



PSCA's BUDDY BENCH GRANT

As part of its advocacy initiative, the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association continues to offer two grants of up to \$500 each for the establishment of a Buddy Bench at an elementary or middle school.

The Buddy Bench, a simple idea to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the school playground, gained attention in 2013 when Christian, a student at Roundtown Elementary School in York, PA proposed the idea of a Buddy Bench at his school. The local newspaper followed by the Huffington Post did stories on the Buddy Bench. NBC and other media aired the story and Buddy Benches caught the attention of schools across the continent. Detailed information about Buddy Benches and their evolution may be found at <http://buddybench.org>

Two grants, up to \$500 each, may be awarded.

Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible for the grant, the following criteria must be met:

1. Elementary and Middle School Counselors who are professional members of PSCA may apply.
2. All school counselors at the applying school must be professional members of PSCA.
3. The completed application in pdf form must be submitted to PSCA: pscaoffice@gmail.com no later than 6:00PM, March 31, 2020.
4. The applicant must agree that if awarded the grant, recognition of PSCA's contribution to the Buddy Bench will be placed in some way on the Bench. Such recognition requires PSCA sign-off.
5. The recipient gives permission to PSCA to publish information about the grant award.

Those selected to receive the grants will be notified by email of their selection and will receive the grant check from the PSCA treasurer. Announcement of the grant award(s) will be made through a PSCA e-blast and an announcement on the PSCA website.

Guidelines for Applicants:

The completed Grant Application must be submitted in pdf format to pscaoffice@gmail.com no later than 6:00PM, **March 31, 2020.**

Grant Recipients will be chosen by an impartial selection committee composed of PSCA members. Submit questions regarding the Buddy Bench Grant and/or Application process to pscaoffice@gmail.com

Final selection will be made by May 1, 2020.

Payment of the grant will be made directly to the school.

The format of the application may not be changed in any way. All materials submitted become the property of PSCA.

Pennsylvania School Counselors Association Buddy Bench Grant Application - 2020

This cover page must accompany the grant application.

School Counselor Name: _____
(Please Print)

School: _____

School Address: _____

Counselor E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

School District: _____

Additional School Counselors at the School: _____

We, the undersigned, understand that the grant application hereby submitted becomes the property of the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association (PSCA). If awarded the grant, we give permission to PSCA to publicize the school counselor's name, photo, school, and summary of the school's Buddy Bench "story." We agree to acknowledge the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association Grant in any publicizing of the Buddy Bench. We further agree that the Buddy Bench will be completed and "established no later than November 1, 2020 and that we will send a photo of the completed and "in place" buddy bench to pscaoffice@ gmail.com no later than November 1, 2020. Should the funds not be expended by that date, they are to be returned to PSCA.

Both signatures must be received in order to be a valid submission.

School Counselor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Principal Signature: _____ Date: _____

The Pennsylvania School Counselors Association Buddy Bench Grant was established for the purpose of providing financial assistance to elementary and middle level schools seeking to establish a Buddy Bench on their school playgrounds or similar location. Two grants of up to \$500 each may be awarded.



Grant Application: Project Details ...please attach to cover sheet

(All underlined components must be addressed or the application will be considered as incomplete.)

*Project Name

*School Display Name – If chosen, this is the formal school name that you would like used on the grant winner materials (i.e. Award letter and certificate)

*Project Summary Description – Brief description of your proposed Project (no more than 50 words)

*Project Budget

Grant Amount Requested - - Amount of grant your group is applying for and will it cover all the costs for the project

Raised/Matching Funds - Amount of money already raised for this Project

Detailed Budget Figures – Please include an estimated cost that includes where/how you will obtain the Buddy Bench and/or materials to build it.

How will the school plan to obtain the remaining funds if the grant will not cover the entire Project cost?

*Project Schedule - Description of the proposed schedule for this Project from funding date through to completion. (Maximum 50 words).

*Project Description - Detailed description of the Project (maximum 500 words) - The description should address the questions below.

1. What is the mission of your Buddy Bench Project?
2. What will the Buddy Bench mean for your School?
3. What makes your Buddy Bench project especially deserving of a PSCA grant? / Why does your School need help funding the Project?
4. Where will the Buddy Bench be placed?
5. How will you ensure that your bench is clearly identified as a “Buddy Bench?”
6. How will the bench be introduced to the students?
7. How will you determine who the first student(s) to sit on the Buddy Bench will be?

Questions regarding the Buddy Bench Grant and/or Application process: pscaoffice@gmail.com

The completed Grant Application must be submitted in pdf format to [\[pscaoffice@gmail.com\]](mailto:pscaoffice@gmail.com) no later than 6:00PM, **March 31, 2020.**