

Utah's Alyssa's Law Playbook

The What, Why, and How for Utah Schools



Alyssa's Law in Utah: H.B. 84

In March 2024, Utah Governor Spencer Cox signed Alyssa's Law into law. This legislation, included as part of Utah's largest school safety measure, H.B. 84, requires Utah public and charter schools to "provide a staff person in each classroom with a **wearable panic alert device** that allows for immediate contact with emergency services or emergency services agencies, law enforcement agencies, health departments, and fire departments."

The law went into effect on May 1, 2024.

Lessons Learned

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.

Since Alyssa's Law's passing, CENTEGIX's CrisisAlert solution has been selected by approximately 43% of Florida's public K-12 schools, protecting nearly one million Florida students and over one hundred thousand school staff members. In fact, in our report *Alyssa's Law: Making Florida Schools Safer*, we analyzed the 115,000+ alerts that have been delivered through the CrisisAlert platform in Florida schools to date.

Texas also passed Alyssa's Law in 2023, in the wake of the tragedy at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, requiring Texas public schools and academies to provide a silent panic alarm technology (SPAT) that immediately transmits a signal or message to first responders. As of May 2024, CrisisAlert has been used in Texas districts across the state over 20,000 times. Our safety report on Texas CrisisAlert usage data makes it clear: 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.



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, TX

ALYSSA'S LAW STATE



We call it [CrisisAlert] a force multiplier: putting this technology in the hands of more than 25,000 employees give me 25,000 sets of eyes to help keep the campus safe.

Chief John Newman,
Director of Safety and Security,
Hillsborough County Public Schools, FL

ALYSSA'S LAW STATE

Many state and federal post-incident reports identify similar issues and recommendations for improving emergency communication during crises. Repeated findings support specific vital protections that silent panic alarms must offer:

- The ability for every single staff member to easily request help while under duress
- Alert first responders the moment an emergency begins
- Notify everyone of danger using campus-wide audio-visual notifications, enabling an immediate lockdown
- Doesn't rely on Wi-Fi or cell service to send an alert

Mrs. Alhadeff believes that if panic alarms had been in place when Alyssa was in danger, she might still be with us. Other incident response solutions lack the critical functionality required for real-world emergencies. CrisisAlert eliminates those vulnerabilities and enables the fastest response, improving outcomes and saving lives.

CENTEGIX®: Created with Safety in Mind

When designing the CrisisAlert mobile panic alert system, CENTEGIX relied on feedback from representatives of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Commission that expressed concerns that traditional school safety technology didn't reflect the realities of the classroom or how people realistically can respond in moments of crisis. Conversations with school leaders indicated that school staff needed an effective solution for incident response—physical altercations are more common in hallways, teachers don't want to have an app for safety on their personal phone, tying a communication device to a classroom left half the staff unable to take action if they saw something that raised a concern—which led to the development of an effective solution built on innovative technology.

No matter when or where an emergency occurs on a school campus, the goal is always to reduce response time and get first responders to the scene providing help as soon as possible. Wearable, silent panic buttons that don't require daily charging and function everywhere on campus, indoors and outdoors, are a critical component of reaching that goal in schools across the U.S., and CrisisAlert is **the most used solution for Alyssa's Law**.

Critical incident mapping technology is also an essential element of emergency response. Critical incident mapping that functions alongside wearable panic buttons gives first responders instant access to the precise location of an emergency and nearby safety assets for the most

effective and coordinated response possible. Wearable panic buttons allow someone to instantly request help to their exact location with just the push of a button.

Because of the CENTEGIX Safety Platform's ability to be integrated with responder CAD software or downloaded onto city/county-issued phones and MDTs, this critical information reaches responders instantly, allowing for an immediate response.

"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," shared Paul Cordova, Police Chief at Aldine Independent School District in Texas.

Reducing the response time of first responders and providing accurate situation intelligence, enable police to mitigate the threat quicker, therefore ending the incident, reducing the number of possible casualties, and allowing vital medical attention to be focused on assisting victims.

Steps to Achieving Compliance

CENTEGIX Safety Platform™: the Right Solution for Alyssa's Law

CrisisAlert™, as part of the CENTEGIX Safety Platform™, enables Oklahoma school districts to meet the requirements of Alyssa's Law. The CENTEGIX Safety Platform is designed to improve communication with first responders, empower staff members to request help, and make school buildings safer. CrisisAlert and the CENTEGIX Safety Platform deliver:





Wearable panic alarm that is easily accessible and on all staff members' person



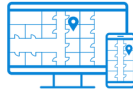
Full campus coverage, indoors and outdoors



Ability to notify the entire campus of an emergency using strobes, desktop screen takeovers, and intercom announcements



Alert automatically sent to law enforcement, PSAPs, and other first responders



Precise location information, down to the floor and room level



A private, installed network that doesn't rely on Wi-Fi or cell service to initiate an alert



Integration with existing safety investments and emergency services technologies

Funding Options for Utah School Safety Solutions

BJA's STOP School Violence Program

The U.S. Department of Justice has funds available through the Bureau of Justice Assistance. BJA's STOP School Violence Program funds software that helps K-12 schools maintain a safe environment. It's geared toward recognizing, responding to, and preventing violence on campus. [To learn more and apply, visit the BJA website.](#)

COPS School Violence Prevention Program

The Federal COPS School Violence Prevention Program, overseen by the U.S. Department of Justice, earmarks funds for evidence-based school safety technology and programs. The money can be used to purchase new technology that helps monitor potentially dangerous situations and improve emergency response and notification systems, including Pennsylvania school alert solutions. [Learn more about the program here.](#)

Enhancing School Capacity to Address Youth Violence

The Office of Justice and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) will fund targeted, evidence-based prevention and intervention programs to address youth violence in schools. Schools implementing school safety solutions should show how these solutions prevent violence and improve the climate of safety in schools. [Learn more about the program here.](#)

Nonprofit Security Grant Program

The Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) is administered by the FEMA to enhance the physical security of nonprofit organizations at high risk of terrorist attacks or extremist violence. Funds can be used for physical security enhancements. Nonprofits must apply through their [State Administrative Agency \(SAA\)](#) and cannot apply directly to FEMA. [Learn more about this program at fema.gov.](#)

Stronger Connections Grant Program

The Stronger Connections Grant Program aims to provide students with safe and supportive learning opportunities and environments critical for academic success. Utah was awarded more than \$5 million through this program. All funds must be dispersed by September 30, 2026. [Learn more about the program at ed.gov.](#)

Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program

The Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant program focuses on funding efforts to prevent targeted violence, terrorism, and mass casualty incidents through: community engagement and education, behavioral threat assessment and intervention programs, and capacity-building efforts to enhance security and resilience. [Learn more about the program at grants.gov.](#)

We all play a role in protecting our schools. By embracing the CENTEGIX Safety Platform and CrisisAlert, schools can provide a robust and compliant emergency response system that maximizes safety for all stakeholders.

Schedule a demo to see how the CENTEGIX Safety Platform can help you meet Alyssa's Law compliance.

Want to speak with a customer who has implemented CrisisAlert? Contact us and we'll make the introduction.

800-950-9202 • info@centegix.com • centegix.com

Beyond the Badge

10 Critical Features of Wearable Panic Buttons

Initiate a lockdown and notify everyone—911/first responders, staff, and students—in seconds.



	CrisisAlert	Other Wearables	Why This Matters
Strobes for Visual Notification	Yes	No	Flashing strobes in every room, hallway and common area, provide an immediate visual cue a Lockdown has been initiated. Especially helpful where intercom announcements aren't easily heard—gyms, hallways.
Intercom Announcements for Audio Notification	Yes	No	Communication is the first action in emergency response. Immediate notification of Lockdown and steps to take to get to safety.
Computer Screen Takeovers	Yes	No	Network computers, smartboards, and signage provide guidance on your school's Lockdown protocols.
Relies on Wi-Fi or Cellular to Initiate an Alert	No	Yes	Wi-Fi limitations and weak cell signals, common due to school building design, can result in messages not being sent or received, contributing to critical communication breakdowns.
100% Campus Coverage	Yes	No	Roughly half of emergency incidents at schools take place outside the classroom. Staff can initiate alerts from the playgrounds, athletic fields, parking lots, and other common sites for emergencies.
Battery Life/Charging Required	Battery lasts for one year+ and does not require charging	Requires charging	A device that must be recharged—whether daily or monthly—is vulnerable to being powerless or connected to its charging device and not accessible when needed.
Incident Location Accuracy	Real-time floor and room-level alert location accuracy displayed on your digital campus maps	Can't differentiate between building floors or provide room specificity	Where other wearables can bring responders to the building, CrisisAlert shows responders on what floor and in what room, stairwell, or parking garage an alert is located. Additionally, they see all safety assets near the alert—AEDs, first aid kits, exit doors—to accelerate and apply the appropriate response.
Safety Platform	Badges, critical incident mapping, visitor management, and integrations	Point solution	CENTEGIX Safety Platform is the foundation for your school safety plans, with capabilities central to emergency response and the ability to integrate with your existing safety technology.
Experience	600,000+ people wear the CrisisAlert badge every day	Limited	Years have been spent implementing, onboarding, and training staff and responders to maximize staff adoption. Innovations based on customer feedback have led us to become the leader in wearable panic button technology for K-12.
Usage	183,000+ alerts in 2023/2024 school year	Data not published	When staff are comfortable using the panic button to get help for everyday issues, they're prepared to act immediately in an extreme emergency. When used in common occurrences, staff feel supported by the district and contribute to the safety culture.