K-12 Education: Emergency Notification System Checklist

Safety planning is an around-the-clock job. Without an end date, planners must constantly evolve and think ahead to manage the concerns and vulnerabilities of the day.

That evolution means consistently reassessing your safety plan and <u>school alert system</u>. The tools you need to meet tomorrow's problems may not be the tools you needed yesterday. Running through a requirements checklist annually can help you stay ahead of rising safety issues while benchmarking your school's safety performance over the years.

School safety solutions need to be simple and effective. Follow our Emergency Notification System Checklist to ensure your solution takes a holistic approach to your district's safety.

Communication

☐ **Is it discreet?**

☐ **Does it directly connect to law enforcement?**

☐ **Does it communicate a campus-wide threat to everyone on campus?**

☐ **Does it notify everyone on campus of a threat in multiple modes: visually and audibly?**

Communication is the nexus of school safety planning. No matter how good your plan or how well your team is trained, you cannot conduct a comprehensive crisis response without clear and effective communication.

Emergency notification systems are best when they focus on three key areas:

1. **Critical real-time information**

2. **Accessibility**

3. **Connection to first responders**

Communicating critical information, like who is signaling for help and their precise location, is pivotal to your emergency notification system's effectiveness. When first responders have accurate information, response time is reduced.

Where communications are concerned, accessibility is a two-way street. Your teachers and staff need to be empowered to request help, and your entire campus must be able to understand and respond to emergency notifications. The ideal emergency notification system provides two types of alerts: discreet alerts when de-escalation is key and campus-wide lockdown alerts that include both audio and visual notifications.

Finally, the most effective emergency notification system is linked with local 911 dispatchers and law enforcement. In some places, it's even the law.

How CENTEGIX Communicates

Wearable panic badges send an alert to administrators and emergency responders with the press of a button. Anyone wearing a CENTEGIX CrisisAlert badge can instantly request help or initiate a campus-wide lockdown.

With a 3 press single-button activation, CrisisAlert users can signal an "I need help" incident that is communicated immediately to local administrators and displayed on a map. An 8+ press activation sends an alert directly to first responders and activates full audio and visual notifications campus-wide.

Ease of Use

- ☐ **Is it easy to use?**
- ☐ **Is it accessible to every staff member?**
- ☐ **Does it have a 100% adoption rate?**
- ☐ **Is it easy to install?**

"As a school administrator for over 30 years and a superintendent for 8, I don't know of a program that has brought me more peace of mind than the CrisisAlert system. We installed this program in all of our schools in the fall of 2023. Recently, while walking through a school, a young teacher stopped me and thanked me for having the system. She told me of a story where a student had a seizure in her class. She quickly utilized the alert system, and in less than a minute, the administrative team and medical staff were at her door. Due to the quick response, the student was quickly stabilized and later made a full recovery at the hospital. As she re-lived this experience, she thanked me again for our district investing in this life-saving system. I would never start a school year again without the CrisisAlert system."

Dr. Ed Nichols | Superintendent,
Madison City Schools, AL

99%

users report CrisisAlert badges are easy to use

98%

users report the badge makes them feel safe and supported

96%

users report the badge empowered them to resolve the situation quickly

92%

users say they would recommend CrisisAlert

The easier it is to participate, the more likely you are to have participation. If you attach a safety badge to the ID teachers are already required to wear, they'll have it on them when needed.

Adoption

In many cases, mandating an app on a personal device isn't allowed. But even when it is, adoption won't be 100%.

Accessibility

Teachers and staff don't always have their phones on them. They are specifically trained to reduce distractions in the classroom, which can include turning off or putting away their cell phones. Even with the cell phone on their person, unlocking the phone, finding the app, and pressing an alert button takes time.

Network & Update Disruptions

Relying on extra layers of technology can present additional challenges. A cell phone app requires a Wi-Fi or cellular signal to work, and most campuses have some areas of poor cell coverage due to their geographic location or physical structures.
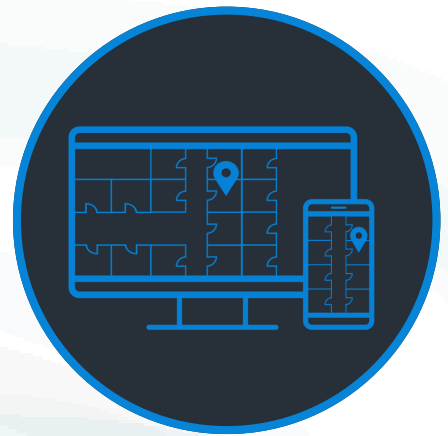
Why CENTEGIX Is Easy to Use

CENTEGIX takes all the guesswork out of the process by issuing everyone a wearable badge that operates on independent, secure networks.

"Our previous 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 | Chief of Safety and Security, Martin County School District, FL

Mapping & Locating Capabilities

☐ **Does it deliver precise location accuracy?**

☐ **Does it offer full-campus coverage?**

☐ **Does it show responders nearby relevant safety assets?**

For an emergency notification system to enable the fastest response, it needs a mapping function to provide the precise location of alerts and critical safety assets so administrators and first responders can adequately respond.

"Here recently, we're averaging probably two students a week that are having medical issues and we've had to call ambulances in. Our staff have gotten so comfortable that they're really hitting it now…Our response time has been in the seconds, not in the minutes. And it's been fantastic for us."

James Perry | Chief of Police,
West Georgia Technical College, GA

When a first responder is en route, they need to know three things immediately:

1 **Where the emergency is happening**

2 **Who initiated the emergency**

3 **What resources are available for their response**

The best way to deliver all that information at once is through a real-time digital map.

How CENTEGIX Does Mapping

The CENTEGIX Safety Platform combines its Safety Blueprint critical incident mapping software with wearable CrisisAlert technology to give you real-time visibility into your entire campus in the event of an emergency. Use floor- and room-level location accuracy to locate the emergency and plan your response route with safety asset location and IT infrastructure overlays.

"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

Data & Analytics

☐ **Does it collect data for future planning?**

☐ **Does it avoid revealing private information?**

☐ **Do you have real-time reporting and syncing?**

☐ **Can you visualize data over time and on a map to identify trends?**

The best safety plans are as focused on prevention as they are on crisis response. Data collected from your emergency notification system allows you to identify patterns, adjust plans, and reduce the number of incidents and response times.

How CENTEGIX Delivers Data and Analytics

CENTEGIX customers can access their district's alert, critical incident mapping, and visitor management data easily through the CENTEGIX Dashboard. The Dashboard provides administrators with actionable district-wide and school-wide data that grants insight into how they can best support their staff and students. Viewing and analyzing this data also enables school leaders to make informed decisions about resource allocation.

> "Thanks to the CrisisAlert data, we were able to identify the need and make the case to our Board to invest in areas that needed help. A year later, our CrisisAlert data demonstrated the effectiveness of the changes we made."
>
> Tom Parker | Director of Middle and Secondary Instruction & CTAE Director, Jefferson City School District, GA

Safety Integrations

- ☐ **Is it easily integrated with existing safety investments?**
- ☐ **Does it connect to intercoms?**
- ☐ **Does it communicate with local PSAP and law enforcement communication technology?**

The most effective emergency alert system integrates into schools' existing safety measures. Your school has already made safety investments, and your new emergency notification system should complement them to increase their effectiveness.

How CENTEGIX Integrates

The CENTEGIX Safety Platform can complement your existing safety technology through a variety of integrations, including intercom systems, camera feeds, mass notification systems, digital signage, and more.

> "We don't want our staff to have to rely on their cell phones. Many of our schools don't have good cell service, as well as many staff members don't always have their phones on them. The wearability of CrisisAlert gives us total coverage and immediate connection to law enforcement if needed. We also wanted something that could support our current systems (i.e. Informacast) and investments, and CrisisAlert does just that."
>
> Lou Cammiso | Director of Safety and Security, Naperville Community Unit School District 203, IL

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CENTEGIX is the industry leader of wearable safety technology for education with over 600,000 badges in use. Leaders in over 12,000 locations nationwide trust CENTEGIX's innovative safety solutions to empower and protect people (every day).

Learn more today. Because every second matters.™
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CENTEGIX®
EVERY. SECOND. MATTERS.