



Dear Educators,

The **Down Syndrome Association of the Lowcountry (DSAL)** would like to help your school initiate a Diversity Awareness Program. Several schools in the Lowcountry have successfully brought Diversity Awareness Programs to their students in an effort to kindle kindness and acceptance among their student bodies.

One way to start a Diversity Awareness Program in your school is to participate in the **Down Syndrome Education Week** offered by DSAL. The week of **September 8-12, 2008**, is Down Syndrome Education Week throughout the Lowcountry. During this week, we plan to educate our community about Down syndrome and promote the **Buddy Walk**, a celebration of all people with Down syndrome held October 5th on Daniel Island.

You may visit <http://www.dsalowcountry.org/buddywalk/> for grade-level, scripted lesson plans about appreciating differences among all of us and learning about Down syndrome. At our website, you will also find templates of letters to parents and other ideas about how to include your school in the Down Syndrome Education Week and Buddy Walk.

Your school may choose to only participate in the Down Syndrome Education Week September 8-12 and use the material found on the website as it is; or you may like to continue diversity awareness through the school year and educate your students about a different form of diversity monthly. If you choose to use the Down Syndrome Education Week program as a spring-board to introduce other disabilities to your students, you will see that the plans at the website can easily change according to the topic.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn Durante, 2008 Buddy Walk Education Chair  
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