

## CENTEGIX Case Study

# Day-to-Day Emergencies Are Part of School Safety: How CrisisAlert™ Saved A Life In Brantley County Schools



*“And the doctors told her without a doubt that if the AED had not been used within the first five-to-six minutes that she wouldn't be here today.”*

**DR. KIM MORGAN, SUPERINTENDENT**



## BRANTLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS



### CHALLENGE

When you work in the county where you were born and raised...

When you have the unique experience of becoming the principal of the school that you once attended as a young child...

And when you ultimately become the superintendent of the school district named for your home, you've invested more than a few of those seconds building relationships with your community.

For Dr. Kim Morgan, Brantley County Schools Superintendent, those relationships led her to know in her gut that there was something more that she could be doing to keep her students and staff safe. "I would've felt like— until this was in Brantley—that I wasn't doing enough for our people. There was something out there that would've made us safer, and I—we did not have our hands on it yet. And so as a superintendent, I wan to be able to say, 'I've done everything I know to do to make us as safe as possible, both students and employees.'"

Some of the schools in Brantley County are older buildings. With older buildings come communication challenges—things like wi-fi connectivity and inconsistent intercoms—that waste valuable time in moments of crisis.

In looking for a reliable solution, Dr. Morgan and her team found the CENTEGIX CrisisAlert™ emergency response system. Dr. Morgan, knowing she wanted this solution for her schools, kept conversations going with the CENTEGIX team and even had them present to school decision-makers multiple times. In the fall of 2022, with the go-ahead from the Brantley County School Board and funding support from ESSER dollars, CENTEGIX installed the CrisisAlert system and officially partnered with Brantley County Schools.

## SOLUTION

Brantley County Schools had scheduled professional development days for January. CENTEGIX worked with district officials to make sure that the system would be installed and up and running so that those professional development days could be used for training on the CrisisAlert system. And it was just in time.

On February 7, less than a month after the staff was trained, a teacher was working one-on-one with a student. Hearing what sounded like crying, a colleague went to investigate what the sound was and where it was coming from. What she found was the teacher falling to the floor. The investigating teacher called for help, and another teacher rushed in and pressed her CrisisAlert badge three times, alerting the school's principal and nurse to an emergency.

The principal and nurse, whose offices are in a separate building on campus, knew right where the emergency was happening and ran to the classroom. In the meantime, the teacher triggered a second three-press alert on her CrisisAlert badge. A second group of school administrators ran to the classroom, one of them grabbing one of the automated external defibrillator (AED) units located on campus.

Upon arriving to the classroom, the principal and nurse checked the teacher for signs of breathing and a pulse, but the teacher was not breathing. They quickly began CPR. Less than one minute later, the second wave of help arrived with the AED. While waiting for EMS to arrive, the team used the AED on the teacher twice. Thankfully, they were able to get a pulse; EMS took over and rushed the teacher to the hospital.

***“It is just so impressive to me—especially if you could just see the distance from the front office to where this classroom was in another building—when they went back and watched the timeline from the video, CPR was being administered within three minutes of hearing that child start crying. And our teacher is great. She's at home today.”***

***—Dr. Kim Morgan***

## RESULTS

For Dr. Morgan, the precious seconds saved with the help of the CrisisAlert badge and notification system are proof-positive that this solution is exactly what her schools need to keep people safe.

The CENTEGIX CrisisAlert System empowers all school staff members to report emergencies instantly. Wearable silent panic buttons trigger alerts with a few simple clicks. A three-press alert notifies school-level responders of everyday situations that require immediate assistance, like medical events or student altercations. The badge responds with a vibration to let the user know that an alert has been sent to responders. Room-level location technology allows the alerting staff member to stay and with the confidence that they'll have support on the way to their exact location on campus.

Because of this technology, help arrived in the right location at the right time. Notes Dr. Morgan, “The doctors told her without a doubt that if the AED had not been used within the first five-to-six minutes, that she wouldn't be here today. So we know without a doubt that badge helped speed up that response. Like I said before, the first two were there, that could even radio back and say, ‘Hey, we need the AED,’ the other two from a different location who had received the same alert were running and just thought, ‘let me grab the AED’ and went—and we wouldn't have had that many people on the way without these badges.”

The positive response from district staff further validates that the CENTEGIX CrisisAlert was the right decision for Brantley County Schools. Teachers send emails of praise to Dr. Morgan, noting that the investment demonstrates a genuine commitment to safety for kids and adults.

When asked about advice for other superintendents considering emergency response technology for their communities, Dr. Morgan says, “I would say to that superintendent above everything else, safety comes first. And I'm sure that superintendent feels that way in their heart as well. And I don't know of another product out there that can help control the response time to emergencies. Whether it is a whole campus situation—the unthinkable—or these different medical emergencies, or classroom events. I cannot think of anything that's going to speed up a response the way this does, or enable as many employees to be able to get help and initiate a response.”

In times of high stress and panic, every second matters. Empowering people to communicate effectively and take appropriate action in a crisis ensures that no time is wasted.

Lives are saved with CrisisAlert.

