



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY IS TUESDAY, MARCH 21

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Tuesday, March 21 is World Down Syndrome Day (WSDS), a day that is meant to help raise awareness of Down syndrome, what it means to have Down syndrome, and how people with Down syndrome are a significant part of our lives and communities.

Down syndrome is a naturally occurring chromosomal disorder that crosses racial, gender and socioeconomic lines, and affects approximately 1 in 800 live births. Down syndrome usually causes varying degrees of intellectual and physical disability and associated medical issues.

WSDS was first observed as early as 2006 in many countries around the world. On December 19, 2011, the [United Nations General Assembly](#) declared March 21 as World Down Syndrome Day, to be observed every year.

The date for WSDS -- the 21st day of the 3rd month -- was chosen to recognize the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome that causes Down syndrome.

In recognition of WSDS in Kentucky, the Down Syndrome Society of Central Kentucky (DSACK) is hosting a come-and-go breakfast on Tuesday March 21 from 9 to 11 a.m. in room 113 of the Capitol Annex in Frankfort.

Down Syndrome International (DSI) created a website focusing on WSDS initiatives, including [DSI's WSDS Theme](#), the [WSDS Global Video Event](#), the [WSDS Conference](#) held at United Nations Headquarters in New York and the [WSDS Awards](#). To find out more about these activities, visit the DSI website at <https://worlddownsyndromeday.org/about-wdsd>.

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