



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY IS WEDNESDAY

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – Wednesday, March 21 is World Down Syndrome Day (WDS), 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.

People with Down syndrome can and do significantly contribute to their community when given the opportunity.

On World Down Syndrome Day, every person with Down syndrome is called upon to share what they bring to their community through the #WhatIBringToMyCommunity #WDS18 campaign. The campaign aims to:

- Explain how people with Down syndrome can and do make meaningful contributions throughout their lives, whether in schools, workplaces, living in the community, public and political life, culture, media, recreation, leisure and sport;
- Explain how negative attitudes and a lack of knowledge about their potential as individuals prevent people with Down syndrome from having opportunities to make contributions;
- Empower people with Down syndrome (and those supporting them) to advocate for their rights and opportunities to make meaningful contributions and
- Reach out to key stakeholders including educators, employers, public authorities, media and the wider community to ensure they see the benefits of enabling people with Down syndrome to make meaningful contributions and encourage these stakeholders to bring about change and disseminate this message.

WDS 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 WDS – 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.

For more information on World Down Syndrome Day, visit the [DSI website](#).

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