



CONTACT

Communications Team, GENup
EMAIL: info@generationup.net
WEB: generationup.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GENup 2024 End of Year Recap

Press release

Sacramento, CA

Hello GENup students and allies!

Welcome to 2025! Thanks for riding along with us.

As we reflect on our achievements in 2024, we're proud to highlight our organization's substantial impact on education policy. Our legislative successes included 22 bills signed into law, with eight authored by our student policy directors. These bills addressed crucial issues like chronic absenteeism, AI integration in education, and student representation in attendance policies.

Notable accomplishments included the passage of [SB-2771](#), enhancing chronic absenteeism awareness; [SB-1288](#), establishing AI evaluation in education; and [AB 1939](#), strengthening student voice in attendance review boards. We also co-sponsored significant legislation like [AB-2927](#) for financial literacy education, [SB 1318](#) addressing mental health support, and [SB 997](#) for opioid emergency response in schools.

On September 18, the GENup's Campaigns Team launched their campaign SignForNine, standing up for Title IX rights. Title IX has been around since 1972, but gender inequity in schools is still a reality. Girls are facing fewer opportunities, worse gear, and ignored harassment complaints. The Campaigns Team launched SignForNine in collaboration with the Women's Sports Foundation, the Representation Project, Girls4Sports, and Girls for Algorithmic Justice.

At the start of August, GENup held our third annual staff retreat in San Jose, where members of the executive team gathered to meet in person and discuss the future of GENup. We also had the chance to discuss today's #1 education issues with Trustees Berta and Chon from the Santa Clara County Board! This was an amazing opportunity for members to plan out goals for the upcoming school year and brainstorm ideas for our chapters

In May, GENup hosted our first in-person Lobby Day! 15 student lobbyists joined GENup to advocate for [SCA 2](#), which would allow those of at least 17 years of age in California to vote. GENup was able to meet with 30 Senate offices at the State Capitol in Sacramento. The Policy and Campaigns Team was extremely proud to be involved in supporting a measure like [SCA 2](#) that would encourage the involvement of youth in politics and their communities.

We were also honored to announce that **GENup has been selected as a 2024 Open Educational Resources Spark Grantee!** With campaigns launching at UC Berkeley, UC San Diego (UCSD), and UC Los Angeles (UCLA), **GENup plans to mobilize students to promote the adoption and creation of OERs on each campus.** While their efforts will directly reduce reliance on costly textbooks at the UCs, GENup hopes to also influence policies within the CSU system and CCCs, paving the way for a future where education is accessible to all students in California. Thank you, Michelson 20MM, for centering student-led initiatives as we work to expand the availability and impact of OERs!

GENup also hosted **two workshops** in March to make civic engagement and activism a possibility for more students! On March 11, Former Chief Partnerships Officer Phillip Nguyen and former GENup leaders Fiona Lu and Bella Santos participated in the [California Conference for the Social Studies](#) in a panel discussion emphasizing youth civic engagement perspectives and **strategies for educators to enhance civic participation.** On March 14, Chief Campaigns Officer Maegha Ramanathan and Former Chief Communications Officer Genavieve Koenigshofer hosted an **Activism and Youth Voice workshop** at the [CCLL GRID Statewide Summit](#) in Los Angeles, California. At the workshop, they taught dozens of students from across the state the basics of creating grassroots campaigns and public-facing communications. Then, each student made a poster using the skills they learned!

Looking ahead to 2025, we remain committed to our mission of advancing educational equity and student empowerment. Our recent Title IX toolkit development and partnership with the Women's Sports Foundation demonstrate our ongoing dedication to creating meaningful change in educational spaces. GENup is also continuing our work from 2024 on training our communications team to write opinion editorials and publish these pieces in local newspapers to uplift our youth voices.

Finally, we want to give a round of applause for our new hires and graduates this past year. Thank you for being a part of our journey at GENup!

In solidarity,
Arpita, Sophene, Jivika, and Katareena
GENup Communications Team