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Special Education Report

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December was Special Education Month. It is observed annually to commemorate the anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Act that was signed into law by President Ford on December 2, 1975. IDEA is the nation's federal special education law that ensures public schools serve the educational needs of students with disabilities. The law provides very specific requirements to guarantee a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment (LRE).

[Fast Facts: Students with disabilities \(64\)](#)

January is Birth Defects Awareness Month. Birth defects are structural changes that affect one or more parts of the body and develop within the first three months of pregnancy. 1 in 33 babies is born with birth defects in the United States.

The New York Department of Health operates the 2nd largest statewide, population based birth defects registry in the nation. Since 1997, the New York Center for Birth Defects Research and Prevention has participated in CDC funded research on birth defects. Women and children who reside in 14 counties in Southern and Western New York are the focus of the research.

[Learn More about Birth Defects | CDC](#)

[About the New York Center for Birth Defects Research and Prevention](#)