

# Oklahoma's Alyssa's Law Playbook

## The What, Why, and How for Oklahoma Schools

### Alyssa's Law in Oklahoma: H.B. 4073

In May 2024, the Oklahoma legislature passed Alyssa's Law. This legislation, H.B. 4073, requires each school district in the state to implement a mobile panic alert system that connects emergency service technologies to ensure real-time coordination among multiple first responder agencies; and integrates with public safety answering point infrastructure to transmit 911 calls and mobile activations.

At minimum, approved school security alert and response systems shall:

- Automatically alert designated school personnel when an emergency response is initiated on-site by smartphone application, phone call, text message, or other technology
- Provide emergency responders with floor plans, caller location, and other information to assist emergency responders during a 911 call
- Integrate designated school personnel with emergency responders to provide real-time situational updates during an emergency

**Oklahoma schools must comply with the law by the start of the 2024-2025 school year.**

### 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 seven states and introduced in eight 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.



*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**



*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

**ALYSSA'S LAW STATE**

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.”

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, Alyssa’s mom, 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 wearable solution like CrisisAlert because of the communication vulnerabilities it eliminates. Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri, the chairman of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Commission, said [referring to a mobile app panic button being used to comply with Alyssa’s Law] “You have thousands of people who work in Pinellas County schools and schools across Florida, and not everyone has the app on their phone. One of the reasons for that is people are reluctant to put it on their phone.” Gualtieri estimated that at the time, only about five people in any given school had the app on their phones.

Since Alyssa’s Law’s passing, CENTEGIX’s CrisisAlert solution has been selected by approximately 40% 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) 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. 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.

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 when 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

### 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



**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



## Funding Options for Oklahoma School Safety Solutions

### School Security Revolving Fund

Oklahoma [H.B. 2903](#), passed in May 2023, established the School Resource Officer Program, a three-year pilot initiative and financial support of safety initiatives through the establishment of the **School Security Revolving Fund**. [H.B. 2904](#) provides 50 million dollars in funding to cover the costs of implementing safety provisions, such as mobile panic alert systems like CrisisAlert, mandated by H.B. 2903 and **H.B. 4073—Alyssa's Law**.

### ESSER Funds

As of February 29, 2024, Oklahoma has spent 87% of its ESSER funds. The most recent round allocated \$1,494,647,051 to Oklahoma, 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. Oklahoma was awarded \$11,776,526 through this program. All funds must be dispersed by September 30, 2026. [Learn more about the program here.](#)

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.




# CENTEGIX CrisisAlert™ and Mobile Apps

In a crisis, every second matters.



## “There’s An App For That...” But Is It Enough?

Most app-based incident response and communication solutions lack functionality critical in real world emergencies. Does everyone in danger immediately know to take action? Can your teachers and staff easily request help, even while under duress? Do responders know exactly where to go? CrisisAlert eliminates vulnerabilities related to app only solutions and enables rapid incident response to every scenario, from the everyday to the extreme.

		With App-Only Solutions	With CrisisAlert™
<b>Critical Functionality</b>	 Immediate & Easy Activation	Must be installed on each employee’s personal phone, and the phone must be accessible, unlocked, and the app opened to activate.	Every employee can quickly request help ( e.g., medical, fights, angry parent) or initiate a lockdown by clicking their wearable badge.
	 Clear Communication to Everyone on Campus	Those without the app (including students & visitors) or away from their phone are unaware of the emergency and thus vulnerable and at risk.	Visual strobes, digital messages, and automated intercom announcements inform everyone of a campus-wide incident and the actions to take.
	 100% Property Coverage	Strong cellular coverage is required everywhere inside your buildings to initiate and receive emergency alerts.	A dedicated network is built and monitored to ensure 100% coverage everywhere on campus.
	 Real-Time Locating of an Incident	Apps cannot detect exact floor or room level location leading to delays in arrival of responders.	Floor & room-level specific location information is instantly sent to designated responders saving critical response time.

“Our mobile app didn’t work because there were simply too many places on campus where the service was unavailable. We switched to CENTEGIX because there was nothing else that compared in terms of complete campus coverage and ease of use.”

- Frank Frangella *Director of Safety, Martin County School District*