



**Alyssa's Law:
Making Florida
Schools Safer**

Executive Summary:

Named in honor of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting victim Alyssa Alhadeff, Alyssa's Law is legislation that requires Florida public elementary and secondary schools to be equipped with "a mobile panic alert system capable of connecting diverse emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between multiple first responder agencies." Passed in Florida in June 2020, the purpose of Alyssa's Law—also referred to as Alyssa's Alert—is to decrease the time it takes for first responders to arrive at an emergency situation, whether it's a shooting, a natural disaster, or any other unforeseen event, because, as Lori Alhadeff says, "time equals life."

CENTEGIX, the industry leader and largest wearable safety technology provider for K-12 education, is the fastest-growing and most-used mobile panic button provider in Florida, protecting approximately 35% of Florida's Public K-12 schools.

In this report, we share how schools use CENTEGIX CrisisAlert to comply with Alyssa's Law, make their schools safer, and realize tangible benefits.

- **Around 950,000 students and over 100,000 Florida school staff members** are protected by CrisisAlert.
- **Over 86,000 alerts** have been delivered through the CrisisAlert platform in Florida schools.
- **Over 98% of all alerts** are for everyday incidents related to health and behavioral emergencies.
- **Over 97% of Florida staff feel safer** having the CrisisAlert wearable badge, and **over 96% of Florida staff feel empowered to resolve an emergency situation with CrisisAlert rapidly.**
- **Teachers prefer the badge to request help** instead of traditional options like wall-mounted panic buttons or personal mobile phones.

Florida Schools Key Findings

CrisisAlert protects
nearly

1 Million
Students

&

100,000+
Staff Members

86,000+
alerts have been delivered

Why Districts Choose CENTEGIX

A critical breakdown in communication resulting in first responder delays and confusion on what was happening in real-time was a key factor that contributed to the tragic outcomes in Parkland, Florida, and Uvalde, Texas. As explained by Lori Alhadeff, at the heart of Alyssa’s Law is the concept that **time equals life**. Every second matters in a crisis—and action in those first seconds can make the difference between tragedy and survival.

Silent panic alarms must offer two vital protections: 1) alert first responders the moment an emergency begins, and 2) notify everyone potentially in harm's way of the danger, enabling an immediate lockdown. Mrs. Alhadeff believes that if such alarms had been in place when Alyssa was in danger, she might still be with us today.

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.

Communication Breakdowns Outlined in Post-Event Commission Reports	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.
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.
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.
Lack of differentiation between less urgent and crisis alerts	Ability to differentiate between a lockdown-level alert and a staff alert when only staff responders are needed. Instantly provides campus maps and floor plans with floor- and room-level specific location information to designated responders, saving critical response time.
Unreliable Wi-Fi and cellular connectivity throughout the school	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.
Safety plans relied on employees' personal devices.	Inconsistent staff practices pertaining to having cell phones on-person; Poor user adoption/downloads of mobile apps on personal phones.

CrisisAlert Saves Floridians' Lives

In medical incidents, it's critically important to get help quickly and to the right location. 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 Highlands County (FL). 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, in Lee County School District, 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 Klausung, Teacher
[Watch the news video on this lifesaving event.](#)

Emergency Event on the Playground

Ruskin Elementary School in Hillsborough County witnessed the power of rapid emergency response during an incident on their 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.

“I was sick and needed help from the administration. [Without CrisisAlert], my students would have been without coverage and supervision. It was easy, safe, and effective.”

- Middle school teacher,
Palm Beach County Schools, FL

“I feel safe knowing help is a push-button away.”

- Elementary School Teacher,
Pepin Academies, FL

“My student ran out of the classroom. [It was a] safety issue. [CrisisAlert] helped get immediate help to my classroom. I love having it!”

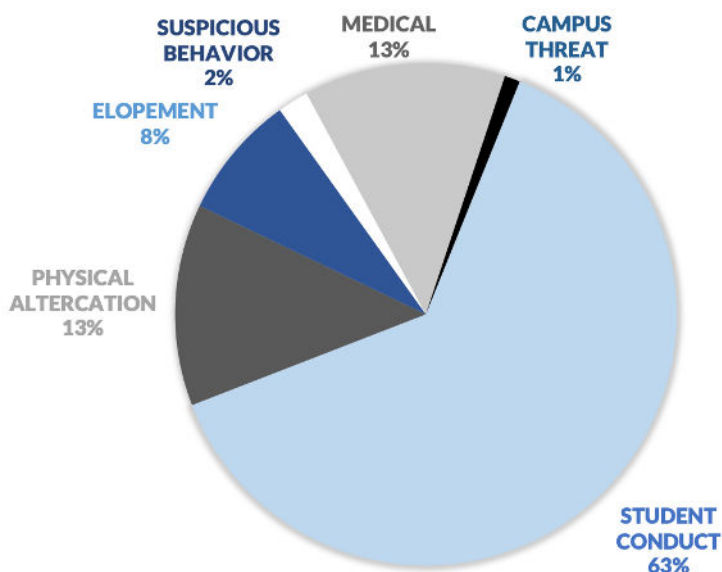
- Elementary school teacher, Lee
County Schools, FL

CrisisAlert Helps Teachers Manage Disruptive Behavior

While the number of campus-wide and medical alerts reported at Florida schools was substantial, it pales in comparison to the number of alerts and incidents that were driven by adverse student behaviors. 84% of alerts sent through the CrisisAlert system for the 2022-2023 school year were for managing these student behavioral 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.

CrisisAlert is Used Every Day



CrisisAlert is Easy to Use, Critical in Extreme Situations

On July 25, 2023, 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 on lockdown.

“Students were fighting near my classroom and I pressed my badge. Staff members joined me to break up the students within a minute of pressing. CrisisAlert is effective... and helps keep students and staff safe.”

- Middle school teacher,
Volusia County Schools, FL

“[There was a] student attacking staff. Working with students with special needs, I would have been stuck with no help and no way to call for help [before CrisisAlert]. CENTEGIX helps so much! Saved myself and others from major injuries.”

- High school teacher,
Hillsborough County Public
Schools, FL

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 Hillsborough County, FL. [A staff member quickly reacted by using her CrisisAlert badge](#) to put the school into lockdown, protecting the entire school while law enforcement officials investigated and resolved the situation.

CrisisAlert has 100% Staff Coverage

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.

Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gaultieri, the chairman of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Commission, [said](#) [referring to a mobile app panic button to Spectrum News, Feb 14, 2023] the new reporting system works well, the main issue is the number of staff **not using them**.

"You have thousands of people who work in Pinellas County schools and schools across Florida, and not everyone has the app on their phone," Gaultieri said. "One of the reasons for that is people are reluctant to put it on their phone. I don't think they should be reluctant, but **we really need more people to have it to engage more, and that's really the improvement that's needed.**" Gaultieri estimated that at the time, only about five people in any given school had the app on their phones.

"Our local school district chose CrisisAlert to protect its staff and students and we appreciate the implementation with CENTEGIX. Alert data comes to us through our existing inbound process and does not require any additional software in our PSAP, which makes it easy to implement the solution for our staff."

- Christina Mortimer, Director of Communications, Flagler County Sheriff's Office, FL

"A student's behavior escalated and admin help was needed. I like CrisisAlert because it is a quick and discreet way to alert for help."

- Arts school teacher
Lee County Schools, FL

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

Teachers and Staff Are Extremely Positive About CrisisAlert

CrisisAlert post-badge usage survey data indicates high satisfaction levels with the wearable CrisisAlert badge. Florida staff members who used their badge rated their experiences:

Does having CrisisAlert help you feel safer as a staff member?

98% said 'Yes'

Was it easy to use your CrisisAlert badge?

98% said 'Yes'

Did using CrisisAlert empower you to rapidly resolve the situation?

97% said 'Yes'

From 1 to 10, how likely are you to recommend CrisisAlert?

9.4 out of 10

The survey results also indicate that CrisisAlert is superior to traditional emergency response methods, which would not have been sufficient during a crisis.

98%

Feel Safer

98%

Easy to Use

97%

Empowered

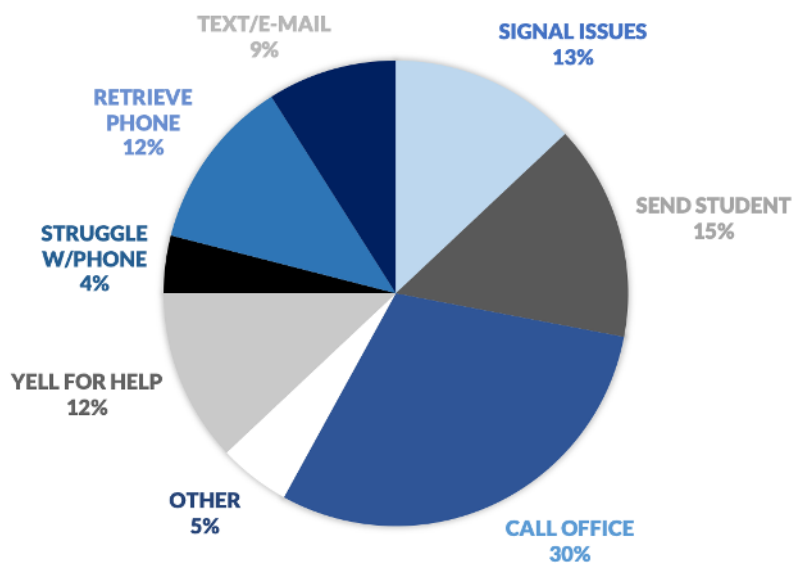
94%

Would Recommend

What Would You Have Done Before You Had Your CrisisAlert Badge?

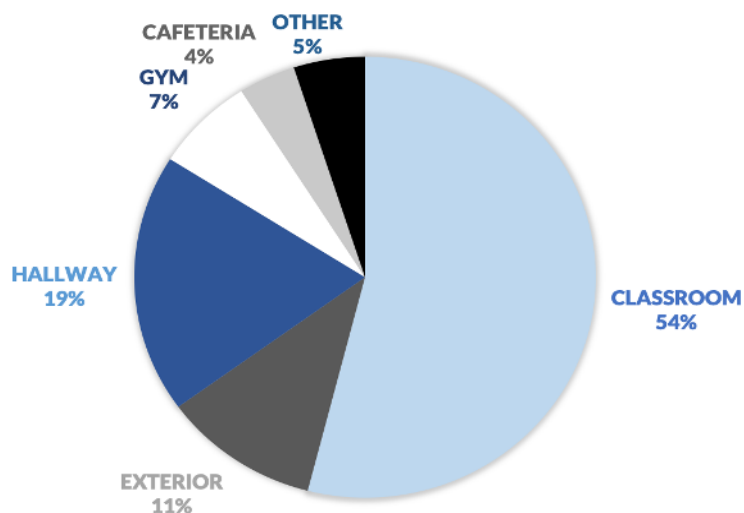
CENTEGIX surveyed users about what they would have done in a similar emergency before they had CrisisAlert. The most common response was to call the office for help, whether by cell phone or the classroom phone, both of which rely on other factors like Wi-Fi availability and classroom location.

Less Efficient Ways to Get Help Before CrisisAlert



Emergencies happen outside classrooms and outside 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.

CrisisAlert is Used Everywhere



"The CENTEGIX badges have been a game changer for us at Mandarin. There have been multiple situations including seizures, a dislocated knee, an allergic reaction, a couple 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."

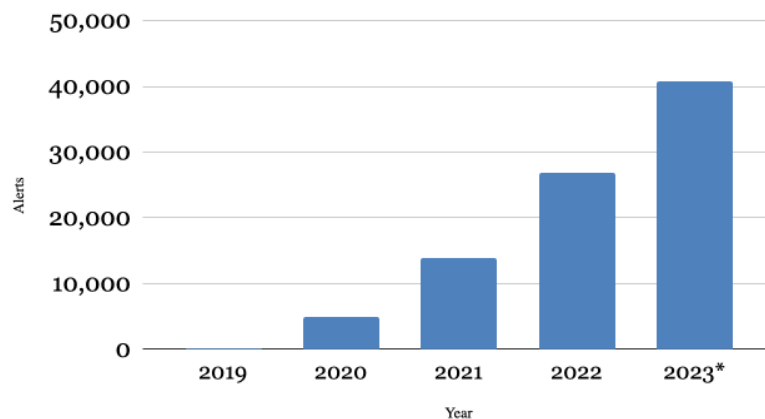
- Sara Bravo, Principal
Mandarin High School, FL

Conclusion

The adoption of the CENTEGIX CrisisAlert solution in districts across the state of Florida and the daily badge usage to manage potentially unsafe situations is evidence that Alyssa's Law is making Florida schools safer for staff and students.

- With over 86,000 alerts sent by Florida 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, CrisisAlert has 100% user adoption.
- The usage of CrisisAlert to support school safety in Florida has grown by more than 50% year over year since its first use in 2019.

Florida Schools Alerts by Year

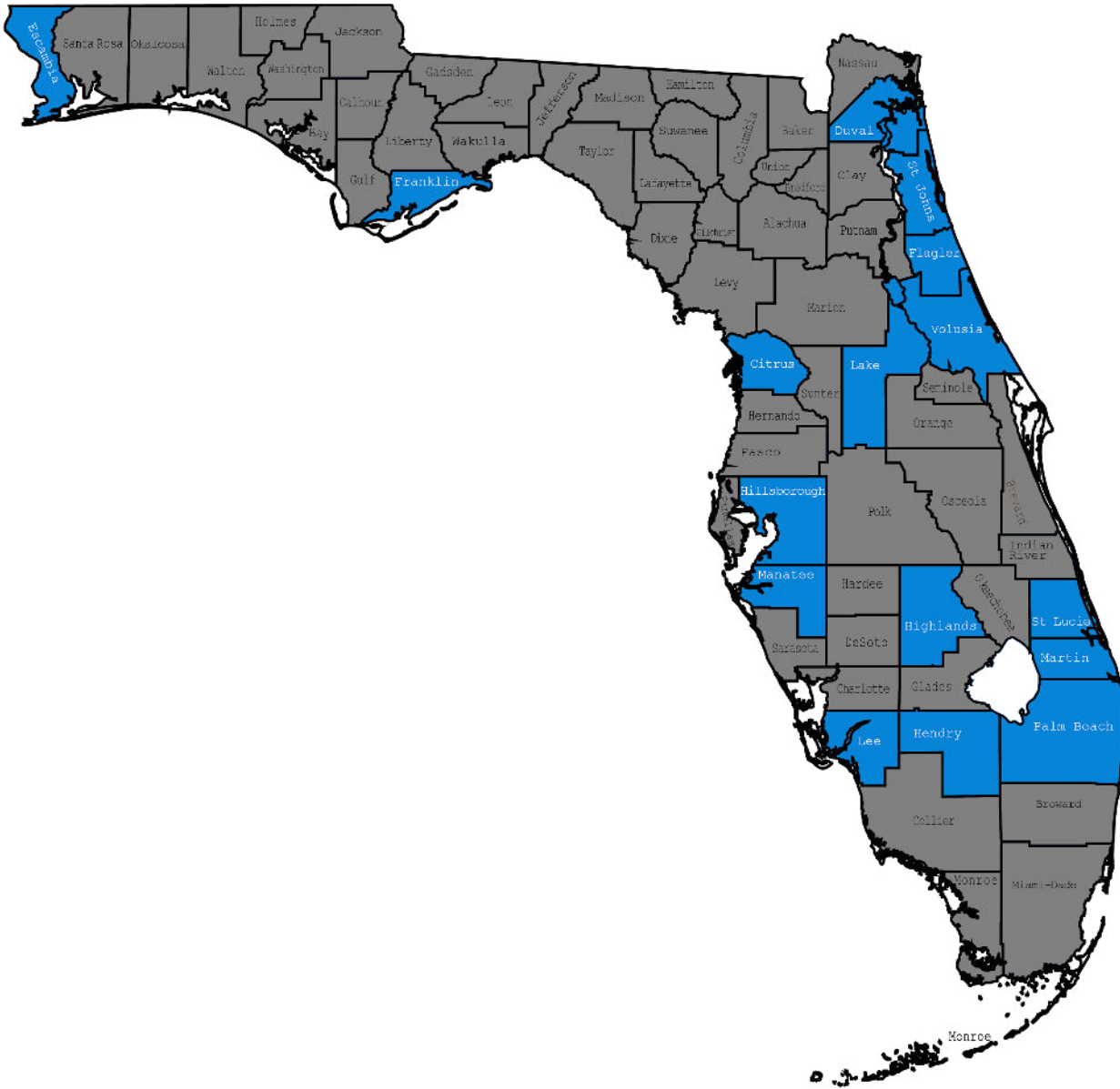




- CrisisAlert was purpose-built to address the safety breakdowns identified in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas tragedy analysis and address the alert-related communication issues outlined in the investigative report on the tragedy in Uvalde.
- User feedback indicates that CrisisAlert is a popular, effective tool among teachers and staff.
- 97% of staff who utilized the badge said they feel safer with CrisisAlert. Teachers and staff prefer the badge to mobile phone apps and wall-mounted panic buttons.

*2023 data covers Jan-Nov

CrisisAlert is the Leading Provider of Silent Panic Alarm Technology for Florida's Schools

CENTEGIX supports over one thousand schools and educational administrative facilities in Florida, more than a third of Florida's public K-12 schools—representing nearly one million students.



	CrisisAlert Deployed School Districts
	Non-CrisisAlert School Districts

CENTEGIX is the industry leader of [wearable safety technology for K-12](#) education with over 600,000 badges in use. The cloud-based CENTEGIX Safety Platform™ initiates the fastest response time for emergencies campus-wide. Leaders in over 11,500 locations nationwide trust CENTEGIX's innovative safety solutions to empower and protect people. To learn more about CENTEGIX, visit www.centegix.com