

# **The "I Love U Guys" Foundation**

School Safety, Response, and Reunification Protocols

## **Origin & Mission**

- Founded in 2006 by John-Michael and Ellen Keyes following the loss of their daughter, Emily, in a school shooting at Platte Canyon High School in Colorado. During the hostage situation, Emily sent text messages to her parents: "I love u guys. K" and "I love you guys." The Foundation was created to restore and protect the joy of youth through educational programs, collaborating with law enforcement, and providing free, research-based safety resources to schools.

## **Key Programs**

- Standard Response Protocol (SRP): Provides a common, clear language for emergency situations, reducing confusion between staff, students, and first responders.
- Standard Reunification Method (SRM): A proven, structured method to safely and efficiently reunite students with parents/guardians after a crisis.

### **1. The Standard Response Protocol (SRP)**

→ The SRP is action-based, not scenario-based. It relies on five simple, consistent terms:

- **HOLD** - "In Your Room or Area"
  - Used for: Incidents requiring hallways to be cleared (e.g., medical emergency, maintenance issue).
  - Action: Students/staff stay in their current room; "do business as usual".
- **SECURE** - "Get Inside. Lock Outside Doors"
  - Used for: A threat or danger outside the building (e.g., police activity in the neighborhood).
  - Action: Everyone returns inside. Exterior doors are locked; business continues as usual inside.
- **LOCKDOWN** - "Locks, Lights, Out of Sight"
  - Used for: A threat or danger inside the building.
  - Action: Doors locked, lights off, students move out of sight, silence maintained.
- **EVACUATE** - "To a Location"
  - Used for: Moving people from one place to another (e.g., fire, gas leak).
  - Action: Students and staff leave personal belongings behind and move to a specified location.
- **SHELTER** - "State the Hazard and Safety Strategy"
  - Used for: Environmental threats (e.g., tornado, earthquake).
  - Action: Follow specific safety instructions for the given hazard (e.g., "Shelter for Tornado," "Drop, Cover, and Hold").

## **2. The Standard Reunification Method (SRM)**

- After a crisis, the SRM provides a structured, orderly process to reunify students with parents, ensuring a safe transfer of custody while managing high-stress environments.
- I Love U Guys Foundation
  - Key Concept: "Recovery starts when the crisis begins".
  - Goal: To prevent the chaotic scenes often seen at school crises where parents rush to the building, hindering emergency personnel.

## **3. Implementation & Impact**

- Cost: All programs are free to download and use for school districts.
- Usage: Used by over 78,000 schools, districts, and agencies across the US, Canada, and internationally.
- Why It Matters: Provides a common lexicon and training that develops muscle memory for crises.

**Website:** [iloveuguids.org](http://iloveuguids.org)



# STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Our school has adopted The "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Students and staff will be training, practicing, and drilling the protocol.

## COMMON LANGUAGE

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is based on an all-hazards approach as opposed to individual scenarios. Like the Incident Command System (ICS), SRP utilizes clear common language while allowing for flexibility in protocol.

The premise is simple - there are five specific actions that can be performed during an incident. When communicating these, the action is labeled with a "Term of Art" and is then followed by a "Directive." Execution of the action is performed by active participants, including students, staff, teachers and first responders. The SRP is based on the following actions: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, and Shelter.

## HOLD

**"In Your Classroom or Area"**

**Students** are trained to:

- Clear the hallways and remain in their area or room until the "All Clear" is announced
- Do business as usual

**Adults and staff** are trained to:

- Close and lock the door
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



## SECURE

**"Get Inside. Lock outside doors"**

**Students** are trained to:

- Return to inside of building
- Do business as usual

**Adults and staff** are trained to:

- Bring everyone indoors
- Lock the outside doors
- Increase situational awareness
- Account for students and adults
- Do business as usual



## LOCKDOWN

**"Locks, Lights, Out of Sight"**

**Students** are trained to:

- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door

**Adults and staff** are trained to:

- Recover students from hallway if possible
- Lock the classroom door
- Turn out the lights
- Move away from sight
- Maintain silence
- Do not open the door
- Prepare to evade or defend



## EVACUATE

**"To a Location"**

**Students** are trained to:

- Leave stuff behind if required to
- If possible, bring their phone
- Follow instructions

**Adults and staff** are trained to:

- Bring roll sheet and Go Bag (unless instructed not to bring anything with them, dependent on reason for evacuation.)
- Lead students to Evacuation location
- Account for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.



## SHELTER

**"State Hazard and Safety Strategy"**

**Hazards** might include:

- Tornado
- Hazmat
- Earthquake
- Tsunami

**Safety Strategies** might include:

- Evacuate to shelter area
- Seal the room
- Drop, cover and hold
- Get to high ground

**Students** are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies

**Adults and staff** are trained in:

- Appropriate Hazards and Safety Strategies
- Accounting for students and adults
- Report injuries or problems using Red Card/Green Card method.





# STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

## PARENT GUIDANCE

In the event of a live incident, parents may have questions about their role.

## SECURE

**“Get Inside. Lock outside doors”**



Secure is called when there is something dangerous outside of the building. Students and staff are brought into the building and the outside doors will be locked. The school might display the Building is Secured poster on entry doors or nearby windows. Inside, it will be business as usual.

## SHOULD PARENTS COME TO THE SCHOOL DURING A SECURE EVENT?

Probably not. Every effort is made to conduct classes as normal during a secure event. Additionally, parents may be asked to stay outside during a Secure event.

## WHAT IF PARENTS NEED TO PICK UP THEIR STUDENT?

Depending on the situation, it may not be safe to release the student. As the situation evolves, Secure might change to a Monitored Entry and/or Controlled Release.



## WILL PARENTS BE NOTIFIED WHEN A SCHOOL GOES INTO SECURE?

When a secure event is brief or the hazard is non-violent, like a wild animal on the playground, there may not be a need to notify parents while the Secure is in place.

With longer or more dangerous events, the school should notify parents that the school has increased their security.

## LOCKDOWN

**“Locks, Lights, Out of Sight”**



A Lockdown is called when there is something dangerous inside of the building. Students and staff are trained to enter or remain in a room that can be locked, and maintain silence.

A Lockdown is only initiated when there is an active threat inside or very close to the building.

## SHOULD PARENTS COME TO THE SCHOOL DURING A LOCKDOWN?

The natural inclination for parents is to go to the school during a Lockdown. Understandable, but perhaps problematic. If there is a threat inside the building, law enforcement will be responding. It is unlikely that parents will be granted access to the building or even the campus. If parents are already in the school, they will be instructed to Lockdown as well.

## SHOULD PARENTS TEXT THEIR STUDENTS?

The school recognizes the importance of communication between parents and students during a Lockdown event. Parents should be aware though, during the initial period of a Lockdown, it may not be safe for students to text their parents. As the situation resolves, students may be asked to update their parents on a regular basis.

In some cases, students may be evacuated and transported off-site for a student-parent reunification.

## WHAT ABOUT UNANNOUNCED DRILLS?

The school may conduct unscheduled drills, however it is highly discouraged to conduct one without announcing that it as a drill. That's called an unannounced drill and can cause undue concern and stress.

Parents should recognize that the school will always inform students that it is a drill during the initial announcement.

It's important to differentiate between a **drill** and an exercise. A drill is used to create the “Muscle Memory” associated with a practiced action. There is no simulation of an event; this is simply performing the action. An exercise simulates an actual event to test the capacity of personnel and equipment.

## CAN PARENTS OBSERVE OR PARTICIPATE IN THE DRILLS?

The school welcomes parents who wish to observe or participate in drills.

