

**FUTURE  
SCHOOLS**



**READY  
NEW JERSEY**

**SCHOOL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

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**NJIT**  
New Jersey Institute  
of Technology



# The Future Ready Schools - NJ Monthly Newsletter

## The 2018 FRS-NJ Certification Cycle Has Begun!

As of February 22, 2018, national Digital Learning Day, the 2018 Future Ready Schools - New Jersey certification cycle is open! Schools that are part of officially [committed districts](#) and which have declared their official [participation](#) in the program may now submit for [certification](#) as either a 2018 bronze or silver tier certified school.

The 2018 program features a new set of [Indicators of Future Readiness](#) that have been organized, condensed, and improved in many ways by the [2018 FRS-NJ Task Forces](#) under the leadership of their chairs and co-chairs.

The [requirements](#) and logistics of the certification program have been revamped to provide New Jersey's educators with a more effective, efficient, and user-friendly program and process. Part of this update is the launch of the silver tier of certification for schools who have already been [certified in 2017](#) at the bronze, entry-level certification tier.

The 2018 Awards Committee is planned to begin some time in May and will begin providing feedback and awards recommendations between. As always, if you have questions or need our support, please let us know, we're here to help!

### 2018 Certification Timeline:

Feb. 22—Certification Cycle Begins

Jun. 30—Deadline to Submit for Certification

Sep. 15—Schools Notified of Certification Status

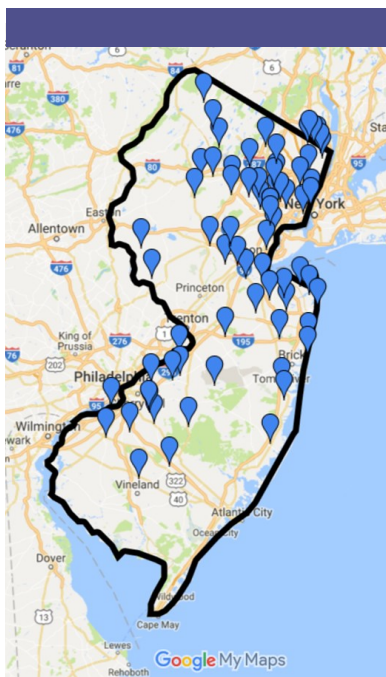
Oct. 23—Awards Ceremony at NJSBA's Workshop 2018

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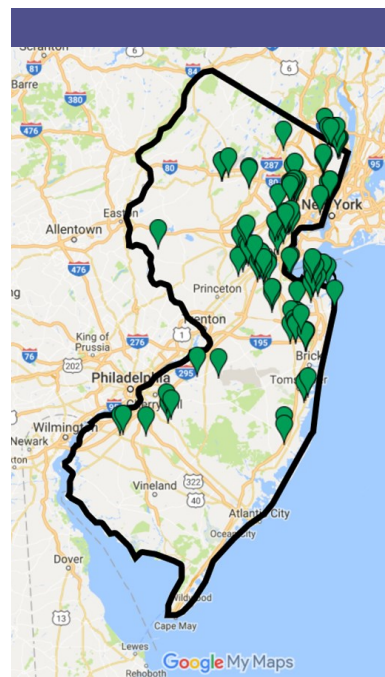


## Program Updates

As of the date of publication, 72 New Jersey Districts have officially committed to support their schools' #FutureReady efforts (see left map).

From those districts, 115 schools have declared their participation in the program (see right map).

Find out which districts are committed at <http://www.frsnj.org/district-commitment>, and which schools are participating at <http://www.frsnj.org/school-participation>.



## Community News

[The Value of Organizational Leadership](#)

[STEAM Tank 2017: Edison's Heirs](#)

[Future Ready Schools Releases Guidebook on Blending Learning and Technology](#)

Want your news articles featured in this section? Send them to us via email it to us at [frs-nj@njit.edu](mailto:frs-nj@njit.edu)!

## Community Questions

**Community Member Seeking Defined, Curricular Coding Course Examples**

Please contact us if you have any examples of coding curriculum that are not extracurricular, but are rather built into the school's general curriculum and courses. Thank you!

## The NJSBA-US Army Partnership

By SFC Josh Simpson NJSBA/U.S. Army STEAM Fellow

The United States Army and the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) have developed a unique one of a kind partnership to bring many educational resources and opportunities to K-12 schools throughout the state of New Jersey.

All of the opportunities and resources provided are 100% free and include resources such as free online SAT/ACT test prep that features full length practice test at [www.march2success.com](http://www.march2success.com) and in classroom programs through the Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) that also has grants that educators may apply for. Information may be found at [www.usaeop.com](http://www.usaeop.com).

At the pinnacle of our partnership is the New Jersey School Boards Association and U.S. Army STEAM Tank challenge. This challenge is modeled after the hit television show Shark Tank and asks students to submit their concept of either inventing something new; modifying an existing invention to improve it; or solving a real-world problem in teams of 2-5 students lead by a teacher as a team leader.

Teams who are selected to move to the next step, presenting in front of a panel of subject matter experts in one of 3 regions (South, Central, North) made up of educators, members of industry, and the U.S. Army in a regional competition. Those who are selected to move on from the regional competition move on to the final competition held at the New Jersey School Boards Association Annual Workshop.

You can contact [SFC Josh Simpson](#) for details and questions.

*See page 5 for more on the STEAM Tank Challenge.*

## Reflecting on the 2018 Regional Certification Summits

On February 22nd, Future Ready Schools - New Jersey celebrated [Digital Learning Day](#) (#DLDay) with the first of its three 2018 Regional Certification Summits at NJIT, which was hosted by NJIT's [Collaborative for Leadership, Education, and Assessment Research](#) (#NJITclear). The North Regional Summit was followed by a Central summit and a South summit on the 26th and 27th respectively.

The three summits were made possible through the sponsorship of [OnCourse Systems for Education](#) and our hosts, which were NJIT's CLEAR, Bayshore Middle School in [Middletown Township](#) and Stockton University's [SRI&ETTC](#).

Featured at all three events were [LumApps](#), who is working with FRS-NJ to develop a collaboration platform for the FRS-NJ community and a district presentation from each of the three regions.

The North summit featured Morris Plains School District, the Central summit featured Middletown Township Public Schools, and the South summit featured Washington Township.

Overall, approximately 550 educators, leaders, and stakeholders from about 120 districts attended across the three days!

For those who could not attend, materials and information are available on the event page (linked below) and a recording of the North Certification Summit is being prepared by NJIT and will be published on the event page as well as via our social media accounts.

Check out the details and recaps of the 2018 Regional Certification Summits, including the main and the district's presentations, at: [frsnj.org/cert-summits-2018](https://frsnj.org/cert-summits-2018)



### Featured at 2018 Certification Summits



## Community Events

### [Teach Edcamp 2018](#)

March 3rd, 2018  
South Brunswick, NJ

### [TeachMeet Pre-Service](#)

March 10th, 2018  
Beachwood, NJ

### [Tri-State Project Based Learning Summit](#)

March 12th, 2018  
Somerset, NJ

### [Women Designing the Future: The Environment](#)

March 23rd, 2018  
Newark, NJ

### [#EdcampHappyCamper](#)

April 7th, 2018  
Sewell, NJ

### [Northern Regional STEAM Tank Competition at NJIT](#)

April 14th, 2018  
Newark, NJ

### [#SpEdcampNJ](#)

April 14th, 2018  
Long Branch, NJ

### [#nErDCampNJ 2018](#)

April 21st, 2018  
Chatham Township, NJ

### [#TCT18](#)

May 18th - 19th, 2018  
Lawrenceville, NJ

### [Peguannock Tech Summit](#)

October 5, 2018  
Peguannock, NJ

## Digital Learning Day 2018

National Digital Learning day was celebrated this year on February 22nd by schools and districts across the United States.

Future Ready Schools - New Jersey celebrated with the first of three Regional Certification Summits at NJIT (*see page 3*), but we weren't alone. New Jersey had the third most events registered in the entire country! Check out the celebrations in both New Jersey and across the country [on their map!](#)

## The FRS-NJ Corporate Thought Partners Collaborative

Future Ready Schools - New Jersey is planning to establish the Corporate Thought Partners Collaborative this May. The new group will enable corporations and other organizations with a means to support the initiative with guidance, possible resources, and other opportunities to support the FRS -NJ community.

The founding of this group will also be FRS-NJ's first step towards establishing a small grants program. Contact [Jeremy Reich](#) for details and to join.

## 3D Printing and Design at NJIT

Sam Gatley, research lab manager of the [Physics Additive Manufacturing Lab](#) Augustus Wendell, Coordinator of the [Digital Design program](#), and Dr. Jim Lipuma, head of the [Collaborative for Leadership, Education, and Assessment Research](#) are holding a University Design Challenge in early summer 2018.

They are seeking a cohort of 15-25 rising seniors to participate. The challenge will implement applied physics and structural principles paired with additive manufacturing.

The event will take place on the NJIT campus over three concurrent Saturdays. NJIT undergraduate students will mentor high school student teams in tackling the challenge using CAD modeling, simulation and additive manufacturing technologies. Students interested in attending should contact [Sam](#) and [Augustus](#) for further information. There is no fee to participate in this event.

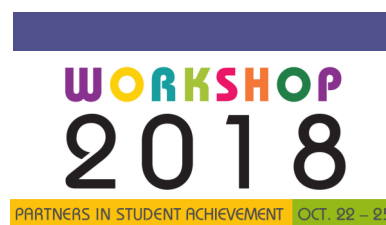
- **Pre-Challenge:** Design problem released for consideration
- **Week 1, June 23:** CAD modeling, CAD simulation, Initial prototype 3d print submission
- **Week 2, June 30:** Prototype 3d print assessment, Design refinement, CAD modeling, CAD simulation, 2nd round print submission
- **Week 3, July 7:** Design challenge presentation poster design, poster session, design challenge physical testing!



## Share Your Expertise at Workshop 2018!

The Workshop 2018 call for proposals is now open, and our friends at the [New Jersey School Boards Association](#) are looking for engaging, creative and thoughtful submissions. Proposals should reflect the best practices in education across the state. The theme for Workshop 2018, "*Engaging Every Child*," reinforces that all children have a path toward success, and it is our job to equip them with the tools they need to succeed. The annual Workshop conference will take place from Monday through Thursday, Oct. 22-25, 2018 at the Atlantic City Convention Center.

All proposals from the Future Ready Schools - New Jersey community will be considered for both general sessions and may be featured in the 2018 Future Ready Center! For any session proposals featuring your FRS-NJ efforts, please include some element of your "Future Ready Why," or how you used the initiative, tool, best practice, or whatever else you may be featuring in your school/district's #FutureReadyNJ efforts. When we are reviewing sessions to be featured in the Future Ready Center, these highlights will be preferred. [Proposals can be submitted via this form](#).



*"All proposals from the FRS-NJ community will be considered for both general sessions and may be featured in the 2018 Future Ready Center!"*

## What is STEAM Tank?

STEAM Tank, created by NJSBA and the U.S. Army is modeled after the TV show "Shark Tank," provides New Jersey students a platform to experience real-world problem solving, allowing them to think like entrepreneurs and design and create whatever they can dream using the fields of STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Math. STEAM Tank was designed to be extremely open-ended in order to maximize student creativity, and allow students to take the challenge in any direction that their team decided. The following is the STEAM Tank Challenge: *Identify a real world problem or situation that needs resolution, modify an existing product to make it better, or invent something that does not exist yet.*

Students have the opportunity to enter their concepts to be reviewed. If selected, student teams will move onto three regional competitions in which they will pitch their ideas and prototypes in front of a judging panel of entrepreneurs and business leaders. For more information [contact Jennifer Siehl](#) at the NJSBA.

### Important dates and locations for STEAM Tank 2018:

- **South Jersey Regionals** will take place March 23, 2018, Blackwood Army Reserve Center, 390 S Woodbury-Turnersville Rd., Blackwood
- **Central Jersey Regionals** will be held March 16, 2018, at Camp Evans, Wall Township.
- **North Jersey Regionals** will take place April 14, 2018, at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.
- **Final Challenge** at NJSBA Workshop will be Oct. 23 and 24, 2018, at the Atlantic City Convention Center.
- **Winners announced** at the NJEA Convention in November 2018

# Our Upcoming Events

## **NJSBA Technology Conference**

**March 9th, 2018**

**The Conference Center at Mercer, West Windsor, NJ**

On Friday, March 9, at the Conference Center at Mercer, NJSBA will host its annual Technology Conference. The program will offer 4 Board Member Academy credits for school board members. This interactive program will offer a variety of sessions on how to advance technology in schools and districts.

Learn more and register at: <https://www.njsba.org/news-publications/school-board-notes/...>

## **CLEAR: Cradle to Career Summit (#C32018)**

**March 27th, 2018**

**NJIT, Newark, NJ**

The CLEAR: Cradle to Career (C3) Summit is the Collaborative for Leadership, Education, and Assessment Research at NJIT's (CLEAR) first major event featuring CLEAR's various activities in K-20 education. C3 is designed to bring three distinct communities together under one roof; the Future Ready Schools – New Jersey community, the educators and leaders involved or interested in iSTEAM activities including the STEAM Tank competition and the Maker movement, and NJIT faculty researchers interested in collaborating with K-12 educators (and likewise).

The goal of the C3 Summit is to foster greater collaboration within New Jersey's K-20 community, enable educators and leaders to learn about a diverse array of opportunities for their schools, students, and educators and foster a larger networked community of innovative and dedicated educators, leaders, and researchers who share the same goal of best preparing our students for success, from the cradle to career.

Learn more and register at <http://www.frsnj.org/c32018>

## **Inaugural FRS-NJ Networking Site Visit at New Brunswick**

**April, 2018 (Exact Date TBD)**

**New Brunswick, NJ**

Future Ready Schools—New Jersey is partnering with New Brunswick Public Schools for our first Networking Site Visit event! The purpose of this new series of events will be to connect educators and leaders at an FRS-NJ certified school so that attendees can be informed and inspired by their efforts. Our first event will focus on the national Future Ready Librarians framework, how New Jersey's School Library Media Specialist can get involved in FRS-NJ, learn from NBPS' efforts, and learn more about how FRS-NJ is integrating the national #FutureReadyLibs framework into our state leadership program. **All educators and leaders are invited!**

Stay tuned for updates on the official date, time, and location of our first Site Visit event!