

Little Rock School District

Gains Full Staff Adoption of Safety Solution

Moving From a Phone App to a Wearable Panic Button

Little Rock School District, the second largest district in Arkansas, serves 21,200 students across 48 schools and centers with a workforce of 4,000 employees. Situated in a rural region of the United States, the district had historically faced challenges accessing advanced safety technology tools and software.

In 2015, Arkansas legislators enacted the School Safety Act, mandating that all schools in the state implement, a particular mobile phone-based school safety app, for staff to report emergencies. Little Rock School District complied with this directive, hoping the app would address their safety concerns. The app would need to be downloaded onto each staff member's personal mobile phone for emergency notifications.

Unfortunately, immediate issues arose. Most staff members were reluctant to download the app on their personal devices and didn't see its value. **Among the district's 4,000 employees, only 20% downloaded the app.** Teachers explained that dialing 911 seemed more straightforward than using the app. They also expressed **concerns about privacy and the app's functionality in areas on school campuses without Wi-Fi.**

It appeared the district's efforts to enhance student and staff safety had hit a major roadblock.

A Convenient, Effective Solution Emerges

Following the tragic Uvalde, Texas school shooting in May 2022, the Governor of Arkansas signed an executive order forming the Arkansas School Safety Commission. This commission provided safety recommendations for schools and allocated additional funding to implement them. The recommendations included providing master keys to local law enforcement, creating an information-sharing program for cyber security incidents, conducting routine unannounced safety checks, and establishing a statewide school safety tip line.

In support of this enhanced focus on district safety in the state, Little Rock's Superintendent attended a school safety conference to explore new strategies and technologies for the district.



"Safety is an everyday thing in our world. Everybody's taking ownership in that building and letting us know what's going on."

Ron Self
Director of Safety & Security
Little Rock School District

Little Rock School District Educator Experiences

"A student was having a medical issue. Without the CrisisAlert badge I would have had to call 911 by phone. I was able to click my badge and get assistance in a short amount of time."

"A student and our nurse were alone in the health room. The student started to pass out due to their injury. The nurse used CrisisAlert to request assistance. It was an easy and quick way to request and receive support during an emergency situation."



Every. Second. Matters.®

Time is the most critical factor in an emergency response.

CrisisAlert reduces the time to **identify, notify and respond** in an emergency.

While there, he learned about CENTEGIX and shared this information with the District's Director of Safety and Security, Ron Self. After researching CENTEGIX's solution, Ron quickly realized how different its offering, CrisisAlert™, was from other safety technology tools that were on the market.

CrisisAlert is a badge-based panic button worn like a staff ID that allows any staff member to quickly and discreetly send an alert that instantly reaches administrators and responders. Three pushes of the button sends an alert to designated on-campus responders—an SRO, assistant principal, or nurse—for a rapid response to a physical altercation, health crisis, or any situation in which additional staff support is needed. Eight pushes of the badge's button initiates a full campus lockdown and notifies the local police department or 911 dispatch.

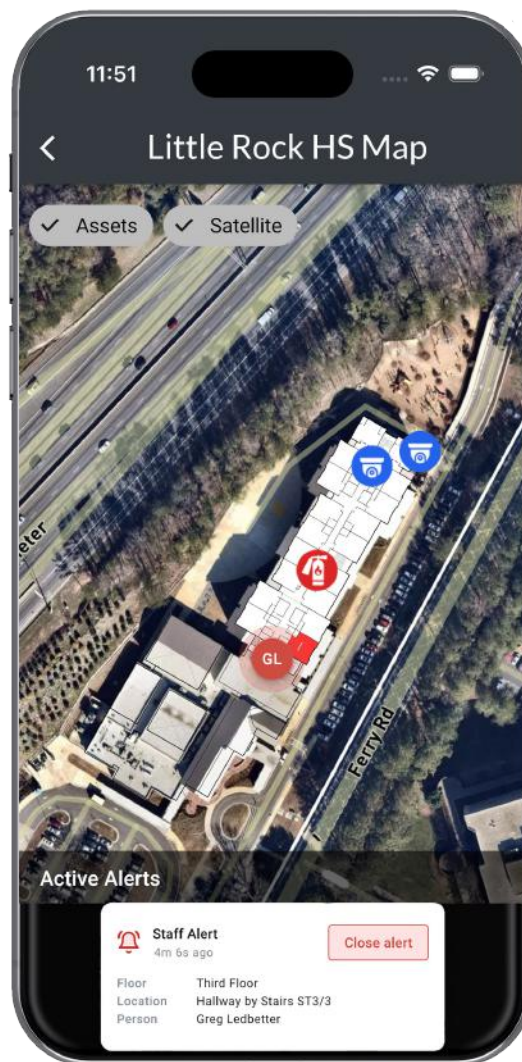
For Self, the CrisisAlert solution provided more benefits compared to mobile-based apps, such as:

- Wearable and easy-to-use while under duress and only requires a few pushes of a button to initiate an alert
- Maintains personal privacy of staff and only locates once the alert is activated
- Notifies first responders and staff of the precise location of the incident and does not rely on a cellular device or Wi-Fi connection
- Activates full audio and visual communication campus-wide so everyone knows the campus is under threat and can get to safety as soon as possible

Ron shared his findings on CENTEGIX with his leadership team and strongly recommended implementing the CrisisAlert solution.

In 2022, CrisisAlert was implemented in the district. While teachers and staff had the choice to wear and use the badge, Little Rock School District had full user adoption.

"We love the CENTEGIX badge system and how it supports our building. We had to normalize its usage, and now it's a great tool for staff to use when they need support in a crisis situation," said Ron.



Safety Leads to Increased Recruitment and Retention

Recently, one of the district's principals came to Ron to tell him about her first experience using CrisisAlert. A new teacher was with two students who were having behavioral issues. She sent an alert by pushing the button on her badge. The principal saw the notification on her desktop computer and went to where the incident was occurring. To her surprise, other responders who also received the alert were already there to assist the teacher in need. In the past, while using mobile-based apps, it wasn't common for others to respond so quickly to an incident. This is due to a number of factors, including most staff members not having their phones on them to send a communication, the majority of staff didn't use the app, or staff responders didn't know the precise location of the incident.

In addition to becoming a great retention tool as staff have mentioned feeling more protected and safe while

at work, Ron also sees this tool as a means to recruit teachers. With teacher shortages continuing to rise, implementing a protocol for workplace safety has made all the difference.

"With the ability to send the school into lockdown with the push of a button, we're confident that our teachers feel empowered and safe coming to work each day," he said.