IDRA Digital Ambassadors

Texas students are becoming technology trainers for adults in underserved neighborhoods.

IDRA Digital Ambassadors is a six-month out-of-school initiative that develops high school students as digital leaders who provide hands-on technology training to adults in their communities. The program turns Internet availability into meaningful access, adoption and community capacity.

IDRA Digital Ambassadors students in the 2026 cycle have completed their research to learn the technology learning needs in their community. They developed a survey and found the top skills needs identified by respondents (listed at right). The students are now preparing to provide community training in November.

The program in the Texas Rio Grande Valley is co-led by ARISE Adelante, an organization that empowers immigrants in south Texas. In addition to ARISE Adelante, IDRA is partnering with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Area Health Education Center (LRGV AHEC). In 2026, IDRA expanded its Digital Ambassadors program to San Antonio in partnership with Empower House and with support from GFiber.

www.idra.org/services/idra-digital-ambassadors-program

Student Research Findings

In the Rio Grande Valley, doctor appointments (56%) and health research (48%) are the most reported online activities used by respondents.

When the students asked San Antonio respondents about the most common problems they run into while using the Internet, responses included: too slow, no signal, affordability, storage issues, scammers and outages.

Based on their research findings, the IDRA Digital Ambassador students will lead training sessions in November to help community members on the following topics.

Rio Grande Valley

- **Practice Online Safety –** learn about two-step verification and how to spot healthcare scams
- **Use the Internet for Healthcare –** get email basics for healthcare, navigate insurance plans and portals, get ready for a virtual appointment

San Antonio

- **Identify Phishing** – Learn to spot deceptive emails and protect data
- **Prevent Fraud and Scams** – Recognize common financial scams and protect resources
- **Evaluate Online Information** – Develop skills to fact check sources and find reliable information