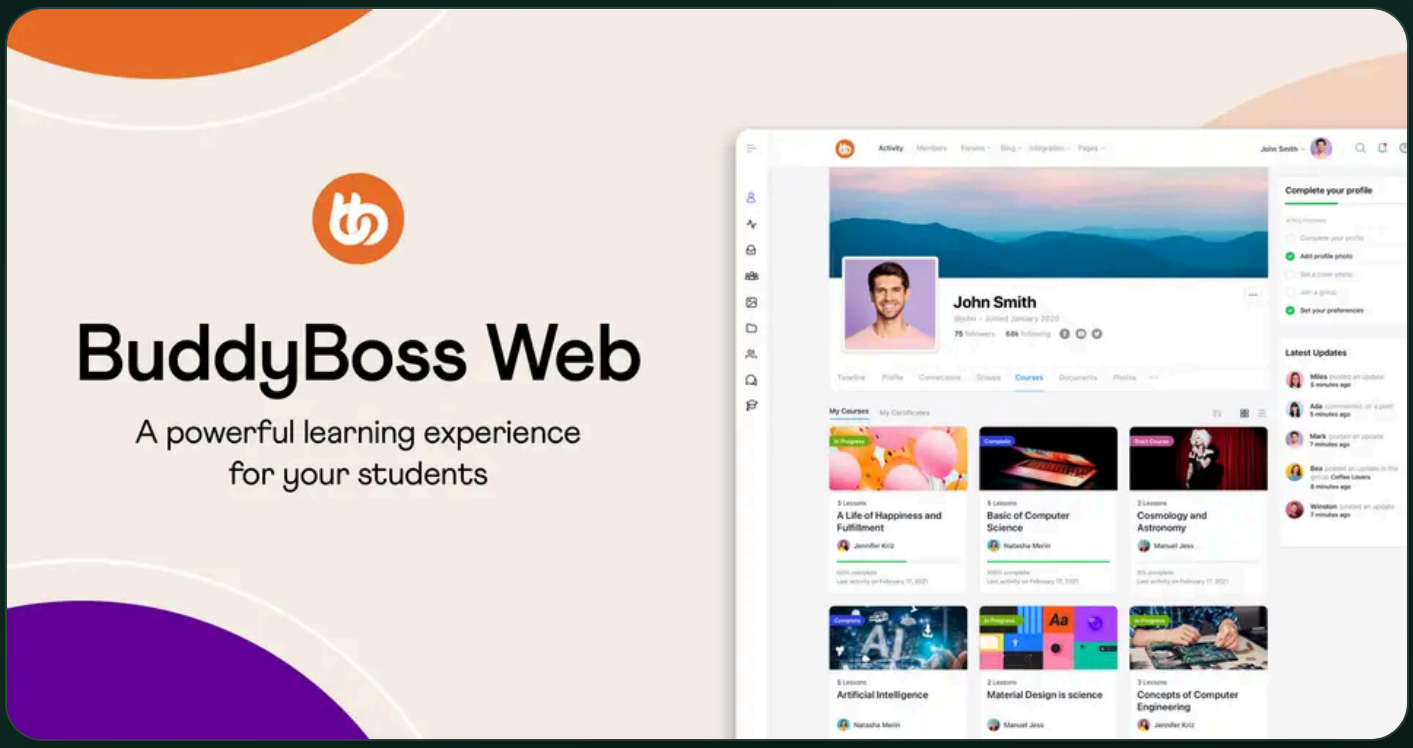
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

BuddyBoss

The Insider's Guide

Self-hosted WordPress community, course and membership platform



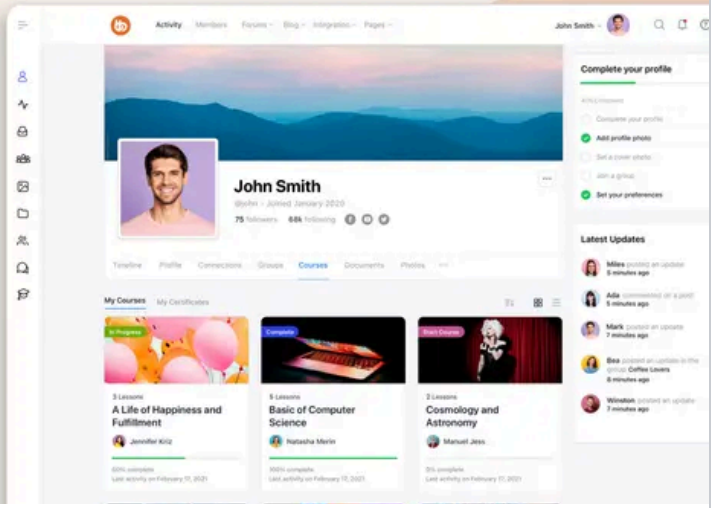
Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among course and community platforms, read from BuddyBoss's own pages.

Made by BuddyBoss · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

1.8
GPA

BuddyBoss Web

A powerful learning experience for your students



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Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

ToolGPA put this guide together from BuddyBoss's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on BuddyBoss's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 13, 2026.

Welcome

What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

1.8

GPA, above 8 of the 98 other course and community platforms we grade

BuddyBoss is a self-hosted WordPress platform for running a member community with profiles, groups, messaging, courses and memberships under your own domain. Web plans are licensed per site per year, and a separate subscription adds a branded iOS and Android app. Done-for-you builds are sold on top.

To get you started, here are **8 things to know about BuddyBoss**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> "
>
> **It needs a self-hosted WordPress site, and no store rating is on record.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for branded WordPress communities**

BuddyBoss is a WordPress community platform with messaging, courses, memberships and gamification, from $399 a year at renewal.

2 **Paid plans start at $33.25 a month when paid by the year**

As its pricing page puts it: $399 per year at renewal, after a first year at $199.

3 **It runs on Web**

Web.

4 **Community features**

Member profiles and types, groups, invitations, reactions, polls, photo and video uploads, and social login.

5 **Messaging and notifications**

Real-time messaging through Pusher and web push notifications through OneSignal on Launch and Scale.

6 **Courses and memberships**

Sell with BuddyBoss Memberships and Courses, or integrate LearnDash, MemberPress, Tutor LMS and LifterLMS.

7 **A 1.8 GPA, above 8 of 98**

That is against the other course and community platforms we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

8 **Keep it**

The plain part of BuddyBoss you could make: online courses and templates. What surrounds it you could not. The 4 things listed below take a company, not a weekend.

BuddyBoss at a glance

PRICING Paid, from $399 per year at renewal, after a first year at $199	FREE PLAN No
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY BuddyBoss	CATEGORY Courses & Communities
OUR GRADE 1.8 GPA, weak	

The report card

Best for branded WordPress communities

BuddyBoss is a WordPress community platform with messaging, courses, memberships and gamification, from $399 a year at renewal. The $199 first year doubles afterwards, and there is no free version or trial.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD | **BuddyBoss** | Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Renewal is $399 a year for one site, about $33 a month, close to the category's middle of $37. The first-year price is $199, and the page says renewals are at full price.
Free plan and trial	F	No free plan and no trial are on record.
Features	B	Community features, messaging, courses and memberships, gamification and a branded mobile app. The app is a separate subscription.
Ease of use	D	It needs a self-hosted WordPress site, and no store rating is on record.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web, with LearnDash, MemberPress, Tutor LMS, WooCommerce, Stripe and more on the list. The mobile app costs extra.

Grade point average — Weak, out of 4.0 **1.8**

An A is worth 4 points, a B 3, a C 2, a D 1 and an F nothing. The GPA is the average of the five.

Who BuddyBoss is for

- ✓ Fits if you run WordPress and already use LearnDash or MemberPress
- ✓ Works for people who want a branded mobile app for their community

Who it is not for

- ✕ Skip it if you need a free plan or a trial, as there is neither
- ✕ Pricey if you stay a second year: the $199 and $349 intro prices double at renewal
- ✕ Watch out: extra sites are $99 each, and the mobile app is a separate subscription
- ✕ Watch out: Done For You builds start at $2,149 in year one, and hosting is yours

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Communities that want to own their site, members and data
- ✓ Course businesses already using LearnDash, MemberPress or Tutor LMS
- ✓ Agencies wanting a done-for-you community build

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Listed prices are introductory; the page says all renewals are at full price, so year two costs double.
- ⓘ One license covers one production site; extra sites are $99 each.
- ⓘ The mobile app is a separate subscription, and Done For You builds cost more.
- ⓘ It runs only inside a self-hosted WordPress site; hosting is your job.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

$33.25

A month to start, paid by the year

BuddyBoss is a paid product, starting at $399 per year at renewal, after a first year at $199.

"

No free plan and no trial are on record.

From our grade for free plan and trial

LAUNCH

$399

per year for 1 site, after a first year at $199

BuddyBoss Theme, every LMS integration, messaging, notifications and access controls. First year is $199 (50% intro discount).

SCALE

$699

per year for 1 site, after a first year at $349

Adds points, badges, ranks and leaderboards, multilingual support, media offload, member blogs and domain restrictions.

DONE FOR YOU WEB

$2,499

per year, after a first year at $2,149

Scale license plus a $1,800 build service: setup, rebranding, migration, maintenance and a project manager.

Read from buddyboss.com on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

OTHER SAVINGS

50% introductory first-year price

Launch is $199 and Scale $349 in the first year, then renew at $399 and $699 a year. The page says all renewals are at full price.

Stated on buddyboss.com

What it does

Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

1

Place it runs: Web

Self-hosted WordPress community, course and membership platform. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: templates, online courses, community.

> **Community features, messaging, courses and memberships, gamification and a branded mobile app.**
>
> From our grade for features

Community features

Member profiles and types, groups, invitations, reactions, polls, photo and video uploads, and social login.

Messaging and notifications

Real-time messaging through Pusher and web push notifications through OneSignal on Launch and Scale.

Courses and memberships

Sell with BuddyBoss Memberships and Courses, or integrate LearnDash, MemberPress, Tutor LMS and LifterLMS.

Gamification

Points, achievements, badges, member ranks and leaderboards on the Scale plan.

Media and global reach

Scale adds offloading media to Cloudflare, a CDN on a custom domain, image and video optimization and multilingual support.

Branded mobile app

A separate subscription adds your own branded iOS and Android app, with Solo, Launch and managed tiers.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

LearnDash
MemberPress
Tutor LMS
LifterLMS
WooCommerce
Stripe
Pusher
OneSignal

BuddyBoss is made by BuddyBoss.

Where it stands

Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

8/98

Other course and community platforms it is graded above

BuddyBoss's GPA of 1.8 is higher than 8 of the 98 other course and community platforms we grade, and level with 14.

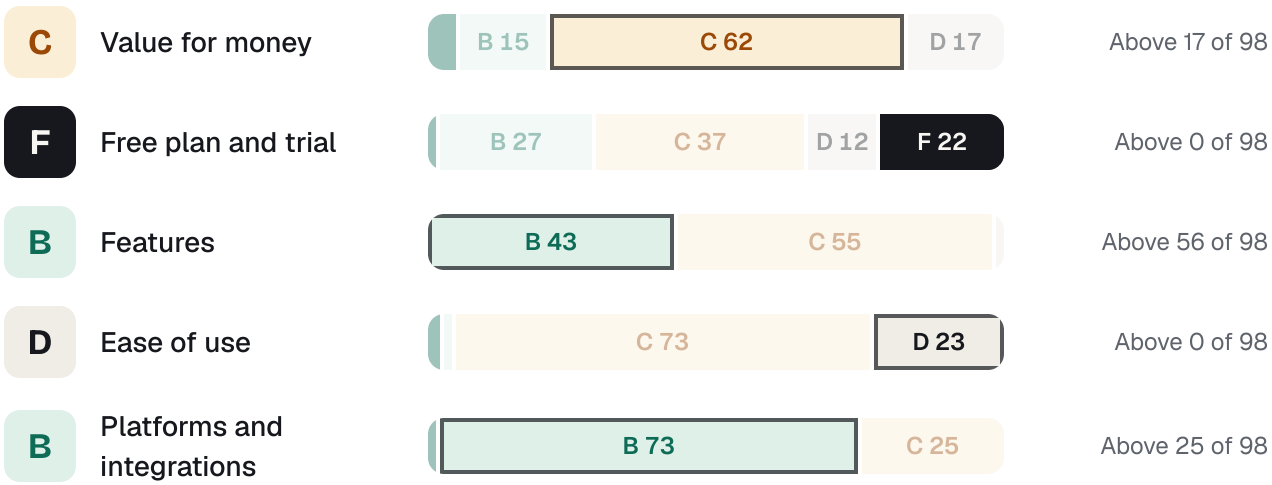
It stands best on features (B, above 56 of 98) and worst on free plan and trial (F, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $33.25 a month when paid by the year, against a middle price of $36 for the category: 30 of the 65 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. 8 tools score higher and cost less.

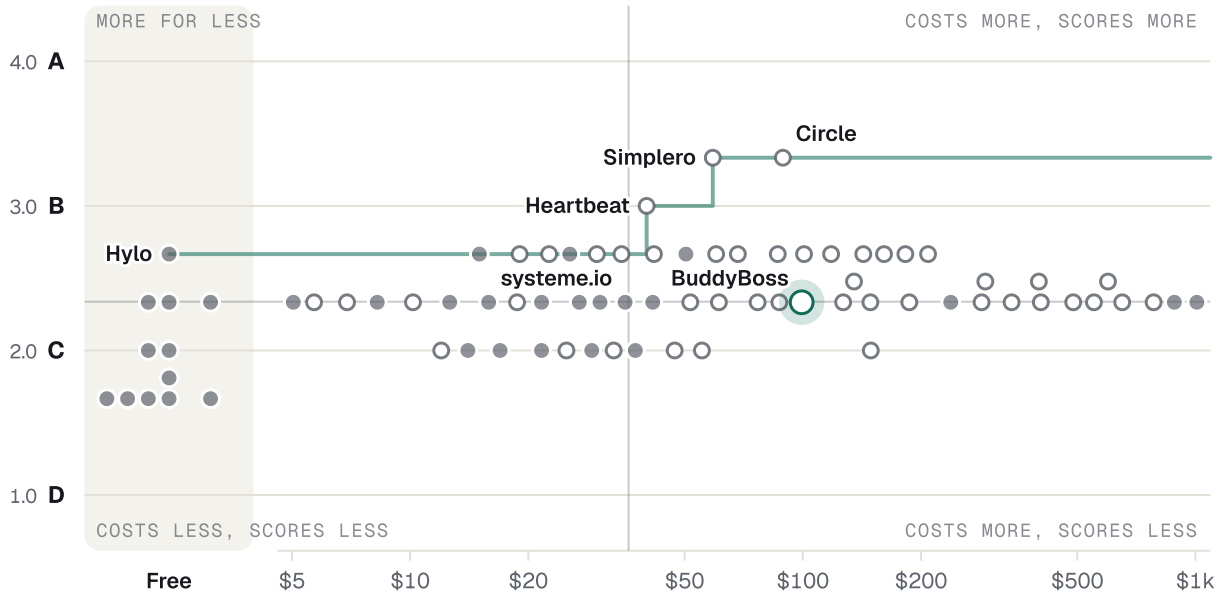
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 99 course and community platforms we grade, cut by the letter each got. BuddyBoss's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 78 course and community platforms. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. BuddyBoss is the marked dot.



What paid plans start at, a month (each step along is roughly double) ⍰

Keep it, or make your own?

Whether this is something you could build for yourself with an AI app builder, and what you would give up.

Keep it

The plain part of BuddyBoss you could make: online courses and templates. What surrounds it you could not. The 4 things listed below take a company, not a weekend.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 76 of the 98 other course and community platforms grade higher. It costs $399 a year.

What you could make

- Online courses and templates: an app builder makes these well.

What you could not

- A members' space with posts, chat and events that people keep coming back to.
- It plugs into other products, LearnDash, MemberPress and Tutor LMS among them.
- People on the other end: a community of other users. No app builder makes those.
- The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

What this rests on. BuddyBoss's listing: what it does, where it runs, what it plugs into and what it costs. It is a judgement about the kind of software this is. We have not built a replacement for it, and making your own means looking after it too. How we decide, and every tool's verdict.

The alternatives

The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side



FluentCommunity, PeepSo, Circle, Mighty Networks and MemberPress

The 5 tools BuddyBoss is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

2.8 GPA

FluentCommunity

Free plan · from $199/yr

WordPress community and course plugin, free with paid Pro licenses.

- FluentCommunity has a free plan. BuddyBoss does not.

BuddyBoss and FluentCommunity compared in full

2.6 GPA

PeepSo

Free plan · from $149/yr

WordPress social network plugin with a free core and yearly bundles.

- PeepSo has a free plan. BuddyBoss does not.
- Only PeepSo lists iOS and Android apps.

BuddyBoss and PeepSo compared in full



2.8
GPA

Circle

Free trial · from $89/mo

Community platform with courses, events, payments and branded apps.

- Only Circle lists iOS and Android apps.
- BuddyBoss also covers templates.
- Circle also covers workflow automation and email campaigns.

BuddyBoss and Circle compared in full



2.4
GPA

Mighty Networks

Free trial · from $79/mo

Community platform with courses, livestreams and paid memberships.

- Only Mighty Networks lists iOS and Android apps.
- BuddyBoss also covers templates.
- Mighty Networks also covers workflow automation.

BuddyBoss and Mighty Networks compared in full



1.8
GPA

MemberPress

From $399/yr

WordPress plugin for paid memberships, courses and communities.

- BuddyBoss also covers templates.

BuddyBoss and MemberPress compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

13

Questions, each answered in a line or two

The short version of everything above, for when you only need the answer. Each one is told in full in its part of the guide.

Is BuddyBoss free?

No. BuddyBoss is a paid product, starting at $399 per year at renewal, after a first year at $199.

How much does BuddyBoss cost?

BuddyBoss lists 3 plans. Launch: $399 per year for 1 site, after a first year at $199.

What platforms does BuddyBoss work on?

BuddyBoss is available on Web.

Does BuddyBoss offer any discounts?

BuddyBoss publicly lists the following: 50% introductory first-year price.

Does BuddyBoss have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. BuddyBoss is listed for Web.

Does BuddyBoss have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. BuddyBoss is listed for Web.

Is BuddyBoss open source?

BuddyBoss is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 13, 2026.

What does BuddyBoss integrate with?

BuddyBoss's listing names LearnDash, MemberPress, Tutor LMS, LifterLMS, WooCommerce, Stripe, Pusher and OneSignal.

Who makes BuddyBoss?

BuddyBoss is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to BuddyBoss?

The closest alternatives to BuddyBoss in our directory are FluentCommunity, PeepSo, Circle, Mighty Networks and MemberPress.

How does BuddyBoss compare with other course and community platforms?

BuddyBoss's GPA of 1.8 is higher than 8 of the 98 other course and community platforms we grade, and level with 14.

Is BuddyBoss good value for money?

ToolGPA grades BuddyBoss C for value for money. Its paid plans start at $33.25 a month when paid by the year, against a middle price of $36 for the category: 30 of the 65 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of BuddyBoss?

The plain part of BuddyBoss you could make: online courses and templates.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from BuddyBoss's own pages on Nov 13, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 13, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from BuddyBoss's own pages on 13 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews.

Every tool we list gets five grades, A to F, each with its reason, and a GPA that averages them. How each is decided is at toolgpa.com/grades. This guide is ToolGPA's own work; it is not made, paid for or approved by BuddyBoss. Prices change, so check buddyboss.com before you buy.

buddyboss.com/pricing/

buddyboss.com/

PART 07 · ABOUT

About ToolGPA

Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

7,721

Tools graded, in 95 categories

ToolGPA grades software the way a school report grades a pupil: five subjects, a letter for each with the reason written beside it, and a GPA that averages them. Prices, plans and platforms are read from each maker's own pages and dated, so you always know how fresh a figure is.

Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Every tool on the site has a guide like this one, free to download and pass on. It all lives at toolgpa.com.

7,721	95	739	579
tools graded	categories	price changes on record	apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

BuddyBoss, kept up to date

Everything in this guide, with prices and grades as they are today

toolgpa.com/tools/buddyboss

How grades are given

The rules behind every letter and every GPA

toolgpa.com/grades

Value charts

What each tool costs against what it scores, for every category

toolgpa.com/charts

Compare

Any two tools side by side, plan by plan

toolgpa.com/compare

Price changes

Every price rise and cut on record, each with its source

toolgpa.com/price-changes

Prices by country

What apps cost on the App Store in 12 countries

toolgpa.com/prices-by-country

Pay less

Every public discount: yearly billing, students, nonprofits

toolgpa.com/save

Keep or make

Which tools are worth paying for, and which you could build yourself

toolgpa.com/keep-or-make

Scan for the live page

Prices and grades as they are today

Quoting this guide?

Please name ToolGPA and link to the live page, so readers can check the figures for themselves:

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ToolGPA, "BuddyBoss: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/buddyboss
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Know someone choosing between course and community platforms?

Send them this guide:
toolgpa.com/tools/buddyboss/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded course and community platforms after BuddyBoss, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Courses & Communities Insider's Guide

Every one of the 99 course and community platforms we grade, compared

Hylo Insider's Guide

Free open-source platform for community groups and coordination

3.2 GPA

Academy LMS Insider's Guide

WordPress LMS plugin with a free core and Pro licenses by site count

2.8 GPA

Circle Insider's Guide

Community platform with courses, events, payments and branded apps

2.8 GPA

ToolGPA

Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what BuddyBoss's pages, its app-store listings and public reviews said on the dates shown. Grades are our judgement under the rules at toolgpa.com/grades. Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. BuddyBoss is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by BuddyBoss. Prices and plans change: check buddyboss.com before you buy.