



The Future Ready Schools - NJ Monthly Newsletter

2019 STEAM Tank Challenge Submissions Opened

The NJSBA and US Army have officially launched the 2019 STEAM Tank Challenge and teams from New Jersey schools can now submit their team's ideas for the regional competitions in March.

[According to the NJSBA](#), "STEAM Tank provides New Jersey students a platform to experience real-world problem solving. It allows 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. In STEAM Tank, students create innovative products and solutions to problems, which they enter into a competition. Winners at the regional level compete in the finals at NJSBA's annual Workshop, before a judging panel of entrepreneurs and business leaders.

"The competition asks the district teams to invent something new, modify an existing product, or identify a situation or real world problem that needs resolution. Teams are provided criteria and a panel of experts judge their designs and or solutions. The deadline for receiving completed applications is January 31, 2019. The U.S. Army and NJSBA will evaluate all entries and invite teams to participate in the regional competition. Entrants will be notified of the decision by February 8, 2019. Schools are encouraged to submit multiple teams for entry.

STEAM tank has already been linked to the FRS-NJ program back in the [September issue](#) of this newsletter: "In the leadership gear, A Culture of Innovation, Collaboration, and Empowerment where innovation in schools reflects a collaborative learning environment that cultivates and nurtures new thinking and approaches to teaching and learning. STEAM Tank does just that. Another is Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment in the Education and Classroom practice gear. STEAM Tank, much like this gear fosters authentic learning experiences that provide students with the opportunity to engage in real world problem solving and real-life work contexts. If you dig in deeper throughout the gears and indicators, your school can find many more connections to assist with your journey to become a Future Ready School."

Learn more about this fantastic student opportunity, its requirements, and submit your idea [using this link](#). Good luck!

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Community News

[Future Ready Schools – A Framework Today to Prepare for Tomorrow](#)

Millburn Superintendent
Christine Burton via Future
Ready Schools

[Girls Who Code Offers Free Programs in NJ](#)

Girls Who Code

[Applications Available for the 2019 Governor's School of New Jersey](#)

NJSBA

[New ESSA Guide Released by ISTE](#)

ISTE

[CoSN Unveils Top EdTech Challenges, Tools for 2019](#)

EdScoop

[NJ STEM Month Mini-Grants](#)

NJ STEM Pathways Network

[National Experts: Forming STEM Ecosystems is Top Priority](#)

NJ STEM Pathways Network

[Future Ready Schools Launches BreakoutEDU](#)

Future Ready Schools &
Breakout EDU

[Delran Innovation 'Fab Lab' being created in high school's former auto shop](#)

Courier Post

[Making Media Literacy Central to Digital Citizenship](#)

MindShift

[8 Keys to Designing Tomorrow's Schools, Today](#)

EdSurge

[Seven Ways Schools Can Foster Original Thinking in Students](#)

John Spencer

[Media Literacy Takes on the Digital Morass](#)

AASA: The School
Superintendent's Association

[Building a Plane While Flying It](#)

Alan Guenther, NJSBA

[Curriculum Corner: Exploring the Brain](#)

Michael Salvatore, Long
Branch Superintendent via
NJASA

Updates on the 2019 FRS-NJ Certification Cycle

Over the last several months the FRS-NJ team, with the dedicated and critical support of the 2019 Chairs and Co-Chairs, have been taking the lessons learned from the first two certification cycles to improve the entire certification experience at all levels of the program.

We are still working on the finer details, but are thrilled to share with the FRS-NJ and NJ educational community many of the major updates to this year's program.

2019 FRS-NJ Certification Summit

This year's Certification Summit will be held at NJIT on February 28th. The in-person experience will be more impactful and effective for those educators and leaders that attend the full-day event in person, but we will also be streaming the common morning sessions to ensure that those who cannot attend will not miss out on the most important parts of the day. Registration for the summit will open in early January, so stay tuned and we hope to see you there!

2019 Indicators of Future Readiness

The FRS-NJ community leadership cohort of chairs and co-chairs began the official indicator update process on December 17th. The content of the indicators themselves is not changing, but there will be some additional consolidation of redundant indicators, especially in the Technology Support and Services theme.

Most of the updates are designed to make the indicators easier to read, digest, and act on and include updates to the rubric format, the reduction of priority levels from 5 to 3, and the significant (and most exciting) addition of 2018 certified school exemplars.

Indicator Submission and Process Updates

Starting this year, we will be providing updated Indicator Tracking Sheets and templates for standardized indicator submission. We will also be establishing a maximum evidence link limit and requesting in-indicator, contextual narratives. We will also be updating the process to ensure greater submission integrity.

Bronze Tier School Certification

The bronze tier certification, based on the ongoing indicator updates, will see a recalibration of the points requirements at both the thematic and overall levels.

We have also eliminated the school video from the requirements for this tier to enable your Future Ready teams to focus more time and effort on the self-assessment and submission process. There will also be updates to the school narrative requirements.

Silver Tier School Certification

The silver tier certification will also see a recalibration of the points requirements. The narrative component will likely be removed in favor of shorter school videos.

The most important addition to this tier will be the Community Leadership and Service requirements, which will include the provision of certified school exemplars from your bronze tier experience, active and consistent membership on the Awards Committee, and the support of schools that are submitting for bronze tier certification or just getting started on their future ready journey.

Gold Tier District Certification (NEW for 2019)

We are thrilled to announce that we will in fact launch the gold tier certification in 2019. This third tier of certification will not focus on the indicators and will be unique in the fact that it will be a district-level effort and submission.

This new tier is still in development, but will feature the continuation of the silver tier Community Leadership and Service Requirements, the requirement for all schools in the district to have current (within the last three cycles) silver tier certification, as well as essay and site visit components. Stay tuned as we fully develop this new extension of the FRS-NJ experience!

2019 Awards Committee

We will be initiating the call for volunteers to join this year's Awards Committee in early January. We are planning to hold the first training in mid-February, which will enable rolling reviews and feedback to begin as soon as submissions open on February 28th.

Active and consistent membership on the Awards Committee will also now be a requirement for higher levels of certification as a mechanism for not only giving back to the community that is supporting your efforts, but also as a highly effective means of learning from other schools and districts across the state.

B.S. in Forensic Science Launched by CSLA at NJIT

Provided by NJIT's College of Science and Liberal Arts

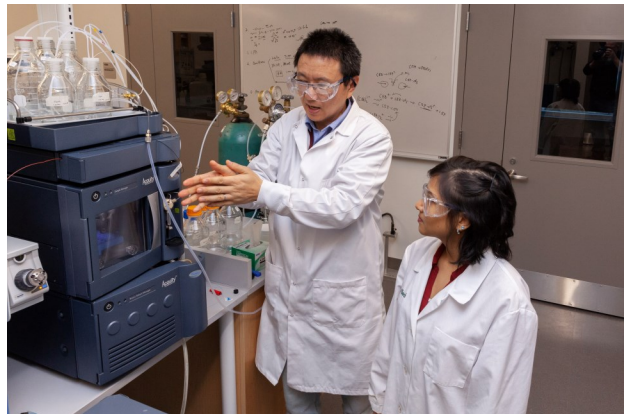
As the only forensic science undergraduate program in New Jersey, NJIT's B. S. Forensic Science program — offered through the Department of Chemistry and Environmental Science — provides theoretical foundation in the natural sciences and mathematics, as well as hands-on training in field methods, analytical skills and laboratory procedures currently used by forensic scientists in crime and investigative laboratories at the state and federal level.

Research Opportunities:

- **Forensic Research and Fieldwork:** Students participate in a forensic science capstone experience to gain working knowledge of the forensic science field and establish a professional network.
- **Evidence & Procedural Law:** Students conduct ethical research, and learn legal procedures and courtroom communication skills required by forensic science professionals.
- **"Forensic Science Core" curriculum:** Students gain a background in core forensic science concepts, evidence collection, technical analysis, data interpretation, and professional regulatory practices.

NJIT features the only B.S. in Forensic Science in New Jersey designed to meet the approval of the Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC)—the accrediting body in college-level forensic science academics.

NJIT, located in Newark, New Jersey, is strategically situated with proximity to numerous forensic laboratories and investigatory sites, including the State Toxicology Laboratory, the Office of Forensic Science North Regional Laboratory, and the FDA's Office of Regulatory Affairs.



NJCAN: New Jersey Career Assistance Navigator

By Joanne Hamza, NJCAN Project Coordinator

NJCAN, a free web-based career navigation system funded by New Jersey Department Of Education, provides comprehensive information to students to develop college and career plans. It includes tools that encourage self-assessment, career and post-secondary education exploration, research, goal setting, and decision-making. It is designed to support lifelong career exploration and career planning through easy-to-use personal assessments, occupational descriptions, educational and financial aid information, and job search tools.

NJCAN includes an online portfolio for each student that can highlight the students' abilities, experiences, and achievements. The site helps students make informed decisions about their future based on

relevant, actionable information. The John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers has a partnership with the Department of Education to offer comprehensive user support including: assistance with staff and student portfolio creation, hands-on training at schools for staff members, technical support, one on one career curriculum planning, and much more.

If interested please contact Joanne Hamza at njcantraining@gmail.com or visit NJcan.org



Upcoming Community Events

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-15th, 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

EdCamp Happy Camper

March 23rd, 2019
Sewell, NJ

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 Ready for Future Ready?"

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

NJSBA, Trenton, NJ

"Are You Ready for **Future Ready**?" programs 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, formerly named the "Are You Future Ready?" Working Sessions, all offer the same content.

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

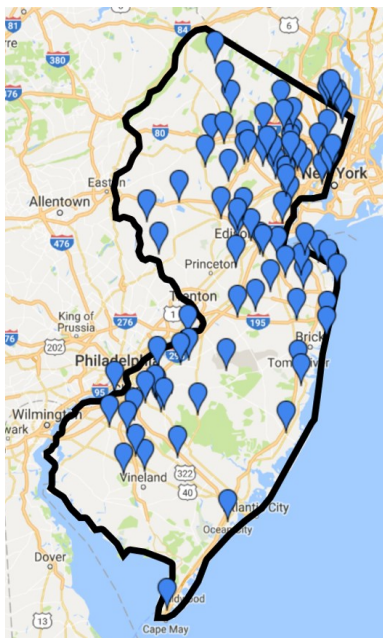
2019 FRS-NJ Certification Summit

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!



FRS-NJ By the Numbers

As of the date of publication, **104** NJ Districts have officially committed to support their schools' #FutureReady efforts (left).

From those districts, **305** 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 yours?

