



Alyssa's Law Texas Deployment

Wearable panic buttons are making Texas Schools Safer



JANUARY 2024



January 2024

Esteemed Leaders of Texas,

In the wake of the tragedy in Uvalde, school safety was a priority for Texas lawmakers and parents alike. Driven by its commitment to securing students across the Lone Star State, the Texas Legislature considered multiple school safety bills during the course of the 88th legislative session. By session's end, the Legislature passed two bills providing funding for school facilities and security: HB 1, the general appropriations bill, and HB 3, which specifically focuses on school safety & security.

While the Legislature provided \$1.4 billion towards school safety, it also adopted provisions on how districts may spend their funding allotments. One such provision was Alyssa's Law.

Named for Alyssa Alhadeff, one of seventeen students killed on February 14, 2018, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, Alyssa's Law requires Texas public schools and academies to provide a silent panic alarm technology (SPAT) emergency alert system that allows for immediately transmitting a signal or message to first responders.

As the nationwide leader in school safety, CENTEGIX has been a critical partner for Texas schools in the work to increase safety; as part of our efforts, we have composed the following to provide Texas lawmakers, school officials, teachers and parents an update on Alyssa's Law and showcase how panic button technology is making schools safer and contributing to the learning environment. We are honored to provide you with the enclosed report outlining how school districts are better serving their staff and students with the use of silent panic button technology across the Lone Star State.

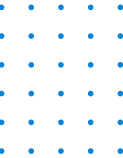
Within this report, we outline the positive impact Texas schools have witnessed. It is a testament to CENTEGIX's commitment to creating the safest learning environments possible. The recent passage of Alyssa's Law in the state will allow even more districts to utilize market-defining technology for school safety. This legislation acknowledges the critical role technology can play in emergency response times and allocates additional funding to support its implementation. As we partner with more Texas schools to embrace CENTEGIX's safety solutions, we look forward to a future where our innovative solutions continue to play a pivotal role in safeguarding students, educators and staff across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Cobb".

Brent Cobb
Chief Executive Officer
CENTEGIX





Why Texas School Districts Choose CENTEGIX

Our CrisisAlert solution is the leader and most used panic alert platform where funded mandates support Alyssa’s Law, as is the case in Texas. In Florida, where Alyssa’s Law originated, **we serve 35% of the public schools and continue to grow.**

In 2023, The Texas House Investigative Committee on the Robb Elementary Shooting released a report detailing key findings on communications and alerts. **These findings were critical in the passage of Alyssa’s Law in Texas.** Unlike CrisisAlert, other incident response solutions lack the critical functionality required for real-world emergencies. CrisisAlert eliminates communication vulnerabilities and enables the fastest incident response, improving outcomes and saving lives.

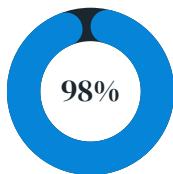
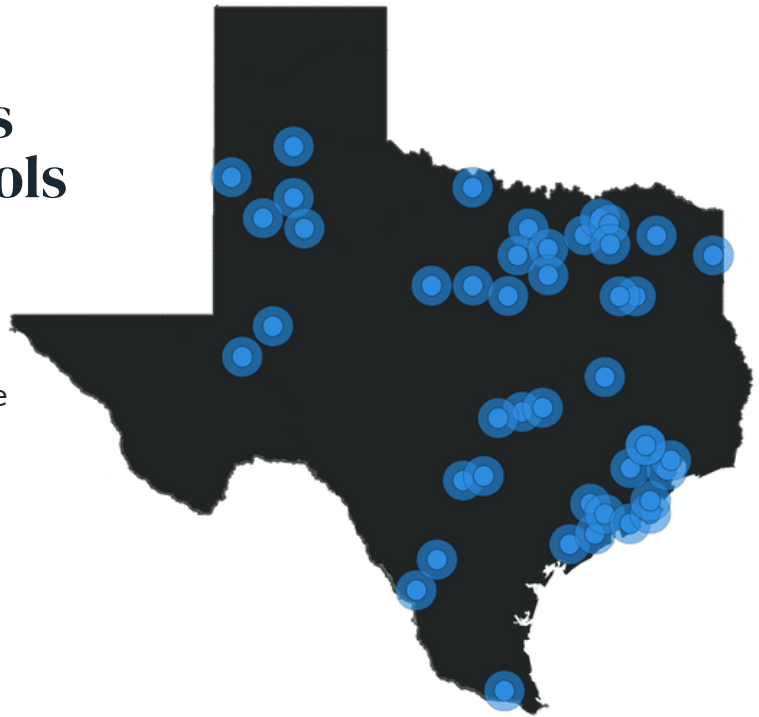
Uvalde Report Factual Conclusions on Communication & Lockdown Alerts	CrisisAlert is Architected to Save Time and Save Lives
Difficulty accessing an app-based alert system	Always on, every employee can quickly and discreetly request help or initiate a lockdown directly with their wearable badge.
Delayed activation time of alert system	A dedicated network of badges, strobes, hubs, and gateways is installed and monitored to ensure 100% coverage everywhere on campus. No Wi-Fi or cellular signal is needed to send an alert.
Delayed campus-wide notifications of threat	When a lockdown has been activated, CrisisAlert automatically initiates strobe lights throughout the school. At the same time, a pre-recorded announcement is activated through the school intercom system. All displays connected to the school network will show a lockdown message that includes district protocols. CrisisAlert provides audio and visual notifications of a lockdown situation to inform everyone on-premises.
Failed use of school-wide intercom	Digital messages and automated intercom announcements inform everyone of a campus-wide incident and the actions to take. CENTEGIX provides and tests the integration of intercom systems and computer displays.
Lack of differentiation between less urgent and crisis alerts	CrisisAlert operates on a private network independent of Wi-Fi or cellular to send alerts. In the event of a power outage, alerts can still be sent as the network has fail-safe measures and provides 8 hours of battery backup.
Unreliable Wi-Fi and cellular connectivity throughout the school	CrisisAlert works independently of Wi-Fi or cellular to send alerts. Automates a phone call and digital message to 911 first responders within seconds of pushing the button. Redundancies and fail-safes on every system level: every staff member has a badge, private network, backup batteries that provide 8 hours of backup and have a multi-year lifespan, and multiple campus-wide notifications to ensure everyone receives the alert.

CENTEGIX CrisisAlert

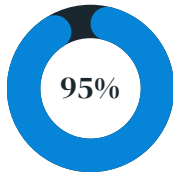
Fifteen Thousand Alerts Sent within Texas Schools

Schools across Texas rely on CrisisAlert to protect those in their care. The CENTEGIX Safety Platform™ is the foundation for your district's layered safety plan, empowering the fastest response to emergencies.

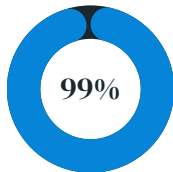
Because every second matters.



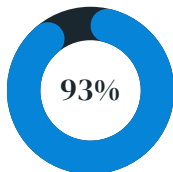
- **Over 98%** of all alerts are for everyday incidents related to health and behavioral emergencies.



- **Over 95%** of Texas staff feel empowered to resolve an emergency situation rapidly with CrisisAlert.



- **99%** indicated it was easy to use the badge to get help. Teachers prefer the badge over wall-mounted panic buttons and personal mobile phones.



- **Over 93%** of Texas school personnel feel safer at work.

9 million people are protected by CrisisAlert nationwide.

We protect more than 11,500 schools in almost 50 states.

"CENTEGIX meets the rapid communication needs of school leaders that include responding to crisis events and the emergencies that happen in schools. Our highest priority is keeping our Eagle students and staff safe, and this is another step in protecting and fortifying our schools."

Dr. Telena Wright, Superintendent Argyle ISD

CrisisAlert Saves Lives

Getting help quickly and to the right location is critical in medical incidents. Often, the speed of response is the difference between life and death. The CrisisAlert solution speeds help to those in need by simplifying the process to identify when and where help is needed, notifying responders immediately with precise location information of the incident and the location of safety assets to assist with the response.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest on Campus

A case underscoring the need for a rapid response occurred at Avon Park High School. In May 2023, during the hectic time when students changed classes, a sophomore collapsed from sudden cardiac arrest. Quick thinking and the CENTEGIX CrisisAlert badge were used to get a team and an AED to the scene within two minutes, an effort that saved the young woman's life.

[Learn more about this powerful story and other life-saving uses of CrisisAlert.](#)

In September 2021, seventeen-year-old Mia Santiago collapsed at the beginning of class and coded—she had no vital signs at all. Her teacher immediately pushed the CrisisAlert button on her badge and, within seconds, had the on-site response team in her classroom to help. Another teacher retrieved a nearby AED and performed compressions on Mia for sixteen minutes until the emergency medical service team arrived. Mia was in a coma for a week but made a full recovery. Her doctors and teachers say if it weren't for the quick actions of her teacher using her badge, she would not have survived. *"The team here saved her life. The badge saved her life."* - Jill Klausing, Teacher

[Watch the news video on this lifesaving event.](#)

Emergency Event on the Playground

Ruskin Elementary School witnessed the power of rapid emergency response during an incident on its playground in April 2021. A teacher and paraprofessional helped save the life of one of their kindergarten students when he suddenly began to vomit and turn blue in the face. The teacher used her CrisisAlert badge to alert responders and administrators of the emergency and relay their exact location on the school campus, immediately getting medical help to the scene.



The CENTEGIX badges have been a game changer for us. There have been multiple situations, including seizures, a dislocated knee, an allergic reaction, a couple of classroom altercations, and a threatening individual, that have prompted staff to use the three-button press. Our staff response time is significantly shorter with this tool. Responders reach the incident location in 30 seconds or less, regardless of the location on campus. Thankfully we haven't had a need to use the tool for a full school lockdown as of yet, but I'm sure it will happen, and when it does, we will be ready. The decision to move to CENTEGIX was, in my opinion, a great one.

-Sara Bravo, Principal, Mandarin High School

CrisisAlert Easy to Use in Extreme Situations

In Hillsborough County School District, deputies responded to Schmidt Elementary School after the principal reported two males on campus, one armed with a rifle. Students and teachers were on campus for summer classes. The principal used her CrisisAlert badge to put the school in lockdown.

Without hesitation, and from where she was walking on campus, she quickly:

- **identified** suspicious activity;
- **notified** everyone on campus that a lockdown had been initiated through the use of strobe lights, a pre-recorded intercom announcement, and desktop display take-over;
- sent a direct communication to bring about a law enforcement **response**.

All with eight clicks of a single button worn on her person. The immediacy of CrisisAlert compresses time that is wasted in a similar situation where a witness to threatening activity has to search for their phone, unlock it, locate the applicable app, log in, and then report an incident.

Upon arrival, deputies found the two suspects. Both were compliant and taken into custody without incident. "Their quick and calculated response ensured the safety of the students and teachers on campus, as well as their own," said Sheriff Chad Chronister.

In October 2022, a man attempted to breach Shaw Elementary School in FL. A staff member quickly reacted by using her CrisisAlert badge to lockdown the school, protecting the entire school while law enforcement officials investigated and resolved the situation.

Safety & Security Is Everyone's Responsibility

"Safety and Security is everyone's responsibility, so if we're going to make that everyone's responsibility, then everyone needs to be empowered to have a voice. These are public schools and parents entrust their children to us every day."

Michelle McCord,
Superintendent,
Frenship ISD

"The system has a very sophisticated mapping feature that allows responders to see exactly which room or hallway the emergency is coming from and from whom. In the event of a real active shooter, we could share this information with outside police agencies who may be coming to aid us."

Paul Cordova, Police Chief Aldine ISD

CENTEGIX Safety
Blueprint™
Industry-First,
Dynamic Digital
Mapping Solution
to Optimize
Incident Response



Helps Teachers Manage Disruptive Behavior

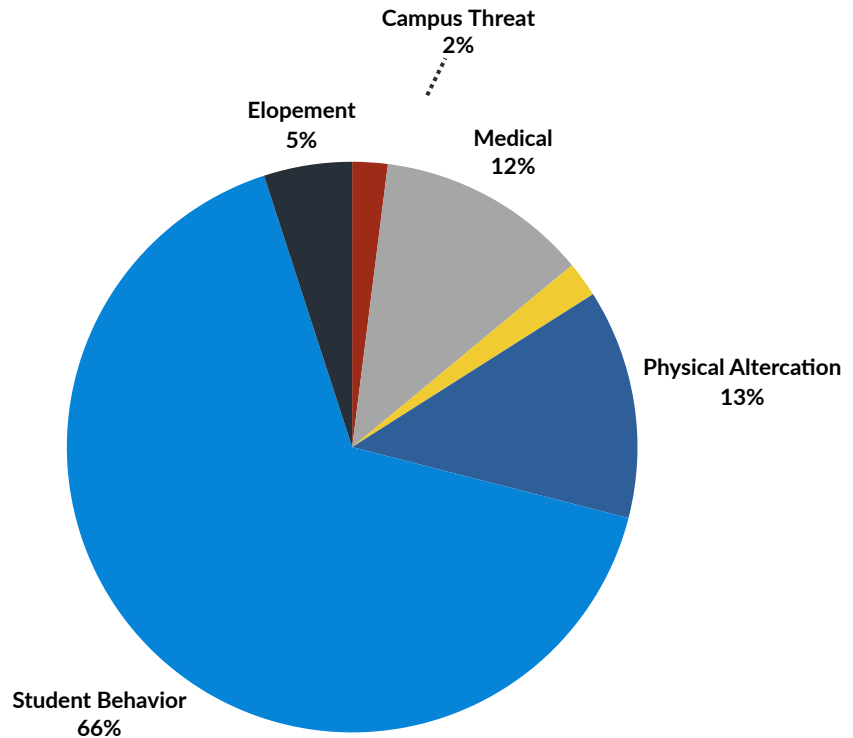
While the number of medical alerts reported in the last year was substantial, the number of alerts and incidents that were driven by adverse student behaviors were the predominant use.

84%

of alerts sent through the CrisisAlert system in Texas were for helping manage student conduct situations.

CENTEGIX categorizations of student behaviors call out specific categories such as “Elopement” (often referred to as a “runner”) and “Physical Altercation” to help administrators track which serious problems they are facing and enable them to plan to better react to these situations in the future.

Reason Alert Was Initiated



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Workplace safety [is the] number one issue not only for the schools but also throughout the nation, so this gives an extra level of security for our staff members.”

Frank Stanage
Human Resources Director,
Alamo Heights ISD

CrisisAlert is Used Every Day

CrisisAlert badges are deployed district-wide. Every employee, from counselors to food service, teachers to front office staff, is assigned a wearable safety badge. Multiple communication failures in emergency response are due to school safety plans that rely on personal mobile phones for workplace safety.

Because each district can add temporary staff, substitute teachers, or other auxiliary team members to each school, the coverage rate for CrisisAlert exceeds 100% of staff in the Texas school districts where CENTEGIX CrisisAlert has been implemented.

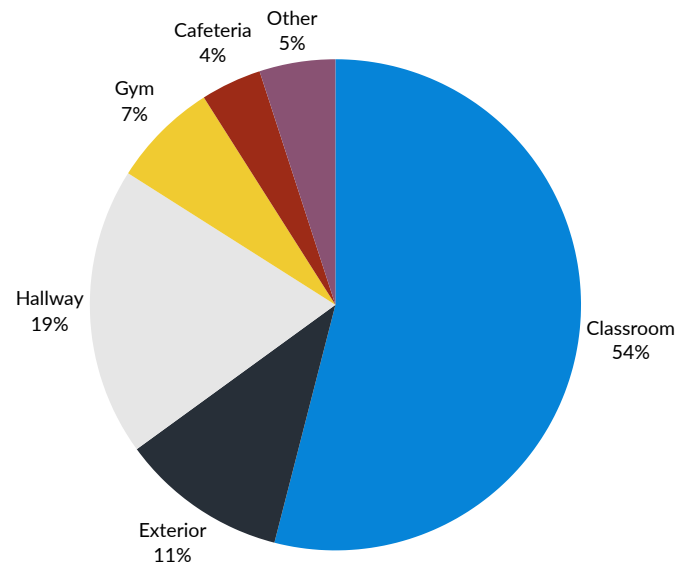
School-Wide Alerts from Anywhere on Campus

46%

of alerts came from outside the classroom.

Emergencies happen outside of classrooms and outside of school buildings. With CrisisAlert, the speed of response isn't affected by limited Wi-Fi coverage, access to wall-mounted devices, or carrying a personal phone.

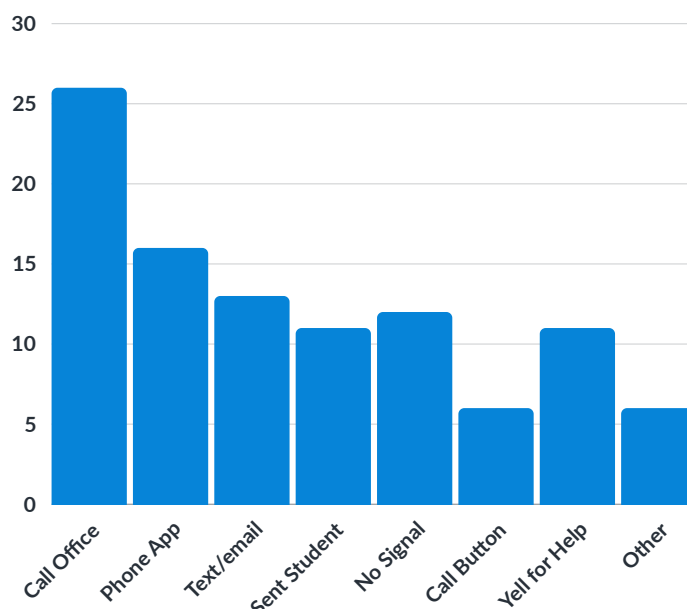
Alerts by Location



Before CrisisAlert

What would you have done in this situation?

CENTEGIX surveyed users about what they would have done in a similar emergency before they had CrisisAlert. The most common response was to call the office for help, whether by cell phone or the classroom phone, both of which rely on other factors like Wi-Fi availability and classroom location.



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“CrisisAlert is an additional measure that Brazosport ISD is taking to fortify safety measures for all our students and staff.

The system's effectiveness and ease of use provide our staff with the confidence and peace of mind necessary to maintain a secure learning environment.”

Ty Morrow, Safety Director
Brazosport ISD

Wearable, Single Button vs Phone Apps



As the Robb Elementry report highlighted, phone-based apps rely on Wi-Fi and cellular which can have limited availability and reliability. CrisisAlert was purpose-built to address the communication breakdowns identified in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Commission Report.

Operating on a private network, independent of cellular and Wi-fi (eliminating any additional burden to the district's existing network) with CrisisAlert, the speed of response is not affected by Wi-Fi coverage or whether someone in need of help has their phone on their person.

"If you needed to send an alert through your cellphone, you would have to actually get your cellphone, unlock it, find the app, find the alert, and then press the alert," explains Frank Frangella, director of safety and security at Martin County School District.



- Surveyed School Leadership

**DO NOT PUT AN APP ON OUR PHONES.
WE WILL NOT DOWNLOAD IT.**



When Frangella proposed CrisisAlert to his School Board, he advocated for the wearable badge solution largely because "most of the staff has declined to install" the application they'd selected to report school emergencies. Districts that opted for one of the nine app-based solution providers have failed to persuade educators and staff to download the app to their personal mobile phones.

In a crisis, every second matters. Mobile phone safety applications cost precious time by adding unnecessary steps:

- Staff must download the app on their personal device
- Staff must have phones easily accessible
- Phones must have a Wi-Fi connection
- Staff must navigate through the phone to initiate an alert

In an emergency, "fight or flight reactions" make it difficult to remember all these steps and have the fine motor skills needed to operate a mobile device.



We didn't want to go with a system that would ask our teachers to download an app or have to fumble through a phone or have to run to a panic alert button. The CrisisAlert system is a really small device; it's wearable... and it's inconspicuous.

Lisa Cantu, Federal Programs Director
Mercedes Independent School District

Summary & Conclusions

Alyssa's Law & CrisisAlert Make Schools Safer

The adoption of the CENTEGIX CrisisAlert solution in districts across the state of Texas and the daily badge usage for common crisis situations is evidence that Alyssa's Law is making Texas schools safer for staff and students.

- With some 15,000 alerts sent by Texas school personnel, teachers and staff overwhelmingly utilize the CrisisAlert badge to instantly get help in an emergency, as outlined in Alyssa's Law.
- With CrisisAlert installed as the Alyssa's Law-compliant silent panic button, **lives have been saved.**
- Where adoption and usage of personal mobile phone apps have remained low, staff adoption of CrisisAlert is district-wide.
- CrisisAlert is being used in Texas districts across the state. From Crane in the West to McLeod in the East, Mercedes in the South to Tulia in the North, districts of all sizes benefit when every school and district staff member is empowered to get help in a crisis.
- CrisisAlert does not depend on a Wi-Fi connection or cellular signal to initiate alerts or notify emergency personnel.
- The CrisisAlert platform provides immediate, multi-sensory notifications for campus-wide alerts, including intercom announcements, colored strobe lights and desktop screen takeovers to help every person on campus know a lockdown has been initiated and the protocols to follow.
- CrisisAlert directly addresses the alert-related communication issues outlined in the investigative report on the tragedy in Uvalde.

Our Contact Information

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