

Resolution to Participate in Future Ready Schools – New Jersey

As educational stakeholders in New Jersey work to prepare students for the information age, which is powered by new technologies that connect people, ideas, data, and content in rapidly changing ways, it must be ensured that New Jersey's schools are provided with technology-rich environments needed in order to produce engaged and successful members of a digital age society and workforce. New Jersey's schools must establish a culture of digital innovation that empowers educators to deepen and extend student learning through the use of technology, digital content, and media.


The goal of the Future Ready Schools – New Jersey (FRS-NJ) Certification Program is to support the statewide modernization of New Jersey schools, promoting a systemic approach to change through the cycle of transformation where districts envision, plan, implement, and assess continually with effective personalized student learning as the focal point for their aligned efforts. This will lead to students engaging in the learning process in new ways, utilizing digital learning tools and skills. The FRS-NJ Certification Program will provide needed guidance and resources to school leaders, administrators, and school board members regarding how to identify gaps in district/school preparedness for digital learning and make resources available that will help to address those gaps.

FRS-NJ will provide digital resources and guidance, as well as utilizing social media channels and web channels and other technologies, to provide information and support for digital learning to all stakeholders.

The Future Ready Schools – New Jersey Program is a **voluntary** program that was endorsed on October 25th, 2016 by the New Jersey Department of Education, the New Jersey School Boards Association, the New Jersey Education Association, the New Jersey Parent Teacher Association, the New Jersey Association for School Administrators, the New Jersey Association for School Business Officials, and the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association.

Participation does not obligate the school district to any specific time commitment or budgetary obligations. Schools and districts may choose to cease program participation at any time.

The Future Ready Schools - New Jersey Certification Program: There are two phases to the Future Ready Schools – NJ certification program; commitment and certification. The Commitment Phase ensures that school districts are dedicated to supporting their school's efforts, and that these efforts are collaborative. Once a district is committed, schools in the district can apply for certification. The Certification Phase enables individual schools to apply for



certification by taking actions that lead to success in the Future Ready Schools - New Jersey indicators of Future Readiness. Each indicator is designed to provide a framework for school's efforts to best prepare their students for success in college, career, and citizenship, connects educators with potential resources to do so, and provides the recognition due for success through certification.

The Commitment Phase: The first step towards certification program is to secure the district's commitment to supporting the Future Ready efforts of its schools. In order for a district to be recognized as Future Ready Committed, districts will have to implement and submit the following items:

- **Sign the Future Ready Pledge** to begin the process of committing your district to support your schools' #FutureReady initiatives.
- **Enact the Board Resolution (Template coming soon!)** to declare your district leadership's commitment to supporting your schools' #FutureReady efforts.
- **Establish the District-Level Future Ready Team (Details coming soon!)** to begin district-wide collaboration efforts to plan and implement Future Ready initiatives and ensure that each school's needs are represented and supported. District-level teams should include the following members:
 - A board of education member
 - The superintendent
 - A technology director or IT personnel
 - School and district leaders, as well as educators, who are dedicated to the success of the district's Future Ready efforts
 - And the lead chair from each school's Future Ready team (once they are established)
- **Conduct the Optional District Self-Assessment** to discover your district's strengths and needs within the context of the national Future Ready framework. This is an optional step, but will help your district and schools' Future Ready team create action plans for certification that will best address each school's specific needs and capacity.
- **Submit the Commitment Pre-Application (Opens May 2017)** to officially enter the Future Ready Schools - New Jersey Certification Program and be recognized as a district that is committed to becoming #FutureReady and supporting its schools and educators' Future Ready initiatives. Once a district is committed, its schools can begin applying for certification!

The Certification Phase: Once a district has successfully committed to being Future Ready, schools can begin submitting evidence of their success in indicators of Future Readiness based upon the Future Ready framework which has been 'New Jersey-ized' and adapted by the Future Ready Schools – NJ task forces. These indicators will be available on the website this May. In order for schools to be eligible to apply for Future Ready Schools - NJ certification, they must implement and submit the following items:

- **Establish a School-Level Future Ready Team** to begin school-wide collaboration efforts to plan and implement Future Ready initiatives and ensure that your entire school's needs are represented and supported. The lead chair of the school-level team will also be a member of the district-level team to ensure that the district's efforts are collaborative and that the school's efforts are best supported by the district. School-level teams should include the following members:
 - The principal
 - A representative of each academic and administrative department
 - and educators who are dedicated to the success of your school's Future Ready initiatives
- **Conduct an Optional School Self-Assessment** by selecting a self-assessment tool to help inform your school's #FutureReady vision. This is an optional step, but will help your school's Future Ready team create action plans for certification that will best address your school's specific needs and capacity.
- **Develop and Action Plan for Certification** by strategically planning which Future Ready Schools - New Jersey indicators of Future Readiness your school will strive to achieve success in and submit for certification
- **Implement Actions to Achieve Success in Future Ready Schools - NJ Indicators** of Future Readiness, which are optional objectives that schools can strive to achieve success in and submit for credit towards being certified as #FutureReady. These indicators will be available by May 8th, 2017 and the inaugural Future Ready Schools - New Jersey Certification Summit.
- **Submit Evidence of Success in Future Ready Schools - NJ Indicators** to the Future Ready Schools - New Jersey team between May 8th and June 30th for review and feedback.
- **Conduct Evidence Review and Feedback with the Future Ready Schools - NJ Team**, which will enable us to best support your #FutureReady efforts and ensure your school benefits as much as possible from the Future Ready Schools - New Jersey Certification Program.
- **Attend the Awards Ceremony at Workshop 2017** to see how other districts are becoming Future Ready, to be recognized for your school and district's #FutureReady efforts, and to celebrate the first schools to be certified by Future Ready Schools - New Jersey!

Participation in Future Ready Schools NJ

Whereas — The Township of Union Board of Education first seeks to support the identification of a Future Ready Schools – New Jersey district team lead and create a team of FRS-NJ specialists that infuse Digital Learning across multiple disciplines including: math, technology, media, arts, science, language arts, and Career and Technical Education.

Whereas — The Township of Union Board of Education will support and promote the development of individual school Future Ready teams that infuse Digital Learning across multiple disciplines including: math, technology education, media, arts, science, language arts, and Career and Technical Education.

Therefore, it is resolved that the Township of Union Board of Education agrees to participate in the Future Ready Schools – New Jersey.

We hereby appoint Sandra Paul, Director of Technology, to be the district’s liaison to the Future Ready Schools – New Jersey, who will report to the board upon the completion of tasks for the certification program.

We do hereby recognize that Gregory E. Brennan, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary will be the responsible agent at the district level to carry out the district’s commitment for its schools to participate in Future Ready Schools – New Jersey.

We agree to follow through with the district’s commitment and support our schools achieve certification through the Future Ready Schools – New Jersey Certification Program.

Signature of President of the Board of Education

Date

Ron McDowell

Signature of District Superintendent

Date

Gregory A. Tatum

Signature of Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Date

Gregory E. Brennan