



2025 Alyssa's Law Report: Making Florida Schools Safer

February 2025

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 43% 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.

- **Over 1,450,000 students and 165,000 Florida school staff members** are protected by CrisisAlert.
- **Over 160,000 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 **95% of Florida staff feel safer** having the CrisisAlert wearable badge, and over **94% of Florida staff feel empowered to resolve an emergency situation with CrisisAlert rapidly.**



Our District is adding a layer of safety with the CENTEGIX CrisisAlert wearable badge for Alyssa’s Law, gaining the on-site notifications—strobes, computer screen takeovers, intercom announcements—that initiate our emergency protocols and direct everyone on campus to follow their safety training.

Howard Hepburn, Superintendent,
Broward County Public Schools, FL

Florida School Key Findings

**CrisisAlert
Protects Over**

**1.45 Million
Students**

**165,000
Staff Members**

**160,000+
Alerts Have
Been Delivered**





Why Districts Choose CENTEGIX

The tragic outcomes at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and Robb Elementary School were partly due to a communication breakdown that caused delays and confusion for first responders. Lori Alhadeff emphasizes that the core principle of Alyssa's Law is that time equals life. Rapid response during a crisis is critical, as every second can determine whether there's tragedy or survival.

Silent panic alarms must offer two vital protections: 1) Alert first responders the moment an emergency begins, and; 2) notify everyone in harm's way of the danger.

Mrs. Alhadeff believes that if such alarms had been in place when Alyssa was in danger, she might still be with us today.

Other incident response solutions lack the critical functionality required for real-world emergencies. CrisisAlert eliminates communication vulnerabilities of other incident response solutions 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, 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

CrisisAlert automatically initiates strobe lights and a pre-recorded intercom announcement throughout the school when a lockdown has been activated. All displays connected to the school network will show a lockdown message that includes district protocols.

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 private LoRaWAN and Bluetooth networks 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 critical 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 of identifying 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. 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 said 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," shared Teacher Jill Klausung.** [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.

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. 87% of alerts initiated with the CrisisAlert badge for the 2023-2024 school year were for managing these student behavioral situations.

CENTEGIX categorizations of student behaviors call out specific categories such as "Elopement" 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.

"A student entered the classroom upset about a punishment he was going to receive for an incident in another classroom. He was yelling, cursing, banging on his desk. He is known to be one to flip desks and throw chairs. I offered assistance to help him calm down. He started screaming and cursing at me. When he stood up, I pressed my button. Help was in my room within 30 seconds. It was such a relief."

High school teacher,
Pepin Academies, FL

"A fellow teacher began having a seizure in my classroom in the morning before students were on campus. It was an easy way for a quick response to get help that was needed."

Middle school teacher,
Citrus County Schools, FL

"I used my badge when a student punched another student in the face. It allows me to "silently" communicate I need help. Before students knew about the "intercom buzzer" and sometimes they would push it to get another kid in trouble. Now I am in control of when I need help and able to communicate that."

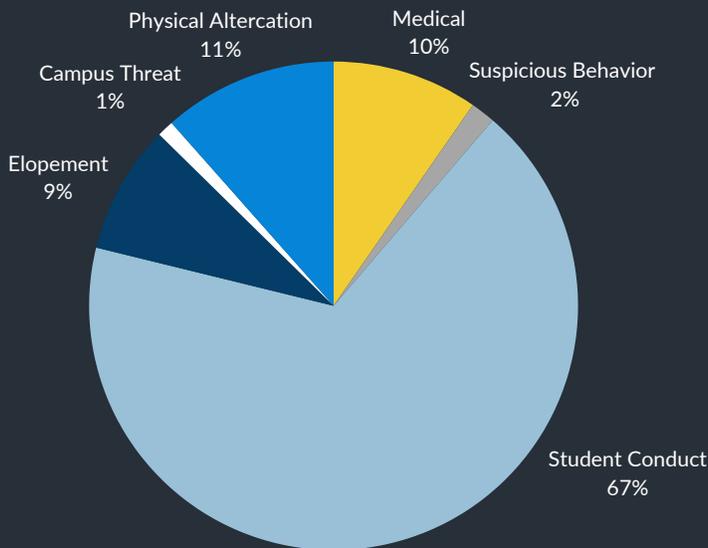
Elementary school teacher,
Palm Beach County Schools, FL

"I had a student who was exhibiting self-harm behaviors on the playground and I needed immediate assistance. Just knowing it is there is the peace of mind I need to keep myself and my students safe."

Middle school teacher,
Citrus County Schools, FL

CrisisAlert is Used Every Day

ALERT REASONS



“Two students were in the classroom and arguing loudly. They got up and were yelling at each other about to fight. They are much bigger than me and I knew I would not be able to stop them if they began fighting. I stepped in between them and when they began screaming around me, I pushed the button 3 times. My security team came very quickly. My students even commented on how fast help came and how they didn't even realize I hit a button.”

Middle school teacher,
Duval County Public Schools, FL

“A student was walking from building 10 towards the office. I notice a faint look and a sluggish walk. She bent over and started to lose balance. I grabbed the student before she fell and immediately used my CrisisAlert badge. Help/Aid was within a minute. All pertinent individuals including the nurse came to help the student.”

High school teacher,
Highlands County Schools, FL

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.

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 lockdown the school, protecting everyone 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 panic button badge. 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.

Communication failures in emergency response are often due to school safety plans that rely on personal mobile phones for workplace safety. 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. CrisisAlert is **the most used solution for Alyssa's Law**.

"Our District is adding a layer of safety with the CENTEGIX CrisisAlert wearable badge for Alyssa's Law, gaining the on-site notifications—strobes, computer screen takeovers, intercom announcements—that initiate our emergency protocols and direct everyone on campus to follow their safety training," shared Howard Hepburn, Superintendent of Broward County Public Schools, FL.

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 immediately request help to their exact location with just the push of a button.

"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," shared Christina Mortimer, Director of Communications at Flagler County Sheriff's Office, FL.

"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

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?

95%
said 'Yes'

Did using CrisisAlert empower you to rapidly resolve the situation?

95%
said 'Yes'

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

9.2
Out of 10

CrisisAlert is Used Everywhere

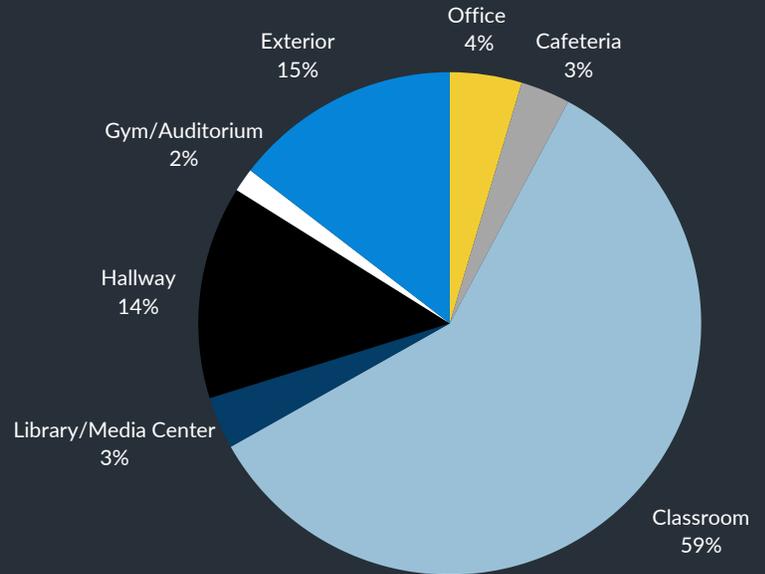
Emergencies happen outside classrooms and outside school buildings. With CrisisAlert, the speed of response isn't affected by limited Wi-Fi coverage, access to wall-mounted devices, or carrying a personal phone.

Conclusion

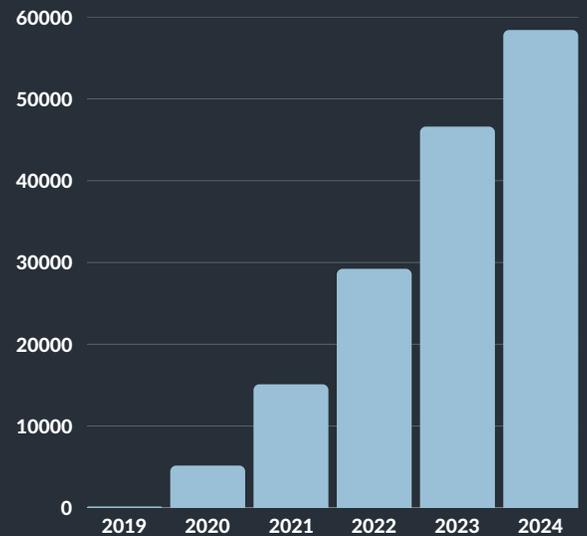
The adoption of the CENTEGIX CrisisAlert solution in districts across the state of Florida and the daily badge usage to manage potentially unsafe situations is evidence that Alyssa's Law is making Florida schools safer for staff and students.

- With over 160,000 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 substantially year over year since its first use in 2019.
- 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 at Robb Elementary School.
- User feedback indicates that CrisisAlert is a popular, effective tool among teachers and staff.
- 95% of staff who utilized the badge said they feel safer with CrisisAlert.

ALERT LOCATIONS



FLORIDA SCHOOL ALERTS BY YEAR

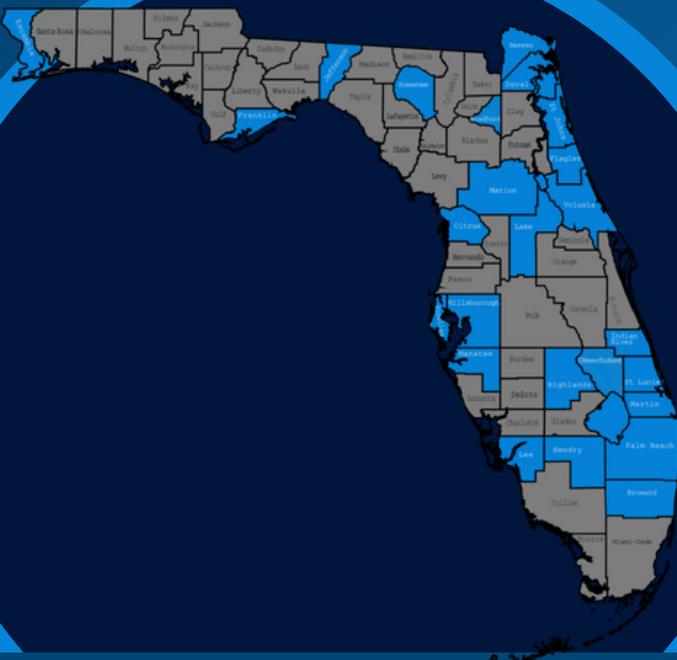


CENTEGIX and SaferWatch Partner to Accelerate Emergency Response for Schools in Florida and Across the U.S

CENTEGIX, the industry leader and largest wearable safety technology provider, has partnered with SaferWatch, a cutting-edge safety and security application provider with direct integrations to emergency response centers and law enforcement, to drive faster and more precise responses to emergencies.

With the integration of CENTEGIX's Safety Platform with SaferWatch's robust emergency communication platform, staff can initiate a campus-wide alert using the CrisisAlert wearable panic button. Within seconds:

- Everyone on campus is notified to follow safety protocols via flashing colored strobes, audio communications, and computer screen notifications.
- Building administrators receive the alert, which is displayed on the CENTEGIX map. The map shows precisely where the alert is and who initiated it.
- Simultaneously, the alert is delivered to the SaferWatch Incident Management Platform at the appropriate 911 call centers, real-time crime centers, and nearby first responders. The alert from CENTEGIX includes critical information for first responders—who needs help and where help is needed. This information is displayed on a digital map of the campus, showing room and floor-level location information, and is now seamlessly integrated into SaferWatch's mobile applications and command center software.



CENTEGIX®

CENTEGIX® supports nearly two thousand schools and educational administrative facilities in Florida, more than 40 percent of Florida's public K-12 schools—representing over 1.45 million students.

CENTEGIX is the industry leader and largest wearable safety technology provider for K-12 education. The cloud-based CENTEGIX Safety Platform™, featuring our CrisisAlert™ wearable badge, initiates the fastest response time for emergencies, from the everyday to the extreme, anywhere on campus. Leaders in over 14,000 locations nationwide trust CENTEGIX's innovative safety solutions to empower and protect people (every day). To learn more about CENTEGIX, visit www.centegix.com