

# SCHOOL SAFETY TRENDS: 2023 SPRING TERM

## **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

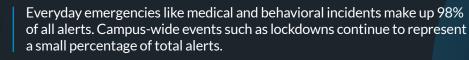
In this report, CENTEGIX<sup>®</sup> offers its latest, comprehensive analysis of school safety incidents gathered from our CrisisAlert<sup>™</sup> usage data for the 2023 Spring Term. Additionally, we analyze user feedback<sup>1</sup> to identify trends regarding school safety, including perspectives on teacher retention and recruitment and student well-being and achievement. We also look to seasoned educational leaders to extract insights into safety planning and choosing safety solutions for their districts, including a deep examination of how they determine their return on investment. Lastly, we explore the state of Alyssa's Law across the U.S. and how the CrisisAlert solution meets—and surpasses—those requirements.

### **HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE**



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Teachers continue to face violence in schools. Providing safety and security solutions for teachers and staff is important for teacher retention and recruitment, as well as student well-being and achievement.





Teachers and staff continue to prefer the badge to get help during an emergency as opposed to traditional options like wall-mounted panic buttons or mobile phones because it is easily accessible, discreet, and simple to use.



The rate of safety incidents has continued to increase.



Nearly half of all safety incidents on a school campus occur outside the classroom; precise location is a critical feature in any emergency response system; first responders need to know exactly where help is needed to reduce response time.



Alyssa's Law has been passed in five U.S. states and introduced in another six; the CrisisAlert solution meets all states' requirements by addressing communication gaps created by phone-based emergency response apps during crisis incidents.



CrisisAlert has 100% adoption by staff, a crucial component of any effective mobile panic alert solution.





"Across the U.S., violence against teachers has ratcheted up since the widespread return to in-person learning in 2021, and in some areas the problem is worse than it was prepandemic...From September through May of the current school year, the number of assault-related workers' compensation claims filed at some 2,000 schools in different regions of the U.S. topped 1,350, a five-year high, according to claims and risk-management services firm Gallagher Bassett. The average cost of those claims has increased 26% to around \$6,700 compared with the same period in 2018-19."<sup>2</sup>

## **OVERVIEW**

Teachers continue to battle violence in the workplace. Administrators continue to battle with retaining and recruiting teachers. Students continue to battle with feeling safe while learning. Any angle you view education, those within it are up against major challenges.

The American Psychological Association conducted a nationwide survey<sup>3</sup> of teachers and staff from July 2020 to June 2021. Of the 15,000 respondents, 14% reported physical violence from students, and 49% shared they wanted to quit or switch schools. Safety continues to be a top priority for teachers. From an unlikely active shooter scenario to the inevitable student behavior issues seen regularly, teachers understand what they're up against. They want to know their administrators care about their wellbeing and empower them with training and solutions that actually make a difference.

Leadership at Jay School Corporation in South Bend, Indiana, knows this firsthand. When looking for a safety solution, they knew they needed one that would empower every staff member to get help during an emergency. "The idea that anybody can initiate a lockdown is huge. And not only that, 911 is notified immediately, and they have the location of who activated the lockdown. I think that's huge. That's good knowledge, especially for law enforcement," shared Officer Cody Jesse, SRO at Jay School Corporation. "And let's say, a shooter were to go through the school, each time someone activates, it's going to give you a new location as well. So the idea that anybody can activate a lockdown? Massive."<sup>4</sup>

According to the Learning Policy Institute, the cost of replacing a teacher can range from \$9,000 to \$21,000<sup>5</sup>, including school and district expenses related to separation, recruitment, hiring, and training. This means keeping high-quality teachers in the classroom is paramount.

And while ensuring the safety of staff and students is every administrator's top priority for a safety solution, it's certainly not the only priority. Finding a safety solution that has a great return on investment is also crucial. "It's like anything else in life. You get what you pay for," shared Jeremy Gulley, Superintendent of Jay School Corporation. "So there are less costly options, but if they don't work, then you've not made this campus safe. It may make you feel better, but it's not effectively addressing the problem. So we were willing to commit to that because we just didn't see good products in the market up until now. So it was a big gap that's been filled as a result."<sup>6</sup>

## KEEPING LIVES SAFE: THE ULTIMATE ROI IN SCHOOL SAFETY

Educational leaders have a lot of options to choose from when looking for a safety solution for their district. They have to strike a delicate balance between cost, effectiveness, teacher engagement, and more. "I think one of the things we experienced, the frustration prior to committing to the partnership [with CENTEGIX] was just the lack of reliability," said Superintendent Jeremy Gulley. "The previous products we acquired-previously they were cellphone-based apps. So you automatically have trouble with folks who say, "this is my private cell phone and no one can compel me to download an app." There's a point to that. And then also just the lack of reliability of wi-fi and cell phone connections. So this hardware and this mesh system-and I'm certainly not an expert on the back end-what I just wanted to know is, "Can I count on it? Can I reliably count on it?" And that has been solved."6

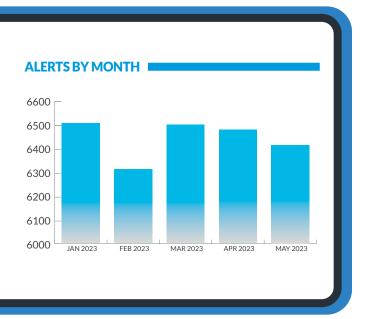
In fact, superintendents and heads of security across the country <u>agree on CrisisAlert's effectiveness</u>.<sup>7</sup> A wearable panic button like CrisisAlert fills many of the technology and communication gaps created by other emergency response solutions, but where it really makes a difference: it keeps lives safe.

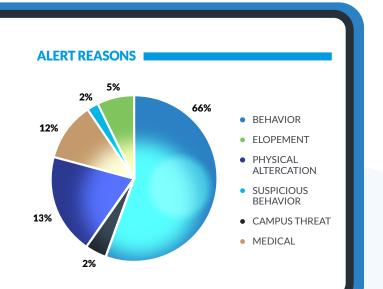
When asked about advice for other superintendents considering emergency response technology for their communities, Dr. Kim Morgan of Brantley County Schools—whose district earlier this year used CrisisAlert to save a life—said, "I would say to that superintendent, above everything else, safety comes first. And I'm sure that [every] 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."<sup>8</sup> Survey data from CrisisAlert users indicates very high satisfaction levels with the wearable CrisisAlert badge. Staff members who used their badge in Spring 2023 rated their experience as follows:



Users in the survey provided feedback that indicated that the badge is the easiest solution to get help during a crisis and that the badge contributes to their peace of mind and allows them to focus on teaching and student achievement.

#### SAMPLE DATA ON A CRISISALERT DASHBOARD:





### CRISISALERT SOLUTION DELIVERS MORE THAN 100,000 ALERTS THIS SCHOOL YEAR

Our data on school safety originates from the CrisisAlert usage patterns of our education customers. The CrisisAlert platform has directly delivered over 100,000 alerts in the 2022-2023<sup>9</sup> school year.

In the 2023 Spring Term, staff alerts, used for everyday emergencies such as medical and behavior incidents, represent just over 98% of all alerts, a trend we've seen since Fall 2020. As in previous semesters, campus-wide emergencies such as weather incidents and lockdowns continue to represent a very small percentage of CrisisAlert usage—only 2%.

CrisisAlert customers can access their district's data easily through the CrisisAlert Dashboard. The CrisisAlert Dashboard provides administrators with actionable data on a school- and district-wide basis to understand and identify ways to best support their schools, such as using the data to help make decisions regarding resource allocation. The ability to access this data easily and efficiently encourages efforts to improve school culture and climate, supporting student well-being and achievement and teacher recruitment and retention initiatives.

## TEACHERS CONTINUE TO PREFER A BADGE OVER OTHER SAFETY ALERT OPTIONS

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Each semester, we survey users on what they would have done had the same situation occurred before they had access to the wearable CrisisAlert badge; there were a range of responses. In nearly 1,250 surveys submitted, the most popular responses included:

#### "I would..."

- have to retrieve my phone from my desk, bag, other. I do not keep my phone on my person.
- have difficulty getting a strong cellular signal in my classroom and/or on school grounds.
- struggle with powering up, unlocking, and accessing the right app in a crisis situation.
- call the office and wait for someone to answer.
- send a text/email.
- yell for help.
- send a student to find help.
- use the radio/walkie-talkie.
- use the wall button.
- use the intercom.
- involve another teacher or staff member.
- leave to get help.
- intervene/try to stop the conflict.
- have done nothing/not have been able to get help.

"I had a student cursing at other students who was asked to step outside of the room so we could talk. Student refused. I needed help removing the student from the room to deescalate the situation before a fight ensued. Help comes to you instead of you having to leave your class unattended to go find help."

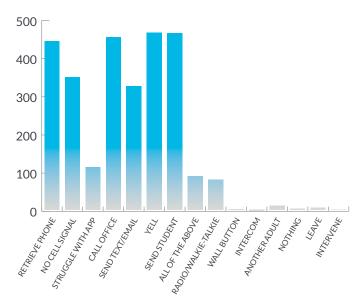
High School Teacher, AL

Many of the responses we received involve using a personal cell phone, and that presents its own set of challenges:

- You may not always have your cell phone with you.
- Wi-fi and cellular service aren't always reliable in a school building.
- Not all teachers are comfortable using personal devices for work-related purposes.

The CrisisAlert badge doesn't require teachers to use a personal device, doesn't rely on a cell signal or wi-fi to send an alert, and doesn't require the person who activates it to be in any one location. New and veteran educators alike also know that discretion is critical when de-escalating an emergency situation, which CrisisAlert provides. The survey data corroborates CrisisAlert as an ideal way for teachers and staff to get help.

#### IF THIS SITUATION HAD OCCURRED BEFORE YOU HAD CRISISALERT, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE?



## EDUCATIONAL LEADERS DISCUSS SCHOOL SAFETY RETURN-ON-INVESTMENT

In early 2023, we hosted a panel of educational leaders who have recognized the need for serious investment in school safety and have led the charge in their districts—and, often, in their states—by choosing CrisisAlert to keep their staff and students safe.

But with all eyes on them—from teachers and parents to board members and community leaders—and with funds often tight or unavailable, how do these educators determine what safety solution they should invest their time, energy, and money into?

Hosted by former educator and CENTEGIX Chief Development Officer Dr. Rocky Sams, we sat down with:

- Dr. Jim McMullen, Assistant Superintendent, Olathe Public Schools, KS
- Chief John Newman, Chief of Security and Emergency Management, Hillsborough County Schools, FL
- Stacey Locke, Assistant Superintendent, Yakima School District, WA
- Jay Floyd, CENTEGIX Director of Customer Success, former Superintendent, Hart County Charter System, GA

Despite the districts ranging greatly in size—from 5 schools to over 250—there are common challenges nearly all educational leaders can speak to when trying to find a safety solution that will prove effective: how do I ensure everyone will use it? How do I make sure help gets to the right place, and what if that's outdoors or somewhere with no service? And lastly, how do I make it *easy* for my staff to get that help?

#### **Evaluation Criteria:**

- 1. Must be a wearable badge; it can't be an app-based program
- 2. Must have room-and floor-level location accuracy
- 3. Must work outdoors and in no-wi-fi-or-cell-service areas like stairwells, parking lots, and sports fields
- 4. Must be simple to use, simple to train on, and simple to maintain

### CRITERIA NO. 1: WEARABLE OVER APP-BASED

Our CrisisAlert wearable badge overcomes many of the challenges mobile app-based solutions struggle with: adoption rates are typically low for these kinds of solutions as they often require staff to download the app on their personal device, and staff may have trouble sending and receiving alerts in a timely manner if the solution relies on wi-fi connectivity or a cellular signal to work.

The CrisisAlert wearable badge delivers 100% adoption, leaving no staff member unprotected. When discussing the benefits of the solution with his board, Dr. Jim McMullen emphasized, "This is a product that'll benefit all staff in our district. And not just our teachers, but our custodians, our bus drivers, secretaries, food service, you name it. There's a lot of other entities within a school district. And it allows us to provide that security—and, frankly, the quick response—for all staff."

### **CRITERIA NO. 2: ROOM-AND FLOOR-**LEVEL ACCURACY

When an emergency occurs, you want to make sure that help gets to the right place. When first responders are equipped with the precise location information of an emergency-like they are with the CrisisAlert solution-response time is reduced and better outcomes are achieved.

Jay Floyd shared how first responders in his district were impacted seeing the solution work in person for the first time. "I remember the first meeting that I had at the time. I actually went to the 911 center and wanted to see how it operated from the

911 center standpoint...We also set up the desktop takeover for 911. I had several police officers there too at the 911 center. And when they saw what would occur in an actual event. if there was a lockdown, it was silence, just like it is in this room right here...They were just like, Mr. Floyd, you just don't know. This is a game changer. Not only are we going directly to that school, but we're going right here to that entrance, closest to that classroom right now."

**CENTEGIX®** 

### **CRITERIA NO. 3: PROTECTS THE ENTIRE** SCHOOL CAMPUS, **INCLUDING OUTDOORS**

Our data over the last several semesters has shown that emergencies happen all over a school campus. That means your safety solution must work effectively everywhere, including places like stairwells, locker rooms, playgrounds, and parking lots. Not only that, but when your school faces extreme weather conditions-be it the Florida sun or the Midwestern winters—your emergency response solution needs to be able to take the wearand-tear without issue.

fields? And those questions, all those concerns were

there to make sure you guys were delivering exactly

allayed when we did all the installation. We were

what you said you were."

"One of the biggest things had to do with the exterior. Florida, the weather's brutal, right? I mean brutal...From the humidity to the hurricanes, what would the technology look like outside?" Chief John Newman shared. "And when we went through the installation, we were with the teams that did it. You know, we made some modifications, but it was a big deal to us that CrisisAlert worked outside. We have some of our schools that the distance from the main building to the football field might be a big Cypress Reserve. How are we going to get the technology to work out there on the football

"While heading inside from recess, another teacher was coming outside. She tripped and fell hard onto the concrete due to a folded carpet left outside. I did not have a walkie talkie handy, so I pressed my emergency button 3 times to get her help."

Elementary School Teacher, FL

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### CRITERIA NO. 4: SIMPLICITY IN USE, TRAINING, AND MAINTENANCE

Even the most innovative, well-thought-out solution is useless if you can't convince your staff to use it. School leaders already know that an effective solution is one that is easy to use, easy to train users on, and is easy to maintain. CrisisAlert is simple and easy to use—just push a button and help comes. In a crisis, you want simple steps that can be executed quickly and with as little room for error as possible.

Dr. Jim McMullen of Olathe Public Schools agrees. "The simplicity piece and the human error piece was critical for us. You know, our philosophy is: you can have the best plans in the world, but if you have a human error implementing those plans, it's all for not...Anytime you can take the human error out of notifying folks, I think it's critical, and it certainly speeds everything up."

### OTHER EVALUATION CRITERIA USED

There were additional criteria that some of our educational leaders and their teams used when evaluating CrisisAlert and whether it was the right solution for their district.

## Recruiting Substitutes During the Teacher Shortage

Dr. Jim McMullen has seen his district prioritize finding qualified teachers to fill their classrooms, and it doesn't stop at your full-time educators. The nationwide teacher shortage affects substitute teachers, too.

"We've been pretty strategic with our substitute teachers. There's a national shortage of substitute teachers across the board. And when we're able to get that word out, 'every sub has a badge, we've checked them out permanently to our subs'. Initially, when we went into this, we thought we would just have 10 at the office and check them out each day and check them back in. But we pivoted, and it turned out really well for us, because we go ahead and check one out as part of our onboarding to every staff member," said Dr. Jim McMullen. "Of course, it works in every building, so it doesn't matter what building they're a sub in. And that's been a great recruitment tool for us on the substitute side, which is every bit as critical as the teacher recruitment side."

#### **Direct Link to Law Enforcement**

The fewer steps needed to get the right information to the right people during an emergency, the better. With CrisisAlert, when a lockdown is triggered, law enforcement is immediately alerted. Precise location information is instantly shared so officers can get to the scene as fast as possible.

"Most importantly was that all of our police officers that were on street patrol during the day were getting the call immediately. It wasn't having to go through dispatch at all. And, for us, it was the 'where and who' so that we could respond that quickly. It was a big deal," shared Stacey Locke, Assistant Superintendent, Yakima School District, WA.

## Access to Actionable Data for Informed Decision-Making

CrisisAlert customers can access actionable data about the schools in their district through the CrisisAlert Dashboard so they can make more informed and effective decisions regarding safety and security.

Dr. Jim McMullen shares how the data allowed him and his team to see how engaged his staff were with the solution and identify problem areas—on two extreme sides of the spectrum-and then address them. "The data's important, because it just shows the value and the usage for us. The other piece of that is keeping an eye on the data lets you address issues on the other side. So I talked about the elementary example [where one elementary school had 720 alerts in one semester], which is extreme. Well, concurrently, we see one of our six high schools with 2,200 kids after nine weeks hadn't pushed it once. Well, that's a problem, right? You tell me in a high school, we haven't had one issue that warranted a three-button push? So [the data] really allows you to have those conversations with administrators and show the data and the facts."

## THE RATE OF SAFETY INCIDENTS HAS CONTINUED TO INCREASE

### STUDENT CONDUCT INCIDENTS ACCOUNT FOR 84% OF ALERTS

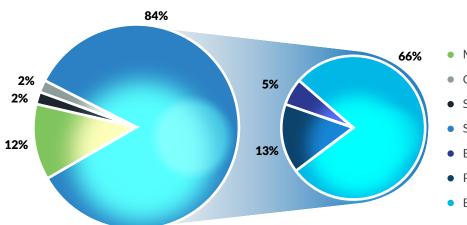
In the CrisisAlert platform, school administrators indicate a "close reason" for each alert that provides data about the incidents in their schools.

In Spring 2023, elopement accounted for 5% of all incidents, same as Spring 2022. In Spring 2023, physical altercations accounted for 13% of all incidents.

Last Fall, the student conduct categories (behavior, elopement, and physical altercation) combined represented 84% of all alerts, a trend continued from Spring 2022. Spring 2023 saw the trend stay the same at 84%.

Campus-wide alerts—lock-ins/lockdowns, soft lockdowns, shelter-in-place, evacuations, or weather events combined to account for only a small percentage of total alerts, 2%. We first observed this trend in Fall 2020, and it has continued in subsequent semesters.

**SPRING 2023** 



MEDICAL

- CAMPUS THREAT
- SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR
- STUDENT CONDUCT
- ELOPEMENT
- PHYSICAL ALTERCATION
- BEHAVIOR

### MEDICAL INCIDENT RATE CONTINUES TREND; MAINTAINS LARGE PERCENTAGE OF ALERTS

In the Spring 2023 term, the percentage of medical incidents held steady at 12%, a trend we've seen since Spring 2022. According to CrisisAlert users surveyed, there is strong support for the use of the wearable panic button for medical emergencies involving both staff and students.

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#### CrisisAlert Helps Save Lives

During medical emergencies, getting first responders to the correct location quickly is critical. Often, the speed of response is the difference between life and death. Exactly that scenario occurred at Nahunta Primary School of Brantley County Schools (GA), where a teacher collapsed without warning and had no pulse and a nearby colleague quickly and easily got medical help using CrisisAlert. Superintendent Dr. Kim Morgan shares this incredible life-saving story in this video<sup>10</sup>. To learn more about what happened and how CrisisAlert was used to take action, download our <u>case study</u>. "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 of Brantley County Schools, GA

#### See what staff had to say about CrisisAlert:

"During the school's Homecoming Dance, a student became ill and passed out on the floor. A nearby student got my attention and I used the badge to signal for assistance since I could see the semiconscious student. The dance was very loud and well attended, so the badge made it possible to get more help to the location sooner. The couple times I have needed quick assistance over the past few years, it has worked well."

High School Teacher, GA

"I had a student become very ill in the classroom. He ran out the door and began vomiting, then fell over in the grass...[CrisisAlert] keeps our children safer. It worked perfectly."

Middle School Teacher, FL

### THE RATE OF SAFETY **INCIDENTS REMAINS HIGH**

Spring 2023 data shows an average number of alerts per semester for all school types similar to that of last semester. The rate of safety incidents remains elevated, and usage among staff remains high.

Middle schools and high schools experienced similar rates of alerts per semester for Spring 2023.

Elementary schools continue to experience the highest rate of alerts per semester out of all school types, about 46% higher than secondary schools.

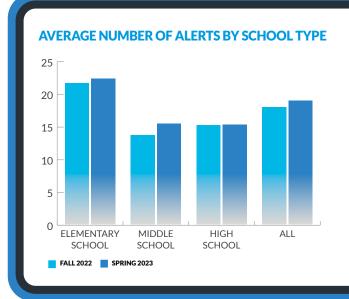
### THE NUMBER OF STAFF **REQUESTING HELP PER SCHOOL INCREASES**

In Spring 2023, the average number of staff members per school requesting help was about 6.7.

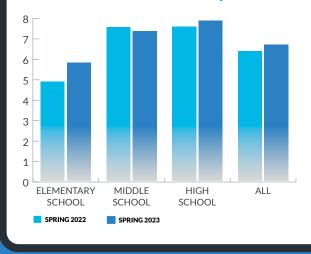
### **STAFF USAGE OF CRISISALERT INCREASES**

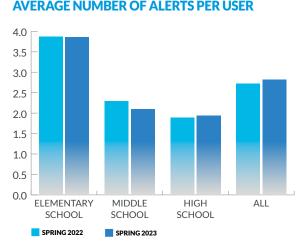
Spring 2022 had 2.7 alerts per user on average. We observed an increase in the frequency staff requested help in the Spring 2023 term with an average of 2.8 alerts per user.





AVERAGE NUMBER OF STAFF REQUESTING HELP





**AVERAGE NUMBER OF ALERTS PER USER** 

## ABOUT 50% OF SAFETY INCIDENTS HAPPEN OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

Analysis of staff and campus-wide alerts of CrisisAlert users shows that only 54% of safety incidents happen in the classroom.

Alerts commonly come from other areas on campus, including:

- 19% in the hallway
- 11% in the parking lot, playground, or other exterior locations
- 2% in the administration or front offices
- 7% in the gym
- 4% in the cafeteria

As we've observed in previous semesters, this data reasserts the importance of providing teachers and school staff with safety and security supports that extend beyond the classroom walls and into other common campus locations such as playgrounds, parking lots, and sports fields.

It's vitally important that the supports provided can deliver pinpoint location accuracy of an alert. In the case of extreme threats to safety, CrisisAlert notifies 911 dispatch, initiates visual and audio notifications, and effectively puts a school in lockdown. The location

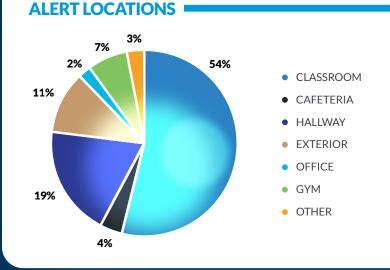
of the badge is visible on the CENTEGIX Safety Blueprint<sup>™</sup> map (shown below), reducing response time when help is needed. Reducing response time is the number one priority during an emergency, and CrisisAlert ensures first responders know exactly where to go.

Exing High KS

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"A student was arguing with another in the hall during class change. The student dropped their bag and was about to start a fight. I stepped in between them and pushed the button to alert admin. The fight was avoided, the student was removed from the situation, and class was able to start on time. It is helpful because it is something that we always have on our person. We do not need to get to a wall in our room to alert admin."

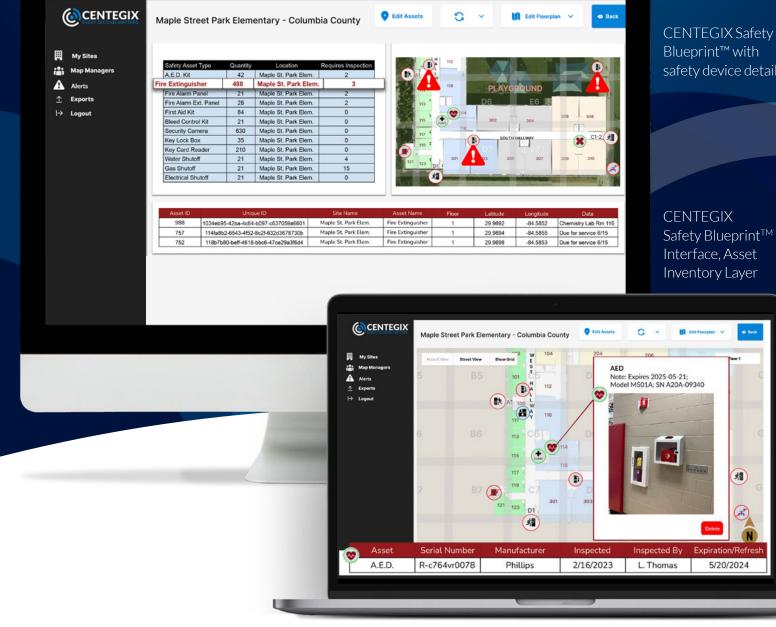
High School Teacher, GA



Example of an active campuswide alert on the CrisisAlert Map As states across the country recognize the importance of providing first responders with standard emergency response data during an incident, legislatures have started to pass laws requiring state education agencies to provide standard emergency response mapping data for public school buildings, such as Florida's recent passing of HB 301<sup>11</sup> in May 2023.

Fully integrated with CrisisAlert, CENTEGIX Safety Blueprint<sup>™</sup> provides a user-editable architectural map of all buildings and spaces, overlaid with a map of all safety and security assets such as AED, fire alarms, first aid kits and extinguishers,

cameras, and access control technology points. It allows administrators, staff, and emergency responders to define, customize, and disseminate critical campus information during an emergency response. Comprehensive and fully customizable, the buildings and campus grounds are structured in layers to serve the unique needs and assets of facilities, security, IT, and more. The ability to edit and adapt architectural maps to keep up with an ever-changing campus ensures that accurate information will be available to the people who need it, when they need it.



safety device detail

CENTEGIX Safety Blueprint<sup>™</sup> Interface, Asset Inventory Layer

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## **ALYSSA'S LAW & CRISISALERT**

Alyssa's Law is legislation created to improve the response time of law enforcement agencies during public school emergencies and is named after Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting victim Alyssa Alhadeff. It requires public elementary and secondary schools to install silent panic alarms that immediately notify law enforcement about potentially dangerous situations on campus.

To date, several states have adopted Alyssa's Law as an important part of their school safety planning requirements, but efforts are underway to expand the law's reach.

In recent years, Alyssa's Law legislation has been put forward for consideration in statehouses including:

- Arizona
- Nebraska
- Georgia • Michigan
- Oregon
- Virginia

States that have passed Alyssa's Law legislation include:

- Florida
- New Jersey
- Tennessee
- Texas
- New York

Alyssa's Law has also been introduced at the federal level but has not yet passed.

When designing the CrisisAlert mobile panic alert system, CENTEGIX relied on feedback from representatives of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Commission. The CENTEGIX CrisisAlert wearable panic button badge provides teachers and other staff members the ability to alert responders immediately.

In addition to connecting with 911 systems and coordinating with a diverse range of responders, CrisisAlert provides:

- 100% coverage of all indoor spaces and outdoor areas
- room-level location accuracy, including floors
- wearable panic button that ensures 100% compliance
- audio and visual alerting (lighted strobes and desktop messages)
- integration with intercoms

The goal is always to reduce response time and get first responders to the scene providing help as soon as possible after an emergency occurs. Wearable, silent panic buttons are a critical component of reaching that goal in schools.



## CRISISALERT HAS 100% ADOPTION; THE BADGE IS EASIEST TO USE.

Our CrisisAlert<sup>™</sup> solution was designed by education and technology experts based on feedback from teachers and administrators about the challenges of legacy options to get help in an emergency.

Getting help to someone as quickly as possible is key in a crisis situation—whether a medical emergency, student altercation, or a campuswide lockdown. In a crisis, every second matters, and CrisisAlert enables the fastest response times of any crisis alerting solution. Traditional methods—such as wall-mounted panic buttons, walkie-talkies, landline phones, and mobile-based apps—all have challenges that limit their effectiveness.

Our CrisisAlert wearable badge is preferred by staff and equips them with the fastest and easiest way to get help. CENTEGIX has distributed hundreds of thousands of badges to teachers and staff, enabling full user adoption.

With the wearable CrisisAlert badge, a staff member simply clicks the badge's button 3 times to get help for an everyday emergency ("StaffAlert") or clicks 8+ times to initiate a campus-wide alert.

A phone call came to our office that a person was driving erratically, swerving all over the road and then drove to the front of our campus. The driver did not get out of the car, but stayed in the driver seat. I pushed the button for help before approaching the vehicle in case the driver was intending to do harm to the campus. Upon further investigation, the driver was a parent who had fallen asleep at the wheel. Pushing the button alerted all the admin within our district who immediately came to my assistance. It would have taken much more time for me to call all those people individually. I received help within a very short time."

Middle School Teacher, TX

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## SUMMARY

At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, our data and survey feedback show that staff rely on the CrisisAlert solution more than ever to protect themselves and their students. As they continue to face violence in the workplace, administrators have to be ready to step up in big ways to keep their quality teachers in the classroom. If they fail to do so, other districts are ready to snap them up. The CrisisAlert wearable panic button is an ideal way for educational leaders to be both demonstrative and effective.

And while teachers primarily grapple with everyday incidents like student conduct issues and medical emergencies, they also see the tragic stories that frequent the news—and they're scared. Other emergency response solutions, such as mobile-based apps or wallmounted panic buttons, leave dangerous communication gaps in school safety plans and risk catastrophic failure during real-world emergencies. CrisisAlert eliminates the communication vulnerabilities created by these other solutions and enables rapid incident response, improving outcomes and saving lives. Educational leaders across the country <u>agree</u>.<sup>7</sup>

As Alyssa's Law legislation continues to expand into more states, school districts must reevaluate the safety solutions they currently have in place and determine what could be improved. The number one goal of Alyssa's Law is to reduce the response time of law enforcement and first responders during emergencies. Doing so saves lives. The CrisisAlert wearable panic button allows teachers and staff to forgo fumbling with their personal phone and enables them to instantly get help with the push of a button on their person.

#### Because in a crisis: Every. Second. Matters.

#### **REFERENCES:**

1: User surveys conducted weekly from January through May 2023 via online form

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\*Footnote: Our Fall 2022 School Safety Trends report included analysis of data for the Fall 2022 term that was collected from July 1, 2022, to December 20, 2022. In this report, data for the Fall 2022 term was collected from July 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022.



CENTEGIX is grateful for the opportunity to support schools and help protect the lives of students and staff in districts across the country. We are dedicated to our mission of creating safer spaces by innovating technology to empower and protect people.

CENTEGIX® Model: CE-BDG-01 MAC:000000000000 R FC

CENTEGIX is the leader in incident response solutions. Our CrisisAlert platform is the fastest and easiest way for staff to get help in any emergency, from the everyday to the extreme. Leaders nationwide trust our safety solutions to provide peace of mind. To learn more about CENTEGIX, visit <u>www.CENTEGIX.com</u>.

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