
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2023

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2022



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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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. School districts receiving funds are required to annually report program student participation data to the Department of Education.

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More Information

Best Buddies: bestbuddies.org/iowa/

Iowa Department of Education: educateiowa.gov

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