

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.

The Passage of Alyssa's Law

Alyssa's Law is a piece of 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.

Passed in six states and introduced in nine more, Alyssa's Law requires public elementary and secondary school schools to install silent panic alarms that immediately notify law enforcement about potentially dangerous situations on campus.

Not only have CENTEGIX CrisisAlert customers experienced the effectiveness of wearable safety technology and how it can positively impact the safety and well-being of staff and students, but major publications across the country have also recognized the role wearable panic buttons can play in school safety

CNN recently examined the passage of Alyssa's Law across the country and the impact of wearable panic buttons. "We didn't have this kind of technology at that time, so it was a bit of a guessing game," Mo Canady, executive director of the National Association of School Resource Officers, a nonprofit group of school-based security professionals, told CNN. "Now, if you hear shots fired, you know where they're exactly coming from, is the shooter moving somewhere else—this kind of technology can help us narrow down where we need to look."



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

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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, TX

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EdWeek also examined the impact of wearable safety technology in several districts across the country. Ron Self, Director of Safety, Security, and Risk Management at Little Rock School District in Arkansas, shared, “It’s a great thing to have in the event of an active shooter... Implementing the new alert system has made students, teachers, and families feel safer in the classroom.”

Lessons Learned

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.

Florida passed Alyssa’s Law—also referred to as Alyssa’s Alert—in June of 2020. Educational leaders across Florida have seen the need for a solution like CrisisAlert because of the communication vulnerabilities it eliminates.

Since Alyssa’s Law’s passing, CENTEGIX’s CrisisAlert solution has been selected by approximately 35% 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 recent report *Alyssa’s Law: Making Florida Schools Safer, we recently 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) emergency alert system 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.

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 all staff members 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 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.

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.

When an emergency occurs on a school campus, communication is paramount. The CENTEGIX CrisisAlert wearable panic button eliminates communication vulnerabilities and provides teachers and other staff members the ability to alert responders immediately to any emergency scenario, from the everyday to the extreme.

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 across the U.S., and CrisisAlert is **the most used solution for Alyssa’s Law.**

Steps to Achieving Compliance

Selecting the Right Wearable: CrisisAlert™ and the CENTEGIX Safety Platform™

CrisisAlert, as part of the CENTEGIX Safety Platform, enables Utah 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 assistance, and help make schools 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



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



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

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

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Funding Options for Utah School Safety Solutions

H.B. 84

To enact H.B. 84, the Utah Legislature approved \$100 million one-time money and \$4.2 million in ongoing funding.

ESSER Funds

As of February 29, 2024, Utah has spent 77.2% of its ESSER funds. The most recent round allocated \$615,929,016 to Utah, and the obligation deadline is Sept. 30, 2024. Learn more about the program here.

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 \$5,100,063 through this program. All funds must be dispersed by September 30, 2026. Learn more about the program here.

BJA's STOP School Violence Program

The Bureau of Justice Assistance's STOP School Violence Program funds software that helps K-12 schools maintain a safe environment. To learn more and apply, visit the BJA website. **The deadline to apply is June 12, 2024.**

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.

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



Beyond the Badge

Accelerate your response to emergencies with the **CENTEGIX Safety Platform**

CENTEGIX CrisisAlert	Other Wearables	Why This Matters
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Battery Life/ Charging Required	Battery lasts for years 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.
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.
Provides Visual and Audible Notifications	Lockdown initiates strobes, intercom, and screen takeovers	No	Communication is the first action in emergency response. The sooner everyone on campus knows to get to safety, the better the outcome.
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.
Incident Location Accuracy	Real-time floor and room-level alert location accuracy displayed on your digital campus maps	Cannot differentiate between floors in a building 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, responders 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 initiated in the 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.