

**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

Introducing the Monthly Newsletter

Dear #FutureReadyNJ Community Members,

We are proud to share with you the inaugural edition of the Future Ready Schools – NJ Monthly Newsletter!

The purpose of this monthly publication is to provide you with general announcements, updates on the program, recent and upcoming program activities, as well as news and events from across the #FutureReadyNJ community. The exact design of the newsletter will evolve in its first few issues as we determine the best format, but its purpose will always remain the same.

If you know anyone interested in receiving this newsletter and other updates from Future Ready Schools – New Jersey, they can email us at frs-nj@njit.edu or sign up on our website at <http://www.frsnj.org/contact>. Conversely, if you are no longer interested in the program and community, please let us know so we can remove you from the mailing lists. Our goal is to guide and support, not to burden you with unwanted emails!

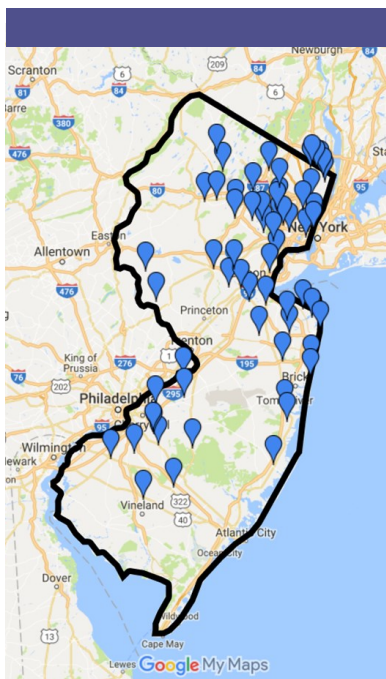
If you have feedback on the content of this newsletter, or anything else in the program? Let us know, we want to hear from you so that we can provide the best service to New Jersey's educators and leaders.

Thank you and enjoy!

Jeremy Reich, Project Coordinator

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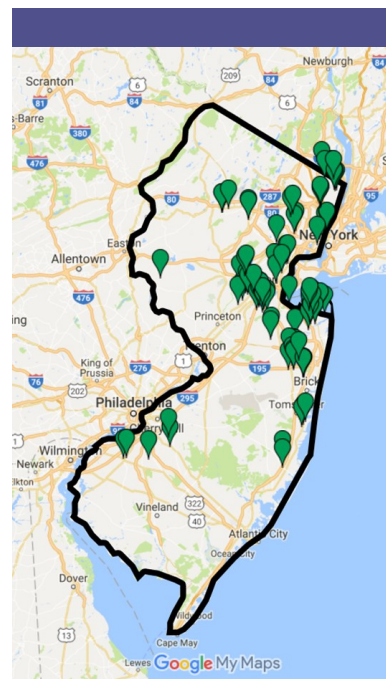


Program Updates

As of the date of publication, 64 New Jersey Districts have officially committed to support their schools' #FutureReady efforts (see left map).

From those districts, 93 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>.



Task Force Chairs '18

Leadership: Wendy Morales

Co-Chairs: Edward Ward, Caren MacConnell, Bridgette Burt, Christine Burton, Elford Rawls-Dill

Education and Classroom

Practice: Stephany Hesslein

Co-Chairs: Kelly Grotrian, Alyssa Miller, Marla Weinstein, Xanthy Karamanos

Technology Support and

Services: Evan Abramson

Co-Chairs: Filipe Santiago, Adrian Cepero, Sandra Paul, Joel Handler

2018 Task Force Efforts in Progress

In the first few weeks of January, the 2018 [FRS-NJ Task Forces](#) began the month-long process of updating the Indicators of Future Readiness, the core of the certification program, to meet the needs of the 2018 Certification Cycle.

The mission of this year's task forces is to standardize the format of the indicators and their rubrics, consolidate and organize them, identify priority indicators, incorporate additional resources to aid schools and districts' certification efforts as well as exemplars from 2017 certified schools, and finally to identify and develop any essential missing indicators. This year, 250 educators, leaders, and stakeholders volunteered to join the three task forces on Leadership, Education and Classroom Practice, and Technology Support and Services.

The new 2018 Indicators will be released on February 22nd in conjunction with the [North Regional Certification Summit](#) at NJIT and the kickoff of the 2018 Certification Cycle.

Future Ready Schools - New Jersey would not exist without the volunteerism and dedication of our task forces, their chairs, and their co-chairs. Thank you to the hundreds of educators who have worked on our task forces over the last two years!

Learn more about the task forces, their efforts, and their role in the program at <http://www.frsnj.org/task-forces>.

The 2018 Regional Certification Summits

OnCourse Systems Sponsors 2018 Certification Summits:

[OnCourse Systems for Education](#) is sponsoring all three of this year's Regional Certification Summits! The team at OnCourse has been involved in and supporting the #FutureReadyNJ community from nearly the beginning. They took part in the Resource Fair and Resource Sessions at the [inaugural Certification Summit](#) at NJIT. OnCourse also sponsored one of our #FutureReadyResource events at NJIT, called the [K-12 Data Visualization Summit](#).

The OnCourse team will be featured at all three of the 2018 Regional Certification Summits and will be available for attendees to discuss their future ready services and mission.

Certified Districts to Present at 2018 Certification Summits:

Each of the three [2018 Regional Certification Summits](#) will feature a presentation by a district represented in the inaugural cohort of 2017 FRS-NJ Certified Schools. Each presentation is designed to provide attendees of each summit a narrative of each districts' "Future Ready Why," how and why the decided to join the #FutureReadyNJ community and seek certification in the program's inaugural year. In addition, each district will highlight one of their Future Ready initiatives or practices so that the whole community can be informed and inspired by them.

[Morris Plains](#) will be featured at the North summit on February 22nd, [Middletown Township](#) will be featured at the Central summit which they are hosting on February 26th, and [Washington Township](#) will be featured at the South summit on February 27th.

LumApps and the Upcoming FRS-NJ Collaboration Platform:

One of FRS-NJ four missions is to foster inclusive collaboration both within schools and districts, as well as between schools and districts from across the state. To better facilitate the networking and communication needed to successfully collaborate with other members of the FRS-NJ community, we have been collaborating ourselves with [LumApps](#), a Google Suite intranet provider, to officially establish a collaboration platform for our website, www.frsnj.org.

Currently in development, this collaboration platform will enable school and district teams to work towards certification submissions and allow the entire FRS-NJ community to ask questions, network, seek collaborative opportunities, and otherwise interact with other community members in a dedicated space focused on the Future Ready mindset.

The LumApps team will be at all three of our [2018 Regional Certification Summits](#), where some of the intended features will be announced and feedback and requests will be taken into consideration as we plan, build, and eventually launch the platform.

Featured at 2018 Certification Summits



Community Events

NJSBA Technology Conference

March 9th, 2018
The Conference Center at Mercer
1200 Old Trenton Road
West Windsor, NJ

Tri-State Project Based Learning Summit

March 12th, 2018
Rutgers Continuing Education Center at Atrium
300 Atrium Drive
Somerset, NJ

#EdcampHappyCamper

April 7th, 2018
Washington Township HS
519 Hurffville-Cross Keys Road, Sewell, NJ

#nErDCampNJ 2018

April 21st, 2018
Chatham High School
255 Lafayette Avenue
Chatham Township, NJ

Do you want your events featured in this section?

Send them to us via Twitter or email it to us at frs-nj@njit.edu!

Community News

Future Ready Schools – New Jersey and several FRS-NJ community members were featured in the latest edition of the NJSBA's bi-monthly magazine, *School Leader*.

[One article](#), authored by FRS-NJ Project Coordinator Jeremy Reich, outlines the why, what, and how of the FRS-NJ Certification Program.

[A second article](#) is by one of our 2018 Co-Chairs for Collaborative Leadership, Edward Ward of Franklin Township School District in Somerset County, outlines his district's path to join the inaugural cohort of FRS-NJ certified schools and provides Ed's "Tips to Achieve FRS-NJ Certification."

A [third article](#) highlights many of the efforts conducted by the Weehawken Township School District under the leadership of Dr. Robert R. Zywicki, who has also contributed greatly to the FRS-NJ community and program.

[The final article](#) featured another prominent FRS-NJ community member, Marcos Navas, who is working with several other community members to help start TED-Ed clubs across the state to promote student voice.

Do you want your news stories featured in this section? Send them to us via Twitter or email it to us at frs-nj@njit.edu!

STEAM Tank

The 2017 STEAM Tank winning teams have been announced! Check out this student opportunity from our friends at the New Jersey School Boards Association and the US Army.

NJIT's Collaborative for Leadership, Education, and Assessment Research ([CLEAR](#)) under the leadership of Dr. James Lipuma, has been collaborating with the STEAM Tank founders since the North regional competitions in the 2017 round.

You can learn more about the program and last year's winners in [NJSBA's School Board Notes](#) and 2018 applications are due on February 8th and can be [submitted via this application form](#).



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!"

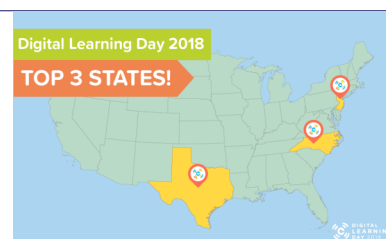
National Digital Learning Day 2018 #DLDay

Every year in late February, schools, districts, and state governments celebrate national [Digital Learning Day](#). #DLDay started in 2012 and is organized by the [Alliance for Excellent Education](#) (All4Ed), the same organization behind the national Future Ready Schools initiative.

Last year, we celebrated #DLDay with our first [#FutureReadyResource event at NJIT with Summit Learning](#).

This year, we are celebrating all week! February 22nd, this year's #DLDay, will be marked with the first of our three [Regional Certification Summits](#) at NJIT, followed by two more summits the next week in Middletown Township and at Stockton University.

In addition, All4Ed will be hosting a webinar focused on "[How Innovative Districts Blend Teaching and Technology to Improve Student Outcomes](#)." New Jersey was also recently announced as one of the top three states for registered #DLDay events on their map at <http://digitallearningday.org/register-your-event/>!



Upcoming Events

Apple Leadership Event at NJIT

February 9th, 2018

NJIT, Newark NJ

Join Future Ready Schools of New Jersey and Apple for a one-day event designed exclusively for New Jersey K–12 district and school leaders who are embarking on a one-to-one learning initiative in their schools. Using Challenge Based Learning, attendees will learn how to develop a vision, set goals for or advance their one-to-one program, and identify effective forms of assessment.

Learn more and register at <http://www.frsnj.org/apple-at-njit-2>

2018 FRS-NJ Regional Certification Summits

February 22nd, 26th, and 27th, 2018

NJIT, Bayshore Middle School, Middletown Township, and Stockton University

The FRS-NJ Certification Summits are the official launch of the year's Indicators of Future Readiness, the opening of the Certification Submission phase of the program, and an opportunity for school and district Future Ready Teams to learn about the full process of certification while beginning to plan and execute their submissions.

Learn more and register at <http://www.frsnj.org/cert-summits-2018>

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>