

Standard Reunification Method



"Peace... It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart."

I Love You Guys Foundation

The SRM provides school and district safety teams with proven methods for planning, practicing and achieving a successful reunification during what are often chaotic, anxiety-filled scenes. A predetermined, practiced reunification method will help defuse emotion at the site.

SRM Staging the School for Transport

STEP 1 ESTABLISH ONSITE INCIDENT COMMAND
The first step in staging for transport is establishing School Incident Command at the affected school. Integrating with Unified Command should be a priority.

STEP 2 CLASSROOM EVACUATION
Classrooms are individually evacuated to the Secure Assembly Area. During a Police Led Evacuation, students and staff will be asked to keep their hands visible.

STEP 3 SECURE ASSEMBLY AREA
At the Secure Assembly Area it is preferable that teachers stay with their students. If some teachers are unable to be at the Secure Assembly Area, doubling up classes with "Partner" teachers is appropriate.

STEP 4 STUDENT AND STAFF TRANSPORT
Students and staff board the bus and are transported to the Reunification Site. Buses having audio video systems can be utilized for further accountability by having students face the camera and state their name.

SRM Actions and Considerations

COMMUNITY ACTION PARENTS WILL BEGIN TO ARRIVE
Parents will be arriving at the impacted school. Often with a Lockdown event, adjoining schools will go into Lockdown. Parents may be arriving at those schools as well.

REUNIFICATION SITE MOBILIZE REUNIFICATION TEAM
Contacting the Superintendent and determining the Reunification Site are among the first actions taken. If the site is another school, early release may be necessary.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT AND INVESTIGATIONS
Regardless of criminal activity, law enforcement support will be necessary at both the impacted school and the reunification site.

FIRE AND EMS CASUALTY CARE
If necessary, Fire and EMS will establish Casualty Collection, Triage and Transport areas. Many departments are also willing to assist in the transport and reunification process, if they are not actively responding to crisis.

SRM

One critical aspect of crisis response is accountable reunification of students with their parents or guardians in the event a controlled release is necessary. SRM relies on site-specific considerations, so successful planning and implementation demands collaboration with administration and responding agencies. A plan for reuniting students and parents is the responsibility of schools and districts to maintain the chain of custody for every student.