



## Supporting the Unique Safety Needs of Special Education Students and Staff

Meade County School District, located near Louisville, Kentucky, serves around 5,000 students and has about 630 staff members across eight schools, including one large high school, one middle school, and six elementary schools. This district has a small-town feel but still offers urban convenience, attracting a diverse community of local families and newcomers. Notably, Meade County was the first school district in Kentucky to implement the CENTEGIX Safety Platform™ in October 2023.

Under Superintendent Mark Martin's leadership, the district has become recognized for its innovative educational pathways and efforts to close instructional gaps. Martin's background in special education and extensive experience in various educational roles have helped the district meet the diverse needs of students, including those with disabilities. This commitment to educational excellence has attracted attention from other surrounding districts.

Meade County School District employs a comprehensive, multi-layered approach to school safety to ensure the well-being of students and staff. Their current safety and security measures include:

- The CENTEGIX Safety Platform™ for comprehensive safety management.
- Ongoing drills and safety protocols.
- Proactive measures for handling medical, behavioral, and physical incidents, such as using CrisisAlert for deescalation of student behavior to prevent use of physical restraints.
- Data monitoring of incidents and response times.

The district's decision to implement the CENTEGIX Safety Platform™ was influenced by a trusted colleague of Martin, a superintendent from a school district in Florida. Initial interest was sparked by a demonstration of the system's simplicity and effectiveness, leading to further research and evaluation. Soon after, the board approved and committed to the system, recognizing its potential to significantly reduce emergency response times in their schools.



"It is definitely elevating the conversation and the culture around safety. I love how proactive it is."

Mark Martin, Superintendent,  
Meade County School District

### Customer Highlight

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Under Superintendent Mark Martin's leadership, Meade County School District has become recognized for its innovative educational pathways and efforts to close instructional gaps, including those in school safety and special education support.

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The CENTEGIX Safety Platform helps provide immediate assistance during emergencies. The platform also allows for tailored responses based on individual student needs, particularly for medically fragile and behaviorally challenged students. This personalized approach improves the quality of care and response.

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The use of CrisisAlert and the Safety Platform has led to a decrease in severe behavioral incidents, as staff can intervene quickly and appropriately.

## The Unique Safety Needs of Special Education

Superintendent Martin highlighted the evolving safety needs in special education, emphasizing the presence of medically fragile and behaviorally challenged students who require rapid and effective responses to emergencies. Previously, slower, less efficient methods of requesting help resulted in delays and escalated situations.

Before implementing CENTEGIX, staff had to rely on sending a student to the office or using a phone to contact administrators. This delay often exacerbated situations, increasing the risk of injury or escalation. During medical emergencies like seizures, the delay in mobilizing necessary support could worsen the student's condition and cause anxiety and distress among other students nearby.

In some incidents, staff had to leave the situation or send someone else to get assistance, which was not always feasible during severe emergencies. This left staff feeling unsupported and increased the risk of harm to both students and staff. During behavioral incidents involving special education students, the absence of an immediate response system often meant that staff had to physically intervene, which could lead to injuries and escalate the situation.

The uncertainty of how long it would take to get help added stress to both staff and students, impacting their overall sense of safety and well-being. Superintendent Martin reflected, "I think a lot of anxiety that I felt as a teacher

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As a behavioral special education teacher, it is a comfort when you need assistance with a student, you have [the] immediate help needed to deescalate a situation. For all teachers working with students, the response time is much better having our CENTEGIX badges.

**Bob Davis, Special Ed. Teacher, Meade County High School**

with my teammates was that we felt like we were on our own...This solution would have had a good two-way accountability to it."

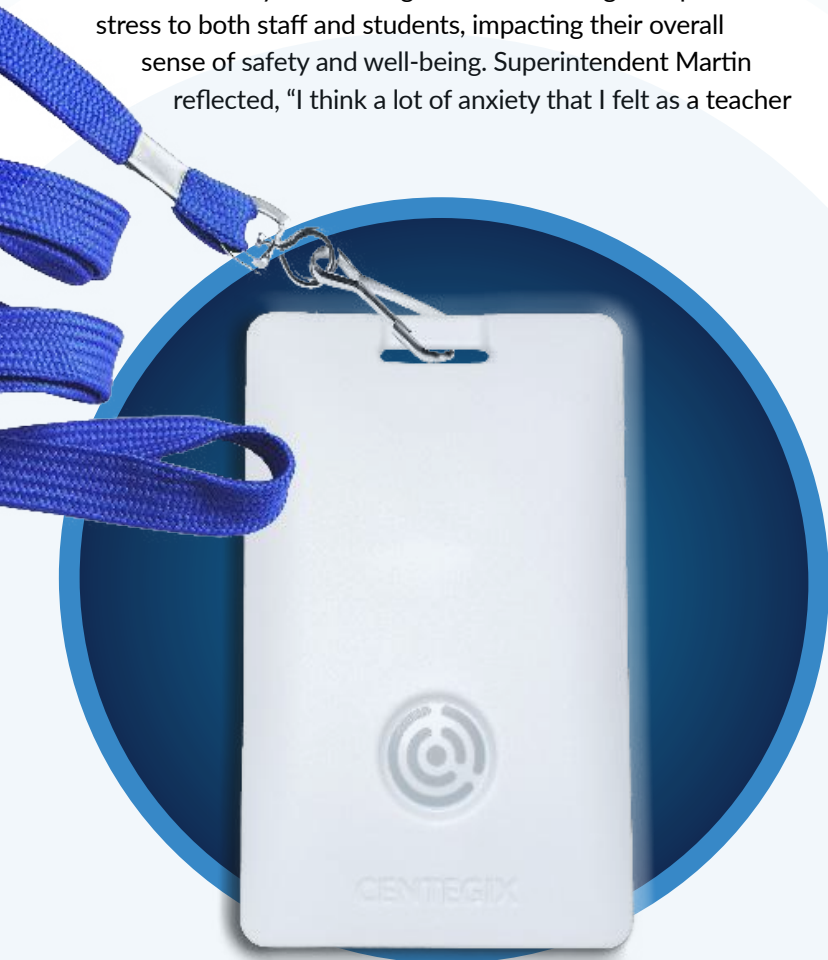
The CrisisAlert badge offers staff an extremely discreet way to request help. This ensures they can focus on controlling and deescalating the situation to a resolution while causing as little disruption to the learning environment as possible. This can be especially important for some special education students, who can be overwhelmed by unexpected stimuli.

## Supporting Special Education Across Campus

The CENTEGIX Safety Platform helps provide immediate assistance during emergencies, preventing escalation and reducing harm. Quick responses are crucial in managing both medical and behavioral incidents effectively.

In one incident, a classified assistant used CrisisAlert to get help when a special education student became agitated and started destroying property in the library. In less than 30 seconds, the assistant principal arrived and de-escalated the situation, preventing the need for physical restraint. This approach maintained a respectful and safe environment for the student and upheld the dignity and professionalism of the staff. "The classified assistant was the one that hit their button, and within 20 to 30 seconds, the assistant principal was there and de-escalated the situation and we avoided putting our hands on a student," said Martin.

The CENTEGIX Safety Platform also allows tailored responses based on individual student needs, particularly for medically fragile and behaviorally challenged students. Nurses can quickly identify the student and the type of emergency, providing appropriate care without delay. "If I'm a nurse and I see it's coming from this teacher in this classroom, and I know I have a student [in there] that's more prone to seizures, I can give a more tailored response. And that's really important." This personalized approach improves the quality of care and response.



I love the simplicity of the CENTEGIX safety solution. I love the fact that it empowers everyone to be on duty. We have a saying on our team that we're all on duty when it comes to safety. This actually lives that message out.

**Mark Martin, Superintendent of Meade County School District**

In another emergency, CrisisAlert was used to summon the nurse when a student had a seizure and fell, injuring herself. "We had a girl fall down the stairs at the high school...We had help there within 15 to 20 seconds." The nurse arrived quickly and provided the necessary medical care, reducing the risk of further complications. This incident showed the importance of rapid response in handling severe medical situations, especially considering that over half of school safety incidents happen outside the classroom. "We've had students that had seizures in the classroom setting, and they were able to quickly get them help," Martin shared.

**The use of CrisisAlert and the Safety Platform has led to a decrease in severe behavioral incidents, as staff can intervene quickly and appropriately.** The platform promotes a proactive approach to safety, fostering a safe environment for students and staff.

Detailed incident tracking and reporting have helped build trust and demonstrate the system's effectiveness. Regular updates to the school board and community on incident types and response times have helped Martin highlight the effectiveness of the district's safety measures. This transparency has fostered confidence among parents and stakeholders.

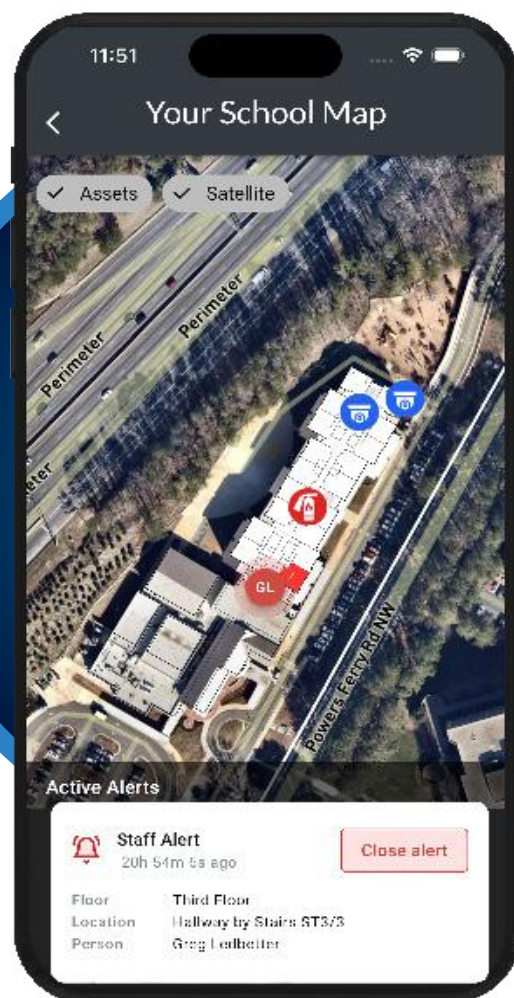
Special education staff feel less isolated and more supported during crises, thanks to the reliable support system. This improved support network boosts their confidence and satisfaction in their roles, translating into better educational outcomes for students. "As a behavioral special education teacher, it is a comfort when you need assistance with a student, you have [the] immediate help needed to deescalate a situation," commented Bob Davis, a special education teacher at Meade County High School.

## The Impact of Improved Safety Support District-Wide

The implementation of the CENTEGIX Safety Platform has significantly enhanced Meade County's safety culture. Staff and students now trust that help is just a button press away. The system's quick response capabilities and tailored alerts have improved the district's ability to handle emergencies effectively. "It is definitely elevating the conversation and the culture around safety. I love how proactive it is," Martin emphasized.

Knowing that help is just a button press away reduces anxiety and empowers staff to handle incidents more effectively. "I love the simplicity of the CENTEGIX safety solution," Martin shared. "I love the fact that it empowers everyone to be on duty. We have a saying on our team that we're all on duty when it comes to safety. This actually lives that message out...the peace of mind and empowerment that it brings them, the retention of staff. It's a really hard job."

Martin also highlighted "Students are growing up in a different world today...It relieves students' anxiety knowing that help can be there for those worst case scenarios but also just those everyday situations." This improved sense of safety contributes to better overall well-being and academic performance, as students can focus more on learning and less on potential emergencies.





**“Being able to model the way when it comes to this initiative has been so rewarding,” Martin shared. “It reinforces something that I’ve consistently said: you’re never done talking about safety.”**

## **Meade County School District Continues to Look Forward**

The CENTEGIX Safety Platform has helped transform safety management in Meade County School District, enabling rapid responses and effective incident handling. The system’s simplicity and reliability have enhanced the overall safety culture, fostering a proactive approach to incident prevention. Increased accountability and transparency through detailed incident tracking and reporting ensure that safety measures are continuously refined and improved.

The district remains committed to maintaining high safety standards and will continue to use data to inform decisions and improve protocols. “It lives out your messages that you do value your team and your students here in your school community,” Martin noted. Ongoing training and practice sessions will ensure that staff remain proficient in using the system. The vision for the future includes sustaining Meade County School District’s leadership in school safety and special education support, continually enhancing measures to protect students and staff.

Superintendent Martin emphasizes the importance of putting students first and ensuring their safety as a foundation for learning and growth. “Remember that students come first... You can’t really have a conversation about optimal learning and closing gaps for some groups and underrepresented populations if they’re not safe. You have to have those basic needs met,” Martin emphasized. **“[With the Safety Platform], you’re going to be able to send the message clearly to your community at large that ‘we care about you and we’re going to do every single thing, we’re going to exhaust every opportunity to protect you.’”**



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**Mark Martin, Superintendent of Meade County School District**



To learn more about how the CENTEGIX Safety Platform™ can help support your special education staff and students—and the school community as a whole—visit our website at [www.centegix.com/education](http://www.centegix.com/education).

**Learn more today. Because every second matters.™**

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