

**Urbandale Community School District Statement  
UHS “Spread the Word to End the Word” Project  
March 9, 2017**

On Wednesday, March 8, 2017, our Urbandale High School Best Buddies Program, which includes general education students partnered with special education students, posted signs around the school and stood at the front entrance with signs reminding students to not use the “r” word (retard) when they are casually poking fun with each other. Special Education students have heard students joke around by calling each other ‘retards’ and what our special education students wanted to convey was that if you’re joking around with your friends and would normally call them ‘retards’ to please stop yourself from saying that word and instead use an alternative word, if you feel you must use some type of word, as students who have disabilities are hurt when students who do not have disabilities casually use the “r” word when joking around with their friends.

The intention of this exercise was never to encourage students to put each other down; the intention of our students was to increase awareness of students use of the “r” word in their everyday casual language, in order to stop using the “r” word. This is part of a national campaign “Spread the Word to End the Word.”

