get the robust infrastructure your schools need

Preparing your school's network infrastructure for the integration of digital learning is a key step in making sure your classrooms support student-centered learning. The FRS-NJ initiative includes 17 technology indicators that maximize digital learning including three that solely focus on robust infrastructure. [EducationSuperHighway](#), a national non-profit dedicated to upgrading the internet access in America's classrooms, breaks down the steps your school can take to meet these indicators. **To learn more about how we can assist your planning, please [set up a time](#) to speak with our District Team.**

Step one: Upgrade to fiber

Indicator: [Intranet/Internet Network Availability](#)

Fiber optic technology is the only internet connection capable of providing enough bandwidth for students and teachers to access digital learning. Many New Jersey schools still use cable internet, which is unfortunately prone to bottlenecks and slowdowns when users in the same area access the internet. Cable also typically maxes out at 150 Megabits per second (Mbps), which is not enough bandwidth for most New Jersey schools to meet the Federal Communications Commission's recommended 2018 goal of 1 Mbps/student. That's why schools across the state – from the urban centers to rural elementary schools – have upgraded to dedicated fiber to support their student's learning opportunities.

Step two: Maximize your purchasing power

Indicator: [Internet Connection](#)

Thanks to publically available E-rate data, you can visit EducationSuperHighway's free school broadband comparison tool, [Compare & Connect K-12](#), to understand

the speed and pricing data for schools across New Jersey. Fiber is an important investment in your classrooms' future. This data has helped schools find the most affordable broadband deals in their area. We encourage you to find your school district and understand how much neighboring or similar school districts pay for high-speed fiber connections compared to your current contract. You can also use this data to start a conversation with your broadband service provider to negotiate a more affordable network upgrade.

Step three: Leverage the \$43M in federal funding for Wi-Fi

Indicator: [Access Point Signal Saturation](#)

As educators implement 1:1 device environments, online testing, and blended learning programs, your classrooms need strong Wi-Fi networks to avoid access point signal saturation. The federal E-rate program has earmarked over \$43M in funding for all New Jersey schools to cover the cost of equipment and services to support technology in the classroom. We encourage you to develop a plan and take action to take advantage of this funding now – **it is set to expire this year.**

Nearly 450 districts have leveraged this funding to make sure that bottlenecks don't become a barrier to classroom innovation, but 110 still have their full budget available. Find out how much funding your district has available on [Compare & Connect K-12](#).

As a partner of the New Jersey Department of Education, our non-profit organization is dedicated to ensuring New Jersey schools have support in searching for options that meet Future Ready technical specifications. We encourage you to develop a plan and take action to take advantage of this funding now - **as \$14M is set to expire this year.**

Meet the Co-Chairs of the FRS-NJ Community!

At the start of the 2018-2019 school year, Future Ready Schools - NJ solicited the FRS-NJ community for volunteers who were interested in expanding their existing service to the community as co-chairs. We are proud to announce that these voluntary, community support, positions have been filled by a group of amazing, dedicated, and future ready New Jersey educators!

Each co-chair (see right column) will join the existing community chairs to conduct the minor revisions of the Indicators of Future Readiness for the 2019 certification cycle, will help lead the Awards Review process, and will be available to anyone seeking support on the process or content of the FRS-NJ indicators and program.

Thank you to all who submitted applications and to the 2019 cohort of FRS-NJ community co-chairs!

NJIT Launches Forensics Program

As the only forensic science undergraduate program in New Jersey, NJIT's Forensic Science B.S. program provides theoretical foundation in the natural sciences and mathematics, as well as hands-on training in field methods, analytical skills and laboratory procedures currently used by forensic scientists in crime and investigative laboratories at the state and federal level. Learn more about this program [here](#)!



Leadership



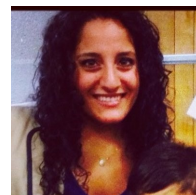
Bridgette Burt
Long Branch
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Christopher Harris
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Education & Classroom



Xanthi Karamanos
Edgewater
[@Xanth_K](#)



Heather Schwartz
Hazlet
[@SchwarzHeather](#)



Technology Support &



Adrian Cepero
Hackensack
[@AdrianJCepero](#)



Fil Santiago
West Orange
[@sabianhawks](#)

Upcoming Community Events

NJASL Annual Conference

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



NJ STEM Month Info Webinar

December 7th, 2018
Webinar

EdSurge Teaching & Learning Circle

December 12th, 2018
Princeton, 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)



Personalized Learning in the Math Classroom

January 17th, 2019
Paramus, NJ

A Hands-On Approach to Math Instruction

January 22nd, 2019
Paramus, NJ

Liberty Science Center Teacher Preview Day

January 26th, 2019
Jersey City, NJ

ECET2Metro

February 2nd, 2019
Wayne, NJ

2019 Mid-Atlantic Conference on Personalized Learning

March 13th-14th, 2019
Atlantic City, 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!