

Spread the Word to End the Word

Spread the Word to End the Word™ is a youth driven campaign and every day there are young people, as well as family members and advocates, who are creating positive change within schools and communities to foster dignity, respect, acceptance, and tolerance for all individuals with intellectual disabilities.

What are some ideas for other rallies?

Many students around the country have hosted rallies in the past. Each one is a little different, so you should put together a youth leadership team to start planning the details. You'll need to figure out how many people will attend, who will be your speakers, which Special Olympics athletes will be there, and how you can make the event exciting for everyone who is there. Students will need to decide what type of rally would best fit their school.

Who do I talk to, to hold an event at my school?

This often depends on your school. You should definitely work with a teacher to help you and your youth team as you plan for the event. You might also need to get permission from your principal, and you'll want to talk to your school office about setting up a time and place. Make sure you do this early so you can set up a timeline!

Where do I get the R-Word Supplies?

Every year in March, for the annual Spread the Word to End the Word Day, Special Olympics designs t-shirts, posters, stickers and other materials for schools to hand out at their campaign. All Project UNIFY Schools will receive these materials free of charge upon request through Special Olympics Colorado. If you are not a Project UNIFY School and wish to hold a campaign you may order your own materials online at www.r-word.org.

What different clubs can I use to help me out?

National Honor Society, Student Council or other Student Leadership groups would be a great place to recruit people to help you put on your campaigns. You should also consider partnering up with some students in the Special Education department to help you put on your campaign.

Step-by-Step This campaign is designed to be organized and led by students for the students. Have fun!

One Week Before –

- Hang up posters
- Recruit at least 6 student volunteers for each lunch period
- Start school announcements introducing the R-word campaign

Day of Campaign –

- Set up a table in the lunch room or hall near cafeteria
- Have volunteers set up 20 minutes before lunch
- Give volunteers a t-shirt for helping
- Place pledge banner on one table with markers for students to sign

After the Campaign –

- Clean up and put tables away
- Hang up pledge banner in an area for everyone to see

Give Away Prizes –

Each school can determine how they want to give out extra t-shirts, wristbands and shoe laces.

Other Ideas–

- Do a drawing after the campaign for prizes
- Toss the t-shirts, wristbands, shoe laces in the stands at assembly or during lunch
- Get raffle tickets and write down shirt, wristband, shoe lace or candy and have each person draw for prize. Take the ticket to the prize table to claim the prize.
- Guessing game how much candy is in the jar – 10 closest receive a shirt, next closest a wristband and so on
- Fact Trivia after an R-word presentation on facts about Special Olympics

Thanks for 'Poppin In'- Print labels and put on bags of popcorn to hand out during the campaign!

We are 'Nuts' about this Campaign- Print labels and put them on bags of nuts to hand out during the campaign!

