



# River Forest Public Schools

## Emergency Reunification Partnership Overview

*COW Meeting 2-23-26*



**Lincoln**  
Elementary School



**Willard**  
Elementary School



**Roosevelt**  
Middle School

# Overview Contents:

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# Purpose of Reunification Planning



*The purpose of reunification planning is to ensure a pre-arranged process is established and rehearsed to reunite students and families after a school crisis, emergency, or unique situation has occurred in a safe, coordinated, and empathetic manner.*



# When is Reunification Needed?



Reunification processes are essential when it is necessary to evacuate a school building (or portion of a building) and students need to be released safely to the custody of family members or approved adults.

Depending on circumstances, reunification may occur onsite, in a proximal location (nearby/walking distance), or at a pre-determined external site.





OAK PARK and RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 200



# Partnership Details

Reunification planning was coordinated with multiple school, public safety, and municipal agencies across River Forest, Oak Park, and Forest Park.

These include:

***District 90***

***District 200***

***District 97***

***District 91***

***River Forest PD***

***River Forest FD***

***Village of OP***

***Forest Park FD***

***Forest Park PD***

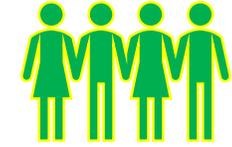
***Oak Park PD***

***Oak Park FD***



**River Forest**  
Public Schools

# Why this Partnership Matters



- Preparing for potential emergencies
- Fostering collaboration among schools, first responders, and government
- Reducing confusion during crises
- Building familiarity among key communicators
- Establishing protocols that guide and reinforce standard operating procedures in other situations

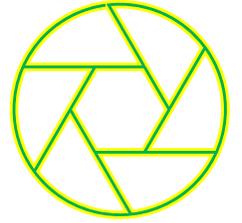


# Background of the MJSFR Plan



- Partnership developed in May 2024 to coordinate emergency reunification planning, with a focus on implementing the **I Love You Guys Standard Reunification Protocol**
- Commitment to combining resources, knowledge, and shared plans across our local school districts in collaboration with emergency services to create reunification plans that are adaptable, clear, and ensures trained response.
- Demonstrates shared dedication to safety response and an ethic of care in case of emergency or crisis

# Planning Process Details



- Initial superintendent meeting explored possibility of forming partnership (2024)
- Full Reunification Team met to affirm agreements (2024)
- Planning Team sub-group identified deliverables/created initial plan draft (2025)
- Full Team provided guidance at key points (2025)
- Individual districts identified reunification site partners (2025)
- Summer training for partnership participant employees (2025)
- Final authorization (May 2026)

# Role of “*I Love You Guys*” Foundation



- 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to school and community safety through standardized emergency response and post-crisis reunification protocols
- The Foundation “Standard Reunification Method (V3)” is a highly regarded process to safely and efficiently reunite students with their parents/families following a school crisis
- The SRM is adaptable, free to adopt, and includes access to resources to help train and implement the process

# Key Reunification Process Elements

## Core Components:

The method involves establishing clear communication, identifying a reunification site, managing the flow of students and parents, and ensuring accountability through use of “reunification cards.” These cards play a crucial role in tracking students' release to authorized guardians, thus maintaining a controlled and orderly reunification process.

# Key Reunification Process Elements (Cont.)

## Operational Roles and Responsibilities:

Specific roles and duties are outlined for staff and volunteers, ranging from greeters and checkers to reunifiers and class leaders. Each role is crucial for the smooth execution of the reunification process, ensuring that students are safely accounted for and reunited with their families.

# Key Reunification Process Elements (Cont.)

## **Incident Command System (ICS):**

The SRM aligns with the FEMA Incident Command System, facilitating coordination with first responders and law enforcement during emergency situations. This alignment ensures a unified approach to crisis management and student reunification.

# Key Reunification Process Elements (Cont.)

## **Preparation and Training:**

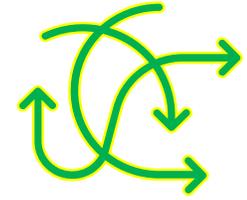
The document stresses the importance of preparation, including drills, tabletop exercises, and collaboration with local emergency services. This proactive approach is key to ensuring that staff and responders are well-prepared to execute the reunification method effectively. Special attention is given to students with disabilities, ensuring their safety and accommodation throughout the reunification process.

# Key Reunification Process Elements (Cont.)

## Communication Strategies:

Effective communication with parents, guardians, and the community is critical. The SRM recommends a multi-channel communication strategy to inform families about the reunification process, what to expect, and how to facilitate a smooth reunification with their children.

# MJSFR Plan Specifics



Shared MJSFR plan includes multiple components, and is confidential to participating school districts and first responders

*Key elements include:*

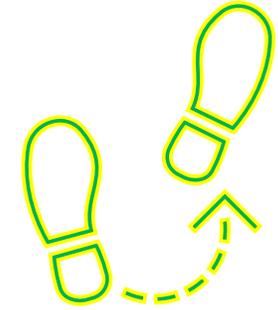
- Introduction
- Plan Maintenance
- Incident Response Concept of Operations
- Communication and Notification Plan
- Assets and Resources
- Preparedness
- Training, Drills and Exercises
- Reunification Plan Tactics and Components
- Individual Facility Information Sheets
- Roles of Reunification Team Members
- School District Addenda
- Reunification Site Locations
- Memoranda of Understanding

# Additional Details



- Participating school districts have completed and submitted MOU's to *I Love You Guys* Foundation to formalize partnership
- Partner districts have assumed ongoing responsibilities to maintain the reunification partnership moving forward:
  - River Forest District 90** – Plan trusteeship
  - Oak Park District 97** – Materials/supply procurement
  - OPRFHS District 200** – Reunification training program
  - Forest Park District 91** – Reunification training host site

# Next Steps



- Completion of final plan components
- Ongoing training by employees of member school districts every other year (summer)
- Creation and maintenance of supply/materials boxes
- Establishing continued “trusteeship” to oversee the plan, keep it up to date, and convene future leadership meetings as needed

Thank You!

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*Questions?*

