



Being a GenYES Advisor

GenYES is a class or club where students learn technology skills so they can help their own schools embrace technology in every classroom. GenYES students learn to help teachers with technology curriculum projects, do level 1 tech support, and sometimes extend this support to the community. GenYES is a proven, research-based model that brings the power of technology into schools and classrooms to improve education for everyone.

At the heart of this model is an adult staff member at the school, the GenYES Advisor. This person leads and teaches the GenYES students in their new responsibilities as technology leaders and mentors throughout the school.



GenYES has been delivered in thousands of schools—urban, rural, and everything in between—from native Alaskan villages to Kansas plains, New York City to Sao Paulo. GenYES Advisors have come from every type of background as well. Some are tech gurus, some are not. Some are veteran teachers, some are brand new teachers, some are staff members. But they all share the conviction that this generation of students can be valuable partners in the job of bringing our schools into the 21st century. They believe that giving students responsibility creates responsible students, and that trusting students creates trustworthy students. GenYES is often a class where students gain self-esteem and confidence in addition to 21st century skills.

Authentic Learning

GenYES is based on constructivist, project-based theories of education. This means that GenYES student activities are designed to encourage students in self-directed exploration and discovery. This results in a dynamic, student-centered classroom



environment. This model of education may be new to you, or it may feel very familiar. A project-based classroom usually has minimal instruction from the teacher at the front of the class. There may be times when you present material to students. There may be other times when you have students presenting. There may be students working on many things at once, students mentoring other students, or students reviewing each other's work. The teacher's role becomes that of a facilitator of a learning community, rather than the single source of all knowledge.

The resources and tools provided by the Generation YES company support the GenYES Advisor in this endeavor. They provide tried-and-true activities and curriculum refined over 12 years in thousands of GenYES schools. The easy-to-use online tools allow students to track their projects, and give GenYES Advisors a class management interface to see student work. The online system provides a link that every teacher can use to request GenYES student help, and reports that show the impact that students have.

The GenYES Advisor Role

The GenYES Advisor is the center of the GenYES model, both in the class and throughout the school.

GenYES Advisors have two equally important roles:

Leading and teaching the GenYES class or club. This role involves planning and facilitating the day to day curriculum using the resources found on the GenYES website. During GenYES meetings, students learn technology, collaboration skills, and how technology can improve learning. Only after that foundation is established do GenYES students partner with teachers or provide tech support.



And...

Liaison to the rest of the school community. Helping everyone in the school understand the GenYES model will be more time consuming the first year but should get easier as time goes on. In time, other teachers and staff will understand the benefits of GenYES and it should become just another class or activity in your school. As time goes on, incoming GenYES students will understand their role better as they see and talk to veteran GenYES students around the school.

GenYES Advisors join a nationwide group of teachers and advisors all working with students to improve education with technology. Advisors share and learn from each other through a national listserve, online forum and discussion boards, and through a peer buddies where new GenYES Advisors are matched with veteran GenYES Advisors.

GenYES Advisors receive training from the Generation YES staff and unlimited telephone and email support.



What Do GenYES Students Do?

No matter if the GenYES students meet as a class or as a club, the GenYES Advisor prepares and coaches the students and provides adult leadership for the tasks the students take on at the school.

Tasks/Projects	Examples
<p>Technology integration - Help a teacher with a project that integrates technology into that teacher's classroom.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a multimedia presentation for a teacher to use in a lesson • Teach a class how to use video equipment and video production software for a class assignment • Teach a teacher how to create customized active whiteboard activities • Build a website with links to lesson resources • Learn to use district classroom management software and help a teacher put lessons online • Maintain a school podcast channel and offer to record teacher lessons to put online
<p>Teach Technology - Help teachers and other adults by teaching them how to use technology applications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show a teacher how to synchronize an interactive white board • Train a teacher how to use a video/multimedia subscription service to find educational resources • Explain to teachers how they can keep their website updated
<p>Tech Infrastructure support - Fix and prevent technology problems found on school campus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be on call to fix problems with classroom technology • Refurbishing, maintaining, and repairing computers • Create help guides or training resources related the school's hardware, software, or network infrastructure • Attend vendor training for new hardware or software • Assist IT staff with technology support tasks as needed

GenYES Curriculum

GenYES Curriculum units contain extensive lesson plans and resources designed to help a teacher teach a daily GenYES class, or to support a GenYES club that meets less frequently. The GenYES license also includes a printed Implementation Guide and unlimited support from the Generation YES staff to help you plan your GenYES class and answer questions along the way.

There are currently 24 units of GenYES curriculum available, three included in the Basic License. Each unit contains multiple activities all fully accessible online, along with extensive video, print and web-based resources that support the teaching and learning process.

Taken together, they offer over 3 years of daily lessons and activities. But don't worry, there is NEVER an instance where an Advisor would want to use all 24 units in a single course. The goal is to provide a very flexible range of resources to pick and choose from. Each GenYES school can design their own path through these units, and in fact, could have different paths for different GenYES classes.

Units	Group	Focus
1 (Basic)	Getting Started Guides	Introducing GenYES, collaboration skills, teaching and mentoring, project planning, beginning tech support
2 (Basic)	Specialty Technology Guides	Ideas for GenYES projects, suggestions for software and hardware, guides to using common school software and hardware
3 (Basic)	Wrap Up Guides	Completing the GenYES course
4 - 8	Technology Skills	Online research, digital media, presentations, multimedia, web publishing
9 - 13	Technology Support	Troubleshooting, problem-solving, customer service, documentation, technical writing, preventive maintenance, understanding operating systems, hardware and software
14 - 18	21st Century Units	Cyber-safety, media literacy, career exploration, building portfolios
19 - 22	Leadership Units	Teaching as leading, being a leader, leadership characteristics
23 - 24	Community Service Units	Community leaders, community service projects

What are the Prerequisites for Being a GenYES Advisor?

Surprisingly, the key success factors for the GenYES Advisor have very little to do with technology. They are:

1. Familiarity with a project-based classroom environment
2. Strong relationships with the staff in a school

GenYES Advisors should be comfortable with a constructivist or project-based, problem-solving approach to learning; they must be willing to tolerate students' progressing independently and at widely varying paces; they must trust students to know more than teachers do about certain



tools and techniques, and to take on the role of expert teacher at various times; they must be comfortable about not having complete control over which resources the student accesses or what the student learns; and they must be flexible enough to change directions when technical glitches occur.

It is VERY useful if the GenYES Advisor is known and trusted by other staff members. This is a key factor in helping other teachers, staff, and your administrator open their eyes to trusting students in a new role as collaborators.

Does a GenYES Advisor have to be a teacher?

Many schools have successfully run GenYES with other staff members in charge. Library-media specialists and tech support staff have been very successful GenYES Advisors. The online GenYES curriculum has detailed activities and resources that will help any teacher teach a GenYES class.

What level of technology expertise should a GenYES Advisor have?

Most GenYES Advisors should have at least an introductory level of technology knowledge. This doesn't mean you have to know everything about the technology your school has. If you have a personal computer and use it successfully, you should be fine.

You will need to be able to:

- ✓ Send and receive email.
- ✓ Find out what software and hardware is available for your students to use.
- ✓ Find out where students can save files and documents. If they have access to a network, you will need to find out if there are permissions needed for them to save files.
- ✓ Find out about your school's policies and practices concerning technology. Your school will have an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) regarding technology that you (and your students) will need to find and understand.
- ✓ Know who to ask if you don't know something. It's fine if you don't understand every detail, but you need to be able to find the right person with the answers. It's a good idea to make friends with the person in charge of technology at your school or district.

GenYES Online Tools

Every GenYES school is assigned its own unique web domain, such as yourschool.genyes.com. This domain resides on Generation YES servers, but is accessible to registered GenYES Advisors and students through any computer with a web browser. There is no special software to download. Each GenYES Advisor and every GenYES student has a login and password to securely access the GenYES tools and accounts for their school.

Technology Assistance Projects (TAPs)

The Technology Assistance Project (TAP) is at the core of the GenYES model. The GenYES Advisor manages these TAPs with the online TAP Manager, as well as coordinating GenYES student activity during the club or class meetings.

Teachers anywhere in your school may ask for GenYES student help for all kinds of technology projects using the TAP system. These TAPs may take the student 5 minutes, 5 days, or 5 weeks to complete. Of course, as they work on these projects, the GenYES Advisor and other GenYES students are there to provide help along the way.

The GenYES Advisor assigns each TAP to a GenYES student (or team of students). These students contact the requesting teacher to find out what kind of help is needed. The GenYES student and their teacher partner collaborate on a technology solution, and the GenYES student keeps track of their work in the TAP. When a TAP is completed, both the student and requesting teacher complete a short survey.

The TAP system also generates school and district reports that show how much support GenYES students provide teachers, what kinds of support and what technology teachers are using with GenYES student support.

GenYES Advisor Dashboard

Once logged in, the GenYES Advisor Account hosts the online tool suite that makes it easy for a teacher to both teach the GenYES course and manage the logistics of a dynamic, project-based curriculum. The starting point is the GenYES Advisor Dashboard, which enables the Advisor to monitor and manage all student projects and access program resources from a single interface.

The screenshot shows the GenYES Advisor Dashboard. On the left is a sidebar with navigation links: Dashboard, TAP Manager, New TAP, My TAPs (3), Queue (4), Assigned (14), Completed (5), Blog, Wiki, and Learn. Below the sidebar is an 'ADVISORS ONLY' section with an 'Advisors' Forum' link. The main content area is titled 'Dashboard' and contains three tables of student data:

NAME	LOGIN	EMAIL	TAPS	BLOG ENTRIES	WIKI ARTICLES
Toby Evander	toby2	megan@yahoo.com	11	3	
Jamie Stanley	jamie	jstanley@stl.k12.edu	11	3	

NAME	LOGIN	EMAIL	TAPS	BLOG ENTRIES	WIKI ARTICLES
Danielle Stout	daniellest	dstout@stl.k12.edu	11	3	
Bradley Tiepula	bradleyst	btiepula@stl.k12.edu	11	3	

NAME	LOGIN	EMAIL	TAPS	BLOG ENTRIES	WIKI ARTICLES
Laura Burns	lburns	lburns@stl.k12.edu	11	3	
Joseph Chinsky	bjly	jchinsky@stl.k12.edu	11	3	
Celin Edmonds	colinet	cedmonds@stl.k12.edu	11	3	
Gianna Hayes	gianna	ghayes@stl.k12.edu	11	3	

From the Dashboard, the GenYES Advisor can:

- See all student account summaries (TAPs, blogs, and wiki articles)
- Move students into groups (or classes)
- Add students or groups, and edit student settings
- Access curriculum, help resources, and national GenYES Advisor Forums

A GenYES Advisor's Story

In the San Juan School district in central California, five middle schools have implemented GenYES for the past three years.

“Having the GenYES kids teach teachers technology has changed the culture of our school,” says Pete Ribadeneira, math teacher and GenYES Advisor at Louis Pasteur Middle School. “We make sure that the program is available to all kinds of students, not just the ones who are already successful. It lifts their self-esteem and it translates to other classes. And teachers who would never use technology before are asking for student help.” Just a few miles away at Winston Churchill Middle School, GenYES Advisor Jeff Darrow echoes this, “These kids are so talented in ways we don't expect. They've exceeded everyone's expectations, including their own.”

Pete shares these two stories - Gregor was one of those kids who couldn't be counted on, unless it was to be in the middle of a fight. Raised in a Russian-only household and failing English, Pete decided to put Gregor to work with an English teacher. At the start of every 7th grade, all English classes at Louis Pasteur create an autobiographical character perspective project. Usually, the students make a paper journal, paste in pictures of themselves, and write a bit about themselves. This year, Gregor showed his partner-teacher how to use Comic Life software, which creates a comic strip style book. The plan was for Gregor to teach the entire class how to scan their pictures and use the new software to complete the project.

Other students in GenYES videotaped his practice sessions presenting this lesson, and Gregor was sure the other students would laugh and make fun. He sat in the back row with his head down as the GenYES class viewed the video. Student comments were very positive, which surprised Gregor. Other students were excited about the software and wanted his input on other projects. At the end of the class, he was sitting up straight up with a smile on his face. Says Pete, “He walked out of the classroom that day 10 feet off the ground.”

Last year, Pete made sure that Rachel was placed in his GenYES class. Rachel was already a low performing girl, disinterested in school, and then her mother passed away. Now nothing seemed to matter, both punishment and praise were met with the same indifferent shrug. In GenYES, she was assigned to partner with an English teacher who had an idea of how to help students understand how Accelerated Reader works and navigate the process. Rachel and her teacher partner decided that a video would be best. Rachel learned to use a graphic design program and video software and created a video showing students how to check books out the library and take the assessments. This was so successful that all English teachers are using the video. Pete says, “Now Rachel has a reason to come to school. She's part of the team and valued for her contributions.”

Parents value this too – at Louis Pasteur, there are over 200 students on the waiting list to be in the GenYES class.

For more information or a tour of the GenYES online tools, please call us toll free (888) 941-4369 anytime and we would be happy to talk to you.

Generation YES

www.genyes.com