



The Future Ready Schools - NJ Monthly Newsletter

Welcome Back to School New Jersey Educators!

Jeremy Reich, FRS-NJ Project Coordinator

The Future Ready Schools - New Jersey coalition welcome you back to a new school year and what promises to be another great year for the FRS-NJ community!

The 2018 certification cycle is quickly coming to a close as the Awards Review process nears completion. Schools will be notified of their certification status on September 15th in order to make preparations for the Awards Ceremony on October 23rd at NJSBA's [Workshop 2018](#).

It is only due to the dedication of this year's active Awards Committee members, and through the leadership of their chairs Evan Abramson (Millburn Township, Wendy Morales (Middletown Township), and Stephany Hesslein (Middletown Township) that it has been even remotely possible to provide feedback to the 192 schools that submitted for certification this year.

Through this process, we have learned an immense amount from the community and have already started the process of updating the procedures, mechanics, and content of certification program to make it as smooth, effective, and efficient an experience as possible.

However, the Indicators of Future Readiness will not endure a similar change to the 104-50 indicator count update between 2017 and 2018 and changes to the Indicators themselves will be minimal. This means that you can start the self-assessment portion of the certification program now! Check out Pg. 3 to learn more.

We hope that you as community members will join us for the celebrations in late October at Workshop 2018, including the Awards Ceremony and the newly announced Networking Lunch & Certification Celebration in the Future Ready Schools - NJ center right after! There will also be presentations by community members that have gone through the process, so come by to learn, network, and foster new collaborations!

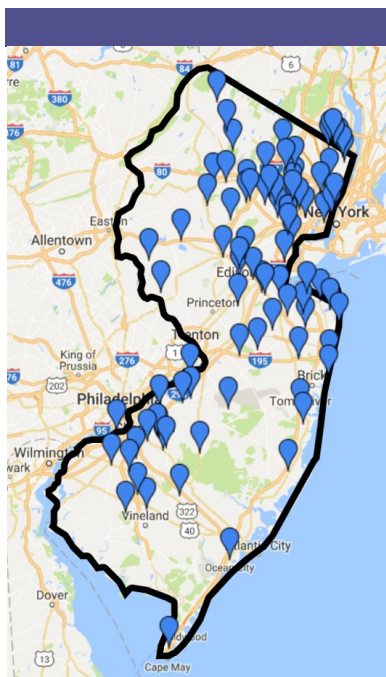
Until then, we wish you, your school, and your student a happy and successful 2018-2019 school year!

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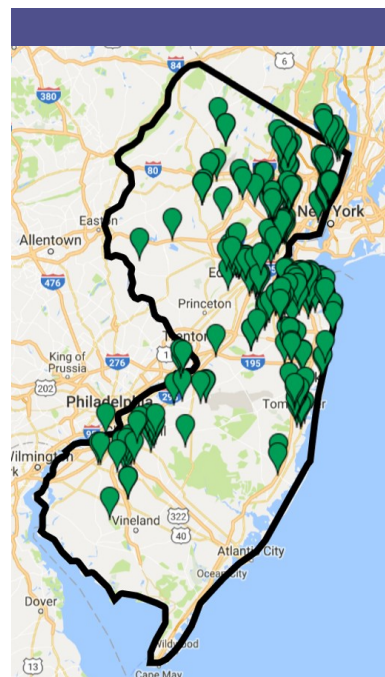
FRS-NJ By the Numbers

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

From those districts, **265** 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

[NJ Digital Education Soars Under Future Ready Schools - New Jersey Initiative](#)

[A History and Legacy of STEM Education at NJIT](#)

[John Henry Named Sustainability Hero by Sustainable Jersey for Schools](#)

[All Girls LEGO Tech Challenge Team Recruiting at NJIT](#)

[5 Grants to Address Digital Inequities and Fund Classrooms](#)

[4 Ways AR/VR Can Transform Your Lesson Plan](#)

[Keep Parents in the Loop for Smoother 1:1 Device Initiatives](#)

[Technology is Key for Boosting Classroom Equity](#)

[5 Steps to a Successful K-12 STEM Program Design](#)

[4 Cybersecurity Concerns for State Leaders](#)

FRS-NJ Community Sessions and Events at NJSBA's Workshop 2018 (Updated)

Tuesday, October 23rd

Deconstructing Walls Between Education and Technology	9:30am-10:30
FRS-NJ Awards Ceremony	11:00am-12:15
Networking Lunch & Certification Celebration in the Future Ready - NJ Center	12:15pm-1:00
Meet the FRS-NJ Chairs!	1:00pm-2:00

Wednesday, October 24th

@WeAreMPSD: The #FRSNewJersey Journey	9:30am-10:30
Checking in with your School Librarian	11:00am-12:00
Future Ready Framework for All Students	12:00pm-1:00
Future Ready Coaching: Personalized Evaluation Model	1:00pm-2:00
Tools, Tips and Processes for Evaluating your Technology Plan/Projects	2:30pm-3:30

FRS-NJ and STEAM Tank: A Winning Combination for Student Entrepreneurism and School Certification



STEAM Tank is shaping up to be a winning combination for student entrepreneurship and Future Ready Schools NJ. In October 2018, 30 elementary, 30 middle and 30 high school teams will present their entrepreneurial ideas at NJSBA/NJASA/NJASBO annual Workshop on Oct 23 and 24 in the Atlantic City Convention Center. STEAM Tank, in its third year, received over 400 applications and is modeled, in part, after the popular TV show Shark Tank, where ideas are pitched to judges and either funded or not. Similarly, STEAM Tank places students in the role of inventors, designers, engineers, and entrepreneurs. The challenge, intentionally designed so student teams can take their creativity and innovative ideas in any direction they choose. So far, the results from the student teams have impressed even the most challenging STEAM Tank judges. How does STEAM Tank relate to Future Ready Schools NJ? Perfectly! For example, 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.

For more information and to find out how to get involved, contact us at steamtank@njsba.org

Thinking About 2019 Certification? You Can Start Now!

Reprinted from the August Issue of the FRS-NJ Monthly Newsletter

The 2018 FRS-NJ certification cycle may be over, but unlike the transition from 2017 to 2018, there will be on minor differences between the 2018 and 2018 [Indicators of Future Readiness](#).

This means that the program has reached new territory where, although certification submissions will still be submitted for review and certification in a constrained time period, schools can begin using the 2018 indicators to prepare for 2019 certification submission!

As always, the [District Commitment](#) and [School Participation](#) phases of the program are rolling. The submission period for 2019 will begin at the 2019 FRS-NJ Certification Summit currently scheduled for [Digital Learning Day](#) on February 28th, 2019 and will close again on June 30th.

At that time, if earlier is not possible, updated indicators and tracking sheets will be released. There may be a few additional indicators to fill critical gaps, but most other updates will be focused on the addition of resources, certified school exemplars, and more minor fixes. Transitioning work done before that time will be relatively easy and quick.

If we can be of any support or service to your Future Ready efforts, let us know!





FRS-NJ Corporate Thought Partners Collaborative Holds First Meeting

On August 2nd, Future Ready Schools - New Jersey held the inaugural meeting of the Corporate Thought Partners Collaborative (CTPC) at the New Jersey School Boards Association in Trenton.

About 50 members representing forty companies and organizations were in attendance at the first meeting. The entire CTPC (at the time of writing) consists of almost 60 members representing 50 companies and organizations.

The CTPC was established to provide corporations and other organizations with a means to support the FRS-NJ community with guidance, possible resources, and other opportunities using the collaborative model developed for the FRS-NJ Task Forces and Awards Committee.

FRS-NJ collaborates with members of the CTPC, but remains vendor-agnostic, meaning that the program does not endorse services or products from any particular company or organization over others. There is no financial benefit to FRS-NJ from CTPC members as the group is voluntary and has no cost to join. However, there is substantial benefit to NJ students, educators, and leaders through the contributions of the CTPC's members to the program.

The founding of the CTPC is part of FRS-NJ's process to establish a small grants program and professional development opportunities aligned with the FRS-NJ Indicators. If you represent a company or organization that is interested in joining future meetings of the CTPC, contact us at frs-nj@njit.edu



Upcoming Community Events

E-Rate 101:

What's New for 2018-2019?

September 12th, 2018
Webinar

E-Rate Program:

Category Two Procurement and Anticipated Changes to Program Rules

September 18th, 2018
Webinar

E-Rate Category 2:

Optimize Your Internal Network Upgrade

September 19th, 2018
Webinar

EdCamp Newark

September 22nd, 2018
Newark, NJ

EdSurge Fusion

October 2nd-4th, 2018
Burlingame, CA

Pequannock Tech Summit

October 5th, 2018
Pequannock, NJ

Rewire

October 5th-6th, 2018
Tabernacle, NJ

East Brunswick

EdCamp Exit 9

October 6th, 2018
East Brunswick, NJ

NJCSA Annual Conference

October 11th-12th, 2018
Newark, NJ

EdCampHAT

October 13th, 2018
High Point Regional HS, NJ

Jersey Shore

MakerFest

October 20th, 2018
Toms River, NJ

EdCampNJ

November 17th, 2018
New Brunswick, NJ

Edge.Con 2019

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

NJIT Education Day

January 15th, 2019
Newark, NJ
[Information Letter](#) (PDF)
[Registration Form](#) (PDF)

Digital Learning Day 2019

February 28th, 2019
Celebrate with events in your school and district!

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!

Our Upcoming Events

NJSBA's Workshop 2018

October 22nd-25th, 2018

Atlantic City, NJ

[Workshop 2018](#) is the largest professional development event for school leaders in New Jersey and will feature a host of new opportunities to learn about technology, including sessions in the Future Ready - NJ Center, and hands-on technology in the Innovation and Learning Center.

Workshop marks the end of each FRS-NJ certification cycle and initiates our efforts to update the program for the next round. This year, the annual FRS-NJ Awards Ceremony will be on the morning of October 23rd. We invite you to join us in celebrating all of the schools that achieve certification in 2018 and to congratulate the inaugural cohort of Silver Level certified schools!

We will continue the celebration of these accomplishments, as well as the celebration of the efforts of the entire #FutureReadyNJ community, in the Future Ready NJ Center on the exhibit floor! Join us for important, informative, and exciting sessions led by community members throughout the 23rd and 24th.

[Learn more and register!](#)

"Are You Future Ready?" Working Sessions

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

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!