

Best Buddies – Rider 81

General Description:

The purpose of this program is to provide support in creating opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, and leadership development for Texas high school and middle school students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities are engaged in mentoring relationships through program chapters to be successful and have opportunities for training and leadership in their schools.

Program oversight is provided by Education Service Center Region 10.

Authority:

General Appropriations Act (GAA), Article III, Rider 81, 85th Texas Legislature, 2017

Impact:

Since launching in 1993, the Best Buddies Texas’ programs have grown to 98 statewide chapters with 6,101 participants. During fiscal year 2017, state funding under Rider 81 supported 54 of those chapters in serving 4,862 students.

Funding:

Source: GAA, Article III, Rider 81, 85th Texas Legislature, 2017

Best Buddies Profile Data 2017-2018 School Year

Participating youth were served through 54 high school chapters. During 2017-2018:

- The program provided 4,862 students with targeted, individualized training and support to student leaders, an increase of 14% from the 2016-2017 school year; 947 (19%) were students with IDD.
- 879 students with IDD were matched with mentors.
- 56 student leaders from Texas high school chapters were trained at the Best Buddies International Leadership Conference.
- 48 students with IDD were trained to serve as leaders for the chapter’s officer corps.
- 14 Texas middle schools have started Best Buddies chapters with over 465 members and 103 one-to-one friendships between students with IDD and typical peers.

Appropriation	FY 2018	FY 2019
	\$200,000	\$200,000
Use of Funds		
Non-competitive interlocal contract to ESC Region 10 for program administration	\$200,000	\$200,000
Total	\$200,000	\$200,000
Total Projected Expenditures for the Biennium:		\$400,000

Resources: <https://bestbuddies.org/find-programs/texas/>