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**An 'A-rated' District**

*Mission Statement: We are committed to the success of every student!*

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

***Local schools transition to a more 'kid-friendly' safety response system***

During the first two weeks of school, Alachua County Public Schools' students will be learning new safety strategies being implemented in local schools.

This year the district is transitioning to 'I Love U Guys,' a new safety response system, for all district schools this school year. It will replace ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) which was the district's previous response system.

"Priority No. 1 is safety on our campuses and maintaining the safety that we have already established through our training and protocols," Hamilton said. "I Love U Guys is a kinder, gentler and effective approach to implementing a system that will meet our needs,"

Under Florida's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Safety Act, students in all public schools must be taught protocols for responding to emergency situations ranging from severe weather to intruders. The Act was passed in 2018 after 17 students and staff were killed during a shooting at a south Florida high school.

The I Love U Guys response protocols, which can be found at [iloveguys.org](http://iloveguys.org), are based not on individual scenarios but on the response to any given situation. It outlines five courses of action for emergency situations: hold, secure, lockdown, evacuate and shelter.

The program describes itself as one that can provide continuity for students. It's also easier to train and drill teachers through the I Love U Guys system.

Approximately 85 officers from multiple law enforcement agencies throughout Alachua County were trained in the I Love U Guys program during the summer. Those officers then trained teachers and staff on school campuses during pre-planning week. Those teachers and staff will be sharing the protocols with their students as the school year gets underway.

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