




OAK PARK and RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 200



Partnership for Emergency Reunification Planning


In May 2024, the eight local agencies listed to the left formed a partnership to coordinate emergency reunification planning, with a focus on implementing the  **I Love U Guys Standard Reunification Protocol**. Adopting this standardized approach ensures that no matter which school district or jurisdiction is involved in an emergency, the response will be well-coordinated, clear, and effective across all responding agencies.

Purpose and Need for Collaboration

Our goal is to work together to keep students, staff, families, and the community safe during emergencies. By combining resources, knowledge, and plans, we can create emergency response strategies that are thorough, well-practiced, and adaptable to different situations. This collaboration helps us make the most of our resources, provide consistent training, improve communication, and ensure a quicker, smoother reunification process if a crisis occurs.

Key Milestones and Next Steps

A smaller planning team comprising members of the partnership is currently drafting a detailed emergency reunification plan. This plan will be presented to the full committee before the end of the 2024-25 school year, to implement it at the start of the 2025-26 school year. Key next steps include:

- **Evacuation Site Commitments:** Each school district will secure commitments from local facilities to serve as evacuation sites, ensuring readiness in case of an emergency.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the  I Love U Guys Foundation:** The partnership will formalize an agreement with the I Love U Guys Foundation, a critical step for obtaining resources, materials, and training support.
- **Summer 2025 Training:** Coordinated training sessions will be scheduled for school district staff, first responders, and village representatives to familiarize them with the reunification process and protocols.
- **Material Compilation:** Training materials will be compiled and duplicated in preparation for the summer training sessions, ensuring all participants have access to the necessary resources.
- **Appointing a "Trustee":** We are seeking an organization that will serve to oversee the implementation and ongoing management of the reunification process, ensuring that the plan remains effective and up-to-date.

Why This Partnership Matters

This partnership is not only about preparing for emergencies. It's also about fostering collaboration and building stronger relationships among schools, first responders, and local government. The alignment of resources and planning ensures that all partners are operating from the same playbook, reducing confusion and improving response times during an actual crisis.

By focusing on safety, resource-sharing, and collaborative planning, this initiative enhances the community's resilience and ensures that, when faced with an emergency, the process of reunifying students with their families is as swift and secure as possible.