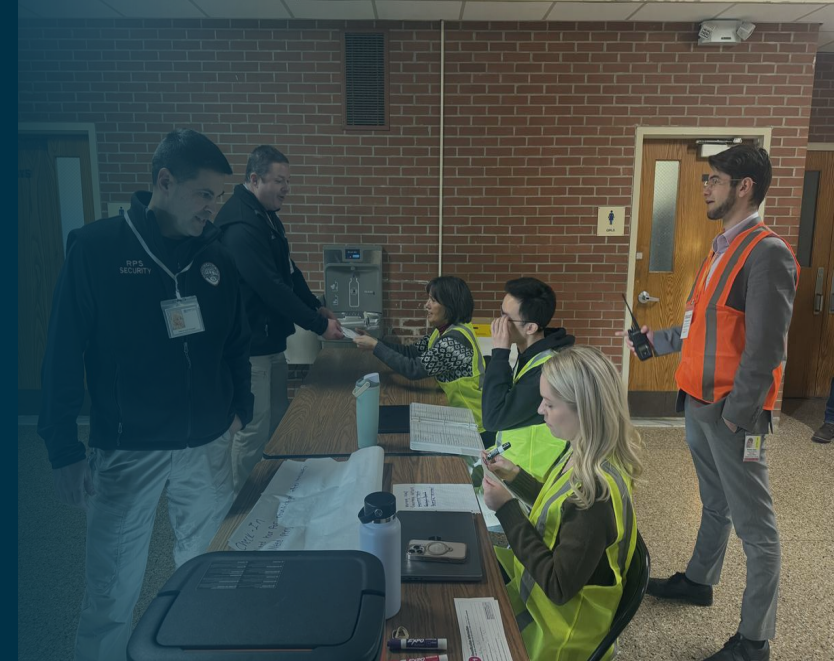


Ridgefield Public Schools

From plan to practice. How one Connecticut district took three deliberate steps to make sure their reunification system works when it matters most.

LOCATION
Ridgefield, CT

PARTNERSHIP
3-Phase Engagement



3

ENGAGEMENT PHASES

1st

LIVE EXERCISE COMPLETED

100%

TEAM READY BEFORE A REAL EVENT

Most school districts have a student reunification plan. Far fewer have ever tested whether it actually works. Ridgefield came to The Reunification Foundation not to start over, but to sharpen, strengthen, and ultimately stress-test what they had. Their commitment played out across three deliberate phases, each building on the last toward a single goal: a team that is truly ready.

WHAT'S INSIDE



The Three-Phase Approach

How Ridgefield moved from a plan on paper to a team that has actually done it.



What Set Them Apart

The choices that separated Ridgefield from districts that stop at having a plan.



The Standard Worth Setting

What genuine reunification readiness looks like and how your district can get there.

The Three-Phase Approach

Ridgefield Public Schools · Case Study

1 Phase 1 — Sharpening the Framework

Ridgefield already had a plan in place. The first step was adding The Reunification Foundation's training materials to their existing protocols, not to start over, but to fill gaps and give their team a shared and up-to-date resource to work from. Even strong plans benefit from an outside lens.

2 Phase 2 — Building Team Fluency

Having a good plan means little if the people responsible for executing it are not deeply fluent in their roles. The Reunification Foundation trained Ridgefield's staff directly, moving their team from awareness to competency. Staff learned not just what the plan says, but why each element exists and how they work together.

3 Phase 3 — Putting the System to the Test

The functional reunification exercise is what distinguishes Ridgefield's commitment. The Reunification Foundation designed and facilitated a simulated event that put their people, communication systems, and logistics under realistic pressure. Ridgefield came away with documented findings and a team that had been through a reunification event before they ever faced a real one.

What Set Them Apart

Ridgefield Public Schools · Case Study

Why Ridgefield Stood Out

- Already had a plan, and chose to strengthen it rather than treat it as finished
- Committed to all three phases: materials, training, and live exercise
- Staff experienced reunification before a real event ever occurred
- Documented after-action findings with specific improvements to implement
- Demonstrated institutional leadership in preparedness culture

THE STANDARD WORTH SETTING

What Ridgefield did was unusual not because they lacked preparation, but because they refused to stop at **“good enough.”** A plan on a shelf is not the same as a team that is ready. They wanted to know, with real confidence, that when families show up in a crisis, their staff can meet the moment. That is the standard every district should hold itself to.

Ready to strengthen your reunification capability?

If your district has a plan and wants to strengthen it, train your team,
or run a functional exercise, we are ready to help.

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**REUNIFICATION
FOUNDATION**

The only organization in the world conducting applied research on all aspects of school reunification.

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