
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2025

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2024



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Best Buddies Iowa

Program Overview

Best Buddies is an international nonprofit organization that was founded in 1989. The purpose of Best Buddies is to establish a volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Best Buddies school friendship chapters are student-run programs at middle schools, high schools, and colleges. Buddy pairs are created between students with and without disabilities. Best Buddies program staff, a faculty advisor, and a special education advisor work together to support the students and the program.

Currently, 8 colleges, 23 high schools, and 13 middle schools across the State participate in the Best Buddies program.

Funding

The Best Buddies program was first funded in FY 2020 with an appropriation of \$25,000. In FY 2023, the amount was increased to \$35,000. School districts receiving funds are required to annually report program student participation data to the Department of Education.

Budget Unit Number

2820W310001

Doc ID 1443494

More Information

Best Buddies: bestbuddies.org/iowa

Iowa Department of Education: educateiowa.gov

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