

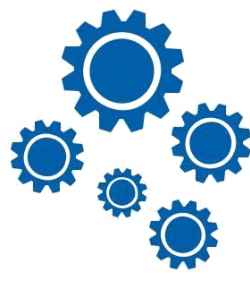
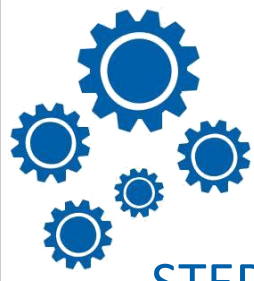
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ATL PROGRAM

The Atal Tinkering Lab is a novel concept for our country. While there have been similar activities by some schools and organizations, the efforts and coverage have been sporadic and more individualistic in nature. With the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the setting up of Atal Tinkering Labs in schools across the country, the objective is to provide this opportunity to a much wider audience. The expectation is to have an impact on the entire education system in the country and lead our future citizens towards joining the global workforce as tech creators armed with skills for the future.

Towards this objective and expectation, it is essential to integrate the concept of Atal Tinkering Labs within our formal school education system. Considering that education follows a set path in our country, all of us together will have to identify transacts between the existing system, and the necessary and optimal flow of this new concept of tinkering.

To begin with here are some basic guidelines:

1. ATL is for all class/grade VI–XII students. Students from other grades/classes can also be exposed to ATL as per the discretion of the school.
2. All students must be briefed about ATL (basic Information along with a scheduled visit to the ATL in the school)



STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Step I - Rolling out the action plan

The first stage in the implementation process is to create a plan and arrange for necessary resources needed to make the plan successful. This would involve the following:

- i. Please refer to the plan document created by your school management/Principal/ATL in-charge (if not done yet please refer to the plan document for establishing the ATL in the Operation Manual.)

Schools are advised to find best practices on the following functional Areas:

1. Physical space allocation/identification
2. Human resource allocation for ATL
3. Decide/identify technical resource – tools and materials
4. Design a focused and feasible time table

Recommended process

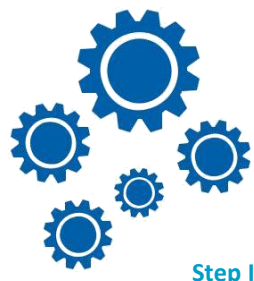
- Utilize zero periods/class teacher's periods for dedicated sessions for tinkering.
 - If there are no zero periods, please discuss and try to get them included in the time table in such a way that as and when needed, large numbers of students can undergo training/orientation.
 - Use block periods for continuous lab sessions – this would help provide the students ample time to work at a stretch.
 - Make a time table for after-school hours for school students and similarly, students from other schools.
- ii. Work on your existing school time table and make time for tinkering - for ATL. There should be predefined hours in a week when students would be allowed and expected to either visit the lab and/or be part of orientation sessions in their classroom itself. This would help to bring in regularity and uniformity.
 - iii. Orient and train teachers other than the ATL in-charge

The ATL in-charge single-handedly may not be able to manage and would need support from other teachers to:

- Identify students for ATL from various sections and classes
- Provide basic orientation and logistic support for ATL visits
- Be available as a substitute teacher in absence of ATL in-charge
- Support in the ATL for various activities

Thus, it is imperative to involve other teaching staff also – provide them with the overall perspective and importance of the program and prime them to support by setting the expectations from the beginning itself.

Towards this aim, NITI Aayog will be sharing more information on the training plan for the selected teachers of the school.



Step II - Enrolling students in Atal Tinkering Labs

By now, your school has:

- A functional Atal Tinkering Lab
- A qualified Atal Tinkering Lab in-charge
- Other teaching staff trained to support the ATL

Now the next step is to get the main beneficiaries of the program on board – get students to join the tinkering lab – become part of it and start using the facility as has been envisaged. In general, all the students of the school in certain grades have to be oriented. While this has been mandated, there may still be a need for spreading awareness through various options. [\(To know more please refer to the Information Management section in the ATL Operation Manual\)](#)

For students from the community outside of school, a sustained focused effort has to be made by the ATL Advisory Committee, spearheaded by the ATL in-charge. [\(To know more please refer to the Information Management section in the ATL Operation Manual\)](#)

Recommended process

- Student identification and nomination needs to be a continuous process, and teachers will play a key role in it
- Self-registration can be one of the options, post which the ATL in-charge along with other teachers can discuss and decide
- Open communication between parents and teachers throughout the process is important
- Interesting sessions to be organized in the lab to generate curiosity towards the program and get the students attracted to make optimum use of the lab

To enrol students from the community:

- Invite neighbouring schools to participate in events held in your school
- Collaborate with NGOs working in the locality to identify, mobilize, and convince students and parents to allow their wards to get enrolled
- Seek help of local government bodies in identifying meritorious candidates or those with scientific bent of mind
- Prepare a separate time table for them for vacations and weekends to conduct block sessions as may be decided mutually

The next stage would be to integrate the program within the formal education scenario.