



The Future Ready Schools - NJ Monthly Newsletter

The 2018 Certification Cycle Has Closed!

As of the night of June 30th, the 2018 Future Ready Schools - New Jersey certification cycle is closed for submissions and has now entered the Awards Review phase of the program!

Out of the 260 participating schools from 93 committed districts, 190 schools from 54 districts submitted for 2018 certification. 41 of those submissions were for the newly released Silver Tier certification, building off of their 2017 Bronze Tier certification and expanding on what they learned through the process last year. To compare, as of June 30th, 2017 there were 81 participating schools from 33 committed districts.

More Awards Committee Volunteers Needed!

Due to the high number of certification submissions, we are re-opening the call for 2018 Awards Committee volunteers to donate their time and expertise to help provide feedback to those schools that have submitted for certification. Not only do committee members perform an immensely positive service to submitters, but they also get to learn directly from their submissions and participate in an amazing collaborative effort and network with educators and leaders from across New Jersey. If you are interested in joining, [sign up with this submission form](#)!

Planning to Submit in 2019?

If your school is planning to submit for 2019 certification, you can begin the process now! District Commitment and School Participation are rolling and can be completed at any time. The 2019 indicators will not be changing drastically from the current indicators, so you can even begin your certification efforts now!

Celebrating at Workshop 2018!

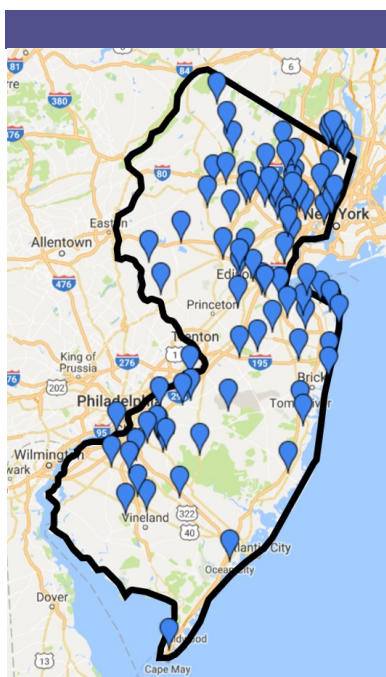
We hope you'll join us for the 2018 FRS-NJ Awards Ceremony at NJSBA's [Workshop 2018](#) and invite you to join us to learn from and celebrate the #FutureReadyNJ community in the FRS-NJ Center at this year's conference! Have a fantastic summer in the meantime everyone!

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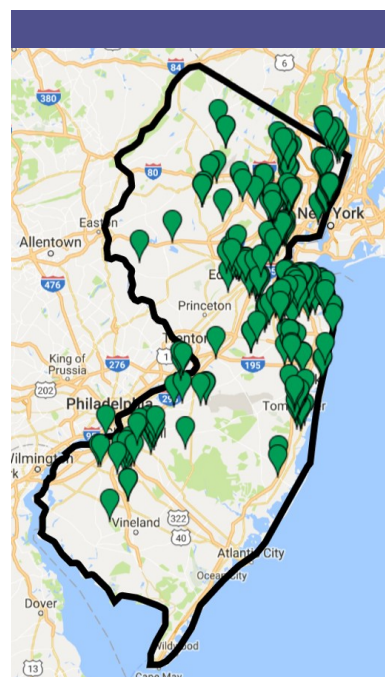
FRS-NJ By the Numbers

As of the date of publication, **93** NJ Districts have officially committed to support their schools' #FutureReady efforts (left).

From those districts, **260** 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

[West Orange Tech Director Presents Future Ready Schools Program to Board of Education](#)

[Edcamps: The 'Unconferences,' Where Teachers Teach Themselves](#)

[Are You a Future Ready Librarian?](#)

[ISTE 2018: New Standards for Leaders Focus on Equity, Digital Citizenship](#)

[New CoSN Digital Equity Initiative Toolkit](#)

[A Guidebook for Success: Strategies for Implementing Personalized Learning in Rural Schools](#)

Want your news articles or blog posts featured in this section? Send them to us!

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

Global Counterparts in Education - Cohesive Future Readiness

By Christine Lion-Bailey, reprinted with permission from her blog, [The Innovative Tech Director](#)

I am, at heart, a people person through and through. I love to meet new people and have the opportunity to learn about their lives, their culture, and their passions. I enjoy finding commonalities with folks who newly enter into my life as well as differences, which often lead to charged and exciting conversations. I believe that in every instance in which I meet someone new, that extends beyond just the most simple of pleasantries, my life is slightly altered and I have, in turn, experienced personal growth.

The past two days have inspired me to reflect upon the impact that others have on my life. I have had the distinct pleasure, over the past two days, to get to know a gentleman who is visiting the United States from New Zealand. A fellow educational leader, who has been awarded with one of the most prestigious fellowships available to educators in his home country, Chris Murphy has spent the past 12 weeks traveling the world (quite literally) to observe and engage in education settings from a global standpoint. Chris has visited the likes of Cambodia, Morocco, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Finland, and numerous locations throughout the United States in an effort to learn about the educational practices and leadership of his global counterparts. Luckily, Morris Plains, New Jersey was on his list of places to stop and much to our delight, it proved to be our great fortune to host this insightful and inspirational guest.

Over the course of the two days that Chris joined our team in Morris Plains, we discussed many aspects of education. From pedagogy and content to social emotional learning and community connections, the very essence of what we are all trying to achieve as educators is very similar regardless of the hemisphere in which you are striving to accomplish the goal. It was validating to know that what we believe so strongly, in our small New Jersey district, about the importance of educating children for a future that is unknown is a common sentiment shared by our New Zealand counterparts. The desire to foster and encourage social emotional growth, the deeply rooted need

for children to understand and display empathy, the constant passion for breaking physical barriers and encompassing global awareness within the learning experience, are all aspects of teaching and educating youth that are consistent between both of our worlds. If, in fact, we are all striving to equally produce future leaders and global citizens with these attributes and competencies, then we are equally preparing for our world to be in confident and compassionate hands.

At one point during Chris's visit, we got to talking about the desire to empower our students to take learning beyond the physical boundaries of the classroom walls. I explained to Chris how our district has committed to having students access their learning through VR Lab experiences via our new VR equipment that we recently purchased. In preparation for Chris's visit, I had asked our Technology & Network Manager to set-up one of the VR machines in my office so that I could share with our visitor the many exciting learning opportunities that we plan to offer to our students and staff in the upcoming school year. As we began to walk through the equipment and dive into some of the VR experiences, we accessed Google Earth. I began to explain to Chris how we intend to partner with other schools around the world next year to participate in collaborative units of study and, it is our hope that, our students will be entrenched in a global awareness aspect to this learning experience by being able to virtually visit the city/town/village in which the collaborating class resides via the VR equipment. As we discussed this initiative, I asked Chris if he could, using the VR equipment, take us to his hometown in New Zealand. It is at this point that the magic happened.

After spending close to 10 hours together, 4 car rides, 3 meals, and countless conversations, it was putting on the VR headset and having Chris navigate me through New Zealand by which I took a virtual tour of his home land that I was able to truly understand who he was and where he came from.

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It was absolutely magical to virtually walk the roads of his village, fly over his school, to tour the town where he grew up and the farm from which one of his students travels over 100 miles per day to attend school. It was heartwarming, personalized, and allowed for me to make a deep personal connection to who Chris Murphy is and what makes him unique. It was in this moment that I realized the power that the VR experience brought to my time with Chris and, in turn, the power that the VR experience will bring to our learners and to our teachers in the upcoming school year. To create such an emotionally charged learning opportunity for students where they are immersed in their learning in a manner that reaches far beyond content is powerful, inspiring, and future ready.

I am sad that my time with Chris Murphy has come to an end, as he continues on in his global journey seeking knowledge and insight into educational practices and leadership; however, I am grateful and inspired by the experiences that we shared over the past two days. Chris's visit to Morris Plains has been validating of our efforts thus far, inspiring of the ideas and visions that we have for the future, and affirming of the global commitment to the aspects of education that we are choosing to pursue in our small corner of the world. While we have said goodbye for now, it is nice to know that Morris Plains will always have a friend in New Zealand and that Chris will always have a home in Morris Plains.

EdSurge Providing Conference Discount to FRS-NJ Community

"Are you ready to take your personalized learning initiative to the next level? The EdSurge Fusion conference will bridge the gap between theory and practice- focusing not just on technology but integrating what learning sciences, community development, and social-emotional research can teach us about the holistic picture of personalized learning in schools and districts. Friends of Future Ready Schools NJ get an additional 10% off the cost of the conference with the code **2018partner.**"

Learn more and register at <https://fusion.edsurge.com/>

Hands-On Teacher-Maker Meetup

"Bring your maker problems and ideas to work on, both low and high tech. This would be a good time to work out the kinks and develop lessons for the fall, with help from colleagues. If you're stuck for ideas - Pinterest has many maker pages, [here's just one](#).

There will be a hands-on teacher-maker meet up Thursday 7/5, Kennedy Library, 500 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, from 10:00 to 2:00. Bring your ideas & projects, get help from the group. Some tools & materials will be available, but try to bring what you think you'll need. JFK Library has free, open wireless, vending machines, and an area for consuming refreshments. Minimum age for attendees is 18. Contact davezirk@gmail.com if you have questions. Sign up [using this link](#).

Registration is Now Open for National Future Ready Schools Institutes

"Future Ready Schools® (FRS) institutes are FREE two-day professional learning events designed to support school and district leaders in creating policies, procedures, and practices that empower them to transform teaching and learning in their school and/or district."

Learn more and register at <https://futureready.org/institutes/>

Upcoming Community Events

EdCamp Exit 8A

July 26, 2018

Monroe, NJ

Math and Science

Teacher Statistics

Workshop at JSM2018

July 28 - August 2nd, 2018

Vancouver, BC, Canada

TechSplash2018

August 1st, 2018

Marlboro, NJ

Hunterdon County

EdTechFest

August 15th, 2018

Flemington, NJ

EdCamp Jersey

Shore

August 23rd, 2018

Monmouth U., NJ

EdSurge Fusion

October 2-4, 2018

Burlingame, CA

Pequannock Tech

Summit

October 5, 2018

Pequannock, NJ

East Brunswick

EdCamp Exit 9

October 6th, 2018

East Brunswick, NJ

EdCampHAT

October 13th, 2018

High Point Regional HS, NJ

Jersey Shore

MakerFest

October 20, 2018

Toms River, NJ

Edge.Con 2019

January 9-11, 2019

Long Branch, NJ

Digital Learning Day 2019

February 28, 2019

Celebrate with events in
your school and district!

NJ Makers Day

March 22-23, 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](mailto:frs-nj@njit.edu)!

Our Upcoming Events

NJSBA's Workshop 2018

October 22-25, 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!](#)

Have a wonderful summer and happy 4th of July!

