

Evaluating tools for making

Makerspaces provide access to tools and materials. But since every makerspace is different, there is no one-size-fits-all shopping list. It is important to know the right questions to ask when considering a new purchase in order to invest school resources in the tools that are appropriate for the developmental stage of your program.

Use this worksheet as a guide when investing in new tools, seeking out donated tools, or expanding your toolkit.

Tool: _____

Manufacturer: _____

Up-front cost: \$ _____

Estimated annual maintenance: \$ _____

Ongoing consumables may include:

Estimated annual cost for consumables: \$ _____

Does this tool require the use of any peripheral tools or non-consumable accessories?

Does this tool require software in order to function? If so, the software must export...

** Be sure to confirm that any software is compatible with the operating system of your computers*

Access and Integration

In general, I expect this tool to be used _____ times per _____ .
(number) (class/week/day/month)

Who will be operating/using the tool?

K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 adults

What is the ideal tool-to-student ratio for this tool to be useful in a classroom setting?

1:1 1:2 1:5 1:10 2:whole class 1:whole class 1:whole school
(Tool:Student)

Describe how this tool integrates into the workflow of a typical user from conception to cleanup:

Safety

Safety Checklist:

Eye protection Hearing protection Secure loose clothing, jewelry, hair
 Ventilation Designated working space Adult supervision

How much training do students need in order to use this tool safely?

No up-front training Intensive up-front training

Does this tool require adult supervision during use?

Independent use Explicit permission Direct supervision

How much training will adults need to maintain this tool and to help students use it safely?

No up-front training Intensive up-front training

Learning and effective use

Describe your plan for introducing and supporting appropriate use among adults and students:

Describe a specific project/activity when this tool will be used:

Do any peripheral tools, equipment, or software require their own training and/or supervision?



What specific skills and knowledge will users develop as they gain experience with this tool?