

Dear parents and caregivers,

At the September 27, 2022, Somersworth School Board meeting, I updated the Board about a new set of emergency response protocols that the school district has adopted. These standard response protocols are from the “I love U Guys” Foundation, a national organization founded by Ellen Stoddard-Keyes and her husband John-Michael Keyes. The Keyes’ named their foundation after the last text message they received from their daughter, Emily, who was killed by an armed assailant in the 2006 Platte Canyon High School shooting in Bailey, Colorado.

Since this very tragic event, the Keyes have worked with law enforcement and other first responder from all over the country to create a set of standard response protocols to assist schools to respond during an emergency situation. These protocols have been adopted by school districts all over the country and have been incorporated into the active threat training our staff recently received from the Somersworth Police Department. Please see the attached parent information sheet. [Standard Response Protocols Parent Information Sheet](#)

In August 2022, our school district’s administrative team, along with approximately 20 local and county first responders received training from the “I Love U Guys” Foundation on how to implement these protocols in our schools should an incident occur.

I think you will find the protocols straightforward as the core actions in each response protocol are identified. NH law requires that school district practice at least 10 emergency drills each year, and we are using these new protocols during our drills.

I want to publicly thank the commitment of our local first responders, the Somersworth Police Department, the Somersworth Fire Department, and Stewarts Ambulance service for their ongoing support and collaboration to make our schools as safe as possible.

Every staff member in our school district takes the safety of your children very seriously. Although it is impossible to prepare for every possible emergency scenario, these new protocols will allow us to best respond during an incident.

Sincerely,

Lori Lane

Superintendent of Schools